

A taxonomy for SDG indicators

MEETING OF THE UN EXPERT GROUP ON WELL-BEING MEASUREMENT

23 October 2025

Live Margrethe Rognerud



Statistisk sentralbyrå
Statistics Norway

A TAXONOMY

FOR INDICATORS RELATED TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The taxonomy was developed with the purpose of sorting, evaluating and comparing different SDG indicators and indicator sets.

Strategic priority

Can be formulated dynamically according to the user needs, e.g.:



PERSPECTIVE

Development sector

A 14-category structure (Digitaliseringsdirektoratet, Norway) which is a common glossary for categorising and describing public services and resources.



Evaluation

The 5 category typology originates from the well-known input-output model in econometrics.



Distribution

Relevant when the same indicator is needed more than once, either over time, across geographical areas or subpopulations.



INDICATOR

GOAL

QUALITY

Based on version 2.0 of "Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System".

Class 1

Standard quality framework of ESS.



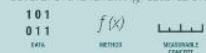
Class 2

If the indicator neither belongs to class 1 nor class 3.



Class 3

If the indicator is unavailable, because one or several of the following features are missing.



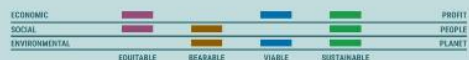
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

consists of 17 goals and 169 targets



Triple bottom line (TBL)

Triple bottom line accounting expands the traditional reporting framework to take into account social and environmental performance in addition to financial performance.

