

Social capital, alternative economy and measurement

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BES: a shared approach

Wellbeing is a **multidimensional concept** which changes according to time, places and cultures.

Identify dimensions and indicators to measure such a concept is always an exercise that reflects **norms, values and priorities** of those who participate in the selection process

In Italy ISTAT adopted a **complex approach** to share all decision at every steps not only with the experts but with the civil society at large

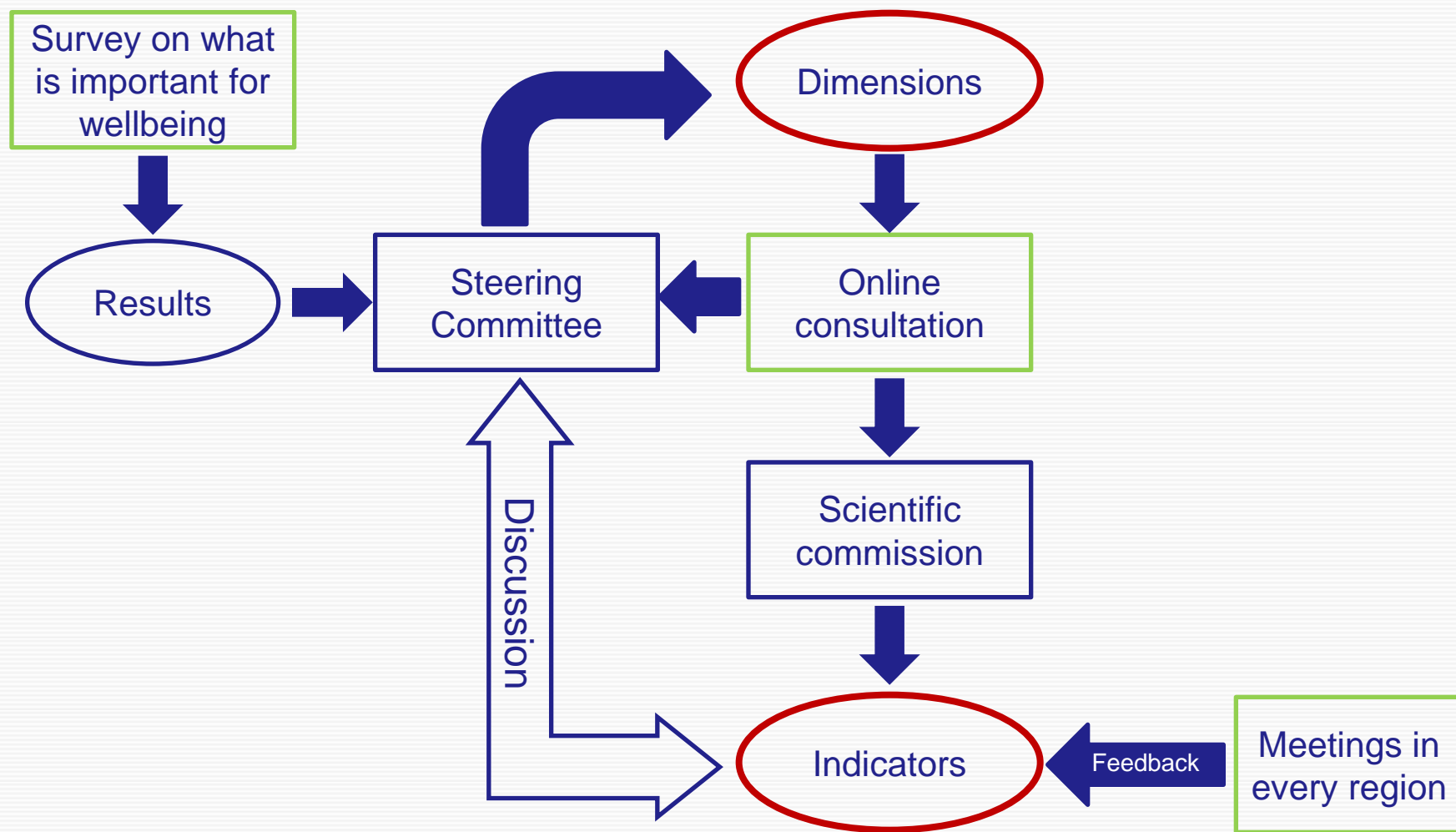
Only a **shared** approach can guarantee **legitimacy** to the measures of wellbeing

The Istat-Cnel initiative

The project will produce a dashboard of indicators able to provide a shared view of the progress of the Italian society. It is built on:

