

THE SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND GENDER INDEX (SIGI)

**Transforming Challenges into
Opportunities**

Ispra | 8 November 2019

Pierre de Boissésou
Networks, Partnerships and Gender
OECD Development Centre





Outline

- 1. What is the SIGI?**
- 2. What are the results?**
- 3. How do we use the SIGI?**
- 4. What are the main challenges and lessons learnt?**

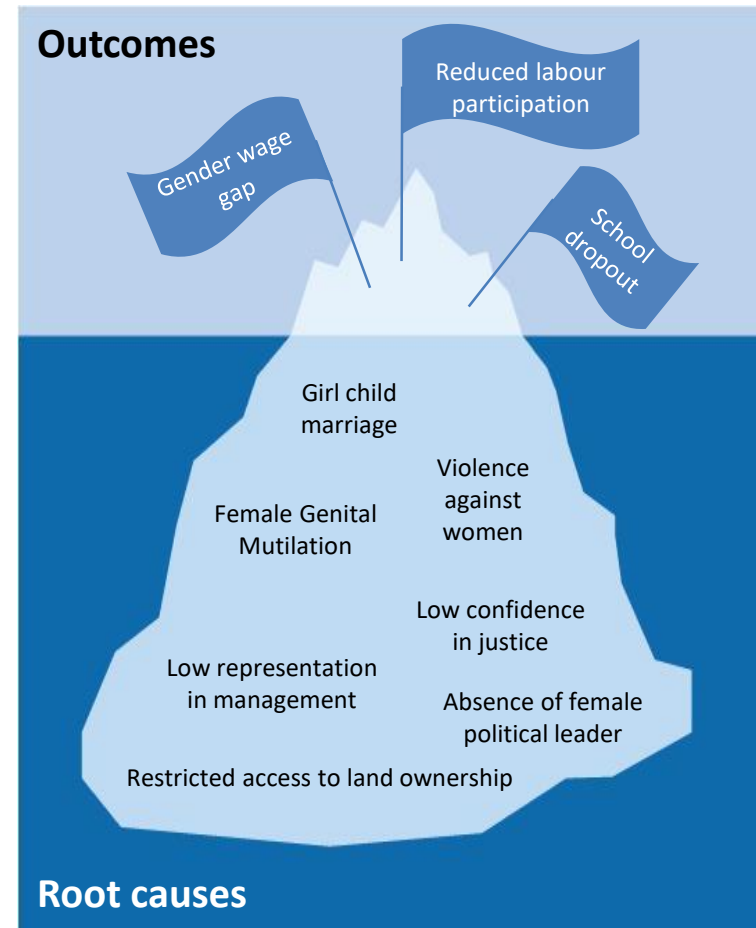
1. WHAT IS THE SIGI?





