



The challenge of using green economy indicators in policy-making

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Content

- Introduction to CEPS
- Main issues related to the use of green economy indicators
- The product: **Measuring-progress.eu**

CEPS – Who we are?

- Independent European think tank based in Brussels, founded in 1983
- Objectives:
 - Policy research
 - Forum for discussion
- Strong in-house research capacity and an extensive network of partner institutes throughout the world

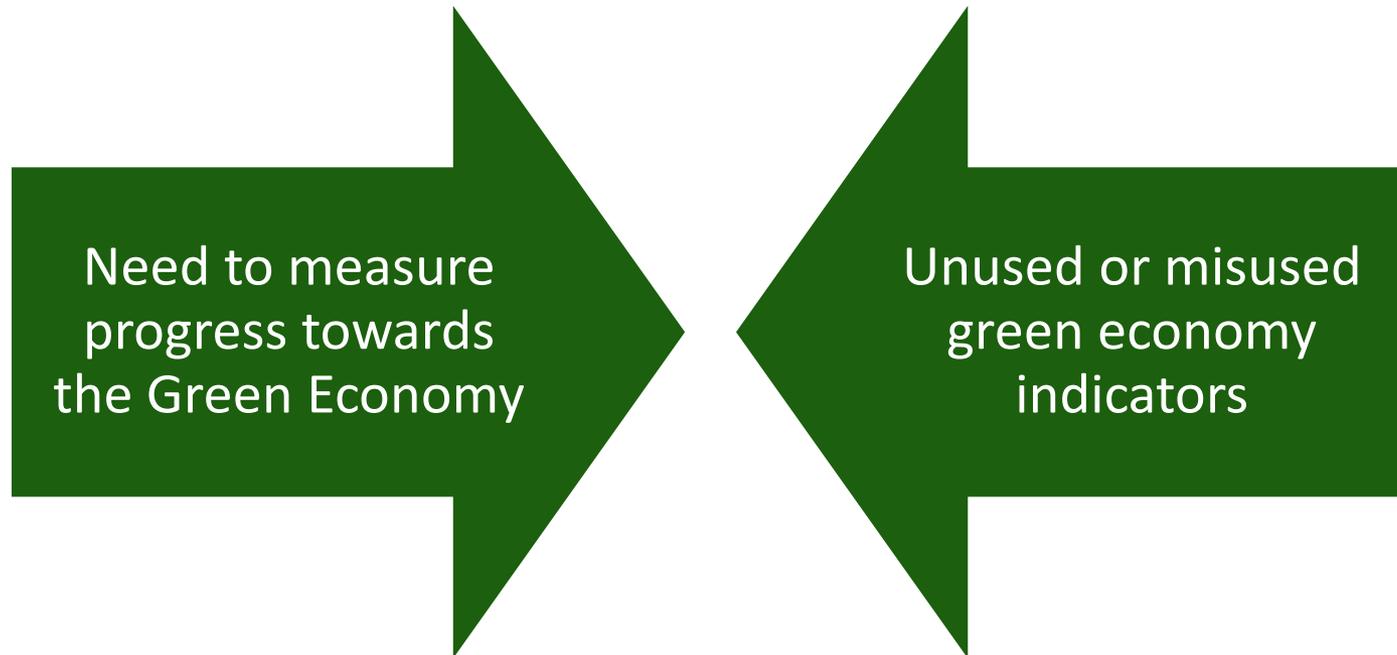
CEPS – Who we are?



- CEPS recently established an independent centre with focus on energy and climate change
- The Energy Climate House aims at strengthening the CEPS work on energy and climate change
- High level of policy relevance under strict standards of academic excellence and unqualified independence

The challenge of using green economy indicators

- Green economy is a highly complex topic with many definitions and measurement approaches



- A very large number of indicators available that in practice is not used in policy-making

NETGREEN: Network for Green Economy Indicators

- Two-year EU-funded project involving six research institutions
- Take stock of this fragmented body of work
- Develop a product for policy-makers and other stakeholders
- Build a network of people and organisations to:
 - Strengthen the dialogue on green economy indicators



The work involved

- 15 researchers involved
- 85 interviewed experts from the EU and beyond
- About 100 green economy papers/reports consulted
- Around 2000 green economy indicators considered

Interviewed stakeholders

- A group of experts to be interviewed was selected in order to discuss their experience with using indicators
- A particular focus was given in selecting interviewees who are policy and decision makers
- Also people or organizations who want to influence policy-making
- Other relevant interviewees were researchers and statistical officers

Interviewed stakeholders

The following groups of organizations were selected:

- Policy and decision makers at EU and national level
- International organizations
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Academic researchers, statistical officers, think tanks
- Business representatives

Examples of selected organisations

- Department for Energy and Climate Change, UK
- UNEP
- European Commission
- Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment
- German Federal Statistical Office
- Portuguese Governmental Environmental Agency
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment, Austria
- University College London
- Stakeholder Forum
- Confederation of British Industry
- Wuppertal Institute
- Friends of the Earth
- Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies, South Africa

Who produces the indicators?