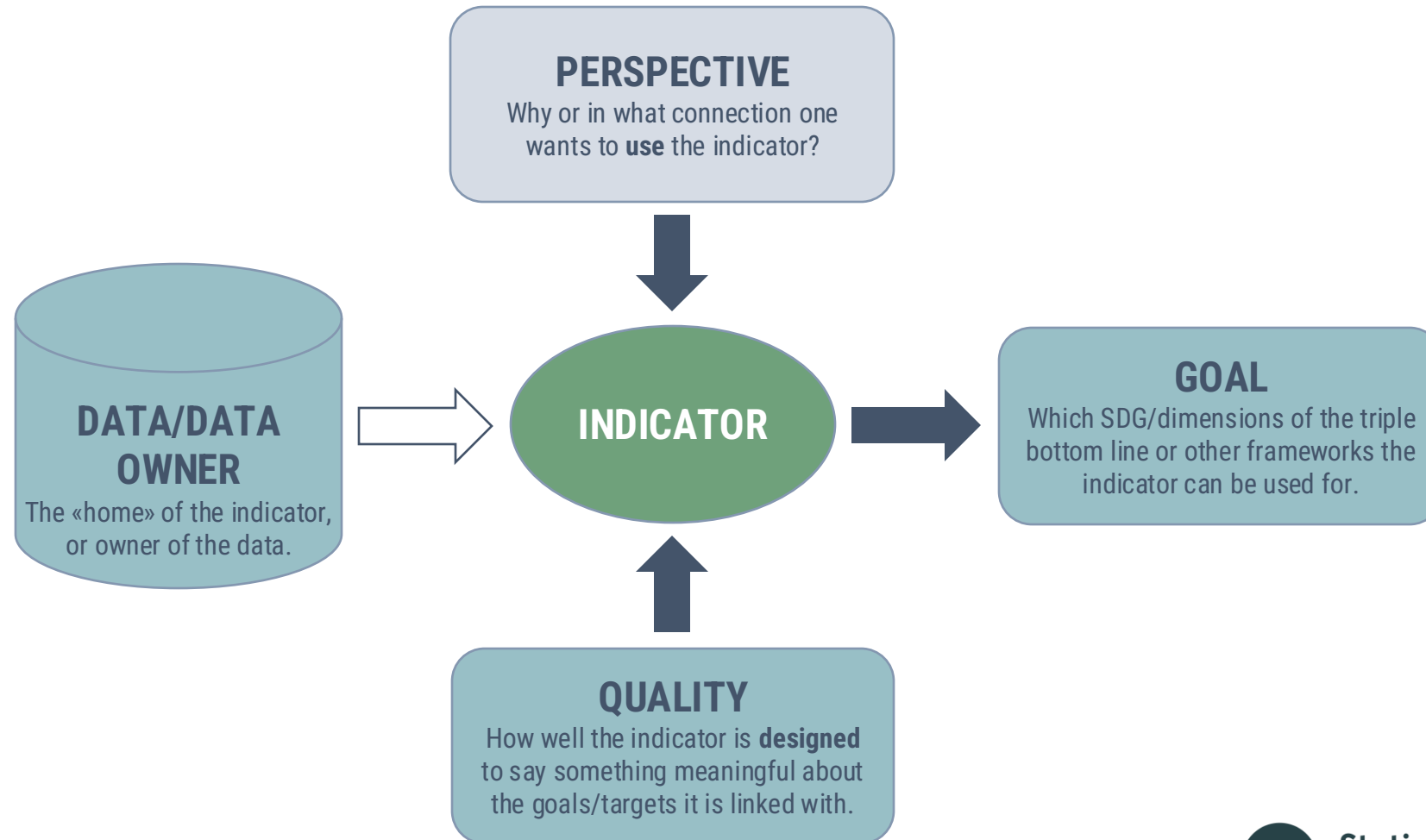


A taxonomy for SDG indicators

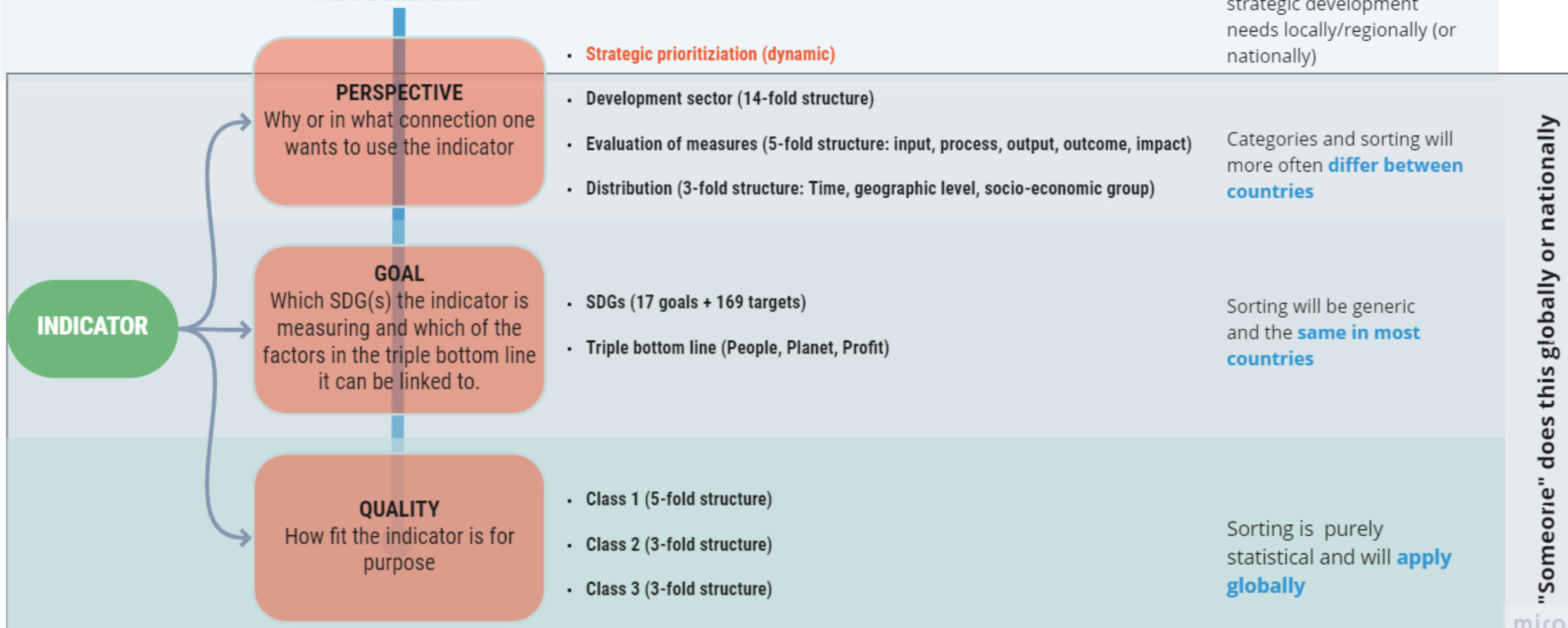
- Commissioned by the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)
- Developed by methodologists in Statistics Norway and published in 2021 <https://www.ssb.no/en/natur-og-miljo/artikler-og-publikasjoner/a-taxonomy-for-indicators-related-to-the-sustainable-development-goals>
- Building on work by *Huovilaa, Bosch and Airaksinen* from 2019 who suggested a classification model for Smart sustainable cities.
- National and international attention (UNSC side-event in 2024 (<https://unece.org/info/Statistics/events/388085>))
- Sorting of several indicator sets tested, incl. the global SDG indicator framework