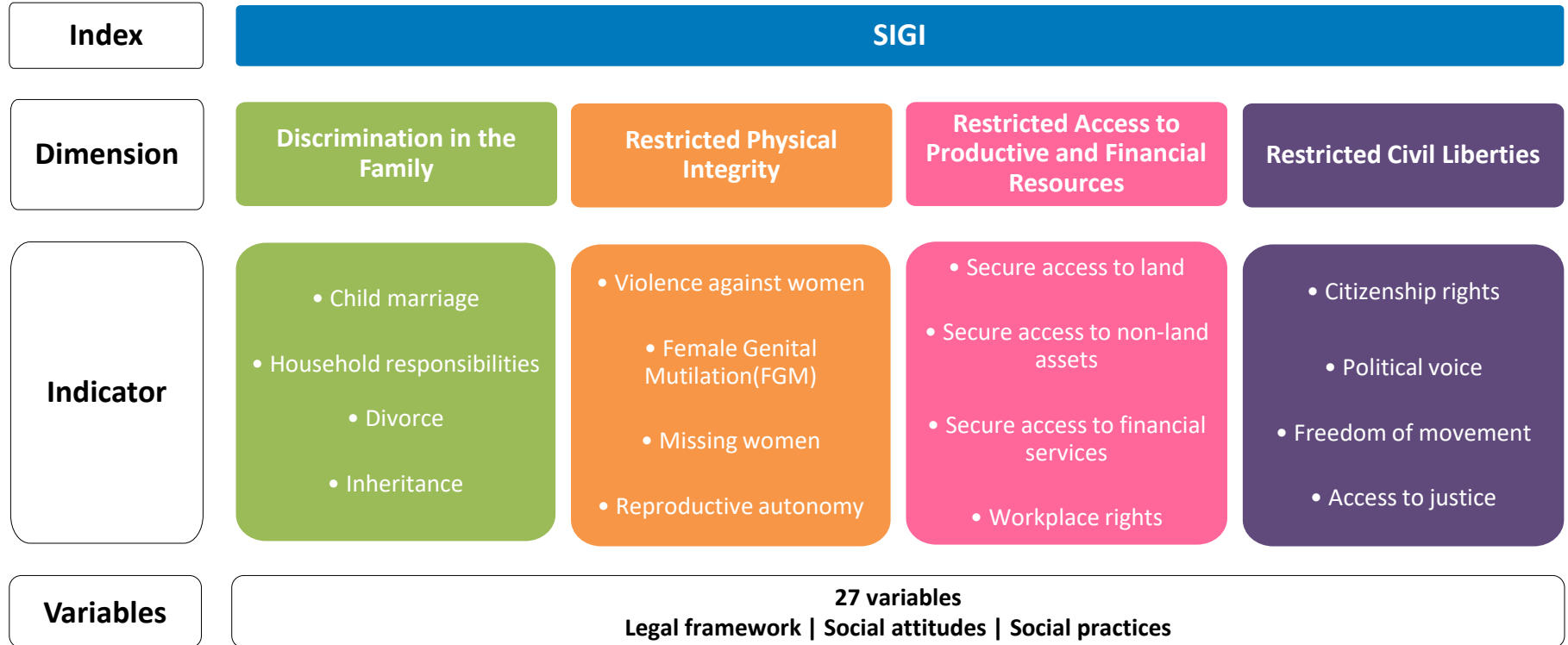
What does the SIGI measure?

- Assesses **discriminatory social institutions holistically**.
- Look at formal and informal laws, social norms and practices that **restrict women's and girls' rights**.
- Provides clear-cut **policy recommendations**.





SIGI Conceptual Framework





Construction of indicators, dimensions, and the SIGI

$$\text{SIGI} = \ln\left(\frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Discrimination in the family}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Restricted physical integrity}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Restricted access to productive and financial resources}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Restricted civil liberties}}\right)$$

Same weight: each dimension is **equally important**

Non-linear relationship (combining exponential and logarithmic functions), which allows **partial compensation**.

Each dimension and indicator is constructed on the same basis.

$$\text{Discrimination in the family} = \ln\left(\frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Child marriage}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Household responsibilities}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Divorce}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Inheritance}}\right)$$

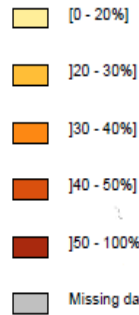
2. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?





SIGI 2019 Country Ranking

Level of discrimination
in the SIGI 2019





SIGI 2019 Country Profiles

- Fully referenced qualitative information.
- Assessment of laws and social institutions.
- Validation process involving external gender experts.

Country	
Italy	
Year 2019 Category	
2019 Value 2019	
Very low 14%	
Discrimination in the family	
Legal framework on child marriage	22%
Percentage of girls under 18 married	50%
Legal framework on household responsibilities	0%
Proportion of the population declaring that children will suffer if mothers are working outside home for a pay	50%
Female to male ratio of time spent on unpaid care work	-
Legal framework on inheritance	2.8
Legal framework on divorce	-

Gender inequality in the family	
Legal framework on violence	-
Proportion of the female pop	-
Prevalence of domestic violence	-
Sex ratio at birth (natural = 1)	-
Legal framework on reproductive health	-
Female population with unmet need for family planning	-

Restricted access to productive and financial resources	
Legal framework on working conditions	-
Proportion of the population in their family to work	-
Share of managers (male)	-
Legal framework on access to credit	-
Share of house owners (male)	-
Legal framework on access to land	-
Share of agricultural land held by women	-
Legal framework on access to services	-
Share of account holders (male)	-

Restricted civil liberties	
Legal framework on civil rights	-
Legal framework on freedom of movement	-
Percentage of women in the feeling safe walking alone at night	-
Legal framework on political participation	-
Share of the population that leaders than women	-
Percentage of male MP's	-
Legal framework on access to justice	-
Share of women declaring to be in a system	-

Note: Higher values indicate higher inequality. Percentages are 25%, 50%, 75% or 100%. See data source [here](#).
Source: OECD (2019), Gender Institutions and Development.

