

INTERCO

Indicators of territorial cohesion

Scientific Platform and Tools Project 2013/3/2

Note on the selection of territorial cohesion indicators
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Table of contents

Summary	3
1. Multiple viewpoints on territorial cohesion	4
2. The approach for the selection of indicators	8
3. The criteria	9
Inventory of indicators and first data assessment	9
The INTERCO thematic dimensions of territorial cohesion	9
Considering other theoretical frameworks (box 5).....	11
Prioritised indicators	13
References	15
Annex 1. Different classifications of the indicators	17
Annex 2. Synthetic, headlines and core indicators (proposal).....	19

Figures

Figure 1. Cohesion, well-being and sustainability.....	6
Figure 2. The INTERCO process for the selection of indicators	8
Figure 3. The sustainable development framework.....	11
Figure 4. The policy evaluation framework (after EEA 2009)	13

Summary

This note explains the approach applied by the ESPON INTERCO team for the selection of territorial cohesion indicators.

Based on a review of literature and policy documents, the first section shows the political and polysemantic nature of territorial cohesion, which should be considered as an integrative notion and a principle of action rather than a univocal and sharp concept.

The second section briefly describes the general approach to the selection of the indicators.

The third section presents the criteria of selection in more details.

Provided the multiple views on territorial cohesion and the great number of potential indicators, the approach chosen is a composite and iterative one. It is composite in the sense it combines theoretical and participatory approaches. It is iterative because the list of indicators is recursively examined and modified as theoretical inputs and advices from stakeholders are brought in during the course of the project.

Hence, this note is more focusing the **process** of selection, rather than on the **result** of this process. The proposed list of indicators (see Annex 2) will be updated after the MC meeting in Gödöllő, Hungary (23-24 June 2011) according to the feedbacks received from the MC members.

1. Multiple viewpoints on territorial cohesion

Territorial cohesion, which has been a priority in the ESPON research framework since long, is at the centre of the new cohesion policy and the search for indices and indicators that can monitor this evolution is crucial. The European institutions and stakeholders claiming for it or concerned by territorial issues have often their own understanding of territorial cohesion, adding to that of researchers.

The Green Paper

The Green Paper (2008) introduced the term in the public sphere and launched the debate, reminding the main issues related to territorial cohesion: harmonious development of all territories and of European territory, competitiveness, territorial diversity and potential, accessibility, inclusion and sustainability. It did not propose any clear definition of territorial cohesion but had a wide and integrated approach, with balanced and sustainable development at its centre. Territorial cohesion is a means of achieving it, by transforming diversity into an asset. Thus, “the key challenge is to ensure a balanced and sustainable territorial development of the EU as whole, strengthening its economic competitiveness and capacity for growth while respecting the need to preserve its natural assets and ensuring social cohesion” (p. 6). As a policy response, the Green Paper proposed three fronts of action, namely concentration, connection and cooperation, to overcome respectively disparities, distance and division.

This broad vision shows the will to bring together the approaches of the previous key documents, namely the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP, 1999), the Territorial States and Perspectives of the European Union (TSP, 2005) and the Territorial Agenda (TA, 2007).

European Spatial Development Perspective

More than ten years after its publication, the ESDP is still up-to-date as concerns its objectives (economic and social cohesion; conservation and management of natural resources and the cultural heritage; more balanced competitiveness of the European territory) but did not speak about territorial cohesion. It rather considers the spatial approach as crucial and the “territory” as an essential dimension of European policy. Thus, territorial cohesion is not only a third dimension of cohesion, but a new territorial perspective to adopt, crossing economic and social fields. Likewise, polycentrism, which is the key proposition of ESDP to achieve it, is model as well as a principle.

The Territorial States and Perspectives and the Territorial Agenda

TSP and TA as of 2005 and 2007 have continued this approach while being more explicit about territorial cohesion since the concept has been introduced also in the Third Cohesion Report (2004). The additional idea of those two documents were, on one hand, the focus on the “territorial capital”, which is easy to understand in a context of Lisbon Strategy and the publication of the OECD Territorial Outlook¹, and, on the other hand, the explanation of the need of territorial governance, “an intensive and continuous dialogue between all stakeholders of territorial development” (TA, 2007, art. 5). Considering territorial cohesion more as a “permanent and cooperative process”, the Territorial Agenda tries also to integrate the environmental dimension expressed by the Gothenburg Strategy and the following Sustainable Development Strategies. But global issues and policy context have changed since 2007, especially with the entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty (1st December 2009) and the

¹ The OECD Territorial Outlook states that the territorial capital refers “to the stock of assets which form the basis for endogenous development in each city and region, as well as to the institutions, modes of decision-making and professional skills to make best use of those assets”. (p. 13)

adoption of the Europe 2020 Strategy in June 2010. Thus, as foreseen from the beginning, TSP and TA have been recently updated. The revised versions of 2011 are not fundamentally different from the previous ones, since the overwhelming part of both documents is valid for the present and the coming decade. But they include new phenomena and new challenges such as the financial and economic crisis and the territorial integration after the last enlargement. No unique definition is given for territorial cohesion, but it is described “as a wished better state of the EU” (TSP 2011, p. 8) and its two main aspects are underlined, i.e. the focus on territorial capital on one hand and the emphasis of the special situation of regions with geographic disadvantages on the other hand (TSP 2011, p. 13). Moreover, TSP 2011 introduces the idea of “territorial optimum”, for which territorial cohesion plays an important role, through co-ordination of sector policies. Internal coherence of EU policies is indeed of first importance, and it goes the same for policy documents such as Territorial Agenda 2020 and Europe 2020 Strategy, which should have a mutual relationship. As the latter is a comprehensive strategy, it implies that territorial cohesion not only adds to the concept of economic and social cohesion, but “[translate] the fundamental EU goal of balanced and sustainable development into a territorial setting” (TSP 2011, p.13).

