# Well-being in the policy and budget cycle in the Netherlands

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Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations on



#### What is well-being?

Well-being based on Brundtland definition (Our Common Future)

Wellbeing concerns the quality of life in the **here and now** and the extent to which this is at the expense of **later** generations or that of people **elsewhere** in the world

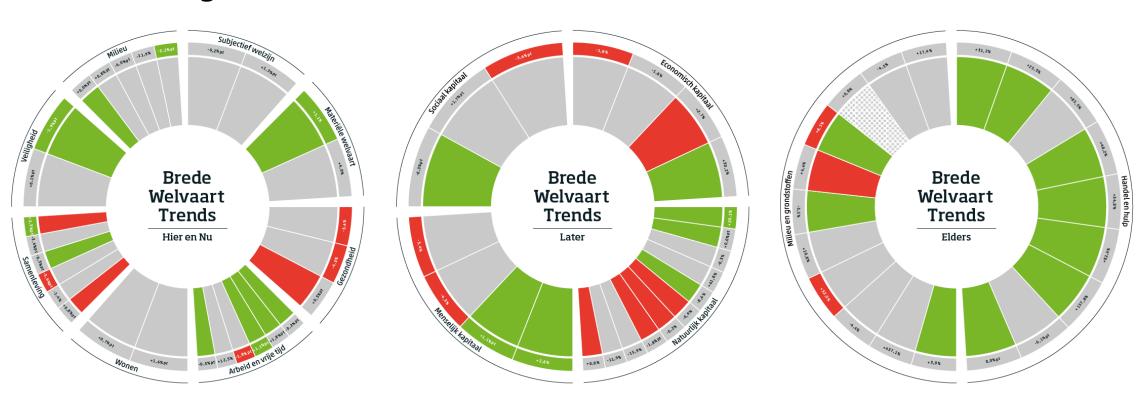
- Integration of SDGs in this measuring system.
- Well-being projects of Statistiscs Netherlands:
  - Monitor of Well-being and the SDG's 2023
  - Regional Monitor of Well-being
  - Monitor of Well-being and SDGs Caribbean Netherlands
  - SDG's International
  - Factsheets on Well-being 2023 by each departmental budget





#### The Monitor of Well-being and the SDGs

Well-being trends: three dimensions





#### How to integrate well-being in the budgetary cycle?

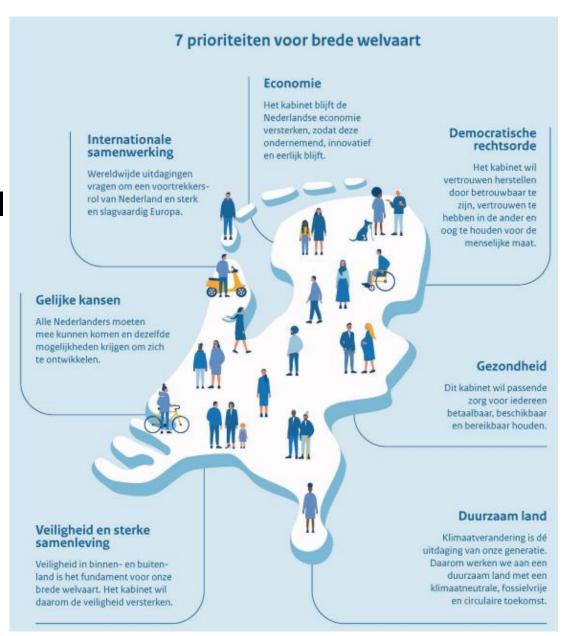
- > Initially, we identified the following possible approaches:
  - 1. Derive well-being goals and indicators from the coalition agreement
  - 2. Define well-being goals and indicators per ministry / minister
  - Define well-being goals and indicators on societal preferences, through surveys and consultations
  - 4. Embed existing publications (frameworks and indicators) in budgetary reports
- Thoughts on these approaches?



### Well-being in the budget memorandum

Political priorities on well-being from the cabinet are described in the annual budget ('Miljoenennota'), enriched with indicators from the well-being monitor.

- Example 'equal opportunities for all citizens'
  - 'Well-being is high on average but unequally distributed'
  - Policies on: anti-discrimination, labor market inclusion and financial social minimum





#### Well-being in the Financial Year Report

- > The Financial Year Report of the Government traditionally had a very strong financial and economic focus.
- Since this year, the Financial Year Report of the Government opens with the developments in well-being.
- Published in May together with the Monitor of Well-being and the SDGs (CBS).
- Well-being is also an important focus of members of Parliament in the yearly accountability debate.



#### Factsheets on Well-being

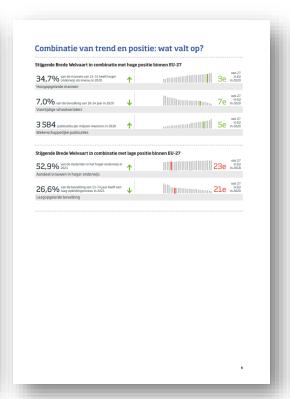
- Parliament: asked to give well-being indicators a central position in the national budget memorandum, departmental budgets and annual reports.
- Objective: to show the relationship between well-being and the departmental budgets, and to facilitate parliamentary debate on well-being.
- Output: Factsheets on Well-being 2023 by each departmental budget, published on Budget Day.

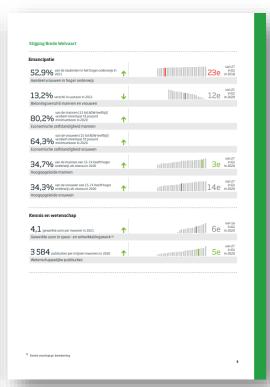


#### Previous example











#### Way forward

- Research institutes (CPB, SCP, PBL) are working on a well-being framework
  - Ambitious project to forecast and estimate policy effects on well-being
- Challenge: how to establish continuity of well-being beyond this coalition while ensuring political commitment
- Lessons from your country?





#### Discussion points

Well-being should be defined by parliament and/or the cabinet; or well-being should be defined by research and independent institutions?

- How can we ensure political commitment to a well-being framework? How can we ensure politicians to set concrete goals?
- What should be the role of qualitative and quanitative analyses in a well-being framework?



## Example: How are the Factsheets on Well-being produced?

- Ministry of Finance: coordinating role
- Statistics Netherlands and ministries: policy articles, arranged according to the well-being dimensions linked to SDGs.
- <u>Statistics Netherlands</u>: factsheets based on indicators from well-being dataset arranged according to the well-being dimensions and departmental budget theme.
- Ministries: data gaps -> wish lists -> (external) new indicators.
- Statistics Netherlands: create and validate new indicators.