1. Discrimination in the family

a) Overarching legal framework for marriage

In Italy, marriage is based on the moral and legal equality of the spouses within the limits laid down by law to guarantee the unity of the family (Constitution, Art. 29, Civil Code, Article 79). Nevertheless, the Civil Code (Article 89) still prohibits women from remarrying after divorce before a period of 300 days to avert potential crossover pregnancies. There are no legal provisions which prohibit forced marriage, although a draft law presented to the Senate in June of 2016, and under review by the Justice Commission since April 2017, would amend the Penal Code so as to punish both forced marriage and those facilitating a marriage of an individual who is under the minimum age of marriage (Draft Law, n.2441, proposing amendments to Article 605 of the Penal Code). Forced and early marriage have increasingly been recognised as an issue in Italy, especially among Asian and African immigrant communities, as well as among the Roma community (CEDAW Shadow Report, 2017). De facto unions outside of traditional civil marriage, including same-sex unions ('civil pacts') are regulated by Law 76/2016. In addition, many specific legislative provisions refer expressly to informal relations, in most cases applying the same rules to partners in such relationships, as are applied to spouses.

b) Child marriage

The legal age of marriage in Italy is 18 for both sexes (Civil Code Articles 2 and 84), although women and men who have reached the age of 16 may marry with the permission of the court and parental consent (Civil Code, Article 84). The last thirty years (since the 1980s) have seen both a rise in the average age at first marriage, a decline in the overall number of first marriages, and an increase in the number of cohabitations (CEDAW, 2016). Child marriage is prohibited by Article 117 of the Civil Code and while there are no criminal penalties, the registrar (*ufficiale di stato civile*) may be fined for facilitating a marriage of an individual who is under the legal age of marriage (Civil Code, Art. 136). Proposed amendments to the Criminal Code (draft law n. 2441) would further sanction the latter with prison sentences of 6 to 15 years.

c) Household responsibilities

Women have the same rights as men to be recognised as head of the household. They are not required to obey their husbands (Civil Code, Article 143). Women also have the same rights as men to be the legal guardians of their children, and have the same rights and responsibilities towards the latter, in both marriage and informal unions (Constitution, Article 30; Civil Code, Articles 147 and 316; Law 76/2016). Married and unmarried women have the same rights as men to choose where to live (Civil Code, Article 144). Despite such legislation, there remains a gender gap in Italy, particularly in terms of unpaid household and care activities, where women spend more hours on the latter than men at all stages of the life cycle, regardless of a growing percentage of female participation in the labour force (Rindfuss et al, 2016; CEDAW shadow report, 2017b).



What have we learnt?

Key
messages

[1] Tell me where you live, I will tell you what level of discrimination you face

[2] Progress in legal reforms, shifting norms and resulting practices

[3] Social norms still immensely constrain women's empowerment opportunities

[4] Social norms governing the family are the most pervasive and persistent forms of discrimination



What does SIGI uncover?

- Shows where countries, sub-regions and regions stand compare to each other.
- Highlights which indicator or dimension remain critical.

SIGI score

Sub-Saharan Africa performs worst than the global average.
Southern Africa is the best regional performer.

