



OCDE ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ET
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUES

**Technical tools to help transform
information into knowledge**

**Global Project on
Measuring the Progress of Societies**

Lynda Hawe

Territorial Measures of Well-being

Over the past years, there has been a vast increase in the demand for indicators that go beyond the traditional economic measures of process.

Phrases such as ‘Societal progress’, ‘Well-being’, ‘Quality of Life’ and ‘Social health’, have become important for public debate and in policy decision making processes.

Comprehensive key indicators systems and well-being frameworks are being developed around the world, and at all levels of society.

Citizens and Politicians want to have a **better understanding of the well-being** of their community, region, national or group of nations.

These indicator sets are produced by different types of organisations and many have diverse purpose, focuses and intended audiences.

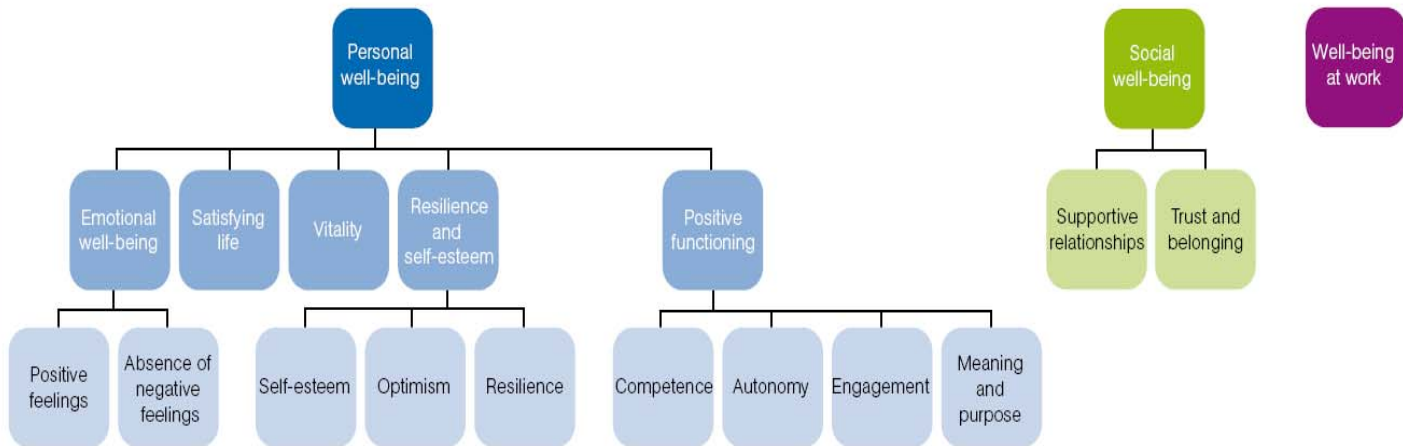
“Well-being” measures are capable of going Beyond GDP, to represent a broader view of the ways in which societies are progressing or regressing. Measures which are based on the true values of a society and of individual’s lives.

As defined by the World Health Organisation WHO,

“Quality of life is an individual’s perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. It is a broad-ranging concept, affected in a complex way by the person’s physical health, psychological state, personal belief and social relationships to salient features of their environment”

Examples of such well-being measures are shown on the [NEF](#) site. They also give a definitions of what is [Well-being](#), look at www.nationalaccountsofwell-being.org

Figure 1 – Indicator structure within the example national accounts framework.



“There is another problem to resolve, and that is the often wide gap between measures of such important variables as economic growth, inflation, inequality, and social mobility and public perceptions. Incomes may rise, but people feel poorer, or inflation may fall, yet people see higher prices in their local stores. This **gap between statistics and perceptions** is often so wide—and widespread—that it cannot be dismissed as an illusion or the result of public hysteria. And it contributes to a lack of confidence in those who produce and rely on these statistics”.
By Nobel Prize laureate [Joseph Stiglitz](#).

Read more on his paper ["Progress what Progress?"](#)

Why we need new ways to assemble Territorial Measures of Well-being

- Policy makers need sound statistical information on the source of regional competitiveness, to make responsible and accountable decisions.
- Such information is not always available. **Sub-national data are limited and regional indicators difficult** to compare among countries.
- Well-being is an issue that is vital for all concerned. It ensures that **the realities of many people's daily lives** are taken into account when policy makers make decisions.



www.oecd.org/progress

The Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies" - hosted by the OECD and run in collaboration with other international and regional partners - seeks to become the world wide reference point for those who wish to measure and assess the progress of their societies.

