

17th June 2021

3rd Workshop: Connecting the existing evaluation and monitoring mechanisms related to sustainability within the revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) and towards the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) Action Plan

The Bes framework on Equitable and Sustainable Well-being in Italy

ALESSANDRA TINTO

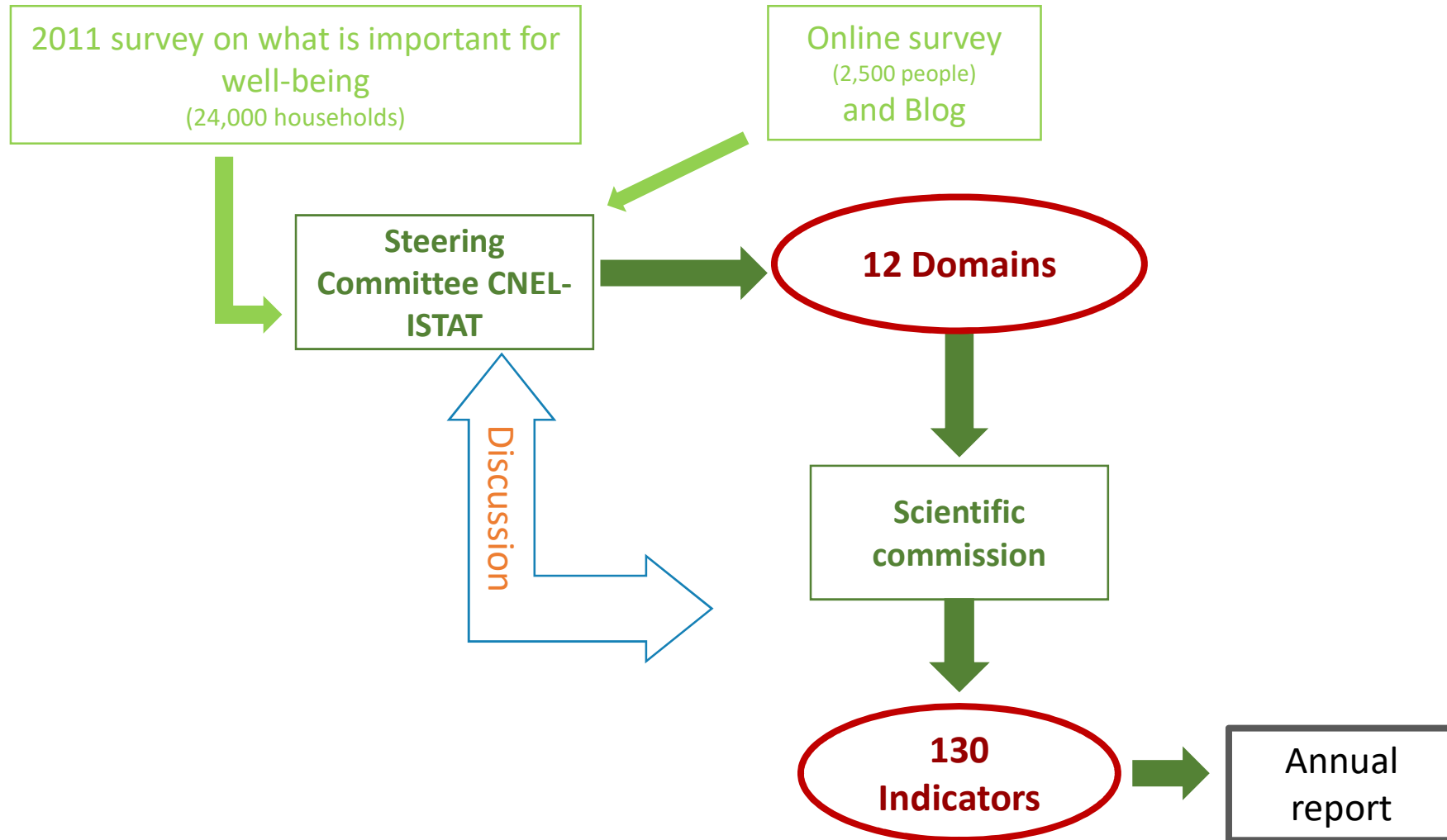
Istat | DVSS - DIREZIONE CENTRALE PER GLI STUDI E LA VALORIZZAZIONE TEMATICA NELL'AREA DELLE STATISTICHE SOCIALI E DEMOGRAFICHE

