



HOW IS LIFE? OECD PERSPECTIVE ON PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING

Meeting of the WWW Advisory Board
30 April 2015, Washington D.C.



Growing recognition and number of initiatives

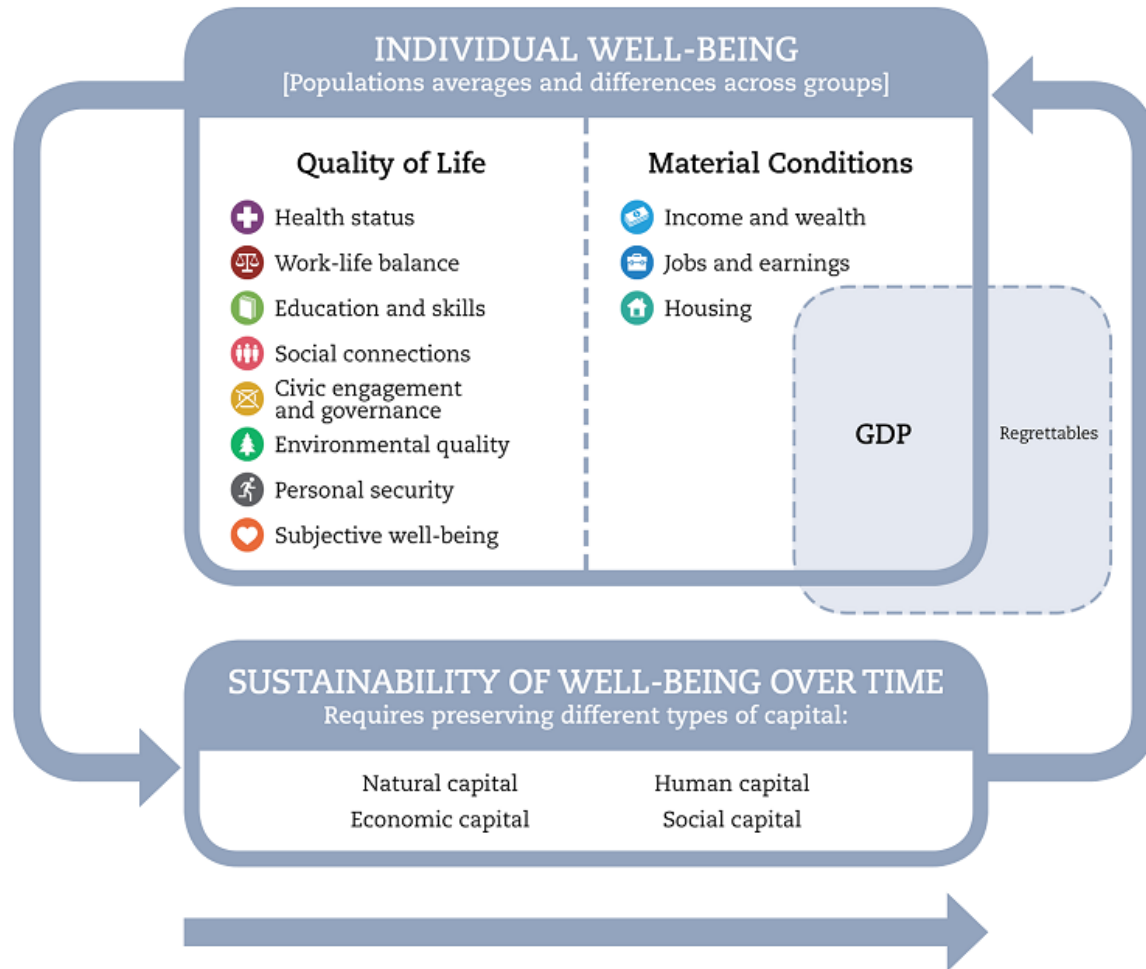
- **Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi** report
- **EU 2020; Eurostat sponsorship**
- **G20 Leaders statement** to “encourage work on measurement methods so as to better take into account the social and environmental dimensions of economic development”
- **UN Resolution** calling for “holistic approach to development” to promote sustainable happiness and well-being
- **Rio+20** Sustainable Development Goals
- Many **national initiatives** for measuring well-being
- In 2011, the OECD launched its **Better Life Initiative** as part of its new mission to achieve **Better Policies for Better Lives**





How can we think about well-being?