- ❖ **Steering Committee (CNEL-ISTAT):** with the participation of stakeholders and Istat experts, to identify the domains and to agree on the final list of indicators
- ❖ **Scientific Commission (ISTAT):** with the participation of experts in different fields, to select potential indicators based on quality concerns
- ❖ **Public consultation (via web)**

BES: a complex approach



Key domains for the Italian BES

LE **12** DIMENSIONI
DEL BENESSERE

The individual sphere

- 1** AMBIENTE
Environment
- 2** SALUTE
Health
- 3** BENESSERE ECONOMICO
Material well-being
- 4** ISTRUZIONE E FORMAZIONE
Education and training

- 5** LAVORO E CONCILIAZIONE
TEMPI DI VITA
Work and work-life balance
- 6** RELAZIONI SOCIALI
Social relations
- 7** SICUREZZA
Personal security
- 8** BENESSERE SOGGETTIVO
Subjective well-being

The context

- 9** PAESAGGIO
E PATRIMONIO CULTURALE
Landscape and cultural heritage
- 10** RICERCA E INNOVAZIONE
Research and innovation

- 11** QUALITÀ DEI SERVIZI
Quality of services
- 12** POLITICA E ISTITUZIONI
Governance

The BES website

www.misuredelbenessere.it

HOME
IL PROGETTO BES





misurare e valutare
il progresso della società italiana

CERCA SU QUESTO SITO

RISPONDI AL NOSTRO QUESTIONARIO
qual è la tua opinione
sulle misure del benessere

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giovedì, 19 gennaio 2012

Benessere psicologico e progresso sociale

Matteo Plevano

Per rilevare la misura del benessere di un Paese si sta affermando tra i diversi parametri di valutazione il concetto di benessere soggettivo, ossia la percezione soggettiva che ognuno ha delle proprie condizioni di vita. Questo nuovo parametro rappresenta certamente un passo in avanti rispetto alle tradizionali misure puramente economiche (PIL, Pil pro capite ecc...), aprendo la strada a quella che è la percezione psichica che gli individui hanno delle proprie condizioni esistenziali. Tale...

Nessun commento

lunedì, 16 gennaio 2012

Una dimensione in più per il BES: la qualità dell'alimentazione.

Roberto Burdese - Presidente Slow Food Italia

Non è solo una questione di immagine o un luogo comune: gli italiani amano mangiare bene, legano fortemente il concetto di qualità della vita al rapporto con il cibo e in tutto il mondo si usa dire "in Italia si mangia bene e dunque si vive bene". D'altronde la stessa Dieta Mediterranea, oggi riconosciuta come patrimonio dell'umanità dall'UNESCO, ha le proprie radici e i riferimenti principali proprio nei modelli alimentari del nostro paese e del nostro sud Italia in particolare (anche se più...

Nessun commento

giovedì, 22 dicembre 2011

I pro e i contro del superindice alla canadese

Donato Speroni

I canadesi sono gli unici, oltre al piccolo e lontano Bhutan, ad aver elaborato un "indice di felicità" onnicomprensivo da mettere a confronto con il Pil, prodotto interno lordo. Il lavoro è durato molti anni e finalmente è arrivato a una prima conclusione. Roy Romanow, presidente dell'advisory board dell'Università di

news

25.01.2012 11:37
"Corporate Social Responsibility: uno strumento decisivo per accrescere il benessere dell'Italia"
CSR Manager Network...

leggi tutte le notizie

LE 12 DIMENSIONI DEL BENESSERE

1. Ambiente
2. Salute
3. Benessere economico
4. Istruzione e formazione
5. Lavoro e conciliazione tempi di vita
6. Relazioni sociali
7. Sicurezza
8. Benessere soggettivo
9. Paesaggio e patrimonio culturale
10. Ricerca e innovazione
11. Qualità dei servizi
12. Politica e istituzioni

il dibattito

- Esperienze nazionali
- Misure nel mondo
- Rassegna stampa
- Per saperne di più

The Social Relations dimension

The definition of CNEL-ISTAT steering committee

“the depth of social relationships and the social network where one lives affect psychological and physical well-being of individuals and, at the same time, represent a form of investment that can increase the effects of human and social capital. The household is a privileged observation of relationships but there are other important forms of relationships such as friendship, work, neighborhood, public and private commitment and volunteering. The indicators in this domain will also concern interpersonal trust.”

