

Further information about the project and instructions on how to fill in this form can be found on the following pages. The completed worksheet should be sent to the Project Secretariat e-mail: indicator-project@ifeh.org or to your IFEH-contact-person in your country. General information about the International Federation of Environmental Health can be found on www.ifeh.org and further information about this project can be found on this specific website: www.ifeh.org/indicators

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATOR PROJECT WORKSHEET

Country / State:

Name and address of institution / organisation:

Title of project / indicator theme / issue

Brief description of the main problems / challenges (to be approached by the initiative)

Brief description of the causes to the problem / driving forces

Used Indicators

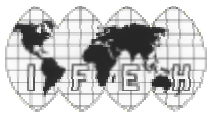
Objectives in general

Objectives in specific

Efforts done or planned

Graphical presentation of time related progress on selected indicators

How to get further information



Information about the project.

Sustainability indicators – a worldwide tool to monitor progress towards a sustainable development.

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On the initiative of FMK Denmark a new IFEH – project “Sustainability indicators” was launched at the IFEH Europe Group meeting in Oslo, Norway in June 2000. Due to a broad interest shown from other member organisations outside Europe the project has been opened up for participation from a larger target group.

The primary goal of this project is to identify and promote the use of sustainability indicators – that is objective and measurable data / values – from which conclusions can be drawn as to whether there are movements towards or away from sustainability. Furthermore it is the goal of the project to identify which indicators are relevant in different parts of the world.

To visualise how indicators can be used, the inputs (completed worksheets) will form the basis of an internet based set of examples of local initiatives (planned or completed) where indicators have been used to monitor the effect of the initiative, where indicators have been used in the planning phase or where indicators are just used for having an continuously overview of a given area in interest.

The worksheet form is intended to be filled out by primarily local / regional authorities describing planned, completed or ongoing initiatives where indicators are used to describe the development / changes over time in the areas of interest.

It is intended that each completed worksheet should describe only one area / initiative / indicator-theme or project and the indicators connected to this specific area / initiative. The individual authorities are very welcome to produce more than one completed worksheet.

The exact output of the project will be a collection of examples of initiatives primarily undertaken by the local authorities – where indicators have been used to monitor which effect the initiatives have had on the environment and/or on the health of humans. Other examples will just demonstrate how it is possible to monitor the state and development on environmental and health issues – without any specific actions being taken to affect the issue – but again primarily on a local level. The latter kind of use of indicators is very useful in planning which measures can be taken at a local level in order to change the situation towards a more sustainable development. All of these examples can be used by all local authorities around the world and perhaps persuade more local authorities to get started. The example collection can also serve as inspiration for authorities which have already started to use indicators in their daily work and planning.

Using this method of collecting concrete examples will identify which indicators are most likely to be successful and also show how the challenges can be approached.

All collected examples (filled out worksheets) will, as the project is proceeding be made available on the IFEH website. The direct web-link to this project is: www.ifeh.org/indicators . The collected examples will be organized and grouped according to the different topics that the initiatives and indicators describe.



Information about the project. (continued)

It is not the intention of this project to be restrictive in defining the meaning of the term “sustainability – indicators”. The definition is to be taken in a very broad sense, meaning that every indicator which can demonstrate whether the development goes in the right or wrong direction are to be accepted. Indicators can describe purely environmental issues – purely health issues - or combined indicators which on an objective basis describe the impacts on, or risks to human health as a result of impacts on the environment.

Other indicators on the other hand can describe resource consumption, social or economic issues etc. which will influence the possibility of future generations of achieving a similar material living standard as we experience in the developed countries today – and that this is achieved in a manner so that the material living standard for people in the developing countries can be increased towards equality.

The main target group for the result of the project – that is those who are intended to use the methods – are the local authorities in the different countries. Of course the results can be used by others as well.

Many efforts have been made in the recent years to develop useful indicators / indicator systems. Most of the indicators are still targeted at the national level – and are mostly directed to governments, so that it is possible to make changes in policies at a national – and to some degree international scale. But many initiatives – both according to national legislation and according to regional / local policies have to be implemented and brought into force by the local authorities.