The Cohesion Reports

The Cohesion Reports have followed this broad evolution and contributed to it. After an introduction of the territorial dimension of imbalances in the Second Report (2001), an ambitious definition² in the Third one (2004) and its application in the Fourth, the Fifth Cohesion Report is finally the first published under the new Treaties and the Europe 2020 Strategy. In the context of recovery from the crisis, Cohesion Policy and its programmes should put the emphasis on few priorities, such as “the role of cities, functional geographies, areas facing specific geographical or demographic problems and on macro-regional strategies” (Fifth Cohesion Report, p. xxviii). If more attention paid to functional areas is welcomed, there is a strong focus on cities and urban regions, considered as engines for growth, following the new economic geography’s theories. Cities are crucial for innovation, service provision, and connection challenge, among others. Thus, environmental concerns are left on second rank within Cohesion Policy, although the report dedicates few chapters to it. Nevertheless, sustainable development is said to be one of the four key dimensions of territorial cohesion, together with access to services, functional geographies and territorial analysis. In addition, as it “builds bridges between economic effectiveness, social cohesion and ecological balance” (Green Paper, p.3), it can not be isolated from the search of well-being. The Fifth Cohesion Report integrate fully this dimension, by quoting the propositions of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report (2009), trying to measure living standard differently.

Europe 2020 Strategy

Taking over the previous Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies, the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth has adopted a limited sense of sustainability, focusing on “more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy”. Inclusion, reduced to “fostering a high-employment economy delivering economic, social and territorial cohesion”, is addressed apart from sustainability, while smart growth, i.e. “developing an economy based on knowledge and

² “The concept of territorial cohesion extends beyond the notion of economic and social cohesion by both adding to this and reinforcing it. In policy terms, the objective is to help achieve a more balanced development by reducing existing disparities, avoiding territorial imbalances and by making both sectoral policies which have a spatial impact and regional policy more coherent. The concern is also to improve territorial integration and encourage cooperation between regions”. Access to essential services, basic infrastructure and knowledge is also mentioned as of highest importance (Third Cohesion Report, p. 27).

innovation³ is a mean rather than a goal. The links between the recovery strategy, territorial cohesion and more generally Cohesion Policy are complex. The Commission tried to clarify them in two recent publications about the contribution of Cohesion Policy to smart and sustainable growth⁴. In fact, the real contribution is that of territories, were they cities, regions, macro regions, etc. Diversity is seen as a potential for every territory, which can make a smart use of its assets, through innovation. This will be a way to reach or boost competitiveness at all scales and to face new challenges to which regions are confronted, such as globalisation, demographic change, climate change and energy (as identified in Regions 2020).

Territorial cohesion and sustainable development

Thus, territorial cohesion exceeds the reduction of disparities between regions mentioned in famous article 174 and the service provision of article 14 TFEU. As a multi-dimensional and long-term vision, it is strongly linked to sustainable development, in a mutual way. This is why territorial policy and Europe 2020 Strategy are also so interdependent: the first should contribute to achieve the goals of the latter, and the implementation of the Strategy shall contribute to territorial cohesion (TSP 2011). In fact, territorial cohesion is the cornerstone of different paradigms such as sustainability, competitiveness and social cohesion (Territorial Agenda 2020, p.4), which should all contribute to harmonious and balanced development of Europe.

But, beyond these acknowledged challenges and actual policy orientations, this is the overarching question of **well-being** of people that is at stake, even more the question of **progress**, i.e. an economic and social well-being that is sustainable (see the work of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress Following (Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi 2009)).

There are indeed clear links between territorial cohesion, well-being (economic, social, environmental) and sustainability. Well-being must be sustainable in the long term and shared among people and territories; cohesion is a condition for sustainability; sustainability must be looked after while maintaining the highest possible level of well being (Figure 1).

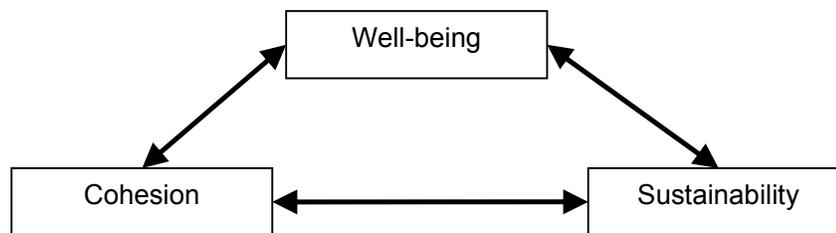


Figure 1. Cohesion, well-being and sustainability

Sustainability could be seen as the temporal component of well-being, cohesion being an horizontal component across the various dimensions of well-being (economy, society, environment). In reference to Da Cunha (2003) for his definition of sustainable development, cohesion can be seen as:

- a principle of action (something must be done)
- ethics (a set of values, such as economical, social and territorial equity)
- an integrative concept (multi-dimensional approach)

³ COM (2010) 2020, A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, p. 8.