The Social Relations dimension

Relations are considered an important asset that contribute to the formation of social capital (**Putnam 1993**) and that make possible the attainment, by reducing the transaction costs, of objectives that would not otherwise be achievable (**Coleman 1990**)

Operationalize the concept: Institutions (State), Civil society, Social economics and Family as drivers of the relational well-being of individuals, families and social groups

Social Economics: indicators identified by the Commission

Indicators identified by the commission:

1. **Nonprofit organization.** Number of NPOs per 10,000 inhabitants.
2. **Social co-operatives.** Number of social co-operatives per 10,000 inhabitants.
3. **Volunteer work.** Share of people aged 14 and over who in past 12 months performed non-paid volunteer work for associations or volunteer groups.
4. **Provided aids.** Share of people aged 14 and over who in past 12 months have given unpaid aid to non-cohabiting relatives and non relatives.
5. **Association funding.** Share of people aged 14 and over who in the past 12 months have funded associations.

Remarks: the set of indicators fails in describing some important aspects of social economics. Failure is do to lack of statistical information

Social Economics: Basic concepts

- **Market that values relations (not only on monetary terms) and that produces relations based on reciprocity and trust**
- *“insieme di esperienze fondate su legami sociali, nelle quali gruppi di persone entrano in relazione e cercano soluzioni comunitarie a problemi economici, ispirate a principi di reciprocità, solidarietà, socialità, valori ideali, etici o religiosi”. (Roberta Carlini, 2011, L'Economia del Noi)*
- New forms of participation anchored on the **principles of reciprocity and solidarity, ethical or religious values, ideals**. Their action is not driven by individual interest and profit maximization, and is rather based on social relationships and collaborations.
- A set of experiences such as cooperatives, social enterprises, ethical purchasing groups, critical consumption, fair trade, social and peer to peer lending, swap trading, co-housing, ... based on social bonds, in which groups of people come into relationship and seek **community solutions to economic problems**.
- These initiatives are **economic initiatives** as well as initiatives aimed at improving the wellbeing of the community and their strength comes from social ties (39th Censis Report on the Italian Society, 2005) .

Social economics: the subjects

Traditional subjects	NGOs	
	Voluntary organizations	
	Social cooperatives	
	Foundations	
Critical consumption	Ethical purchasing groups	
	Fair family budget	
	Swap trading	
	Co-housing	
	Co-working	
Credit and trading	Fair trade	
	Ethical banking	
	Social and peer to peer lending	
	Time banks	
	Fair economic districts	
Active participations	Street lawyers	
	Auto and mutual aid groups	

Source: Based on Censis 2005 Report

Social economics: the sources

Official statistics refer to the classification of non-profit institutions included in the **System of National Accounts**. NPIs are:

- a) Organizations
 - b) Non-for-profit and not-profit-distributing
 - c) Institutionally separate from government
 - d) Self-governing
 - e) Non compulsory
- Organizations that do not exist primarily to generate profits, either directly or indirectly, (...) the surplus they may accumulate in a given year (...) must be plowed back into the basic mission of the agency and not distributed.
 - ISTAT produces census data on NPIs every 10 years and data on cooperatives and social cooperatives every year (number, employees, turnover)

Lack of information

- Data are only available each **10 years**
- Some **activities** have only recently been included (e.g. ethical purchasing groups, critical consumption) other are not considered yet (peer to peer lending, co-housing, car-sharing)
- The **non profit distributing principle** is a binding constraint that excludes a wide range of Institutions that pursue profit in a context of relationships and shared values of solidarity, paying attention to the form of production, distribution and consumption and to their social and environmental sustainability.
- Are we sure that using the **SNA principles** is the only analytical tool appropriate to investigate this kind of social innovation?

Statistics and social innovation

- Statistics places themselves half way from theory and practice: **empower and validate**. There exists a continuous dialogue between social theory and statistics in order to identify classifications and categories (Sgritta 1998)
- Methods, instruments, categories used by contemporary statistics were established long before these phenomena gained importance and **reflect social arrangement** of a specific time (Desrosieres 2009)
- Need of **social theory of innovation** to develop better measurement

Statistics and social innovation

- **Factual-based policy making** is grounded on statistics
- **Why do statistics matter?** In simple terms, they are the evidence on which policies are built. They help to identify needs, set goals and monitor progress. Without good statistics policy making is a blind practice: policy makers cannot learn from their mistakes and the public can not hold them accountable (World Bank, 2000)
- To innovate policies, a push in the **production of complete and reliable statistics** (not necessarily official but sharing with official statistics quality features) is needed

Statistics and social innovation

Advances are needed in:

- **Social theory**
- **Statistical representation**

Crucial role of the actors of social economic in pursuing these targets