Empirical findings on links between (a) EU SDS objectives and NSDS objectives, and (b) EU SDIs and national sets of SDIs

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(1) Context
Objectives and limitations of the analysis

(2) Challenges
... when analysing SDI sets

(3) Findings
  – NSDS & EU SDS objectives
  – National sets & EU set of SDIs

(4) Points for discussion
1. **The project:** “Improvement of the quality of the Structural and Sustainable development indicators”, Lot 2: *Analysis of national sets of indicators*; commissioned by Eurostat (Tender No 2006/S 148-159080)

2. **The objectives:**
   - Analysis of national priorities and sets of indicators used in **National Reform Programmes (NRPs)** and comparison to priorities and indicators of the **EU Lisbon strategy**
   - Analysis of national priorities and sets of indicators used in **National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS)** and comparison to priorities and indicators of the **EU sustainable development strategy**
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   - Analysis of national priorities and sets of indicators used in **National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS)** and comparison to priorities and indicators of the **EU sustainable development strategy**
Context

- Analysis of national priorities and sets of indicators used in National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) and comparison to priorities and indicators of the EU sustainable development strategy

- Coverage:
  - EU Member States
  - acceding, candidate and EFTA countries
  - Switzerland

- Reference documents:
  - renewed EU SDS (2006)
  - EU SDIs (2005)

Limitations:

- NSDS still under development
- NSDS not available in English
- 24 countries analysed

- Most NSDS developed before renewed EU SDS
- Most national SDI sets developed before EU SDIs
- Old (2005) EU SDI set as reference
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Challenges

- **Determining “official” SDI set of a country**
  - Indicators included in NSDS
  - Indicators included in progress / indicator reports
  - Status unclear (draft indicators?)
  - But linked to NSDS objectives
  - Indicators actually being measured
  - Not linked to NSDS objectives
  - Published by different institutions

- **Determining exact number of indicators**
  - Some indicators actually consist of several independent component indicators
Challenges

9. Road freight

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Published by different institutions

EU SDI:
- Indicators actually being measured
- Not linked to NSDS objectives
Volume of freight transport and GDP

Source: DfT, ONS

Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) CO₂ emissions, freight moved and Gross Domestic Product, 1990 to 2005

United Kingdom VS other EU countries

Greenhouse gas emissions by mode of transport for selected EU countries
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**EU SDS key challenges**

1. Climate change and clean energy  
2. Sustainable transport  
3. Sustainable consumption and production  
4. Conservation and Management of natural resources  
5. Public health  
6. Social inclusion, demography and migration  
7. Global poverty

**Cross-cutting policies**

- Education and training  
- Research and development  
- Financing and economic instruments  
- Communication, mobilising actors and multiplying success
How are EU SDS objectives addressed by countries in their NSDS?

Key Challenges
1. Climate change and clean energy
2. Sustainable transport
3. Sust. consumption and prod.
4. [...] natural resources
5. Public health
6. Social inclusion [...]  
7. Global poverty

Cross-cutting policies
- Education and training
- Research and development
- Financing and economic instruments
- Communication [...]
How are countries addressing the 7 EU SDS key challenges in their NSDS?

Findings – EU SDS objectives

- high (more than 2/3)
- medium (1/3 to 2/3)
- low (less than 1/3)
Findings – EU SDIs

EU SDI framework themes 2005 (2007)

- Economic development (Socioeconomic development)
- Production and consumption patterns (Sustainable consumption and production)
- Poverty and social exclusion (Social inclusion)
- Ageing society (Demographic changes)
- Public health
- Climate change and energy
- Transport (Sustainable transport)
- Management of natural resources (Natural resources)
- Global partnership
- Good governance
How are the themes of the 2005 EU SDIs addressed by national SDI sets?

- **Economic development**: Medium (1/3 to 2/3)
- **Poverty and social exclusion**: Low (less than 1/3)
- **Ageing society**: Medium (1/3 to 2/3)
- **Public health**: Medium (1/3 to 2/3)
- **Climate change and energy**: Medium (1/3 to 2/3)
- **Production and consumption patterns**: Medium (1/3 to 2/3)
- **Management of natural resources**: Medium (1/3 to 2/3)
- **Transport**: Medium (1/3 to 2/3)
- **Good governance**: Low (less than 1/3)
- **Global partnership**: Low (less than 1/3)

Legend:
- High (more than 2/3)
- Medium (1/3 to 2/3)
- Low (less than 1/3)
- Not addressed
Findings – EU SDIs

How are national SDI sets referring to the 2005 EU SDI framework themes?

- A green-colored section indicates a high number of SDI framework themes (more than 2/3).
- A yellow-colored section indicates a medium number of SDI framework themes (1/3 to 2/3).
- A white-colored section indicates a low number of SDI framework themes (less than 1/3).

Countries included in the analysis are:
- Austria
- Czech Republic
- United Kingdom
- Switzerland
- Denmark
- Ireland
- Sweden
- Finland
- France
- Estonia
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Slovenia
- Belgium
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Slovakia
- Norway
- Greece
- Iceland
- Romania

The diagram visually represents the number of SDI framework themes for each country, allowing for a clear comparison of how they refer to the 2005 EU SDI framework themes.
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Points for discussion

• **Analysis:** snapshot of the situation in early 2007; meanwhile: new EU SDI set has been adopted

• **Current trends:** some NSDS currently being reviewed; Eurostat supports development of SDIs in Member States

• **Visibility:** analysis limited to NSDS & SDI sets at EU and national level

→ How relevant are the EU SDS and EU SDIs for everyday political discourses?
Thank you!
(Especially for supporting us during the study)

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Discussion Groups – Topic II

1. How visible are the Eurostat SDIs and the EU SDS in your country? How could their visibility be increased?

2. How visible are the Eurostat SDI set and the EU SDS objectives in EU policies? How could their visibility be increased?