The conceptual model



The 3 Dimensions



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LOWEST LEVEL
OF GEOGRAPHY



SOCIO-ECONOMIC
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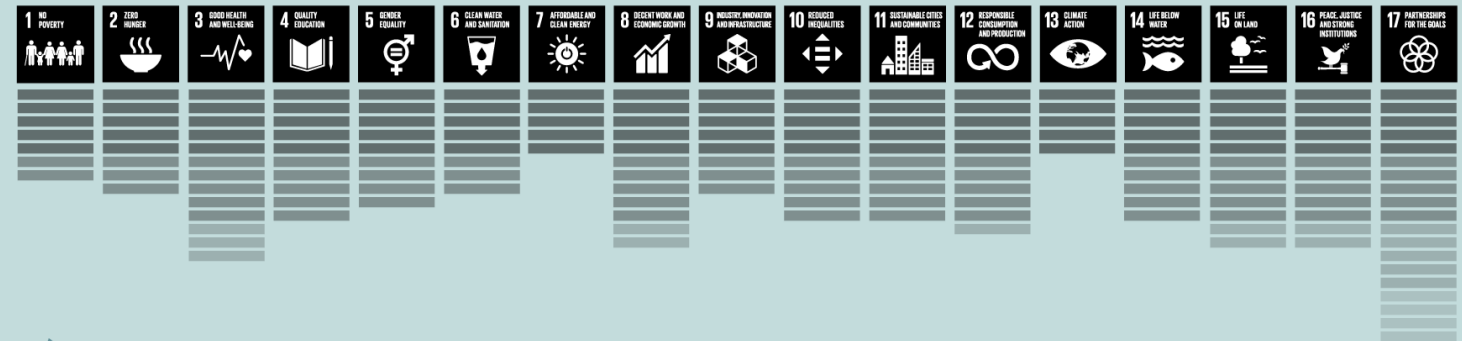
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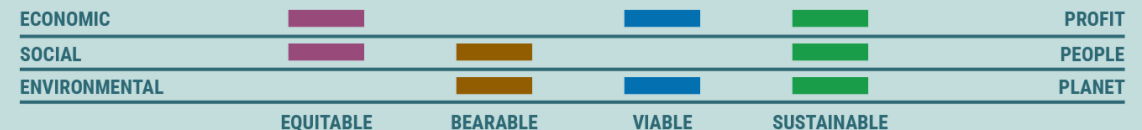
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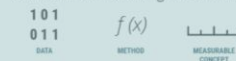
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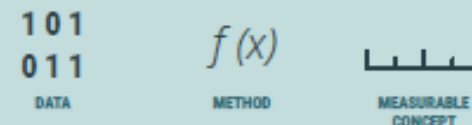
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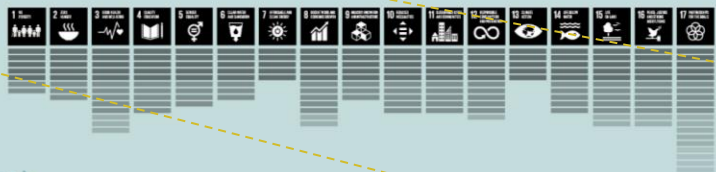
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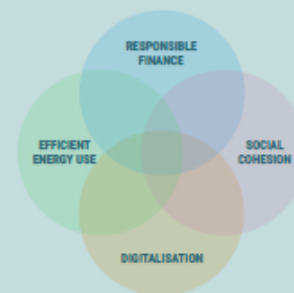
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Thank you

LMR@ssb.no



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