- Intergovernmental organisations
- Statistical offices
- Non-governmental organisations
- Scientific institutes
- Government bodies (national)
- Government bodies (regional)
- Businesses

Why indicators are not used?

- Policy-makers are not aware about the existence of some indicators
- There are divergent views over methodologies or over concepts behind the formulation of the indicators
- Policy-makers are often unwilling to use data if they do not come from official statistics offices
- There are unaware about the relevance of measuring some issues

Why indicators are not used?

- Insufficient or obsolete or low-quality data
- Difficult to collect all information needed in order to use the indicator
- Often there are too many indicators for the same issue which often creates confusion in the policy-making field

What do policy-makers need?

- Transparency
 - Explanation about calculation method
 - Origins of indicator
 - Development stages
 - Data sources
- Information about the methodology of the indicator
- Sound indicators from a data perspective
- Clear description about what does it measure and what it does not

What do policy-makers need?

- Policy and decision makers tend to like headline indicators for public communication reasons
- Indicators that capture information at the regional and local level

The product develop by the NETGREEN team

An **interactive online tool** for policy-makers and the people trying to influence them

Designed to help users **identify and understand** green economy indicators

Supports users in making **the right indicator selection** for a specific policy issue

Helps users **interpret the strengths and shortcomings** of an indicator

Web tool to facilitate the use of green economy indicators



MEASURING-PROGRESS.EU

Explore Green Economy Indicators

Give us feedback!

Username

Password

Create new account

Log in

Request new password

Measuring Progress is an interactive online tool suggesting green economy indicators for policy-making. The tool was designed to help you identify and understand the best indicators to measure progress towards the green economy. It supports you in the search for the right indicators for your specific policy problem, and helps you interpret the indicators' strengths and their shortcomings.

The tool consists of a database of annotated green economy indicators which cover the five main topic areas of the green economy: environmental sustainability, social justice, quality of life, economic sustainability and resilience, and effective governance. The database currently includes more than 200 indicators from over 50 sources including Eurostat, OECD and UNStats among others.

There are three different ways to search the database and receive indicator suggestions:



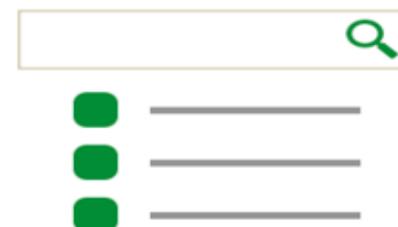
Keyword search

Select keywords from our list and receive relevant indicator suggestions.



Navigate topic tree

Choose one or several topics from our tree of green economy topics.



Full text search

If keyword search and topic tree don't work for you, try the full text search.

Web tool to facilitate the use of green economy indicators

The screenshot shows a web application interface for searching green economy indicators. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Keyword Search' (active), 'Topic search', and 'Fulltext Search'. Below the tabs is a green header area with a home icon on the left. The main content area is green and contains an 'Add Keyword' input field with a dropdown arrow and an 'Add Keyword' button. To the right of the input field, there are two numbered instructions: 1. 'Begin by typing a policy-relevant term (e.g. climate, employment, happiness) and' 2. 'select a proposed keyword from the drop-down menu. You will receive suggestions of relevant indicators.' Below these instructions, there is a paragraph: 'Multiple keywords can be added to your search. The tool will return indicator suggestions sorted by their combined relevance to the selected keywords. You can use the filters below the search box to narrow down your results.' and a link 'Learn more about the search options'. Below the green header, there is a 'Current keyword:' section with a text box containing 'Environmental tax' and a close button (X), and a 'Clear keyword' button. Below this, there are six filter dropdowns: 'data quality assesment', 'frequency of updates', 'geographical level', 'methodological transparency', 'type of indicator source', and 'cost of accessing data'. To the right of the filters are two buttons: 'Print version' and 'PDF version'. Below the filters, there is a 'Showing 1 - 10 of 190 results' section with a pagination control showing '1 2 3 4 5 ... >>'. Below this, there are three search results, each with a title, a source, and a 'SELECT' button. The first result is 'Total environmental tax revenues as a share of total revenues from taxes and social contributions' by Eurostat. The second is 'Environmental protection expenditure by the public sector' by Eurostat. The third is 'Total environmentally related taxes, % GDP' by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Each result also has a 'Show details' link. On the right side of the interface, there is a 'My Indicator Selection' section with a bookmark icon and the text 'Your selection is currently empty'.

Keyword Search | Topic search | Fulltext Search

1. Begin by typing a policy-relevant term (e.g. climate, employment, happiness) and
2. select a proposed keyword from the drop-down menu. You will receive suggestions of relevant indicators.

Multiple keywords can be added to your search. The tool will return indicator suggestions sorted by their combined relevance to the selected keywords. You can use the filters below the search box to narrow down your results.

