

Let's develop a

Common Good Product!

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1. Background

- GDP no longer serves as a measure of economic success or well-being. It does not correspond to what really has value or to the achievement of the objectives of the economy. It can remain a statistical figure, but not in the field of measuring the success of a national economy.
- Internationally, a detachment of the BIP has begun. Three governments, in Iceland, Scotland and New Zealand, are developing alternative sets of indicators, including GDP only as one indicator among many. The SDG can be seen as a relay to the BIP at the UN level, even though GDP is still "hidden" in Goal 8, playing a subordinate role.
- Alternatives to GDP are being developed both in heterodox economic science and in international social movements and even by governments.
- The ECG movement has a unique opportunity to develop a democratically composed prototype for measuring the economic and political success of a country. At the same time it can be perfectly combined with other projects and other activities of the Economy for the Common Good.

2. Existing role models

- International: Better Life Index (OECD), SDGs (UNO), ...
- National: Gross National Happiness (Bhutan)
- National: Iceland, Scotland and New Zealand create alternatives beyond GDP
- National Statistical Offices create alternative set of indicators
- Citizen assemblies: Ireland (abortion), Germany (democracy), France (climate protection), ...

2. Core idea

- A Common Good Product „CGP“, consisting of 20 sub-goals on quality of life, "a good life for all" or the common good, replaces GDP as a measure of welfare, not as a statistical measure.
- It is democratically composed by the citizens, who use it to express their highest priorities - their understanding of the common good.
- Once it has been operationalised by experts and measurable indicators have been assigned to each sub-goal, the "CGP" becomes the new guiding star for politics. Political decisions can be evaluated according to their impact on the GWP.
- Prosperity is measured using the indicators defined by the experts, e. g. via a colourful dashboard, similar to the SDGs.
- The results can be aggregated and indexed (for comparisons in space and time) and also broken down for each sub-goal.

4. Process

Planning phase

- Conception of a citizens' convention to develop the 20 sub-goals of the Common Good Product.

Implementation phase

- Composition of the Convention: There are several possibilities for the selection procedure of the participants, including the representative random selection preferred by ECG.
- Information for the participants: on role models, process, benefits/implementation of the results; agreeing on the content.
- Core process: Several meetings of the selected citizens accompanied by experienced hosts/moderators in a structured result-oriented work process; expert hearing; liquid democracy with citizens (input and commentary function), innovative decision-making process (systemic consensus and sociocracy).
- Decision: by the city council, by resolution or by involving the population (referendum).
- Presentation: of the results from Phase I: 20 sub-goals; introduction Phase 2

Phase II

- Operationalisation: Expert round table on indicators (2 - 3 per sub-goal) + monitoring mechanism; public welfare mainstreaming of legislation, evaluation method (screening tool), sanctions.

Results

- 20 sub-goals, elaborated by the citizens;
- 40 - 60 indicators, elaborated by experts;
- Adoption by the city council or referendum

5. Offer | ECG in cooperation with ...

ECG is in contact with suitable and experienced mediators and process facilitators and can mediate them if required.

6. Documentation & Scientific Support

- Internal documentation & external publications → global prototype
- Potential scientific guides: Universities with expertise in citizen participation in each country.

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