

# The need for a framework for indicator sets?

An example of the SDGs and the CES framework

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# SDGs: the statistical challenges

## Post 2015 agenda:

- High political ambition,
- Elaborate set of proposed indicators (300+),
- In addition regional components/accents possible,

## Quite a challenge for the statistical community:

1. Measuring the indicators/data availability/data revolution
2. Communicating an increasing number of indicators;
3. Aligning the political and statistical processes, in the light of capacity building, sharing experiences and financial resources.

# Aligning statistical and political processes

**Therefore close co-operation is needed for:**

- **Implementation of the agenda. In which areas should efforts be prioritised, do we need to develop new statistics, international coordination, how and where do we need additional funding?**
- **Monitoring of the Post 2015 agenda (in the Netherlands close co-operation between Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Statistics Netherlands).**
- **Joint communication to the public at large.**

# Risk of information overload... ...or how to handle 300+ indicators...



# The need for a SDGs framework?

**Yes, a conceptual framework is needed:**

- Core/headline indicators and underlying drivers.
- Essential to communicate and analyse results.
- To evaluate if policy process and proposed indicators sets have addressed all relevant topics.
- Theoretical basis, logical soundness
- A parallel with the history of the System of National Accounts?

# Can the CES Framework be used for this?

**CES “Recommendations for measuring sustainable development” may have great potential:**

- Distinction made between core indicators and drivers (helpful to ‘reduce’ the numbers of indicators).
- Theoretical (scientific) soundness, based on existing work
  - ✓ ‘Here and now’,
  - ✓ ‘Later’
  - ✓ ‘Elsewhere’
  - ✓ 3 fundamental trade-offs according to Brundtland
- Many countries endorsed the CES Report and
- Are implementing them (partially) in their indicator sets

# A Dutch example; Here and now vs later and elsewhere



## But my politician doesn't...

- Want a large set of indicators, which he cannot understand/communicate/use for his own purposes
- A limited set of headline indicators might help, but still...
- ...can't you aggregate even more....

A clear policy need for composite indicators?

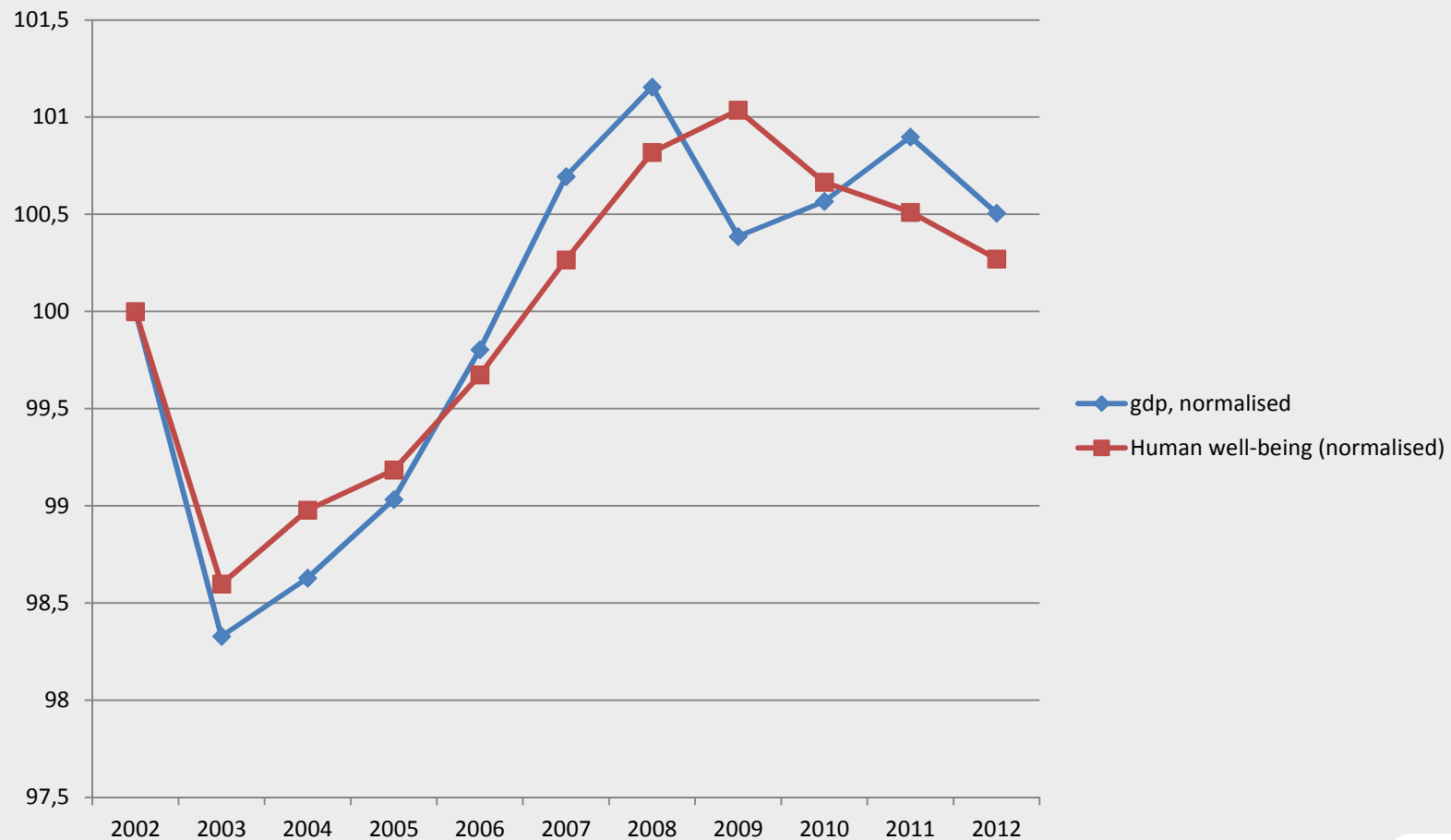


# But how about weights and preferences?



[www.toonsup.com/hsbcartoon](http://www.toonsup.com/hsbcartoon)

# An experiment; GDP and Beyond



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