The *How's Life?* framework



➤ **People** rather than economic system or GDP

➤ **Outcomes** rather than inputs and outputs

➤ **Both averages and inequalities**

➤ **Both objective and subjective aspects**

➤ **Both today and tomorrow**



Populating the framework



Monitoring countries' performance across 11 dimensions through **dashboard of OECD Indicators**:



- **25 headline indicators**, around two per dimension



- About **30 secondary indicators** to complement the analysis on **specific topics**



- Selection process involving **OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy**



- Covering **OECD and key partner countries**





Principles for selecting indicators

Relevance

- face valid (does it match what you want to capture?)
- clear interpretation (is 'more' better?)
- policy relevant (can it be changed?)

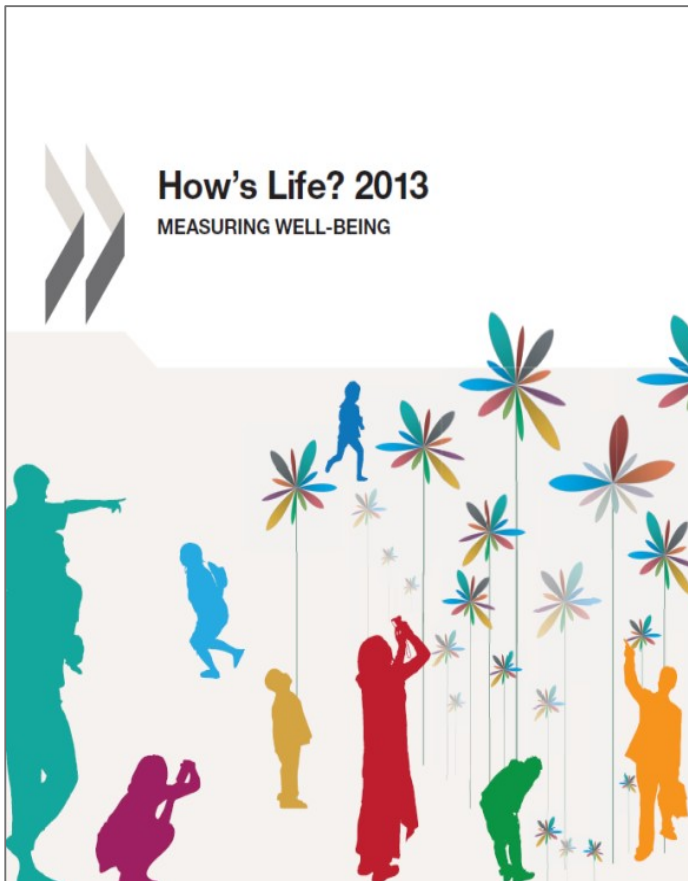


Data considerations

- official or established sources (non-official place-holders)
- comparable/standardized definitions
- maximum country-coverage
- recurrent data collection
- can be disaggregated by population groups