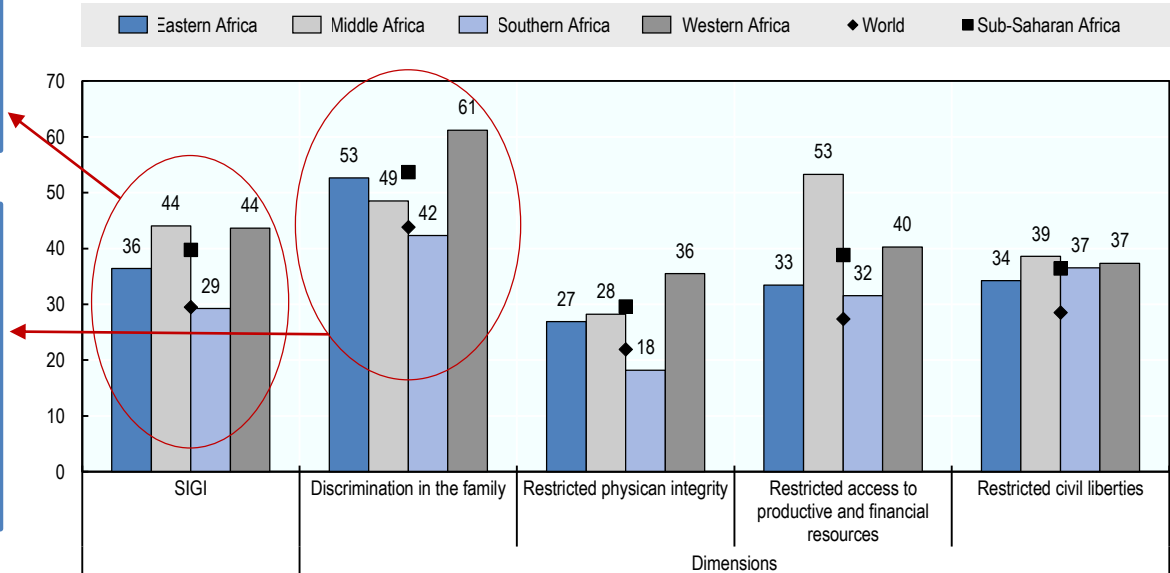
Discrimination in the family

Sub-Saharan Africa fares worst than the global average.
Western Africa is the worst regional performer.
Southern Africa is the best regional performer and fares better than the global average.

DF is the dimension where all sub-regions need to put more efforts comparatively.

Sub-regions of Sub-Saharan Africa

Restricted Access to Productive and Financial Resources (RAPFR) dimension and indicators



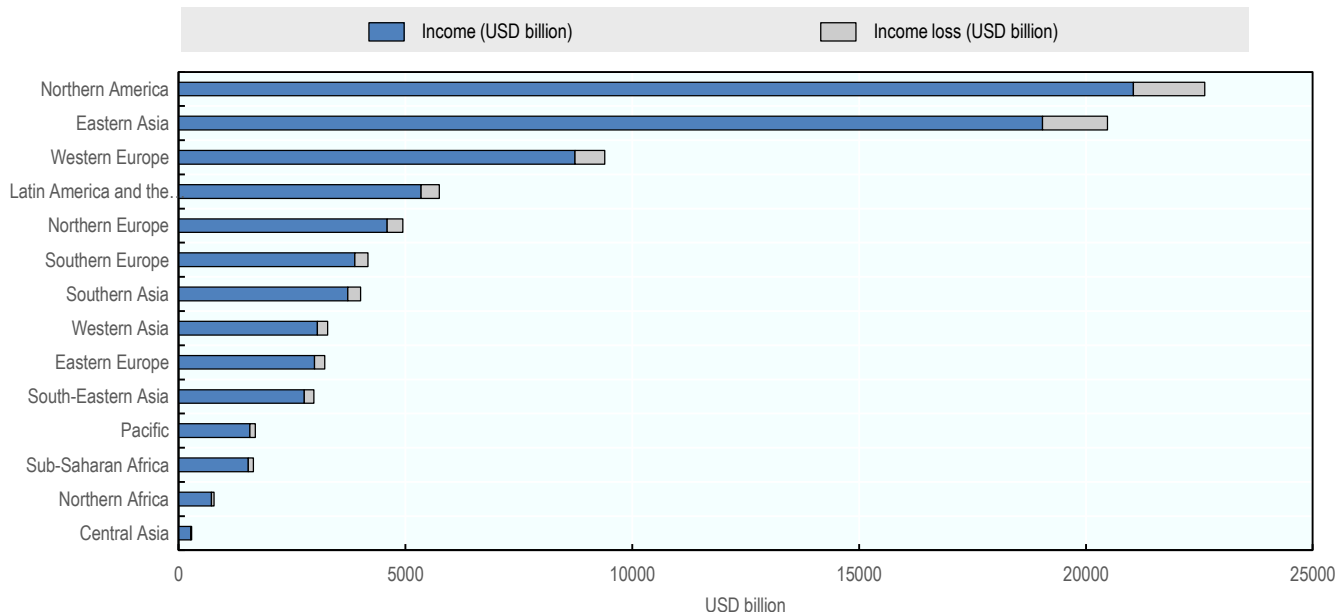
3. HOW DO WE USE THE SIGI?





