

International Workshop on **Sustainable Paradigms** from the definition to the operationalization of sustainability indicators in policy making

Venice, 24th-25th May 2010
Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei
Island of San Giorgio Maggiore

The achievement of a sustainable economic growth is one of the main concerns of modern societies. A plurality of approaches to the definition of sustainability exists, yet, sustainability often remains a theoretical concept, whose application in concrete policy making is limited. Countries are usually evaluated and compared in their performance using their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the main indicator. However, GDP is limited to consider economic growth, and it does not consider over valuable information such social wealth, environmental conditions, or happiness. The need to go "beyond the GDP" to assess and compare the performance of different countries towards a sustainable growth has lead to the construction of different indicators and indices. These can contribute to quantitatively address the abstract concept of sustainability. However, they are often hard to reconduct to policy objectives and recommendations.

The objective of this workshop is to compare different indices, indicators, and approaches taken to assess sustainability. We aim at comparing frameworks, construction methodologies, and computational techniques used to quantify sustainability.

Three main topics will be considered:

1. The definition of sustainability and the use of indicators and aggregate indices to quantify it;
2. The approaches taken to quantify sustainability: comparison of different methodologies for the aggregation and construction of indicators;
3. The operationalization of sustainability: construction of indicators and indices within applied economic models, projections of sustainability, and policy studies.

Day 1 - Monday, May 24, 2010

15.00 -15.15 Welcome address

Carlo **Carraro**, President, Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy

Silvio **Giove**, Sustainability Indicators research leader, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

15.15 -16.15 Session1. Defining sustainability

Chair: Giuseppe **Munda**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

When will sustainable development become mainstream?

Jochen **Jesinghaus**, Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Italy

Discussion

Measuring Social Sustainability: Issues and Indicators

Steve **Arnold**, Bath University, UK

Discussion

16.15 - 16.45 Coffee Break

16.45-18.15 Session2. From indicators to aggregate indices

Chair: Ferenc **Toth**, IIASA, Austria

Measuring sustainability: some methodological considerations

Giuseppe **Munda**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

Discussion

Non-additive aggregation methodologies to assess sustainability: the FEEM Sustainability Index

Silvio **Giove** and **Caterina Cruciani**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice and FEEM, Italy

Discussion

Approach, methods and results of the Index for Sustainable Development in Italia - ISSI

Andrea **Barbabella**, Fondazione Sviluppo Sostenibile, Italy

Discussion

Day 2 - Tuesday, May 25, 2010

09.00 -10.30 Session 3. Sustainability into practice – Part I

Chair: Silvio **Giove**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice and FEEM, Italy

Evaluation of the environmental performance of technologies and policies using aggregated preferences

Wolf **Müller**, University of Stuttgart, Germany

Discussion

Sectoral and regional issues of sustainability

Sebastian **Voigt**, ZEW, Germany

Discussion

The role of indicators in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy

Ferenc **Toth**, IIASA, Austria

Discussion

10.30 -11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 -12.30 Session 4. Sustainability into practice – Part II

Chair: Wolf **Müller**, University of Stuttgart, Germany

FEEM SI, presentation of the index, projections and policy scenarios

Elisa **Lanzi**, FEEM, Italy and OECD, France

Discussion

Long-term human development and the environment, an integrated modelling approach

Henk **Hilderink**, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, The Netherlands

Discussion

The Ecological Footprint: A decision tool for securing long term human development and economic success

Alessandro **Galli**, Global Footprint Network, Italy

Discussion

12.30 -13.00 Conclusions

13.00 *Lunch*