Dissemination: *How's Life?*



Measuring what matters in people's life

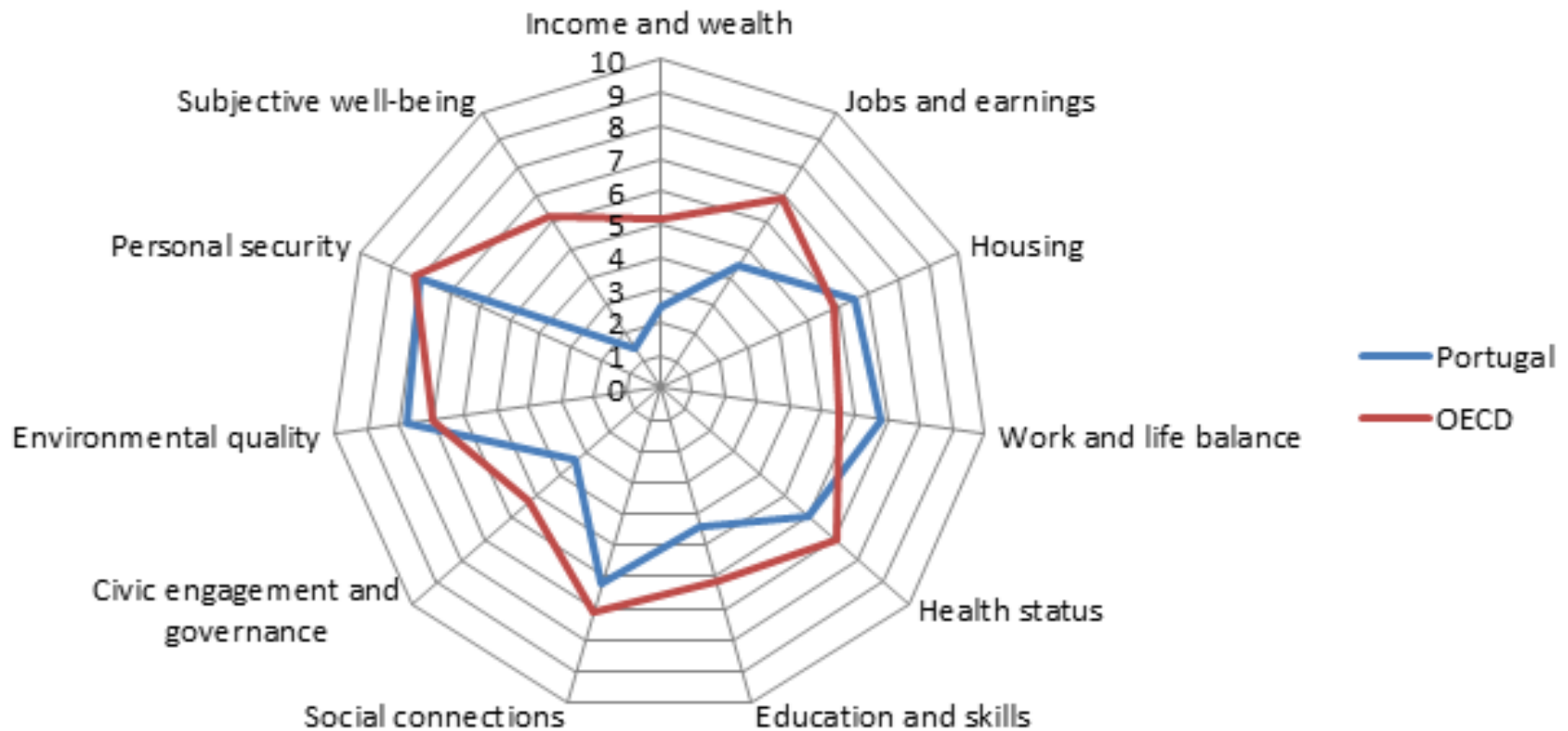
The human costs of the financial crisis

