

Evaluation of Transnational Household Sustainable Consumption Indicators: Opportunities for Improvement and Innovation



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Topic

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Title of the Paper

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Form of Presentation

- Poster
- Presentation

Short Description (maximum 2500 characters)

Communication and assessment about very complex problems like household sustainable consumption (HSC) in simple terms is still a major challenge. The majority of the available assessment metrics and related initiatives are not designed to support effective communication with stakeholders, in particular with non-technical audiences. Most do not foster or support comparisons among approaches to use different metrics and do not provide an integrated HSC performance overview because they lack structured monitoring signals about the impacts of family's changes or corrections they have implemented to achieve more sustainable societal consumption. Despite the diversity of tools to measure household consumption, clearer indicators are needed to more effectively communicate with the general public and to more effectively support comparisons among different scales (e.g. families, countries or regions). The main objective of this work was to test a conceptual approach that defines the main procedures and criteria to develop and evaluate household sustainable consumption indicator sets. This research is follow-up to an earlier published approach that integrates several steps from the definition of the HSC scope, dimensions, objectives and targets within the HSC indicator process. Based on our comprehensive analysis of available HSC assessment metrics, two transnational HSC indicator sets were selected and were used as a case study to test the framework. Those indicator sets were: the HSC indicator sets developed by the OECD and the one developed by the European Environment Agency. The strengths, weaknesses, effectiveness, and opportunities for improvement and innovation of the selected HSC indicator sets were identified and analysed. In addition a comparison scheme was developed and used to evaluate their performance and potential effectiveness at the individual, house, local, regional, national and multinational levels. Based upon the case study results, improvements have been developed for the design of the entire framework and for the guiding processes to use it in practice.