⁴ COM (2010) 553 final, Regional Policy contributing to smart growth in Europe 2020.

COM (2011) 17 final, Regional Policy contributing to sustainable growth in Europe 2020.

This is this integrative concept that the INTERCO project is trying to measure by means of indicators that must be usable for action.

These linkages between territorial cohesion, sustainability and well-being are well perceived by authors such as Camagni, which defines territorial cohesion through three dimensions crossing the sustainability triangle (Camagni et al., 2010):

- Territorial Efficiency: resource-efficiency with respect to energy, land and natural resources; competitiveness and attractiveness; internal and external accessibility; capacity of resistance against de-structuring forces related to the globalisation process; territorial integration and cooperation between regions;
- Territorial Quality: the quality of the living and working environment; comparable living standards across territories; fair access to services of general interest and to knowledge;
- Territorial Identity: presence of “social capital”; landscape and cultural heritage; creativity; local know-how and specificities; productive “vocations” and “uniqueness” of each territory.

This vision deserves credit for integrating economic, social and environmental objectives, but in fact it reproduces the ambiguity of a “model that maximizes economic growth through competitiveness softened by references to ecological equilibrium” (Farrugia, Gallina, 2008, p.4). The attempt to integrate different goals, as also expressed by the European Social Model to which territorial cohesion should contribute, makes it difficult to implement and to measure, since it is a policy aim with a changing content (Böhme, Zillmer, 2010).

2. The approach for the selection of indicators

Considering the multiple (and evolving) viewpoints on territorial cohesion, as shown in the previous section, it was decided to adopt an approach that should :

- cover the main themes relevant to territorial cohesion, both from a policy and theoretical point of view;
- build on existing data and indicators, as much as possible.

The approach is iterative since it allows for a continuous update of the list of indicators. It is also a mix of analytical/theoretical work by the INTERCO team and participatory interaction with stakeholders in order to capture their needs.

Figure 2 illustrates the various components of the INTERCO approach. The upper horizontal layer concerns the **thematic definition of the indicators**, based on challenges, policy and issues considerations. The lower layer is the **data basis** for the calculation of indicators. In between are the indicators, which must be both **relevant** and **feasible**.

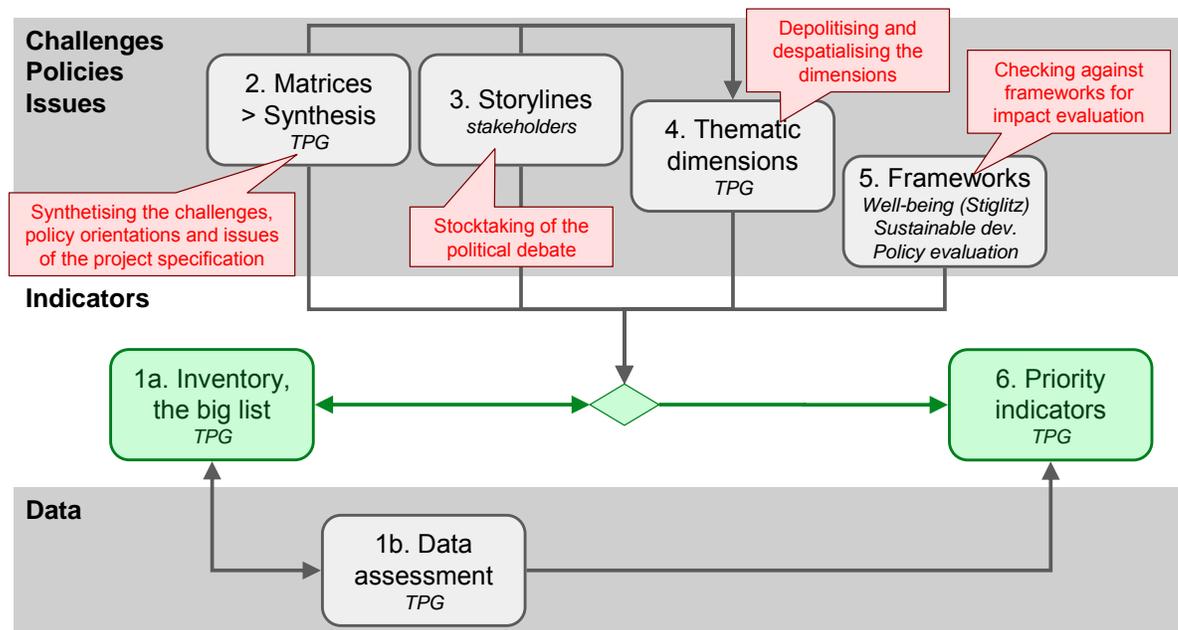


Figure 2. The INTERCO process for the selection of indicators

The several components of the process, boxes 1 to 6, are described below while presenting the criteria for the selection of indicators.

