



PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE



Welfare, policy making and citizens

Finnish Association for Social Policy, 22 September 2011

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Finland has a long tradition of studies on standard of living and well-being

- Hugo E. Pipping Early 1950's Standard of Living (economist)
- Erik Allardt, 1970s: "Loving, Having, Being" (sociologist)
- Olavi Niitamo and others: Social Indicators (social scientists in general)
- Statistics Finland 1970s and beyond: Quarterly, Welfare Review, Surveys
- Ministerial working group for sustainable development
- Recent critique of GDP: distribution, environment
- Programs of the Kiviniemi government (2010; working group) and the new government (June 2011)




Starting point

- GDP (National income accounts) is a good starting point and it can be developed further, but ...  
- ... it is not sufficient
- Single measure or several indicators? 
- Close linkage to evolving international guidelines to be announced shortly (Stiglitz group OECD, EU various national initiatives)



Key recommendations

- Illustrative scoreboard 
- Emphasis on communication: Findicator
- Participation and interaction: regular welfare review to give: impetus both for public debate, policy making and research efforts

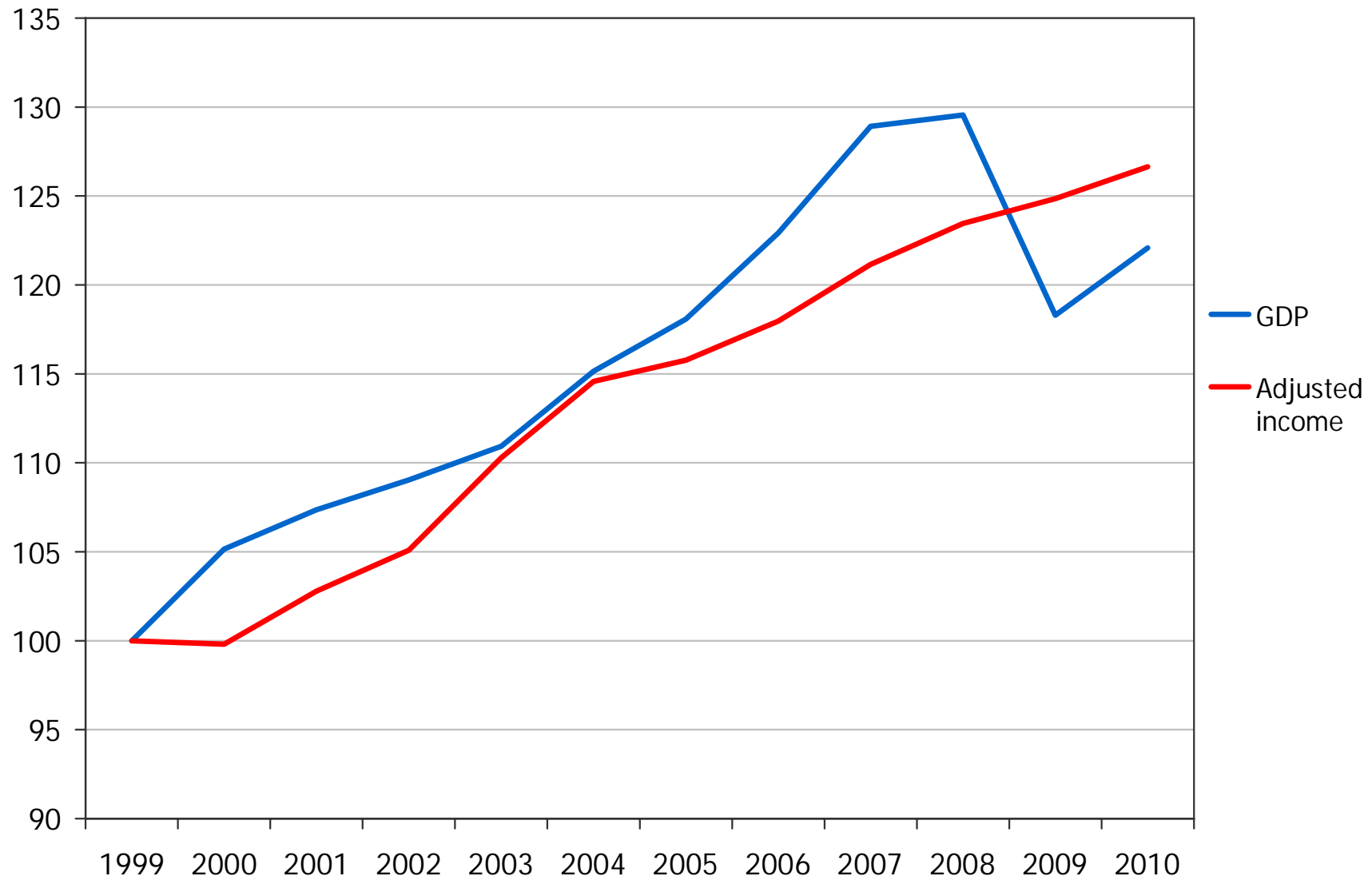


Next step

- These ideas are included in the program of the new government ▶
- Work will be finalised by a technical expert group to be set up shortly
- Thus Finland should be well placed to linkup with the forthcoming international standards