Learn more about the search options

Current keyword: Environmental tax X Clear keyword

Filter results by:

data quality assesment | frequency of updates | geographical level | methodological transparency | type of indicator source | cost of accessing data

Print version | PDF version

My Indicator Selection
Your selection is currently empty

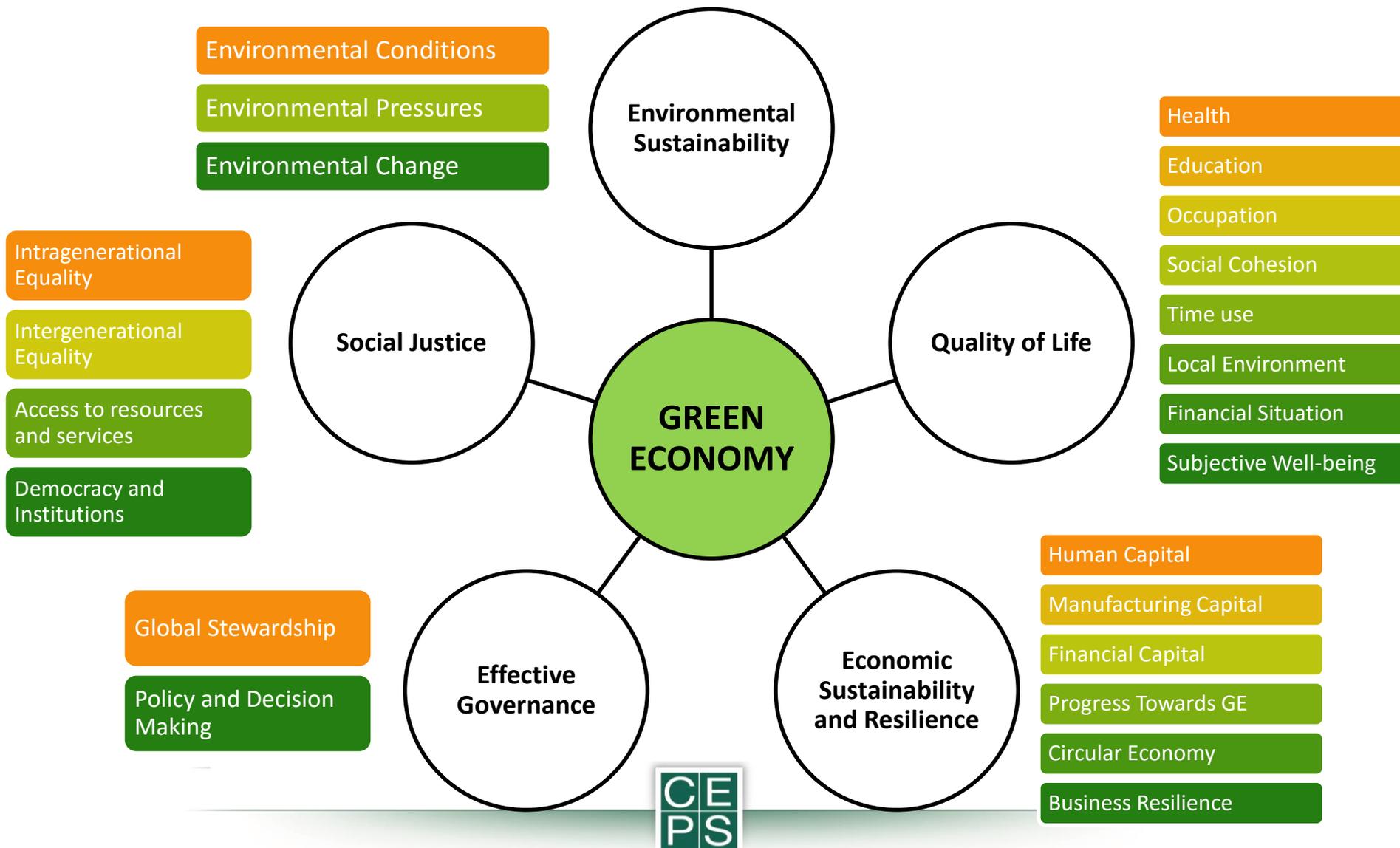
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Total environmental tax revenues as a share of total revenues from taxes and social contributions
Eurostat
Show details SELECT

Environmental protection expenditure by the public sector
Eurostat
Show details SELECT

Total environmentally related taxes, % GDP
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Show details SELECT

Web tool to facilitate the use of green economy indicators



Web tool to facilitate the use of green economy indicators

The **Measuring-progress.eu** web tool features:

- 260 fully described indicators
- Over 500 additional indicators
- Over 900 keywords
- Topic tree with 102 topics

Web tool to facilitate the use of green economy indicators

- **Funding:** We are in talks with organisations on the continuity of **Measuring-progress.eu**
- **Further extensions** to other areas would increase value of the website
 - Other data sources
 - Other indicators and key words
- We are still open for suggestions for potential funders, collaborators or testers

Using green economy indicators in policy-making

Messages

- Rather than focusing only on developing the perfect indicator or set of indicators perhaps it is more useful to:
 - Educate the public in the use of indicators
 - Start using the available literature more extensively
- Almost any indicator can provide useful pointers for some political questions and misleading signals for others

Using green economy indicators in policy-making

Messages

- In order to offer added value for policy-making they need to first be identified and then properly interpreted
- Effective green economy policies need to be linked to attractive visions for change and indicators can be used to underpin these visions



Questions and discussion

- THANK YOU! -

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