

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

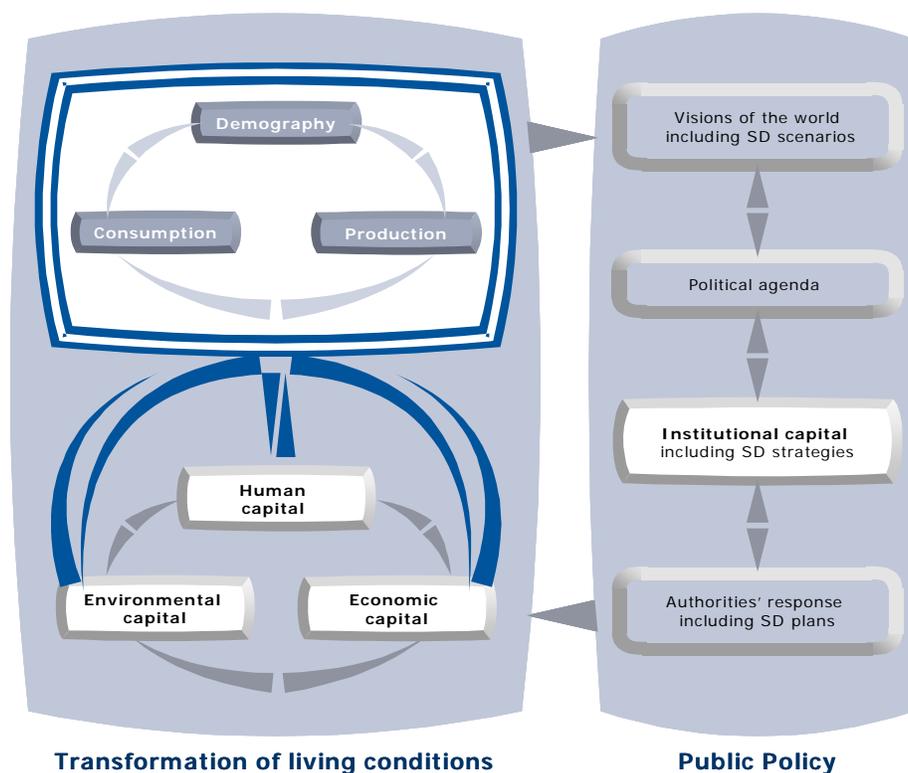
Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development  
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Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

**TRANSGOVERN: AN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ANALYSIS AND PERSPECTIVES**

Prepared by the Federal Planning Bureau in Belgium

**TRANSGOVERN**

1. *Transformation of living conditions through **Governing**: an integrated development model for sustainable development strategy analysis and perspectives*
2. TransGovern is a comprehensive systemic model for describing and analysing how a given society develops and how public authorities can influence this development in the long term. Many questions about the directions in which our societies develop indeed require answers from the authorities. Guiding this development requires an overall vision of the situation, which can be obtained by systematically organising the available social, environmental, economic and political information and making projections in this framework.
3. To this aim, TransGovern extends the use of the concepts central to the DPSIR framework (Driving forces, Pressures, States, Impacts, Responses), developed at the OECD. It combines those concepts with the triangular model of interactions between the three basic capitals of development (human, environmental and economical). TransGovern adds the institutional capital to these and places it at the core of an original public policy module, compatible with the theory on human, environmental and social risks put forward by the Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy (Duurzame risico's: een blijvend gegeven, Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid, 1994).



4. TransGovern includes two main parts, the living conditions and the political process. Through this process, public authorities, based on the information received on the living conditions, implement political responses aimed at orienting the transformation of living conditions. The living conditions are described by three capitals, three driving forces and their interactions. TransGovern includes the human capital (standard of living, health, knowledge and capacities), the environmental capital (natural resources and biological diversity) and the economic capital (physical and technological capital, net financial assets). The driving forces are human processes and economic activities that have an influence on these capitals. TransGovern identifies three sets of driving forces: demography as well as consumption and production patterns. The driving forces can influence each other. In addition, they exert their influence on the human, environmental and economic capitals through pressures. In TransGovern, each pressure originates from one driving force and modifies the state of one capital. Conversely, changes in the state of one capital can have impacts on the state of the other capitals. Those changes also produce feedbacks on the driving forces. The living conditions part of TransGovern is thus a complex system. Influencing this system in such a way that it generates a sustainable development of society requires an integrated approach.

5. The political process part of TransGovern represents the development of political responses in a four steps process: visions of the world, political agenda, institutional capital and formulation and implementation of policies. Because the scientific knowledge available to public authorities will never be sufficient to support all their responses, visions of the world and the perception of existing risks play an important role. These are subjective elements that are influenced by norms, values and political priorities. The political agenda results from the democratic debate between the various components of society. The authorities' capacity to

materialise the items on the political agenda into political responses depends on the institutional capital, i.e. the state of the country's organisational, legal and social structures.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Task force Développement durable, "*Comprendre et gouverner le développement, 3<sup>ème</sup> Rapport fédéral sur le développement durable 2000-2004*", Bureau fédéral du Plan, Décembre 2005

<http://www.plan.be/nl/pub/other/OPSDREP07/OPSDREP07nl.pdf>

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