Equitable and Sustainable Well-Being in Italy - BES



- 2007 ---> Wide development of international activities on the measurement of well-being
- 2010 ---> the Bes project was launched (publication of first Report in 2013)
- **Aim:** to produce and monitor over time a set of indicators which provide a shared view of well-being in the Italian society
- Built through a **participative process** involving:
 - a) Steering Committee: stakeholders and Istat experts, to identify the most relevant domains to measure equitable and sustainable well-being in the Italian context. —> **12 DOMAINS**
 - b) Scientific Commission: experts in different fields, to select the indicators to measure well-being in each domain. —> **130 INDICATORS**
- Wide dissemination:
 - Annual reports (latest published on the 10th of March 2021, English version to be published shortly)
 - Website with documents, data, dashboard (<https://www.istat.it/en/well-being-and-sustainability/the-measurement-of-well-being>)

Equitable and Sustainable Well-Being in Italy - BES



12 domains for well-being in Italy



- 1 HEALTH
- 2 EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- 3 WORK AND LIFE BALANCE
- 4 ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
- 5 SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS
- 6 POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

- 7 SAFETY
- 8 SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING
- 9 LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
- 10 ENVIRONMENT
- 11 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
- 12 QUALITY OF SERVICES

The evolution of the BES framework

Every year the set of indicators is subject to some adjustments, due to:

1. **emerging issues:** ongoing discussion of possible emerging needs, to keep the pace with the socio-economic evolution of the country;
2. **new available indicators and new data sources:** development of new statistical information and methodologies;
3. **revision of calculation:** in some cases revision of calculation method for indicators.



Bes report 2020 – innovations (1)

The deep changes that have characterised Italian society in the last decade and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it necessary to enhance the BES framework.

NEW CHALLENGES:

- **Need to enhance the framework with new indicators due to:**
 - Covid-19 Pandemic
 - Digital revolution
 - Climate change

NOW 152 indicators, 33 of which are new, integrating eight of the twelve BES domains. Integration in coherence with the main lines of the #NextGenerationEU programme.



Bes report 2020 – innovations (2)

The deep changes that have characterised Italian society in the last decade and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it necessary to enhance the BES framework.



NEW CHALLENGES:

Timeliness: replacement of some indicators that cannot be updated yearly with others available on an annual basis;

Sources: formulation of new questions within current Istat surveys (e.g. questions on distance learning, trust in doctors and scientists - Aspects of Daily Life 2021 survey).

Future perspectives: need to revise the framework? New domain?

Themes to be monitored: intolerance, sense of democracy, trust, social cohesion.

Integrating well-being indicators in the policy making process: Bes-DEF

The Italian Budget Law (August 2016) established that public policies are regularly monitored and evaluated also through the effects on well-being indicators.

- A high level committee was set up to propose a selection of BES indicators. It includes the Minister of Economy and Finance, the President of Istat, the Governor of the Bank of Italy and 2 experts
- 12 indicators selected from the BES framework according to set criteria:
 - Sensitivity to public policies
 - Parsimony
 - Practicability
 - Timeliness, extension and frequency of time series
 - Transparency and accountability
- New challenges for Istat (and the National Statistical System) in order to:
 - ✓ Increase timeliness
 - ✓ Enhance quality
 - ✓ Ensure that indicators are always up-to-date with methodological and conceptual developments



Bes-DEF indicators

1. Adjusted gross disposable income per capita
2. Disposable income inequality (s80/s20)
3. People living in absolute poverty (incidence)
4. Healthy life expectancy at birth
5. Overweight or obesity (standardized rates)
6. Early leavers from education and training
7. Non-participation rate (by gender)
8. Employment rate of women aged 25-49 with/without preschool children
9. Predatory crime index
10. Length of civil proceedings
11. Emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gasses
12. Illegal Building rate

The integrated DataBase

Different frameworks of indicators on well-being and the SDGs indicators set up by Istat share a common set of indicators and data sources:

- **Bes**
- **Bes-Def**
- **Bes at local level**
- **SDGs**

Several countries disseminate both frameworks on well-being and on SDG however ... Istat is working at an integrated framework.

In 2020 the activity of integration of databases was implemented, starting with harmonisation of metadata and procedures for processing, monitoring and disseminating the indicators of the systems, with a focus on the common ones.

Advantages: alignment of updates and metadata for common indicators to ease the consultation and avoid confusion for users; reduced burden for data providers (internal and external to istat) in terms of harmonisation of data requests.

Challenges: adapt different needs into one single database; enable in the future users to navigate directly into the integrated database.

Thank you!

Alessandra Tinto

tinto@istat.it