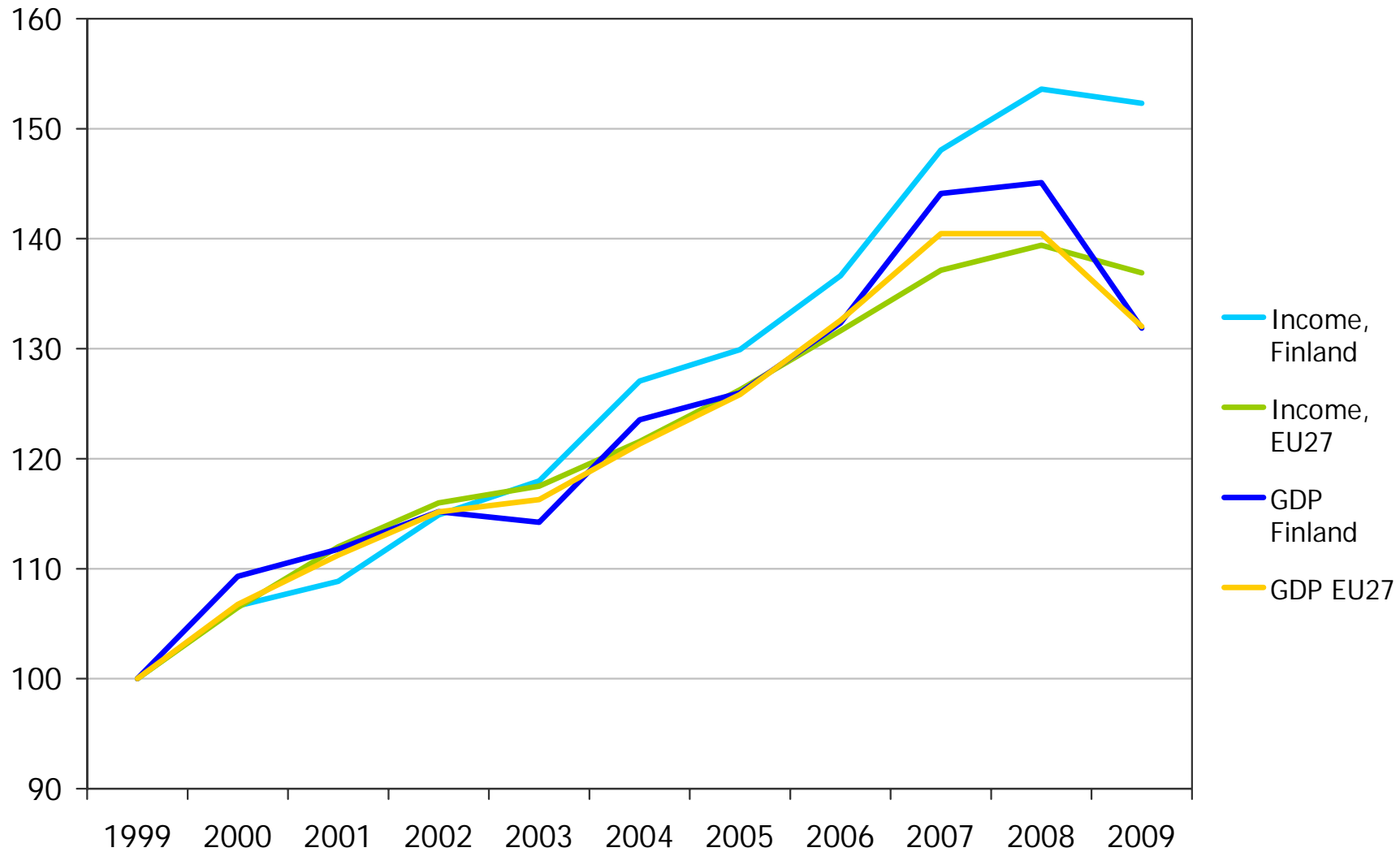


Finland: GDP and adjusted net household income per capita, 1999=100



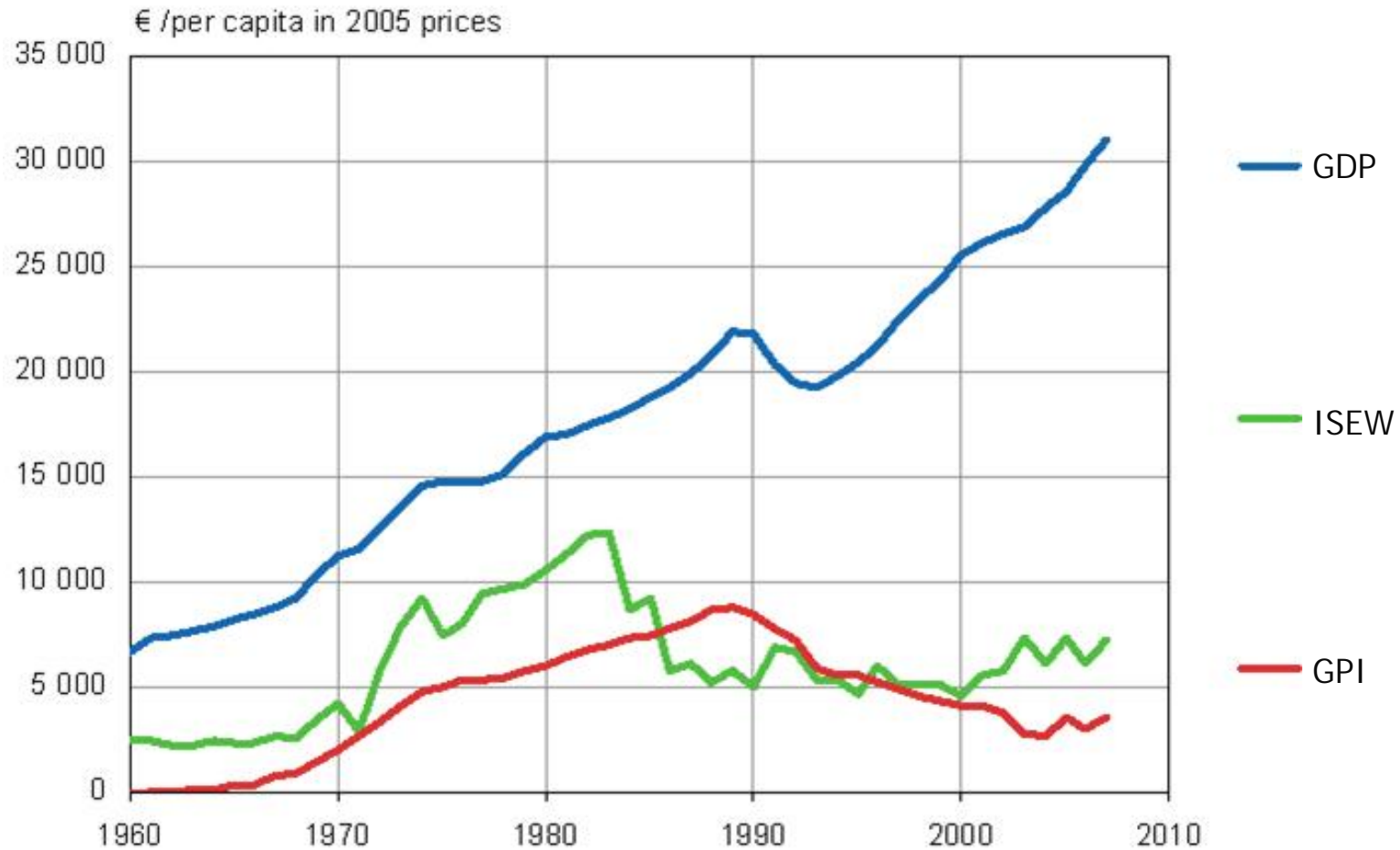


Adjusted income and GDP per capita, EU vs. Finland, 1999=100





Finnish GDP, GPI and ISEW 1945-2008 per capita, real prices



Source: Jukka Hoffrén

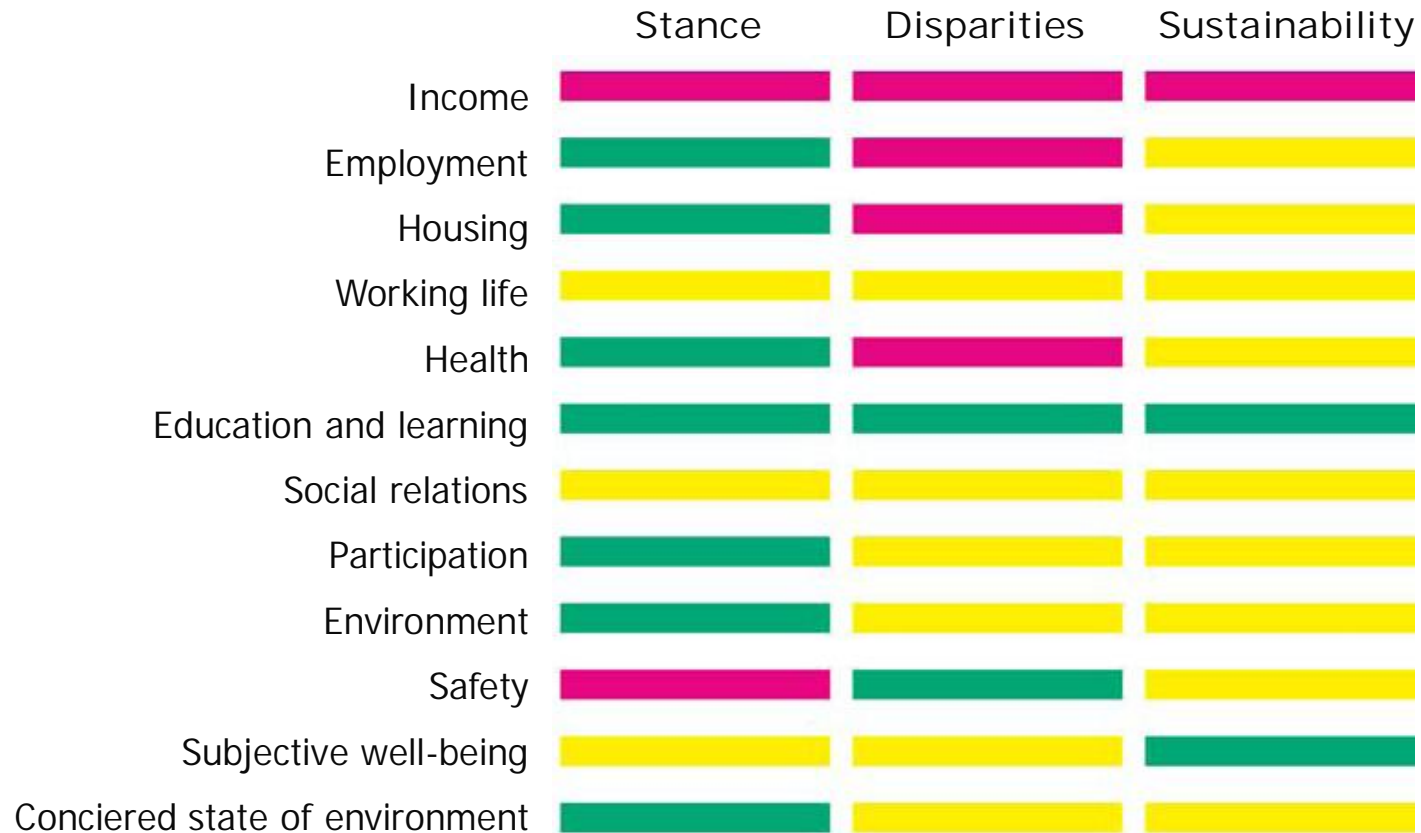
Jukka Pekkarinen



22.9.2011



Finnish welfare scoreboard (preliminary)





Government Programme of PMI Katainen

The measurement of sustainable development
A scorecard system for the measurement and follow-up of material welfare and its distribution, the state of the environment, social cohesion and citizens' perceived wellbeing in Finland will be developed and elaborated by specialists in line with the proposals of the group of experts appointed by the Prime Minister's Office, with special emphasis on the user perspective. The Government anticipates that the new follow-up and communication tools will be widely adopted as a basis for decision-making and serve to inspire civil dialogue.