- [What we are doing](#)
- [Why is our work important](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The project's network comprises a growing number of:
[Partners](#) - [Associates](#) - [Correspondents](#) - [Other](#)



Mission Statement: Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies exists to foster the development of sets of key **economic, social and environmental indicators** to provide a comprehensive picture of how the well-being of a society is evolving. It also seeks to encourage the use of indicator sets **to inform and promote evidence-based decision-making**, within and across the public, private and citizen sectors. The project is open to all sectors of society, building both on good practice and innovative research work.



- Information plays a vital role in economic and political processes.
- The ideal of a “fully informed decision maker” is far from the case: although citizens are constantly bombarded by information, **this information is not necessarily translated into knowledge.**
- Many people are unable to fully understand ongoing debates about public policies and feel threatened by the complexity of global issues and the polarity of ‘evidence’ used by those on different sides of the debate (climate change, migration, etc.).



OECD 2nd World Forum
Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies -
<http://www.oecd.org/oecdworldforum/Istanbul>

Istanbul Declaration – July 2007

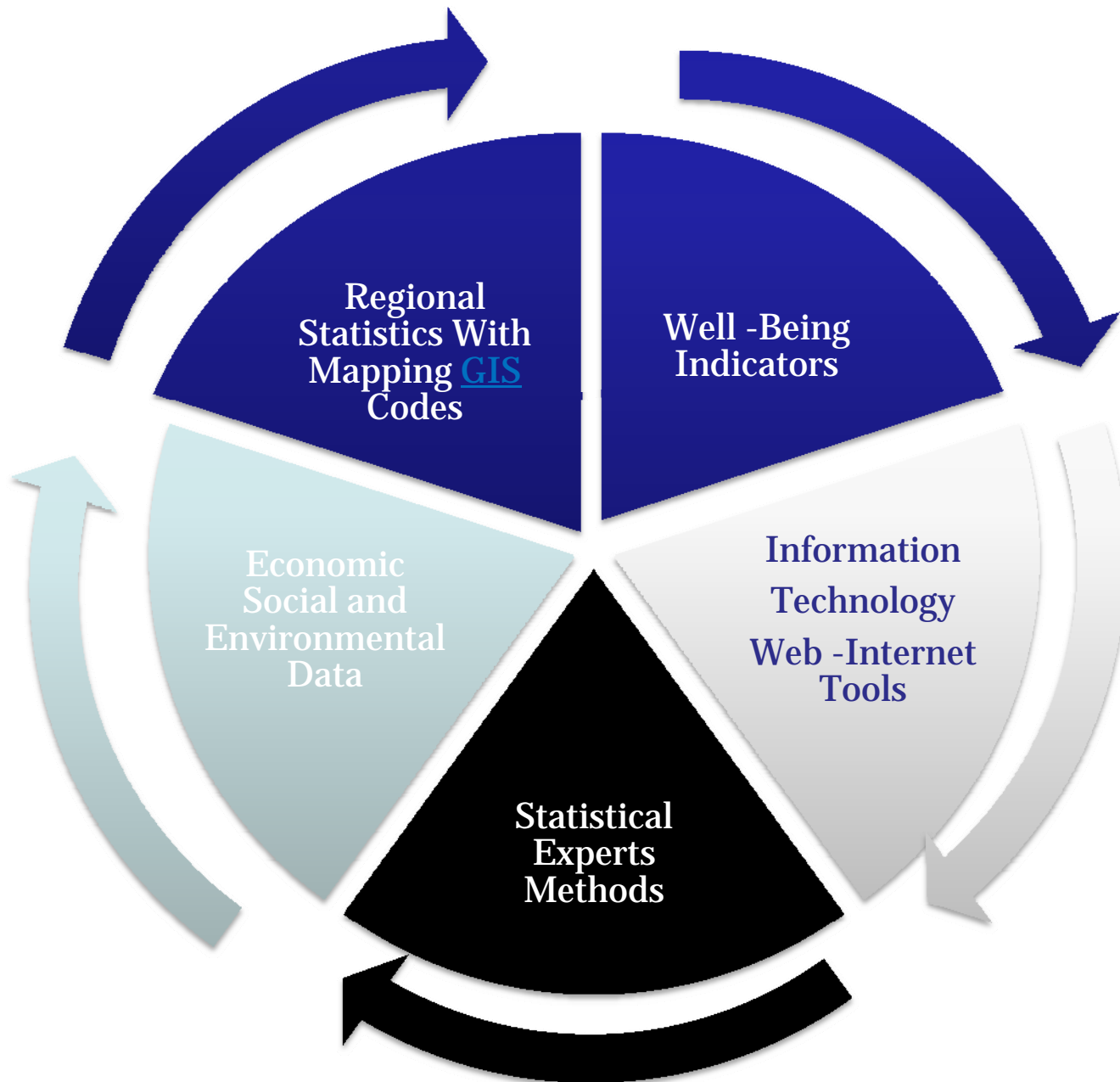
“We urge statistical offices, public and private organisations, and academic experts to work alongside representatives of their communities to produce high-quality, facts-based information that can be used by all of society to form a shared view of societal well-being and its evolution over time”.