Well-being in the workplace

Gender gaps in well-being

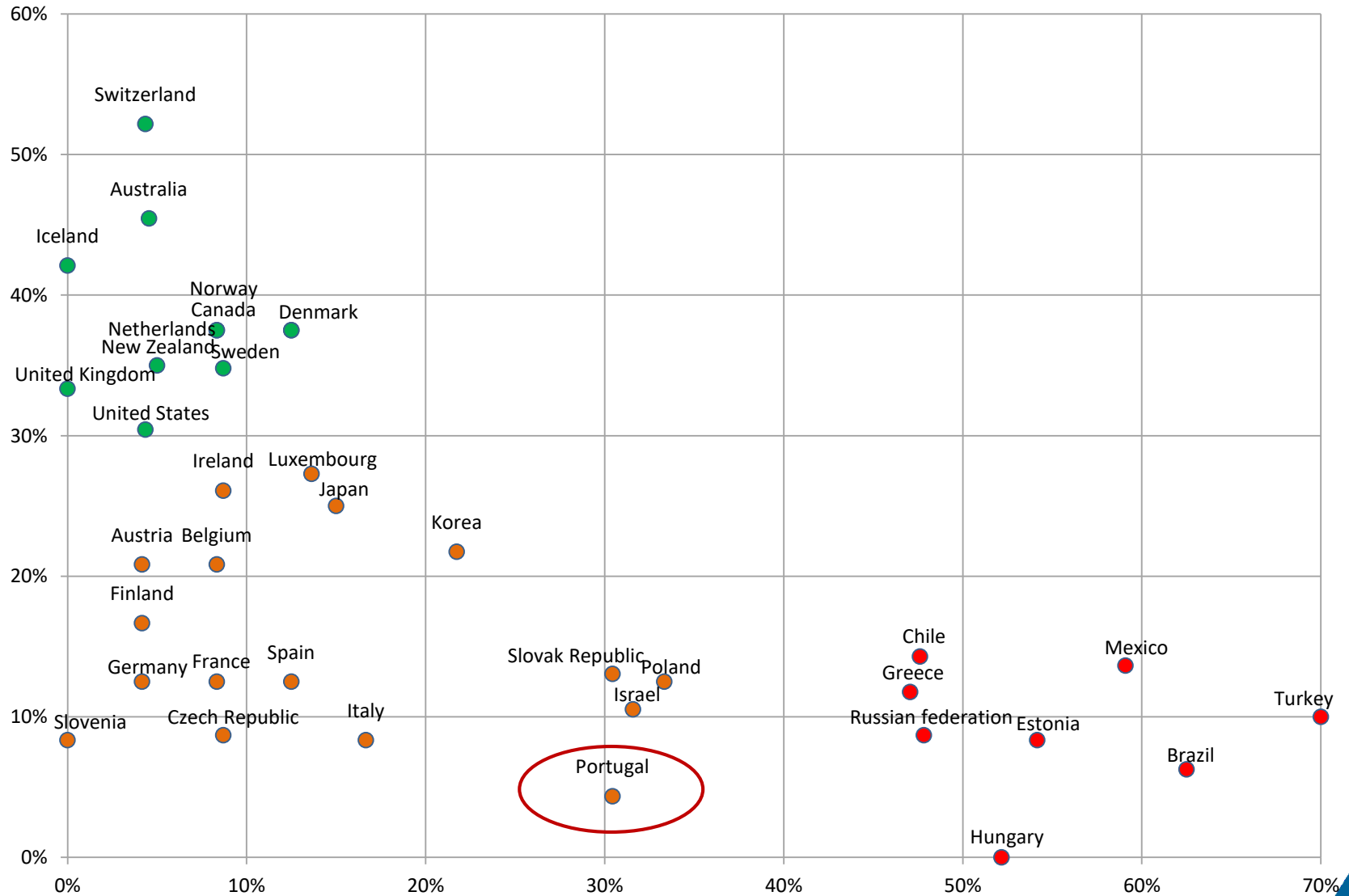


How to report on countries performance?