3. The criteria

Inventory of indicators and first data assessment

In the first phase of the project, an initial **inventory of indicators** (box 1a) was carried out on the basis of the work done in previous projects (in particular ESPON ones) as well on policy initiatives. An analysis of the data situation was also done (box 1b), which was subsequently refined for the Interim report. The indicators in the inventory are grouped according to a hierarchical (two levels) **classification scheme**. This classification scheme is to facilitate the browsing of the indicators, but has no particular meaning in terms of territorial cohesion.

At this stage three indicator sources from the EU policy domain were considered with a particular attention :

- Europe 2020 headline indicators
- Sustainable Development Strategy headline indicators
- 5th Cohesion report indicators (no explicit headline indicators, but the various composite indicators proposed can help to detect headline indicators)

Other sources such as the European Central Bank indicators were also examined.

The indicators should be in line with the indicators shown in the main EU political / strategic documents related to territorial cohesion.

The INTERCO thematic dimensions of territorial cohesion

Following the initial identification of indicators done in the inventory of indicators, a process of refinement and thematic selection of indicators was carried out.

Storylines (box 3)

To select and develop indicators to measure territorial cohesion, it was necessary to sharpen the understanding of what territorial cohesion may comprise. Since the debates have shown that a precise definition is impossible, the ESPON INTERCO project has decided to develop different stories about territorial cohesion. These storylines represent different facets of territorial cohesion and have been the organising principles of the workshops which aimed to capture the stakeholders' understandings and reactions. They were presented thanks to a short text explaining those five evocative titles:

- Smart growth in a competitive and polycentric Europe
- Inclusive, balanced development and fair access to services
- Local development conditions and geographical specificities
- Environmental dimension and sustainable development
- Governance, coordination of policies and territorial impacts

They have been updated during the workshops. For example, "local development conditions and geographical specificities" is the result of merging two different storylines, after the comments made by stakeholders, whereas the environmental dimension was not part of the first set of storylines; we included it afterwards. These storylines were also a mean to get first ideas of which indicators could be used to illustrate or measure the single facets of territorial cohesion.

From matrices to synthetic issues (box 2)

After the work done with the storylines, the INTERCO team continued his internal work for the definition / selection of indicators. The results of the workshop were very useful for that, but what had to be measured was still imprecise. Therefore, after the

dead-end situation was reached while trying to cross all challenges, policy orientations and issues between them (box 2 in Figure 2), we adopted a new method to identify the major territorial cohesion issues to be covered and find indicators closely related. This new approach was presented in Annex 5 of the Interim Report. As an internal working paper produced by NTUA, it takes into account the work on the storylines and the results of the workshops and synthesises it with all challenges, policy orientations and issues mentioned in the Project Specifications. Assuming that the selection of indicators should be primarily based on the explanatory power of the indicators in relation to the territorial issue at stake, it discusses in more extent the causal links between challenges, policies, issues, storylines and the proposed indicators, on the basis of an in depth analysis of the relevant literature on the EU policies territorial priorities. Thus, it first examines which groups of themes are necessary to use in order to study the major driving forces that are behind each territorial challenge and, therefore, determine which indicators are the most appropriate for the analysis of these driving forces. A similar cross-check of the territorial objectives of the EU policies with relevant policy driven forces and respective groups of themes and specific indicators has also been made. Finally, the storylines and the comments and proposals of the stakeholders have been used to further discuss the relevant driving forces and policy driven forces. The main result of this analysis is the highlight of major territorial issues, which are the following:

- Smart, competitive development
 - o Cities and polycentric development
 - o Inclusive development and fair access to services
- Environmental dimension, climate change and risk management
- Sustainable energy
- Specific regions, local development and rural areas
 - o Specific regions and local development
 - o Rural areas
- Sustainable mobility and connectivity
- Territorial governance, coordination of policies and territorial impacts

Each of them is composed of (a) a text assessing the relevance to EU policies documents, (b) a table with the related challenge / policy orientation / storyline, the themes corresponding to driving forces for the challenge and the correspondence to the classification scheme of the inventory which should enable an easier selection of indicators, and (c) a rationale showing the causal links and the statements underpinning the issue at stake (e.g. "Cities and polycentric development"). Finally, an indicative list of indicators is proposed for each major territorial cohesion issue (Annex 6 of the Interim Report).

Thus, progress had been made with the selection of indicators and indices, but it appears that a huge number of them were relevant for several issues. As such, it is rather welcomed than surprising. But it may signify also that these major issues are overlapping in some way.

INTERCO multi-dimensional approach (box 4)

Almost in parallel with the work on the major issues done by NTUA, and keeping it into account, we tried to find a way to get even closer to the indicators and indices, by developing a multi-dimensional approach of territorial cohesion. The idea was to take some distance from the storylines and from the formulations of objectives, in a first time, so to isolate the main relevant thematic dimensions, which could be relevant at each scale and for every territory, no matter its geographical characteristics. Thus, although they are crucial for territorial cohesion, rural areas and "specific regions" are not considered as thematic dimensions, because they are

integrated in each of them. On the basis of this preliminary work and after internal discussions, we retained so far eight dimensions to explore territorial cohesion:

- Territorial structure
- Connection
- Competitiveness
- Innovation
- Inclusion
- Quality of environment
- Cooperation / governance
- Energy ?

