G20 DGI-2 Virtual Workshop on Household Distributional Accounts
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Discussant Notes
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Programme of research

Three main lines of work:

- **Improving micro-data**: use of administrative data, including integration with survey data; integration of data on income, consumption and wealth

- **Alignment of micro- and macro-data** for income, consumption and wealth

- **Improving timeliness**: nowcasting techniques

Value added of work

- Improving **quality and consistency of statistics**:
  - Consistency between income, consumption and wealth
  - Consistency between micro- and macro-data: awareness of and addressing major data gaps in micro-data, improved accounting for households (currently often residual in national accounts)
  - Innovative ways to compile statistics
- Improved measurement of **material wellbeing**
  - Possibility to capture coincidence of income and wealth poverty
  - Consistency with main macro-economic indicators
- Improved measurement of **vulnerabilities across households**
- **Addressing policy demands**, not only in more traditional distributional analysis, but also in e.g., monetary policy

Main issues to be resolved

Lots of progress made, today's presentations are testimony of this; however, **further progress still achievable**:

- **Methodologies to close the gaps between micro- and macro-data**: administrative data; rich lists; more targeted surveying; better understanding of data gaps (proportional allocation of large data gaps to be avoided)

- **Methodologies to improve timeliness**: nowcasting micro-data; how to use timely macro-data in nowcasting micro-data

- **Better understanding of negative saving**: real economic phenomenon or statistical artefact? Note: Indonesian results!

- **Role of pension systems**, especially in the case of saving and wealth (starting point: use and integration of register data on pensions?)

Main issues to be resolved

Lots of progress made, today's presentations are testimony of this; however, **further progress still achievable**:

- **Analysis of developments over time**: how to deal with volatility of quintile/decile populations: usual income (see e.g., Australia); panels (e.g., looking at income groups of previous period)

- **Potential use of data**: lots to learn from micro-data specialists

- **Improving cooperation within and between organisations**

- **Communication of data**: how to table and visualize data, how to make them understandable for the general public (great examples presented)

Concluding remarks

- Emphasis on issues and further improvements, but again …

- … also need to point to the achievements made in recent years

- One can only conclude that, **looking back, progress has been far beyond expectations**

- **For the future:**

Where there's a will, there's a path

Thank you for your attention!