How to use the SIGI?

#1 The cost of discriminatory institutions



**Income loss of
USD 6 trillion
(7.5% of GDP)**

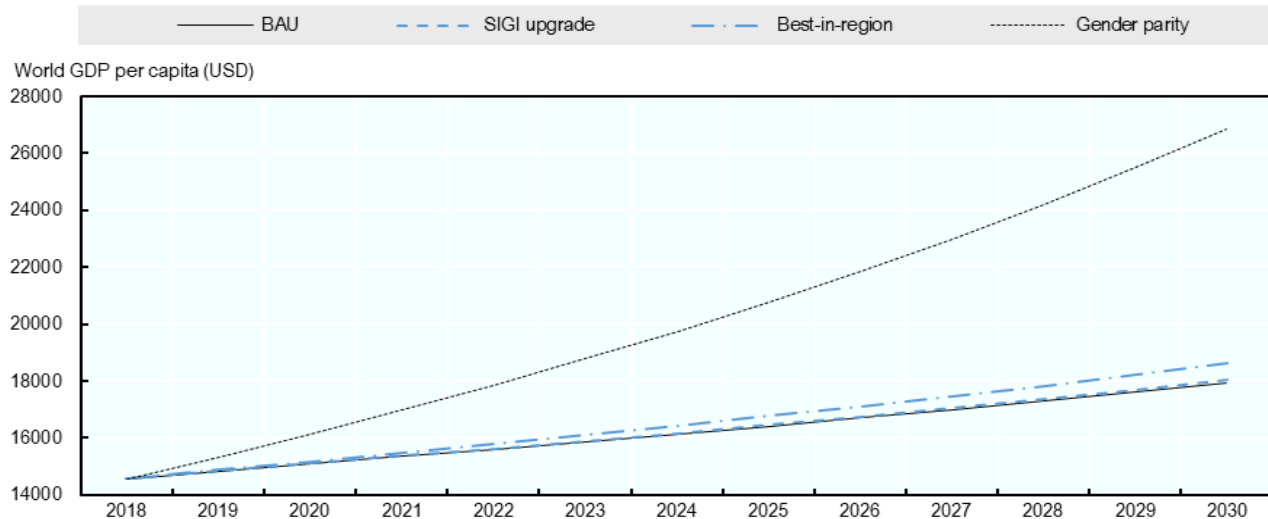
Note: Regional income losses associated with current levels of gender-based discrimination in social institutions. Income losses are measured in terms of 2017 real income at current PPP.

Source: OECD (2019), Gender, Institutions and Development Database, World Development.



How to use the SIGI?

#2 The gains of addressing discriminatory institutions



Potential gains
of USD 8,900
per capita

Note: GDP forecasts for 2030 following two distinct scenarios: (i) 'Business as usual' (BAU), using available growth forecast, and assuming no change in the global level of gender-based discrimination in social institutions between 2018 and 2030 and (ii) 'Gender parity', assuming that each country would have eliminated gender-based discrimination in social institutions by 2030.

GDP forecasts are measured in terms of 2010 real GDP per capita at current PPPs.

Source: OECD (2019), Gender, Institutions and Development Database, World Development Indicators .



How to use the SIGI?

#3 SDG 5.1.1.



- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere
- Indicator 5.1.1 “Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”



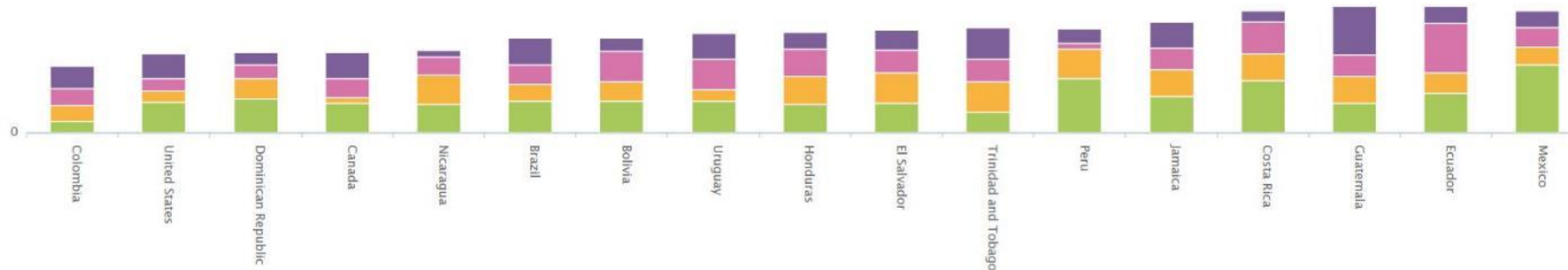
How to use the SIGI?

#4 The SIGI Policy Simulator



Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Policy Simulator

for Americas



oe.cd/sigiSIM

4. WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT?



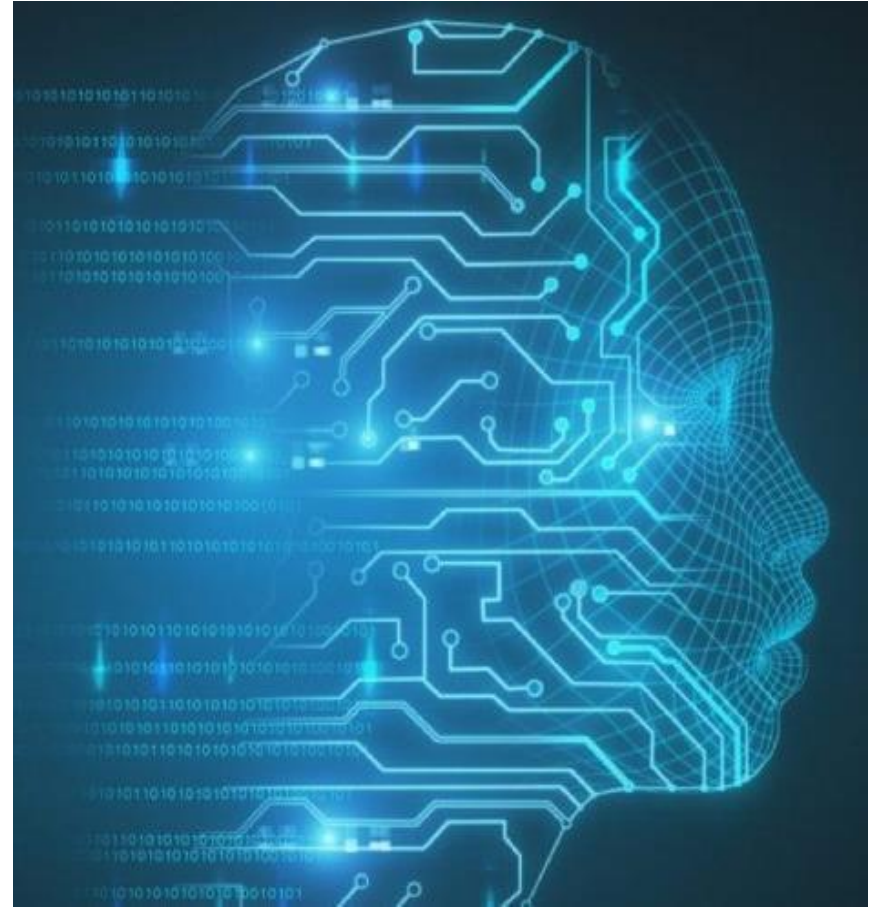


Our next challenges

#1 Explaining the SIGI

#2 Filling data gaps

#3 The missing dimension



Thank you

Pierre.DEBOISSESON@oecd.org

Further reading

[OECD \(2019\), “SIGI 2019 Global Report” OECD Development Centre, Paris](#)



www.oecd.org/dev