They are not related in the same way to territorial cohesion but they allow a synthetic approach of it that fits better with the search for indicators and the calculation of them. Indeed, by focusing on themes shared by all territories, they leave room for the role that metrics and scales can play afterwards. Their role is to be the crossing points between the relevant themes defined by the challenges and the policy orientations on one hand, and the issues to be measured and the indicators on the other hand. As such, they should be seen as a step to the selection of indicators, and not as our last word on territorial cohesion.

The indicators should cover the INTERCO story lines and thematic dimensions.

Considering other theoretical frameworks (box 5)

The sustainable development framework

In parallel to the development of the INTERCO story lines and thematic dimensions, the sustainable development conceptual framework was also used to check that all relevant dimensions of the territory were covered, i.e. environment, society, economy, and their respective interrelations⁵. Figure 3 illustrates this.

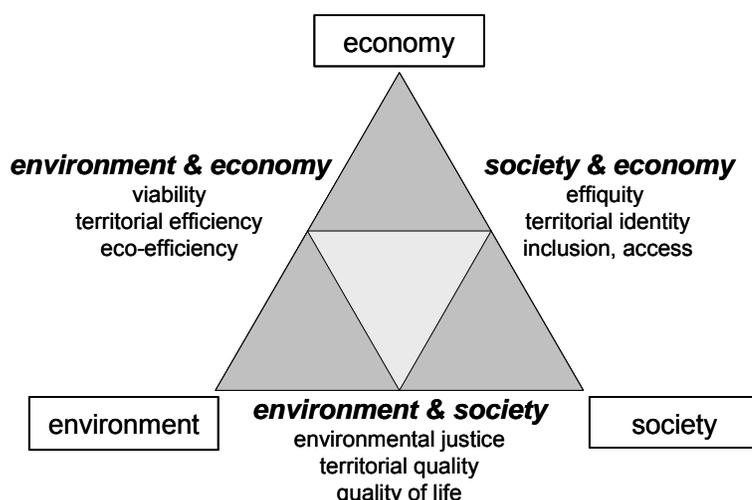


Figure 3. The sustainable development framework

The indicators must cover the dimensions of sustainable development.

⁵ the terms "territorial quality", "territorial efficiency" and "territorial identity" are taken from Camagni et al. (2010); "viability", "environmental justice" and "effiquity" from Da Cunha (2005)

The well-being framework

A special attention was given to the components of well-being, as defined in the Stiglitz, Sen, Fitoussi (2009) report:

- i. Material living standards (income, consumption and wealth);
- ii. Health;
- iii. Education;
- iv. Personal activities including work
- v. Political voice and governance;
- vi. Social connections and relationships;
- vii. Environment (present and future conditions);
- viii. Insecurity, of an economic as well as a physical nature.

The indicators should cover the economic, social and environmental dimensions of well-being (cf. the Stiglitz, Sen, Fitoussi (2009) report, page 14-15) :

The policy evaluation framework

The basic idea for using this framework is that indicators should reflect in priority on the territorial impacts of policies. The policy evaluation framework (e.g. see EEA 2009, Camagni 2010) offers an interesting categorisation of the level of analysis that indicators allow :

- **Impacts** : ultimate, overall goals of policies i.e., in our view, a balanced and sustainable development/progress/well-being with respect to the economic, social and territorial/environmental dimensions (e.g. accessibility).
- **Effects** (outcomes) of policies on their target groups/objects, e.g. concentration, connection, cooperation, accessibility, productivity, energy efficiency. These effects will in turn eventually result in impacts (e.g. increased connection is assumed to produce improved territorial cohesion and well-being).
- Policy **outputs** : direct results of policy measures (e.g. construction of road networks, which are e.g. supposed to increase accessibility).
- Policy **inputs** : means put in place for policy measures that have a territorial impact (e.g. expenditures in the transport infrastructure).

