Monitoring education systems
The EU experience

European Commission
DG EAC: Evidence-based Policy
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The EU already has a progress measurement in place that predates the SDGs/UNESCO indicators

Solid data backing

The time horizon is 2020 with an upcoming revision

The EU benchmarks have proven useful in guiding policy reforms
ET 2020 monitoring framework

• **Targets for the EU as a whole for 2020**

1. reduce: Early leaving from E&T
2. raise: Tertiary attainment
3. raise: Early childhood education
4. reduce: underachievement at school
5. raise: Employability
6. raise: Adult learning
7. raise: Learning mobility*

• **Frequently complemented by national targets**
Monitor plus regular Eurostat reports specifically on SDGs
Lessons learned:

- The joint process creates a unique sense of ownership
- A limited number of benchmarks
- Clear definitions/no ambiguities
- Single policy area
- Composite indicators less helpful
- Reporting on equity aspects important
- Qualitative/contextual indicators important
EU surveys - a giant data scheme behind the benchmarks

- **Labour Force Survey**: the largest in EU, **1.2 million** people 15-74, >100 variables, quarterly results on labour status and education; special modules (e.g. 2014 on migrants and 2018 on work-life balance).
- **UOE** data collection on personnel, enrolments and financing: annual frequency, supports 2 benchmarks;
- **SILC** (**s**tatistics on **i**ncome and **l**iving **c**onditions): min. sample 273K people in 130K households. Annual data on income, poverty, deprivation and housing broken down by education level.
Reflection on ET2020 successor

Six current benchmarks

Learning mobility

Multilingualism

Digital competences

Investment in education

Entrepreneurship education

VET

To be continued?

Recognised but lacking data

New areas for post-2020
Thank you for your attention

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