Measuring Vulnerability and Resilience in OECD Countries

Adolfo Morrone (ISTAT, Italy)
Kate Scrivens (OECD)
Conal Smith (OECD)
Carlotta Balestra (OECD)

The approach presented uses an “assets-based” framework, focusing on the resources that individuals and households can draw upon to reduce vulnerability and strengthen their resilience to a range of different risks. Assets are grouped into four categories - economic capital, human capital, social capital and collective/public assets – and a selection of indicators, based on the most appropriate available data, are proposed. Vulnerability is a much broader concept, affecting a potentially larger share of the population than “poverty” or “social exclusion”. It is intended that the conceptual framework presented in this paper, and the accompanying selection of indicators, will demonstrate the viability of monitoring vulnerability, as opposed to poor outcomes, and will help identify a measurement strategy for vulnerability.