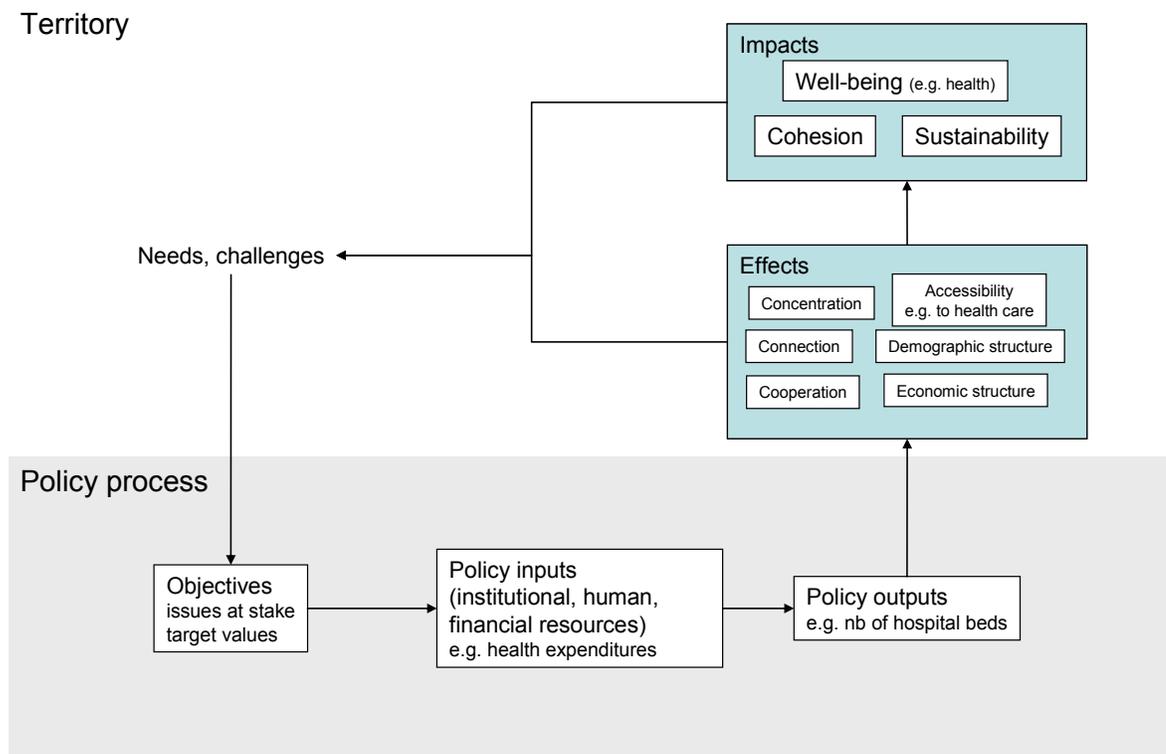


Figure 4. The policy evaluation framework (after EEA 2009)

In our case, it was found difficult to apply this framework straightforward since many policies and policy instruments are concerned directly or indirectly with territorial cohesion.

As an example, the main dimensions identified in the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion (2008) - i.e. concentration, connection, cooperation - could be considered as (eventual) effects/outcomes of policies/initiatives (Regional Policy, sectoral policies, etc.), which would ultimately lead to well-being.

Despite the difficulties, the indicators were categorised according to this input/output/effect/impact framework, and the focus was put on impacts and effects during the selection of indicators.

Focus should be put first on impacts (i.e. the dimensions of well-being) and effects indicators, but other "input" indicators could also be considered (e.g. expenses).

Prioritised indicators

Based on the classifications proposed by various systems of indicators (see Annex 1.), five categories of priority (box 6) have been considered:

1. **synthetic/composite (headline) indicators**, i.e. the simplification of several indicators into one single index summarizing all the underlying dimensions of the issues and policies at stake;
2. **headline indicators**, i.e. a limited number of indicators (around 20) that have the highest explanatory power and the highest relevance for the issues and policies at stake;

3. **core indicators** : these indicators complement the headline indicators in the analysis of the main issues and policy objectives. These indicators were identified as very important either in the policy documents, or by the participants of the INTERCO workshops or by the expertise of the INTERCO team.
4. **analytical indicators**, i.e. a full set of indicators (can be as much as 100) that provide additional insights for the issues and policies at stake;
5. **other data** (that may once become indicators under different circumstances, i.e. if issues of interest or policy objectives are modified).

The indicators of the inventory of indicators have been classified according to this classification.

After having compiled several hundreds of indicators, we decided to focus on the headline and core indicators.

The headline indicators should be as simple as possible, i.e. composed of no more than 2 components. For instance, energy intensity - a ratio of energy consumption and GDP - can be selected as "Headline indicator", but the Demography Index (5th Cohesion Report or the Human Development Index) should be considered as "Synthetic/composite (headline) indicators".

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Annex 1. Different classifications of the indicators

1. Europe 2020

- **Headline indicators:** they measure the progress made by the EU and the Member States towards achieving the 5 headline targets of the strategy.
- The **additional indicators** show in more detail the developments with regard to the main objectives and flagship initiatives of the strategy.

2. Sustainable Development Strategy (2009)

- **Headline indicators:** they are intended to give an overall picture of whether the European Union has achieved progress towards sustainable development in terms of the objectives and targets defined in the strategy. For a more complete picture it is necessary to look at the progress of all indicators within a theme.
- **Operational objectives and targets**
- **Actions/explanatory variables**

3. Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)

3.1 Use of a “**pyramid of indicators**” with **3 levels**, which correspond to the headline objectives and implementation measures to be monitored by the sustainable development indicators.

- **Level 1: Headline indicators** : consists of a set of 12 high level indicators allowing an initial analysis of the theme development. These indicators are aimed at a high-level policy-making and general public and can therefore be seen as a set of headline indicators.
- **Level 2: Core policy indicators** : correspond to the sub-themes of the framework and, together with Level 1 indicators, monitors progress in achieving the headline policy objectives. These 45 indicators are aimed at evaluation of the core policy areas and communication with the general public.
- **Level 3: Analytical indicators:** they correspond to the areas to be addressed, i.e. various measures implementing the headline objectives, and facilitates a deeper insight into special issues in the theme. The Commission Communications describe specific areas to be addressed for several of the themes. These 98 indicators are aimed at further policy analysis and better understanding of the trends and complexity of issues associated with the theme or inter-linkages with other themes in the framework. They are intended for a more specialised audience.