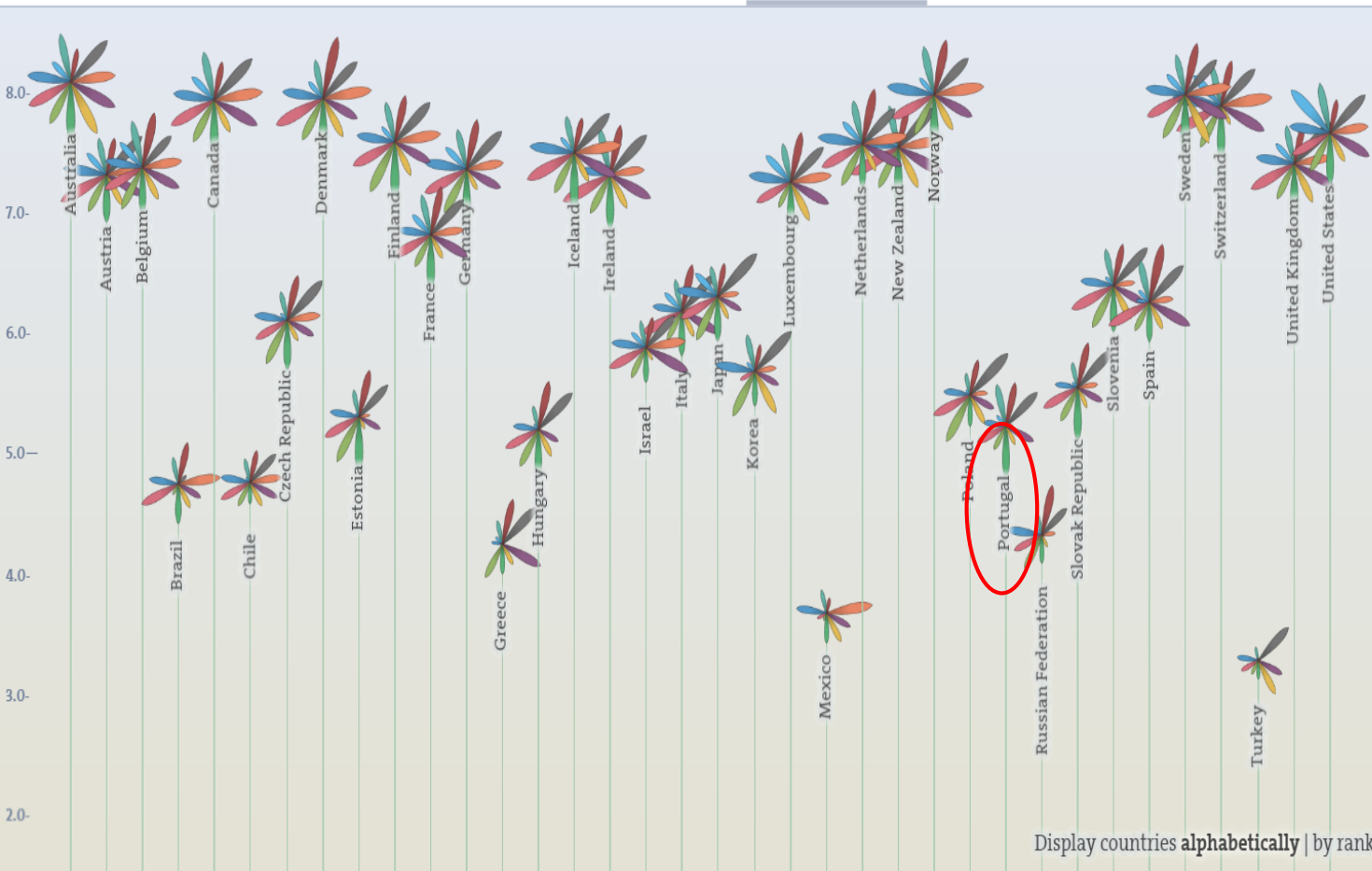


How to report performance? (2)





Engaging users: the OECD Better Life Index ('default' weights)

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Create Your Better Life Index

Rate the topics according to their importance to you:

	Housing	<input type="range"/>
	Income	<input type="range"/>
	Jobs	<input type="range"/>
	Community	<input type="range"/>
	Education	<input type="range"/>
	Environment	<input type="range"/>
	Civic Engagement	<input type="range"/>
	Health	<input type="range"/>
	Life Satisfaction	<input type="range"/>
	Safety	<input type="range"/>
	Work-Life Balance	<input type="range"/>
Reset		Help