[Who signed the Istanbul Declaration](#)



Technical tools to help transform information into knowledge - www.oecd.org/progress/ict

- The Internet and other media, as well initiatives aimed at building information repositories through the collaboration of individuals, such as wikis and blogs, make more information available to more people than ever before.
- High quality statistical data is generally recognised as a “public good” and a life-blood of democracy.



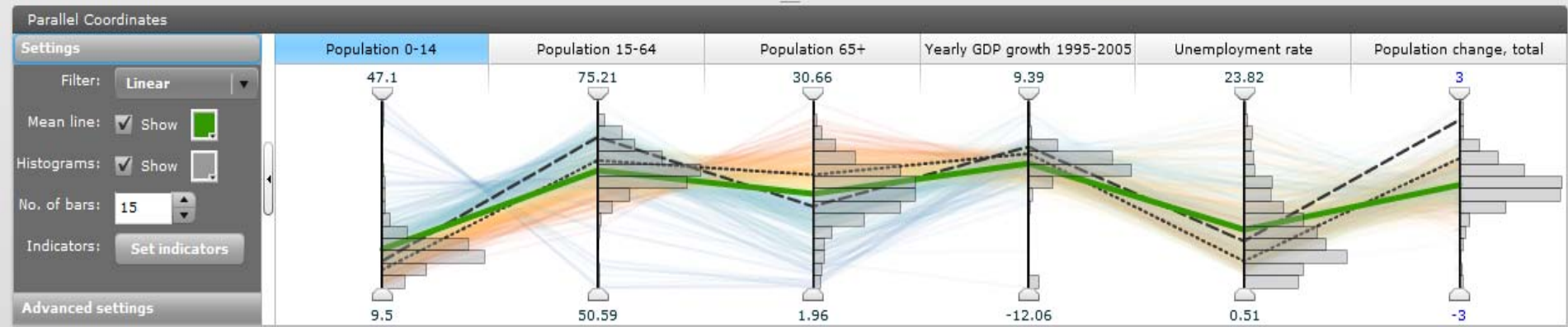
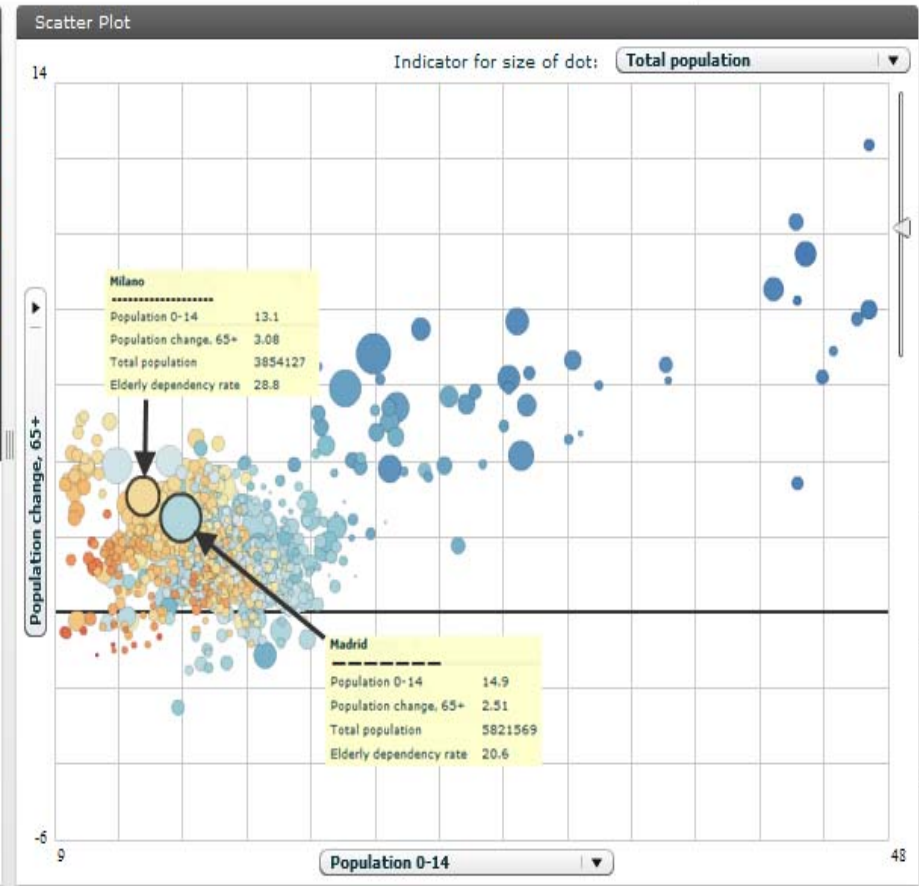
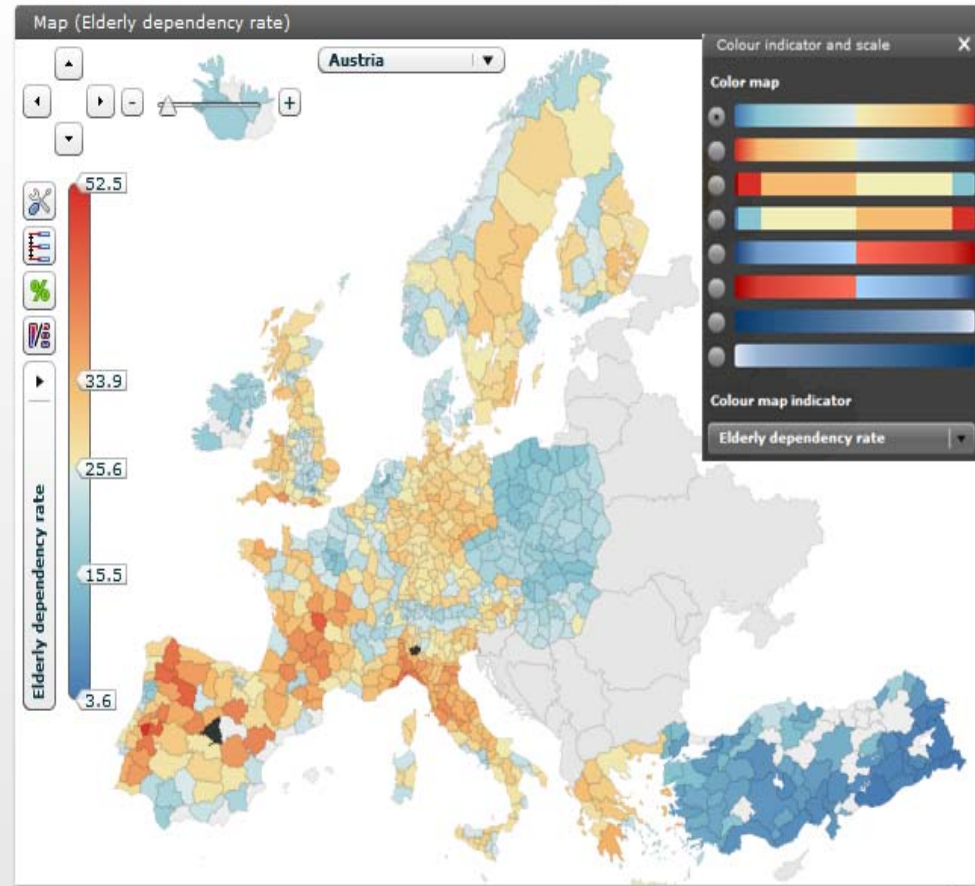


