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NTA Working Group on
Intergenerational indicators:
The state of affairs

The Economist is here knocking on our doors asking for a good story or two. We have a number of good stories but we must tell them simple and short.

Young revolutionaries who want to build a society, which is fair to people no matter when they were born and how old they are at the moment. We can tell them which numbers to check but we must give figures easy to interpret and difficult to manipulate.

We need a few summary figures.

What are the numbers you would give them?

NTA is infrastructure:

NTA is a standardized statistical routine prepared for serving academic and applied research as well as policy making.

In order to make it handier, summary measures can and should be distilled from this accounting system.

What we can start with is :

- collecting the indicators suggested in the literature
- thinking over the desirable properties of indicators, and
- proposing a set of our own.

Contd.

The working group is dormant, but we have been challenged at least three times in the recent past:

By a call for a proposal from the European Commission (DG EMPL) with the aim of extending GDP measurement with a special emphasis on sustainability. The EuroNTA team has responded but our proposal, not being green enough, was turned down.

By another call of the Commission (DG Research, FP7) on *The impact of ageing societies on public finances in Europe*. The EuroNTA team has prepared the AGENTA proposal, which was initiated by Thomas who passed away before we submitted.

Decision is expected later in June.

By a recent publication of indicators on intergenerational justice by the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

A taxonomy of age-related indicators

	cohort		population	
	remaining lifetime	entire lifetime	cross-sectional	projected to the future
specific programmes	social security wealth		old-age dependency ratio; pensions support ratio	implicit pension debt (IPD2, IPD3)
general government		net transfer rate	fiscal support ratio	sustainability gap
national account aggregates			FGA; economic support ratio	
national account + household satellite account aggregates			total support ratio	

Support ratios : 4 levels

