



# Indicators for NAPs

## Methodological challenges

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# Outline

- What “indicator” means
- Types of indicators
- Sources of data - advantages and disadvantages
- Problems with ethnic disaggregation

# Information, data and indicators

- Information – knowledge about something. Example: it rains.
- Data – quantitative expression of knowledge. Give
  - the status of given phenomenon reflected in number
  - does not mean much out of a context
  - example: **number** of unemployed; **value** of income earned by person; number of rainy days
- Indicator – data put in context. Instruments that show the **status** and **tendency** of a given phenomenon
  - used to show progress or regress vis-à-vis certain targets
  - combination of at least two sets of data
  - example: unemployment **rate**; **increase** in income earned; **share** of food in household expenditures; **share** of rainy days per month



# Using indicators...

- We measure what we care about
- We care about what we measure
- Want to understand where we are and where we are heading, how far we are from our your goals and objectives
- Are alerted to problems
- Get insights on possible solutions

But

- Poor indicators lead to poor choices
- Can be misleading and used for manipulative purposes

# Abuse of indicators

- Using wrong indicators (typically input for monitoring outcomes; different definitions of employment status)
- Wrong interpretation (registered unemployment rates as unemployment proxy)
- Comparing unlike scales (comparing primary enrollment rates for countries with starting age of schooling)
- Using out of date values, disregard of seasonality
- Inappropriate extrapolation (generalization based on small samples)
- Bad quality of basic demographic data

Even the best indicators are useless if we can't feed them with data - GIGO principle



# Sources of data

- Administrative or routine data
  - Population registries (births/deaths)
  - Registered unemployment
  - Crime registries
  - Property registers, fiscal, social security
- Census data
  - Population census
  - Establishment census
- Survey data
  - Perception surveys
  - Household
  - Labor force
  - Victimization surveys
- Demographic surveillance systems

# Ethnic disaggregation

- Adds additional dimension
- It is possible but usually expensive
- Ambiguity in definitions
- Huge opportunities for manipulation (practically ANY figure can be questioned/defended)
- Diverse incentives of different sides involved (but not that simple division of roles)
- “Moving target” of monitoring

Difficulties not with indicators but with data



# Sources of data from ethnic perspective

- Administrative or routine data
  - Population registries (births/deaths) – in some countries but a matter of individual choice
  - Registered unemployment
  - Crime registries
  - Property registers, fiscal, social security
- Census data
  - Population census – the only officially recognized source of population statistics
  - Establishment census
- Survey data
  - Perception surveys
  - Household
  - Labor force
  - Victimization surveys
- Demographic surveillance systems





# Major problems

- Approach to declaring identity
  - Self-declared
  - Outside imposed
- Concept of identity
  - Cultural, linguistic
  - Socioeconomic marker
- Patterns of identity
  - Single
  - Multiple
- Absolute numbers “curse”
  - “Counting Roma”
  - Quantifying needs



# Possible approaches

- Don't stick to just one source or methodology
- Disaggregating hard statistics using personal identification numbers as a common link between mutually complementing data sets
- Disaggregating hard statistics using territorial tags as ethnic markers
- Extending the samples of regular sample based surveys with ethnic boosters
- Conducting custom “on the spot” surveys among recipients of different social services
- Collecting data at a community level by community-based data collectors and monitors