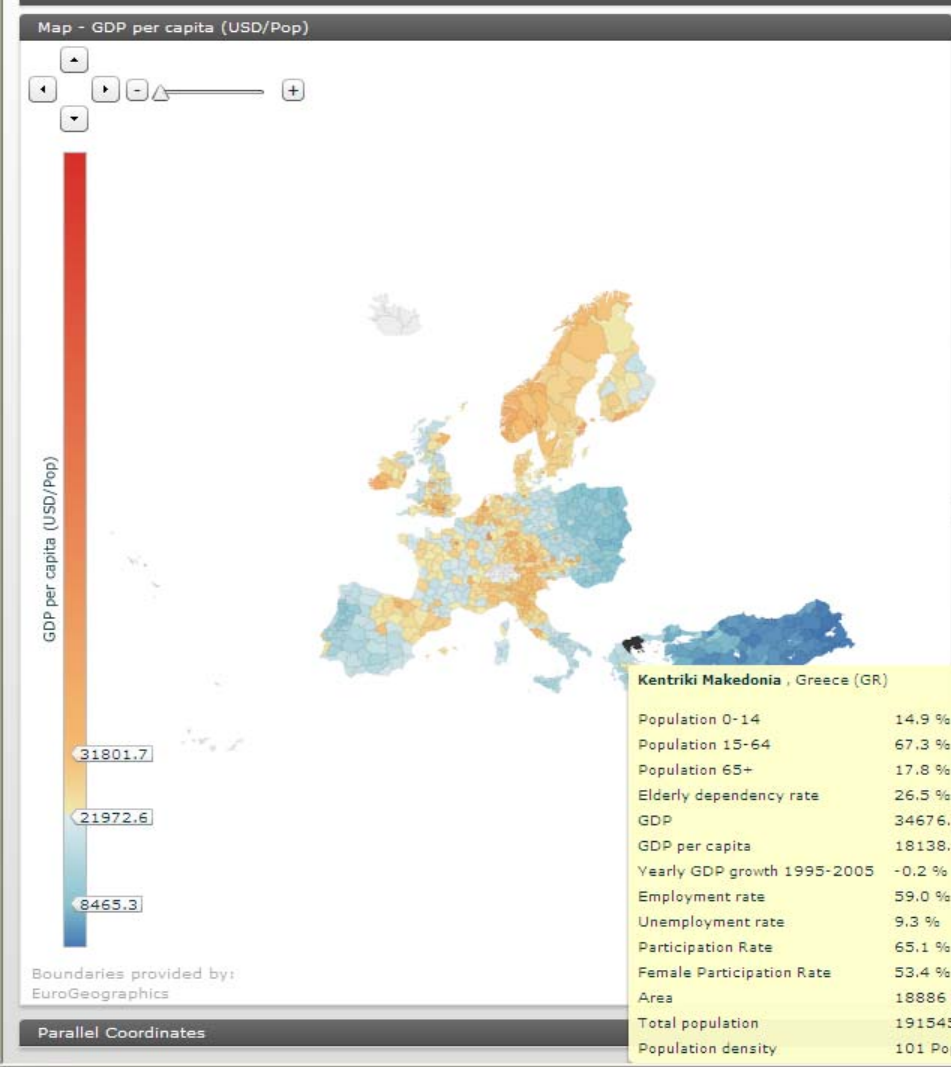
Geographical Information Systems (GIS) – MAPS

