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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
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21 Sustainable development

MONET 2030

Revision of the cross-sectional approach *Spillover and responsibilities of Switzerland*

Introduction

The MONET 2030 indicator system gives an overview of sustainable development in Switzerland, providing a picture of the progress made towards the 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda as well as towards the Federal Council's 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and to certain topics specific to Switzerland.

In addition to the 17 SDG, MONET 2030 highlights three central components of sustainable development, which are reflected in several SDG[1]. One of these components considers that, in a globalised world, our lifestyles and the decisions taken in Switzerland have consequences for other countries (“spillover effects”). In 2008, the Federal statistical office (FSO) was a forerunner in publishing a first set of indicators to measure the global impact of the Swiss lifestyle in the context of sustainable development. This set has evolved over the years and is still integrated into the MONET 2030 system. It is presented under the cross-sectional approach "Spillover and responsibilities of Switzerland". From 2024 to 2025, the FSO conducted a revision of this set. This document presents a definition of spillover effects, the revision process and its results.

Adopted definition of spillover effects

An overview of practices defining spillover effects and proposing indicators to measure them was carried out. The definition of spillover effects adopted is based on that of the OECD[2] and refers to them as transboundary impacts that can be bilateral (from one country to another) or multilateral (from one country to several countries). They may result from deliberate actions with an explicit transboundary objective (such as development assistance) or they may also be the indirect consequence of political measures or behaviors, such as national production and consumption patterns. Ultimately, these impacts can be positive or negative.

Revision process

The revision was mandated by the Federal Council as part of the 2024–2027 Action Plan for the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS 2030)[3]. It was conducted in several stages and in a participative manner[4] with a working group made up of representatives of services from the Federal Administration and of members of the 2030 Agenda Advisory Group[5] who gathered for two workshops. The first workshop aimed to identify Switzerland's main spillover effects (both positive and negative) and organise them into a thematic inventory (to answer the question “what should be measured?”). The outcome of the first workshop formed the basis for a second workshop, which aimed to gather proposals for indicators that provide information on Switzerland's spillover effects for the purpose of revising the set "Spillover and responsibilities of Switzerland" (to answer the question "how to measure?"). Additionally, the second workshop focused on identifying gaps in cases where indicators could not be produced[6].

[1] These are social cohesion, gender equality and spillover and responsibilities of Switzerland.
[2] Ino, J., F. Murtin and M. Shinwell (2021), "Measuring transboundary impacts in the 2030 Agenda: Conceptual approach and operationalisation", *OECD Papers on Well-being and Inequalities,* No. 1, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/62f13e92-en .
[3] The 2024-2027 Action Plan was adopted by the Federal Council in January 2024. Measure No. 2 of the plan provides for strengthening the analysis of Switzerland's positive and negative impacts abroad.
[4] A detailed description of the actors involved can be found in the appendix.
[5] 2030 Agenda: Coordination within Switzerland.
[6] A gap is an indicator that cannot be produced for methodological reasons or due to the unavailability of data.

The list of indicators and gaps resulting from the second workshop was consolidated by the FSO, then submitted to the working group members for written consultation and refined. Finally, the indicators and gaps were validated by the MONET 2030 Steering Committee (COPIL MONET 2030) with the aim of publishing them on the FSO website. These steps and the stakeholders involved are summarised in Table 1:

Steps	Stakeholders involved
Workshop 1: Identification of Switzerland's main spillover effects	Working group
Workshop 2: Identification of indicators and gaps	Working group
Selection of indicators and gaps	FSO
Consultation on indicators and gaps selected by the FSO	Working group
Validation of the selection	COPIL MONET 2030
Publication of the revised set of indicators and identified gaps	FSO

Table 1. Summary of the revision process.

Results

1. *Inventory of Switzerland's main spillover effects*

The working group's first workshop resulted in an inventory of Switzerland's spillover effects in six main themes, which were further specified by sub-themes and examples[1] (Table 2).

Natural resources *(e.g. use of agricultural land abroad)*	Trade *(e.g. job creation abroad resulting from domestic demand)*	Financial system *(e.g. foreign direct investment)*
Climate *(e.g. direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions)*	Science and technology *(e.g. sharing and transfer of technology and knowledge from Switzerland to other countries)*	Global partnerships *(e.g. financing of development aid)*

Table 2. Inventory of Switzerland's main spillover effects resulting from the first workshop. Examples related to these main themes are given in brackets.

This thematic inventory provides a documented overview of what is to be measured. It attempts to cover all relevant thematic dimensions and allows for the selection of indicators and the identification of gaps to be justified by linking them to at least one main theme related to Switzerland's spillover effects.

2. *Identified indicators and gaps*

The indicators in the revised set "Spillover and responsibilities of Switzerland " and the new gaps identified are based on the approximately 130 inputs collected during the second workshop. In addition to being linked to the thematic inventory resulting from the first workshop (see above), the selected indicators had to be suitable for integration into the MONET 2030 system, considering its structure based on the 17 SDG and the criteria for selecting indicators for the system[2]. Furthermore, both the set and the MONET 2030 system had to remain of a reasonable size. As a result, eleven indicators were retained and refined. Six new indicators were created to be added to the revised set. Finally, three indicators that were part of the set prior to the revision were removed from the set but retained in the MONET 2030 system: on the one hand, it was considered that greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture were already covered by total greenhouse gas emissions according to the national inventory. On the other hand, the two "intensity" indicators were considered too indirectly linked to spillover effects to be maintained in the list. The revised set currently contains 17 indicators (Table 3).