.. and based on weights set by users



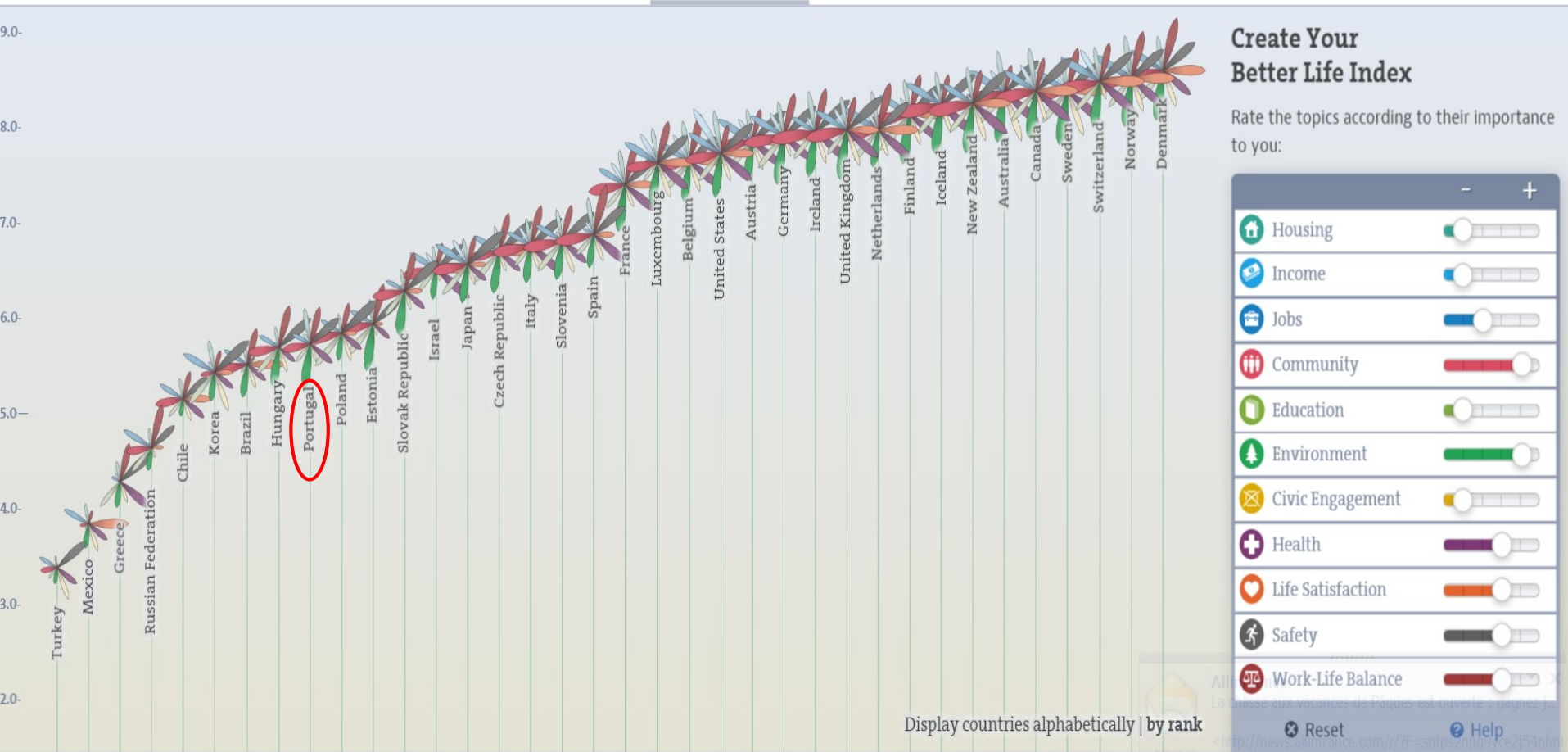
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Responses

Countries ▾

Topics ▾

FAQ



Let us know what

Gender differences



Improving metrics of well-being

- ▶ Guidelines on Measuring **Subjective Well-Being**
- ▶ Framework for Measuring **Income, Consumption and Wealth; Inequalities in the National Accounts**
- ▶ Guidelines for measuring **Household Wealth; wealth distribution** dataset
- ▶ Measures of **Social Capital**
- ▶ **Green Growth** Indicators
- ▶ **Job Quality** indicators





Well-being work throughout the OECD

How's Life in your Region?

drilling down to the regional level

Multi-dimensional Country

Reviews: Monitoring well-being outcomes in a development context (e.g. Myanmar, Uruguay, Philippines...)



Well-being in **OECD Economic Surveys** (e.g. Austria 2013, United States 2014, Mexico 2015, Italy forthcoming): moving beyond traditional economic assessment to also address well-being needs

Historical perspectives: **How Was Life?**



Well-being and Policies

What the Inclusive Growth policy framework aims to achieve:

- Avoid : *‘Grow first, think about well-being later’*
- Provide a clear link between some of the dimensions of well-being and policies
- Identify the main channels of transmission
- Make explicit the policy trade-offs and synergies
- Be flexible and adaptable to country-specific challenges and circumstances





Well-being and development

- OECD Development Centre working paper on “*how to measure well-being in countries at different stages of development*” (Boarini, Kolev and McGregor)
- Are the same well-being dimensions relevant in all countries? i) none of the dimensions in the OECD framework can be deemed as ‘irrelevant’ for less developed countries; ii) but adaptations needed
- Ongoing discussions on the successor to the MDGs in 2015: broader and universal focus





Thank you!

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