OECD eXplorer was developed jointly by the OECD, and the National Centre for Visual Analytics (NCVA) at Linköping University, Sweden, for the Regions at a Glance publication.

This is a powerful, interactive tool for comparing and analysing regional statistics.

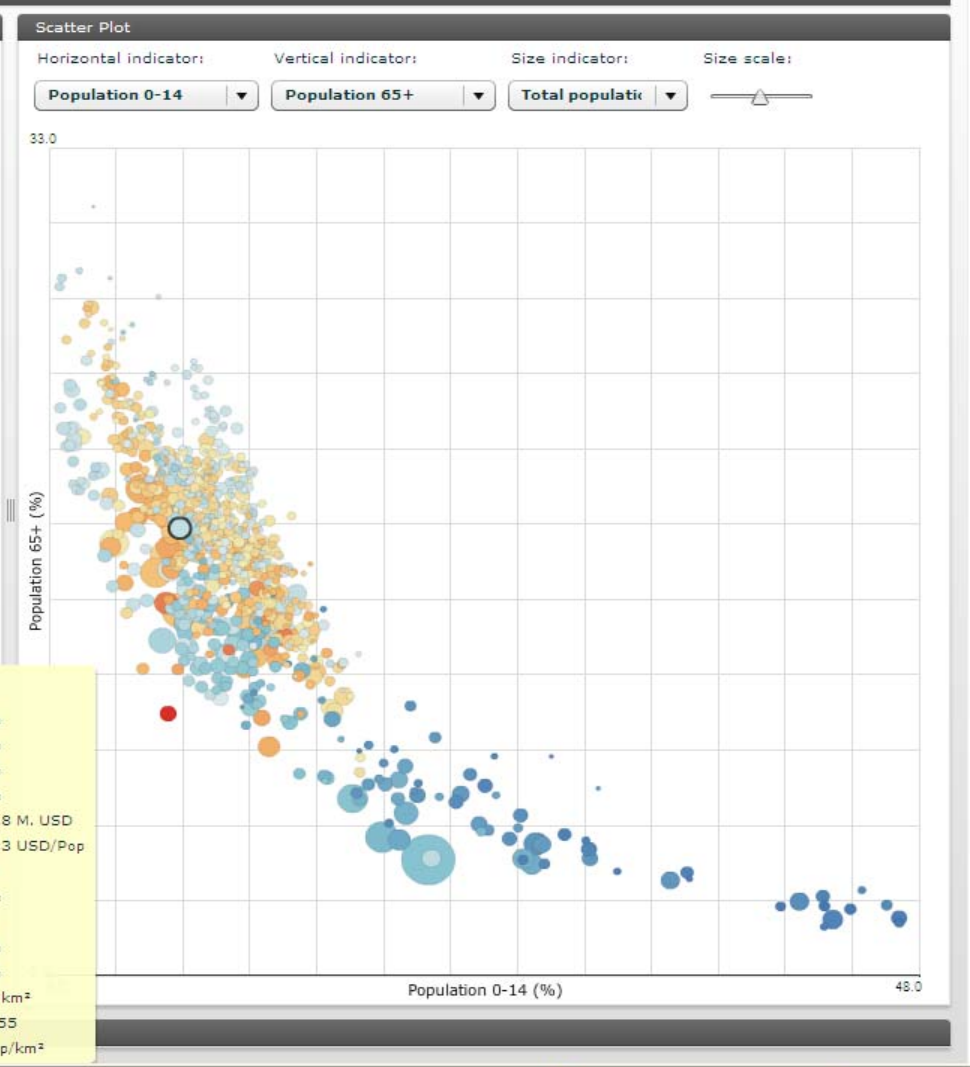
It combines maps and other graphics via the Internet, to increase the user's understanding of regional differences and structures across and within countries. [Try it now !](#)





