

Wrap-up Day 1 & 2 and Questions by Arnold Bregt



Question 1

Is it possible to develop an
assessment framework for
SDI?

Summary Q1

- Yes, but
- 1) The objective should be clear (e.g. monitoring, feedback, comparison)
- 2) It should not be one fix framework, but a flexible one consisting of a series of “tools”

- SDI is a moving target!

Group 1

- Before: Why do we want to do this? Possible answers: for comparison, feedback, for improvement
- Yes, but: awareness of limitations, we need an clear objective and vision. It is a moving target
- It will not be one framework, but a serious of tools
- Selection of the variables should also be flexible.

Group 2

- Yes: but one framework not possible
- Remark: difficult

Group 3

- Before: What is the purpose of the assessment?
- What are you assessing:
 - What is out there
 - User view point
 - Monitoring
- You need an assessment authority
- What is your time frame/ variables and indicators change over time
- There is not a generic way of assessing

Question 2

What are the obstacles for development of such an assessment framework?

Summary Q 2

- The description of SDI (what are relevant key variables)
- The complexity and diversity of SDI
- Political and cultural diversity
- Difficult to obtain quantitative data (e.g. not available, not understandable, not objective, no commitment)
- Who is assessing (self assessment and/or external organization)
- Difficulty to obtain user perspective

Group 1

- Worldwide or not, In what way (ambition world wide)
 - Selection of indicators
 - Different cultures
 - Choose of respondents (contact persons) way of asking
 - Where to look for info
 - Language issue,
 - Data is qualitative instead of quantitative
 - Different users
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- Solutions: Self assessment first (maybe a cultural bias)
 - Small group of users- focus groups

Group 2

- Political
- Process (open end)
- Concept of SDI, What is it
- Quantification is difficult
- Complexity

Group 3

- Poorly defined purpose
- Difficult to define organisation aspects
- Self assessment is problematic
- You need commitment and willingness to participate from all stakeholders
- Who pays the cost of assessment
- External political aspect play a role

Question 3

What are the characteristics of ideal NSDI?

Summary Q 3

- Two axes:
 - When it fits the (potential) needs of the users.
 - When all relevant stakeholders are involved at all stages in the process.

Group 1

- It is used
- Involvement of all stakeholders (Rogers) and multi-level networking
- Appealing interface
- Should remove or go around obstacles.

Group 2

- When it fits the (potential) needs of the (end) user
- Comment: when the end user is satisfied

Group 3

- Invisable
- It is There (user friendly)
- Everyone can get what he/she needs
- It is reliable
- It is continually appropriate
- Open world wide

Question 4

What are possible assessment approaches suitable to evaluate NSDI?
What are the criteria to select the best method?

Summary Q 4 Possible approaches

- LA framework
- Dilemma approach
- profiles (spider diagrams)
- Narratives (stories)
- CBA (CPB)
- Benchmark (state of play)
- A grid or matrix
- Scenario studies
- Social constructivist approach (Tineke Abma, responsief evalueren)
- Process Approach (Rodgers)
- Focus groups

Group 2

- A grid or matrix
- Scenario studies
- Social constructivist approach (Tineke Abma, responsief evalueren)
- Process Approach (Rodgers)

Group 3

- LA framework
- Dilemma approach
- profiles (spider diagrams)
- Narratives (stories)
- CBA (CPB)
- Benchmark (state of play)

Question 5

What are the criteria for choosing variables and indicators?

Summary Q 5

- Objective of the assessment (monitor, benchmark, etc)
- Workable on a world scale (simple, understandable and measurable)
- Based on the (five) components of SDI
- Must reflect development (maturity)

Group 1

- Dependent on the desired research outcomes
- Dependent on specific SDI
- Set of variables that are related (hybrid)
- Be manageable, workable

Group 2

- Depends on the objective of the assessment:
 - To compare
 - To understand
 - Other
- Should be measurable
- Be linked to (one of the core components of) the SDI (as a whole)
- Should be possible to incorporate in a (maturity matrix) model

Group 3

- Dependent on the objective:
 - Monitoring (what is out there, automatic, time steps)
 - Impact (economic, what is out there, snapshot)
 - Comparison (what is out there, snapshot)

Question 6

What are the key indicators
(variables) for
characterization of an NSDI
(list 5)?

Summary Q 6

- Based on the 5 components and synergy between components
- The external events (part of the evaluation)
- The degree of development must be reflected by the components (Technical, Stakeholder involvement, Usability (user satisfaction))

Group 1

- Depends on the research
- Should measure dynamics
- Components based – baseline (data, access network, policy, institutional arrangements, people)
- External events
- Effectiveness and efficiency
- Simple

Group 2

- Technical
- User
- Organisational
- Policy
- stakeholders

Group 2

- How far away from ideal?
 - User perspective: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, end-user
 - Degree involvement stakeholders
 - Long term vision & # of stakeholders agreeing
 - Leadership
 - Accessibility & availability
 - Quality of datasets
 - Education/ capacity
 - Sustainable funding
 - Level of awareness at different levels
 - Transparency/ consistency policies

Group 3

- Main elements:
 - Efficiency
 - Effectiveness
 - Efficacy
- Clear target (specific, state of play)
- Degree of development
 - Technical
 - Stakeholder involvement
 - Usability (user satisfaction)

Question 7

How to integrate key variables in order to assess NSDI?

Summary Q 7

- Flexible integration (hierarchy of variables), depending on goal and available data.

Group 1

- Cannot be answered as there is no one method

Group 2

- Too divers: difficult if not impossible to integrate:
- For overall picture: narratives, but difficult to compare (dilemma)

Group 3

- Is dependent on purpose and user
- Is part of a process