Measuring Public Sector Innovation and Social Progress
Innovation indicators for the public sector

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Advancing concepts and models of innovative activity and STI indicator systems
A generalized definition - again

• An *innovation* is the implementation of a new or significantly changed product (good or service) or process (production or delivery, organisation, or marketing). [shortened]

• A new or significantly changed product is *implemented* when it is made available to potential users. New or significantly changed processes are implemented when they are brought into actual use in the operation of the institutional unit, as part of making product available to potential users.

See [www.merit.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/abstract/?id=5832](http://www.merit.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/abstract/?id=5832) for further reading and references
Measuring public sector innovation

• No equivalent to the Oslo Manual – but getting close
• No equivalent to the Community Innovation Survey – but it can be a model
• Some problems with registers of public sector institutions – not always as good as business registers
• Nordic MEPIN project has made a major contribution (See Bloch and Bugge, 2013)
What have we got? - EU

- Experimental and evolving work leading to
  - Background study on the Public Sector
  - The EU Innobarometer 2010
  - Report on Public Sector Innovation 2012 with case studies
  - The European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard EPSIS
EU Public Sector
Innovation Scoreboard 2013

Table 6: Measurement Framework

Enablers
1.1 Human Resources
1.2 Quality of Public Services

Activities
2.1 Capacities
2.2 Drivers and Barriers

Outputs
3.1 Innovators
3.2 Effects on Business Performance
3.3 Government Procurement
What have we got - OECD

– The OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation
  OPSI but no definitions

– The OECD STI e-Outlook
  • With a definition of PSI
    – public-sector innovation can be defined as the implementation by
      a public-sector organisation of new or significantly improved
      operations or products


– Revision of the OECD/Eurostat Oslo Manual, 2017
Where are we now?

• Innovation in the Public sector can be defined
  – But there is a need for a consensus
• Surveys have tested what can be reported
  – But the results are not comparable over time or across geography
    • Look at the MEPIN project
• The EU and the OECD are supporting work on PSI
• There is interest in efficiency (more for less)
• What about social progress, equity, inclusion, public health, education, culture …?
Restricted Public Sector Innovation

• If surveys are to deal with issues related to innovation, the first step is measuring the presence of innovation (recall the definition)

• The next step is to ask if the innovation contributed to social progress
  – Social housing tower blocks in the UK would have qualified as an innovation but did they deliver on social progress?
  – As with Business sector, if the restriction is to be measured, there must be a follow up survey or use of administrative data
Policy

• Public sector policy changes lives
• Measuring public sector performance is well established but not yet PSI
• Public sector innovation policy can
  – act directly on the actors to support innovation or indirectly
  – Involve one department, a few, many, or all (whole of government)
• Innovation measurement is required to monitor and evaluate policy once it is implemented (Did the innovation happen? Did it achieve the objective?)
• Restricted innovation measurement is required to monitor and evaluate outcomes (social progress?)