Kentriki Makedonia, Greece (GR)

Population 0-14	14.9 %
Population 15-64	67.3 %
Population 65+	17.8 %
Elderly dependency rate	26.5 %
GDP	34676.8 M. USD
GDP per capita	18138.3 USD/Pop
Yearly GDP growth 1995-2005	-0.2 %
Employment rate	59.0 %
Unemployment rate	9.3 %
Participation Rate	65.1 %
Female Participation Rate	53.4 %
Area	18886 km ²
Total population	1915455
Population density	101 Pop/km ²



Zoom and pan with the GUI tool or use the centre mouse button for zoom and left mouse for pan

Highlight region by a mouse click

Select indicator by a mouse click
Red text means active indicator

Select filter Method

Dynamic colour legend handlers
Label shows value between Blue and Red colour scale

Selected indicators for the analyse process

Show Selection box

Select Data Set

Select Method:
Table Grid
Scatter Plot
Focus Map
Raw Data Text

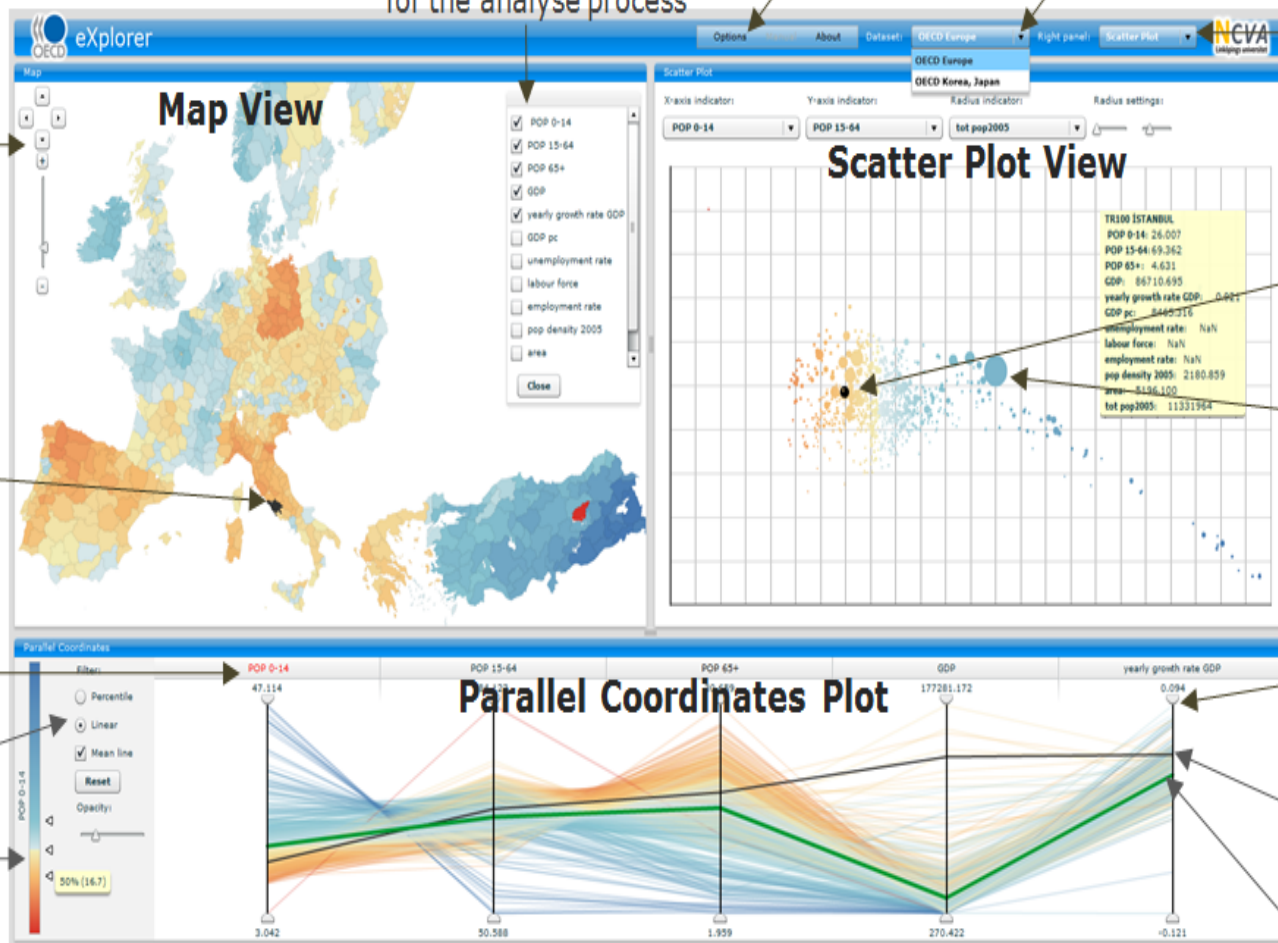
Region Rome is highlighted

Tooltips show indicator values for selected region Istanbul

Range sliders filter data

The Profile of a selected region Rome is highlighted

Mean value



A Parallel Coordinate axis represents a single attribute and regions are represented by strings passing through the axes

Range sliders positioned at the top and bottom of the axes are used to make visual inquiries and filter (remove) regions for selected indicator data



- **Wikigender** is a project initiated by the OECD Development Centre to facilitate the exchange and improve the knowledge about gender-related issues around the world.

A special focus of this project is to collect practical evidence and to identify adequate statistics and measurement tools of gender equality. In this respect, **Wikigender** serves as a pilot project for the Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies.

www.wikigender.org

- **Knowledge Base** contains hundreds of documents on measures of progress or sustainability, wellbeing or quality of life - all terms which are closely linked to progress.

www.measuringprogress.org/knowledgeBase/

page discussion view source history



Try out new.wikigender.org - Find out more!

Main Page

Welcome to Wikigender

Wikigender is your online platform to find and exchange information related to gender equality. Users are invited to comment on or improve existing articles, and to create or upload new documents. [More about this project.](#)

Countries	Statistics	Topics
Tools	Actors	All Articles

Calendar of Events

February 2009						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Add an event

Getting started

Find an article

You can [search](#) for an article using the search bar on the left or find a complete list of articles here: [Index of Articles](#). Alternatively, browse through Wikigender's [categories](#).

Create an account

Picture of the Week



navigation

- Main Page
- About Wikigender
- Random Article
- Contact
- Disclaimer
- Help

community

- Events Calendar
- Community Portal
- New Pages
- Wanted Pages

search

toolbox

- Recent changes
- What links here
- Upload file
- Special pages
- Printable version



Wiki4Progress.org

Currently we have the various pieces, for example, the expertise of various well-being initiatives, the knowledge base, existing wikis, taxonomy and ICT tools and technologies, Wikimedia open sources technologies, as well as the ability to create GIS maps, charts and statistical tables onto a Wiki platform - so therefore the

