

The CGSDI Dashboard

What is it for?

The Dashboard tool, developed by the *Consultative Group on Sustainable Development Indices* (CGSDI), is an attempt to help and launch the process of putting indicators at the service of democracy.

Like a car driver, an Airbus pilot, or the captain of a cruise ship, the “captains” of nations need tools to steer our modern societies into the 21st Century. In a participatory democracy, citizens insist on “looking over the captain’s shoulder”, so they can understand, comment and criticize.

Why is it needed?

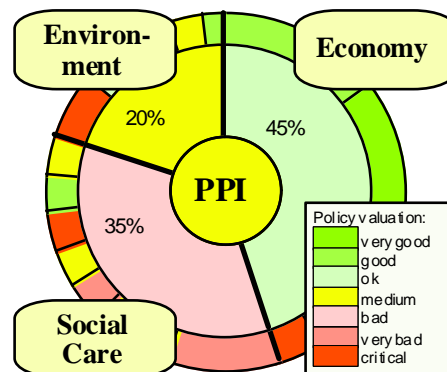
Currently, only a handful of indicators – e.g., GDP growth, unemployment and inflation – are communicated to the citizen. However, judging government performance with only three indicators is like travelling with a captain who tells the passengers “as long as there is fuel on board, and the compass points into the right direction, everything is OK”.

The complexity of decision-making in the 21st Century needs more adequate decision support tools.

What does it do?

The Dashboard presents sets of indicators in a simple pie chart format based on three principles:

1. The size of a segment reflects the relative importance of the issue described by the indicator
2. Colour codes signal relative performance, with green meaning “good” and red meaning “bad”
3. A central circle, the *Policy Performance Index* (PPI), summarizes the information of the component indicators.



Dashboard Functions

Indicator tools for decision-makers

Allows presentation of complex relationships in a digestible form for non-experts.

Policy performance barometer

Offers a quick-and-dirty assessment of the weak and strong points of each nation compared to other nations in the same “league” (e.g., OECD countries).

Analysis of relative policy performance

Assigns a colour-coding of performance relative to the value one would expect for the given level of income.

Comparison of countries by policy field

Offers a comparative view, in which two or three countries are displayed side by side for a given policy field, allowing a quick look at relative performance.

Indicator distributions


Constructs a distribution for each indicator, allowing the user to assess the indicator itself – its meaningfulness, possible outliers, etc.

Analysis of inter-indicator links

For each pair of indicators, presents a scatterplot with their correlation. Indicators are sorted by “best fit,” allowing identification of the most relevant connections, potential synergies and conflicts.

Toolbar and Popup Menus



 **L** *Save favorites*

 **R** *Menu*

- Save all
- Keep all changes
- Edit parameters – change colours, fonts, etc.
- (Un)lock weights
- Mail favourite¹

Export to Microsoft Word


- Export text of favourites
- Export picture
- Export maps & distributions
- Export text of indicators
- Export outliers (as a *Word* document with an analysis of outliers)

Other exports

- Export web site (under, e.g.,
C:\db_circs\website\...)
- Export ranking (to clipboard)
- Export data (to, e.g.,
C:\db_circs\data_src\tmp_data.xls and
tmp_pts.xls. May require a password.)
- Show comments (will display text of favourites
in the caption)
- Colour settings
- Excel (view the source spreadsheet)
- Delete favourite

¹ If the recipient presses Control-A (for *select all*) and Control-C (for *copy*) while running a Dashboard, your current settings will be reproduced exactly on her or his computer.




 **L** *Toggle Synchronisation*

If dark, all panes are set to the active country.

 **Ctrl-L** *Synchronise Years*

Synchronise all panes to the current year.



 **L** *Toggle 2+Analysis & 3-Pane Views*

 **Shift-L** *2-Circle View*


 **R** *Menu*


Choose view setting from a list.




 **L** *Exchange pane 1 & 2*




 **L** *Set x-axis for scatterplots*

 **Ctrl-L** *Set current indicator as basis for relative valuation*


 **Shift-L** *Memorise the current indicator distribution*



 **L** *View correlations*

 **Ctrl-L** *Toggle relative/absolute valuation*



 **L** *Toggle display options*


In 3-Pane View: between distribution and pie view

In 2+Analysis View: between distribution and scatterplot

 **R** *Menu*

- Trend by values
- Smoothing
- Percentiles
- Text (shows rankings as text)
- Show data (show/hide/export)
- Sensitivity Analysis
- Bubble help (toggles bubble help)
- Legend
- As Ranges (displays actual values, not “good/bad”)
- Tutorial (offers help when using function keys F1, F2, etc.)



 **L** *Display scatterplot*

Like Linkage Analysis, but the x-axis is fixed (change x-axis with *The Pin*).



Web options

Open associated web page

For standard dashboards, a Google search for “country+indicator”

Menu

- Data sources
- Internet (not fully implemented – opens website associated with the country)
- Local disk (web pages on local computer, for presentations)
- Search Google

The combo box under the toolbar

Directly select a country or year. (Alternatively, select countries using the map, scatterplot or distribution.)



The question mark

Launch the online help dialog.



The plus sign

Open a search box for finding specific countries and/or indicators.

Example: Fra/Ita+Habitat

Upper-Right Menu

Data/Map

Switch between a map and one of the data views.

RelVal/AbsVal

Switch between relative and absolute valuation.

Exclusive/Embedded

See *Group*.

Export

Identical to the toolbar *Save & Export* option.

Favourites

Gives access to a number of predefined settings called “favourites”. Use these for a presentation.

Group

Left-click to open or close the group listbox. Select the sub-group you want to see with more detail, e.g. *EU-15* or *OECD* or *Developing Countries* or *Africa*.

Combine listbox items by holding *Control* while clicking into the listbox.

Year

If your dataset has more than one year, use this entry to switch between years. Combine years to get a trend analysis.

Right-click to toggle between normal and *time series* views.

Function Keys

- F1** Open Help window
- Shift-F1** Open the manual
- Ctrl-F1** See disclaimer
- Ctrl-Shift-F1** Propaganda for the JRC site

- F2** Open web page related to indicator in browser
- F3** Export current view to MS *Word*
- Shift-F3** Export graph to MS *PowerPoint*
- Ctrl-F3** Export to Windows clipboard
- F4** Open source spreadsheet in MS *Excel*
- Shift-F4** When clicking OK, installs Excel macro
- Ctrl-F4** Export data to tmp_data.xls (password required)
- F5** Refresh the screen
- Ctrl-F5** Download other Dashboard sets from the JRC site
- F6** Open methodology description in MS *Word* (only for *RioJo* Dashboard)
- Ctrl-F6** Country log: show allocation of points
- F7** Toggle first & second language
- Ctrl-F7** Show available languages
- F8** *Not used*
- F9** Export current view as GIF
- Shift-F9** Export GIF directly to MS *Word*, or copy the path
- Ctrl-F9** Export, add “x” to filename (see web site export in Help)
- F10** *Not used*
- F11** Toggle distribution/map view
- F12** Toggle embedded/exclusive view
- Ctrl-F12** Toggle absolute/relative valuation