The identification of appropriate indicators is an iterative process.

3.2 The set of indicators allows integrated evaluation of sustainable development at EU level for instance according to:

- top EU policy issues via headline indicators;
- priority policy issues via headline and level 2 indicators;
- theme assessments via theme indicators and complementary SDI from other themes;
- new and emerging concerns by special indicator clusters addressing simultaneous but independent developments endangering sustainable development in the EU.

4. Lisbon Strategy

Structural indicators track the progress made towards four basic objectives:

- Investing in knowledge and innovation
- Unlocking the business potential
- Investing in people and modernising labour markets
- Climate change and energy

These indicators are divided in two :

- a **short list** of 14 indicators (as headline indicators?)
- a **complete list** of more than 100 indicators

5. ESPON 2006 project 4.1.3

- **Headline indicators**, corresponding to the main sustainable development themes (e.g. for Gothenburg Strategy) identified at European and international level
- **Core policy indicators**, corresponding to the key objectives of each theme
- **Analytical indicators**, corresponding to measures implementing the key objectives.

Annex 2. Synthetic, headlines and core indicators (proposal)

After applying all criteria described in chapter 2 of this note, a list of indicators has been made. This list is a proposal and based on the feedbacks expected from the MC members a consolidated list of indicators will be delivered to the ESPON CU in the first week of July 2011.

Indicator level	Thematic sub-cat. nr	Thematic category name	Thematic sub-category name	Indicator name	Criteria for selection		INTERCO dimensions																
					Policy evaluation framework	Policy documents										territorial structure	connection	competitiveness	innovation	inclusion	environment quality	energy ?	cooperation/governance
					input, output, effect, impact on well-being	5th Cohesion report	Lisbon strategy	Gothenburg strategy	Sustainable Development Strategy	Regions 2020 (EC, 2008)	Europe 2020												
1. Synthetic/composite (headline) indicators	2.01	DEMOGR	Population Structure (age, sex)	Demography index ["Regions 2020", EC 2008]	e					X		X		X		X							
	4.01	ENERGY	Energy	Energy index ["Regions 2020", EC 2008]	e					X		X		X			X		X				
	6.02	SOCIAL	Education	Participation in life long learning	w									X		X							
	6.04	SOCIAL	Poverty	Share of population living in households at risk of poverty severely materially deprived or with low work intensity	w	X			X		X					X							
	99.01	NON - CR	Integrative indices and typolog	Globalisation index ["Regions 2020", EC 2008]	w					X		X		X									
	99.01	NON - CR	Integrative indices and typolog	Human Development Index	w									X	X	X							
	99.01	NON - CR	Integrative indices and typolog	Change in Lisbon Index, 2000-2008	w	X						X		X									
	99.01	NON - CR	Integrative indices and typolog	Regional competitiveness index (5th CR)	w	X								X									

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						Input, output, effect, impact on well-being	5th Cohesion report	Lisbon strategy	Gothenburg strategy	Sustainable Development Strategy	Regions 2020 (EC, 2008)	Europe 2020	territorial structure	connection	competitiveness	innovation	inclusion	environment quality	energy ?	cooperation/governance	
2. Headline	2.01	DEMOGR	Population Structure (age, sex)	Ageing index (persons 65+ / persons 0-14)	e								X		X	X					
	2.01	DEMOGR	Population Structure (age, sex)	Dependency rate	e				X						X	X					
	2.01	DEMOGR	Population Structure (age, sex)	Life expectancy at birth	w				headline								X				
	2.01	DEMOGR	Population Structure (age, sex)	Life expectancy	w				X								X				
	2.03	DEMOGR	Total population	Population potential within 5 km	e								X		X		X				X
	2.03	DEMOGR	Total population	Population average annual growth	e								X		X		X				
	4.01	ENERGY	Energy	Share of renewable energy in final energy consumption and increase needed to meet the 20% target	e	X			headline			headline				X				X	
	6.02	SOCIAL	Education	High education population	w										X	X	X				
	6.02	SOCIAL	Education	Share high educated population in percent	w										X	X	X				
	6.02	SOCIAL	Education	Population aged 30-34 with a tertiary education in 2008 and distance to Europe 2020 target (5th CR)	w	X						headline				X	X				
	6.02	SOCIAL	Education	Share of tertiary educated people in %	w										X	X	X				
	6.03	SOCIAL	Health	Healthy life expectancy (ESPON 3.2)	w										X	X	X	X			
	6.03	SOCIAL	Health	Self-perceived personal state of health in EU Member States (5th CR)	w	X												X			
	6.04	SOCIAL	Poverty	At persistent risk of poverty rate (Population share with 60 % of the national equivalent median income)	w	X			headline			headline					X				
	6.04	SOCIAL	Poverty	Share of population living in workless or low work intensity households (5th CR)	w	X									X		X				
	6.05	SOCIAL	Other social	Work-life balance in EU Member States (5th CR)	w	X											X				
	6.07	SOCIAL	Quality of life	Happiness Index	w	X	X							X	X		X				
	6.07	SOCIAL	Quality of life	Share of population reporting crime, violence or vandalism by degree of urbanisation (5th CR) - 1st priority indicator	w	X									X		X				
	7.02	ECONOM	Employment, Unemployment	Difference between female and male employment rates, 20-64	w	X									X		X				
	7.02	ECONOM	Employment, Unemployment	Employment rate change (growth)	w		X								X		X				
	7.02	ECONOM	Employment, Unemployment	Unemployment rate per age: classes of 5 years	w	X									X		X				
	7.02	ECONOM	Employment, Unemployment	Development of unemployment rate (male, female, young, total, 99-04)	w										X		X				
	7.03	ECONOM	Income and Consumption	GDP per inhabitant (capita) in pps or euros, per year	w		headline								X						
	7.03	ECONOM	Income and Consumption	GDP change per inhabitant (capita) in pps or euros	w				X						X						
	7.03	ECONOM	Income and Consumption	Median disposable annual household income	w										X		X				
	7.04	ECONOM	Investments, Finances and Ex	Public sector debt relative to GDP	e	X									X						
	8.01	ENVIRON	Environment quality	NATURA 2000 area (Share of Natura 2000 area in %) (5th C.R.)	w	X							X					X			
	8.02	ENVIRON	Natural assets	Consumption of water per capita	e													X			
	99.01	NON - CR	Integrative indices and typolog	Intensity of multiple risks (number of challenges) for European Regions ("Regions 2020")	w						X							X			
	9.01	GOVERN	Governance	Electoral participation	w									X			X				X
	9.01	GOVERN	Governance	WGI Index on voice and accountability	w												X				X