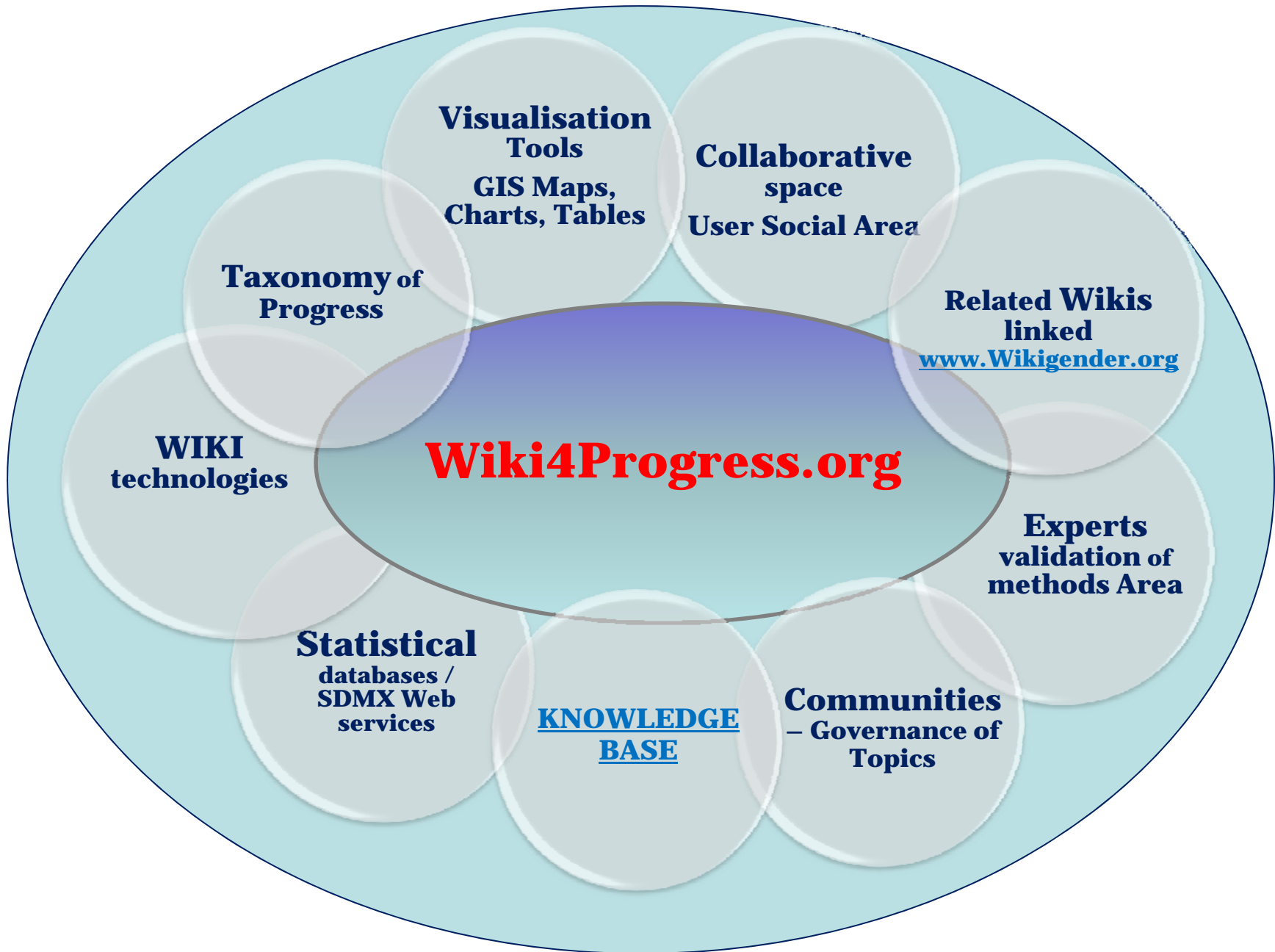
“Glue” to fix the puzzle pieces together =
www.wiki4progress.org



Wiki4Progress.org

Act as a global platform to serve all people in the world to **understand and debate**, using statistical indicators, whether the world itself, or a particular country or region, is making progress.

The main attribute of a Wiki is that authors contribute their knowledge to a single repository, designed to represent the synthesis of what the “collective intelligence” is able to build about that particular subject.





Wiki4Progress will represent the **catalyst of initiatives** existing around the world on the measurement of progress, contributing to answer the following questions:

- Who is developing initiatives on measuring progress (well-being, quality of life, etc.);
- What types of taxonomy do these initiatives use?
- Which indicators are being used to measure the different dimensions of progress?
- How is my country/region/community achieving over time and in comparison to other similar territories?



Wiki4Progress: will contain two main functions

A “Classical Wiki” function, where users can:

- discover and share materials developed by the Project;
- find information about existing or new initiatives around the world.
- **A “Statistical Wiki” function**, where data and metadata can be shared, assessed and eventually uploaded at the end of a “quality-assurance” process.

In particular, the user will be able to:

- upload data and metadata and submit them for quality evaluation;
- navigate the database by country (map and list) or by topic (taxonomy and list), exploring data and metadata;
- create tables and charts and export them in various formats to populate texts, blogs, wikis, etc.



Wiki4Progress.org

We would especially need to have your enthusiasm and involvement in this new Wiki4progress platform.

We would encourage you to actively collect well-being statistics and the relevant GIS codes for our mapping tools.

We would be depending on your commitment to uploading, collaborating, reviewing and editing documents and participating in topic discussions, as well as actively participating on the governance structures, especially in areas of your statistical expertise.



We will look forward to hearing from you very soon.
For more information email: progress@oecd.org

Thank you for your attention!