Therefore it is essential that there is a common or similar monitoring system used at both the national level and the local level – and that this monitoring is performed by the local authorities. They would then have a greater responsibility for the action taken at the local level, together with an overview of the different environmental and health sectors. It is important that Industry and citizens are involved in the process, so that the distance between the various actors is minimized and that this involvement applies not only at the local but at the national and the international levels also. This, after all, is the whole idea behind Agenda 21.

There is a body of opinion that feels that too few local authorities are using indicators as a monitoring tool in their thinking, planning and implementation phases. Therefore much work still needs to be done! By giving examples of how this has been achieved to date seems to be the most appropriate manner to get this process more widely used.

Information on how the workflow is organized.

In order to facilitate the workflow connected to this specific project there has been set up a special project secretariat which is held by FMK Denmark. The project secretariat will receive the incoming material and ensure that the material is published on the IFEH-website. The project secretariat will be able to reply on questions regarding this project. For the time being the project secretariat is held by the chairman of the project: Henning Hansen and Jan Joergensen together with Steen Fogde (all three are members of the IFEH-council). The secretariat can be reached through this e-mail address : indicator-project@ifeh.org

The worksheet form is distributed to the IFEH contact persons in each of the member organisations of The International Federation of Environmental Health. Afterwards it is intended that the national IFEH-contact person passes on the scheme to the relevant local, regional or national authorities. Ideally the IFEH -member organisation would set up a national organizing committee, in order to ensure that many examples of good practice can be collected. Of particular interest are initiatives – completed or planned – where indicators have been or will be used as a tool to measure progress over time.



As the work on environmental health and environmental protection is organised differently in the IFEH member states, it is up to the IFEH contact person to decide which institutions are the most relevant. But the intention is to cover a broad range of initiatives describing developments on the environment in general, including nature and resource consumption etc. and how changes in the environment influence the human health.

All examples collected during this period should be sent to the project secretariat indicator-project@ifeh.org by the IFEH contact person. The contact persons are encouraged to pass on the selected examples to the project secretariat as soon as they are received by him or her.

The examples will be published on the IFEH website as they are received.

As an alternative to liaising with the IFEH contact person, it is also possible for individual members / local authorities to contribute examples directly. Information about the project and the general worksheet-form will be put on the IFEH website, and information about the project will be posted to individuals using the IFEH mailing list. A copy of examples received in this manner will be e-mailed to the IFEH-contact person in each participating country.

Instructions on completing the form.

The easiest way to get an impression of how to fill out the form is to look at the examples on the IFEH project website www.ifeh.org/indicators.

The initiatives of interest, be they completed or planned - and the relevant indicators, are meant to cover a broad range of environmental and health issues. Examples of such areas could be:

Local Agenda 21 – initiatives

Local Environmental Health initiatives

Human Health related to environmental impacts

Air pollution (dust, SO₂, NO_x, VOC etc)

CO₂-emission / energy consumption / climatic change

Noise pollution

Wastewater (wastewater treatment / sludge handling etc.)

Drinking water

Food Control

Waste (production/ recycling / handling and waste prevention etc.)

Lakes, watercourses, rivers and the sea

Nature, forest and animal wildlife protection

Industrial and agricultural activities – pollution – use of best available technology

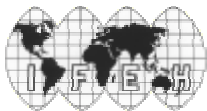
Use of harmful substances and chemicals

Housing standard (related to human health)

Use of non-renewable resources

Transport

The foregoing examples of areas will undoubtedly overlap to some degree and are not intended to be final – other areas / examples which concern sustainability are very much welcomed.



It is hoped that the form can be filled out in approximately 20 – 30 minutes and that the text should only be an outline of the specific initiative. It is important to focus on which indicators have been or are intended to be used – and it is important to give details about how one can get further information on the specific initiative. If more information can be found on the internet please write the direct and exact web-link- address (of the type e.g. www.name.xx/xx/xx...) which gives direct access to the page. (Not only the opening page!)

If no information can be obtained on the internet please indicate an e-mail address of the contact-person / institution in connection with the example.

If details of the indicator values measured over a time period are available in the form of graphs these will be very useful and should be included in the dedicated form-cell.

As the worksheet form is a Word – document and each form-cell can be extended, there is no limitation on the length of the document. But examples (not including this guidance text) should not extend to more than 3-4 pages.

January 2003

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