Indicator level	Thematic sub-cat. nr	Thematic category name	Thematic sub-category name	Indicator name	Criteria for selection							INTERCO dimensions							
					Policy evaluation framework	Policy documents						territorial structure	connection	competitiveness	innovation	inclusion	environment quality	energy ?	cooperation/governance
						Input, output, effect, impact on well-being	5th Cohesion report	Lisbon strategy	Gothenburg strategy	Sustainable Development Strategy	Regions 2020 (EC, 2008)								
3. Core	10.01	TERRITO	Urban structure	MEGA / Metropolitan European Growth Areas	e							X		X					
	2.03	DEMOGR	Total population	Population density	e							X		X		X			
	2.04	DEMOGR	Urban - rural population	Urban - rural population in Europe based on national classification	e							X							
	3.03	TRANSP	Accessibility	Potential accessibility to GDP by road	e								X			X			
	3.03	TRANSP	Accessibility	Potential accessibility to population by road	e								X			X			X
	3.03	TRANSP	Accessibility	Time to the nearest motorway access	e								X			X			
	3.03	TRANSP	Accessibility	Travel time to railway stations	e								X			X			X
	4.01	ENERGY	Energy	Energy intensity of the economy	e	X	X		X		headline			X					X
	4.01	ENERGY	Energy	Renewable energy consumption	e									X					X
	6.02	SOCIAL	Education	Early school leavers and distance to Europe 2020 target - 5th CR	w	X	X		X		headline			X	X	X			
	6.03	SOCIAL	Health	Health expenditure per capita	i											X			
	6.03	SOCIAL	Health	Expenditure on health as part of GDP (national level)	i											X			
	6.04	SOCIAL	Poverty	Number of homeless people as a proportion of total resident population	w									X		X	X		
	6.04	SOCIAL	Poverty	Population suffering from severe material deprivation (% of total population) (5th CR)	w	X			X		X			X		X			
	6.07	SOCIAL	Quality of life	Happiness and GDP per head (5th CR)	w	X								X		X			
	6.07	SOCIAL	Quality of life	Homicide rate (5th CR)	w	X										X			
	7.01	ECONOM	Labour force	Labour productivity, gross domestic product as PPP per person employed	e	X	headline		X					X					
	7.02	ECONOM	Employment, Unemployment	Employment rate change %, 20-64 years, in certain time period and distance to Europe 2020 target	w	X	X				headline			X	X	X			
	7.07	ECONOM	Innovation	% of households having broadband access	e	X	X				X	X	X	X	X				X
	7.07	ECONOM	Innovation	Human Resources in Science and Technology (core) (5th CR)	e	X									X				
	7.07	ECONOM	Innovation	GERD (Gross domestic expenditure on research and development)	i		X		X		headline			X	X				
	8.01	ENVIRON	Environment quality	Residence density	e							X					X		
	8.01	ENVIRON	Environment quality	Urban waste water treatment capacity (5th C.R.)	e		X		X					X			X		
	8.02	ENVIRON	Natural assets	Share of areas with high ecological value	w												X		
	8.02	ENVIRON	Natural assets	Dwellings connected to potable water system	w								X						
	8.02	ENVIRON	Natural assets	% of green space per inhabitant	w												X		
	8.03	ENVIRON	Climate change	Greenhouse gas emission	e	X	X		headline		headline	X		X			X		
	9.01	GOVERN	Governance	Trust in the legal system (Share of persons having complete trust/ no trust at all in the legal system of a country)	w														X

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