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Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development
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Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

SWEDISH WORK ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

Submitted by Statistics Sweden¹

This meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD
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Government initiatives

Statistics Sweden, together with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, compiled the first set of Sustainable Development Indicators in 2001. The Swedish approach then, covered four themes focusing on the transition towards sustainability: Efficiency, Contribution and Equality, Adaptability, and Values and Resources for coming generations. This work was presented at the Gothenburg meeting 15 and 16 March 2001 of the Swedish presidency and was made before the Swedish sustainable strategy existed.

Since then a national strategy has been presented. This strategy has now been updated and was presented to the public the 22 of March 2006, together with a new set of indicators (Fig.1). These twelve core indicators are complemented by 75 other and more detailed indicators (in Swedish). They are grouped under six headings; health, sustainable production and consumption, social cohesion, economic development, environment and climate as well as global governance. The core indicators have also been regionalised to serve the counties in Sweden in their sustainability work.

Fig 1. Swedish core set 2006

Health

1. Mean life expectancy
2. Ratio of population exposed to violent crime or threat of violence

Sustainable consumption and production

3. Energy efficiency, Wh/GDP
4. Investments as share of GDP

Social coherence

5. Poverty. Ratio of population with income below 60% of median income.
6. Demographic dependency ratio

Economic development

7. Employment: Women and men
8. General Government and Central Government Net Debt in per cent of GDP
9. GDP

Environment and climate

10. Emissions of carbon dioxide
11. Organic chemicals in breast milk

Global partnership

12. ODA, official development assistance

Accounting initiatives

A report in Swedish has also been presented on SDIs from a statistical economic and environmental accounting framework, with efforts to include some social data. The report focussed on analyses of the underlying trends, showing data on how production and consumption activities contribute mainly to economy, employment and to environmental pressure. A new report in this series is planned during 2006, this time in English.

International initiatives

Statistics Sweden has also been an active member of the ESS Task Force on Methodological Issues for Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) working with the first set of SDIs for Europe¹.

We will also take part in the working group on SDIs created by the OECD in cooperation with the UN, Eurostat and national statistical agencies. Our main focus is to enhance the possibilities for the user community to get access to the data needed for sustainability assessments. The statistical offices have a

part in this work by organising the statistics so that it is available, comparable and possible to link between different areas.

Institutional aspects

The sustainability council

Sustainability is an overarching goal for Swedish politics as it is for the EU. The government has reorganised itself so that a sustainability council was created with members from the different departments. This was first a part of the prime ministers ministry, but has now become a part of the earlier environmental ministry enhanced with the energy area. A group of people from the different ministries serve as an advisory group to the council.

The environmental quality objectives

The work on environmental policy has become focussed on meeting the goals of the environmentally quality objectives, where indicator work has been a focus area. Also the environmental legislation has been reorganised under one legal setting. The process has created a network between the different public actors and a coherence in the thinking about these questions. It also means that all environmental areas do not need to be covered in the sustainability indicator set, as they have their own process.

References

Statistics Sweden and the Swedish Environment Protection Agency (2001)
Sustainable Development Indicators for Sweden – a first set 2001

Statistics Sweden; Environmental Accounts (2003:3) *Sustainable Development Indicators – based on environmental economic and social statistics (In Swedish) Available at www.scb.se/mi1301*

Seminar on EU Sustainable Development Indicators in Stockholm 9-11 February 2004 (Website:
<http://www.h.scb.se/sdiworkshop/>)

¹ For more information see website: [Hhttp://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/susdevind/home](http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/susdevind/home)H

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