[1] The detailed inventory of Switzerland's spillover effects, compiled as part of this work, can be found in the appendix.
[2] The criteria for selecting indicators and gaps in the MONET 2030 system can be found in the appendix.

Indicators (before revision)	Indicators (after revision)
Energy dependency	Foreign energy dependency
Material footprint	Material footprint
Material footprint per person	Material footprint per person
Material intensity	
Greenhouse gas footprint	Greenhouse gas footprint
Greenhouse gas footprint intensity	
Greenhouse gas emissions excluding the greenhouse gas balance of land use	Greenhouse gas emissions including the greenhouse gas balance of land use
Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture	
Nitrogen load exported	Nitrogen load exported
Remittances by migrants	Remittances by migrants
Direct investments in developing countries	Direct investments in developing countries
Duty-free imports from developing countries	Duty-free imports from developing countries
Official development assistance	Official development assistance
Official development assistance for poor countries	Official development assistance towards the least developed countries
	Greenhouse gas footprint of food per person
	Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
	Food self-sufficiency rate
	Multinational companies' employees in developing countries
	Open Access scientific publications
	Military service on international peacekeeping missions

Table 3. Results of the indicator revision process. Indicators removed from the set are indicated by a shaded cell with an empty text field; new indicators are denoted in red (right-hand column).

In addition to the revised set, nine gaps were identified (Table 4). They cover several spillover effects from Switzerland that are considered relevant but cannot currently be measured by indicators that meet the criteria for official statistics due to methodological reasons or the unavailability of data (e.g. value added abroad through consumption in Switzerland, transparency in the commodity trading sector, Switzerland's contribution to the respect of human rights). The work on gaps focused on the spillover effects and did not aim to provide a comprehensive analysis of the gaps in the MONET 2030 system.

Gaps (before revision)	Gaps (after revision)
Agricultural area abroad needed to produce imported agricultural products	Agricultural area abroad needed to produce imported agricultural products
Corporate social responsibility (CSR)	Corporate social responsibility (CSR)
Sustainable finances	Sustainable finance
Research expenditure in Switzerland on neglected tropical diseases	Research expenditure in Switzerland on neglected tropical diseases
Brain-gain / brain-drain	Brain-gain / brain-drain
	Integrity of the financial centre
	Water footprint
	Biodiversity footprint
	Value added footprint
	Employement footprint
	Transparency in commodity trading
	Digitalisation
	Policy coherence
	Human rights

Table 4. Results of the revision of gaps related to spillover effects. New gaps are denoted in red (right-hand column).

The gaps identified during the revision have been added to the list of gaps in the MONET 2030 system. The gaps will be filled in line with developments in the Swiss statistical system and the resources available.

Finally, the new indicators and gaps have contributed to a more balanced representation of the three dimensions of sustainable development within the cross-sectional approach "Spillover and responsibilities of Switzerland".

Appendices

1. Composition of the working group

Federal services

- Federal Statistical Office (FSO)
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) – State Secretariat
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
- State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)
- Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE)
- Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG)
- Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA)
- Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Members of the 2030 Agenda Advisory Group

- Alliance Sud
- Economiesuisse
- Pro Natura
- Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)
- Swiss Banking

2. Thematic inventory of Switzerland's spillover effects (results of the first workshop)

The six main themes are highlighted in bold and capital letters. They are broken down into one or more sub-themes, indicated in italics.

NATURAL RESOURCES
Food systems
Use of natural resources
Pollution, chemicals, waste
TRADE
Trade, production, transport, consumption
Economic conditions
FINANCIAL SYSTEM
Financial flows
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Education, research, innovation
Digitalisation
CLIMATE
Climate change
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS
Governance
Peace and security
International cooperation
Migration
Human rights and equal opportunities

3. Criteria for selecting indicators and gaps in the revision process:

Each indicator or gap identified during the second workshop was assigned to:

- A theme from the thematic inventory resulting from the first workshop, in order to highlight the spillover dimension that the indicator seeks to measure or that the gap should illustrate.
- One or more targets from the 2030 Agenda translated into the Swiss context. Where this was not possible, the indicator or gap was linked to a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) or a MONET principle. Assignment to a target or principle is a prerequisite to anchor the indicator or gap to the MONET 2030 system and, consequently, to the set "Spillover and responsibilities of Switzerland". During the production of the indicator

(texts, graphics, etc.), the federal office responsible for the specific target was able to comment on the indicator content, which was prepared by the FSO.

- The priorisations of the inputs made by the participants during the second workshop were taken into account in establishing the choices presented in this document.

The selection of indicators is also based on the selection criteria of the MONET 2030 system:

- Statistical information is based on data that complies with the principles of public statistics (relevance, transparency, independence of producers, impartiality).
- Statistical information is relevant in a nationwide context.
- The statistical information is based on data that are representative of the whole of Switzerland.
- Statistical information is scientifically sound. A wide consensus exists with regard to its validity and reliability.
- All statistical information is based on existing data sets that have been published.
- Statistical data are unambiguous, understandable, transparent and easy to interpret.
- Statistical information is based on data that are easily available and accessible.
- Statistical information is based on data that are recorded now and also periodically updated (preferably annually) in a homogenous way.
- Statistical information should, where possible, be compatible with international definitions and internationally comparable.

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