



Well-Being Patterns and Disparities Across European Countries and Regions

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Abstract

In the context of the evolving "beyond GDP" discourse related to well-being, a new multidisciplinary approach has emerged that addresses a joint consideration of economic, environmental and social dimensions in countries and regions. As people's lives reflect a diverse range of living conditions, it is important to look beyond (average) economic numbers to understand not only which quality of life is improving, but also where these improvements are occurring and who benefits from them (OECD, 2020). This perspective involves place-based analyses, which examine how local determinants, environmental constraints and socio-economic dynamics influence well-being at multiple levels from local communities to broader regions, with a direct relevance for the fundamental concerns of societies and individuals. While reliance on **...?.....** indicators of well-being has been challenged, objective indicators need to be complemented by subjective measures of how people experience their lives and how well these function in a cohesive vision (Huppert et al, 2008).

Emerging frameworks such as well-being "dematerialization" (Steinberger et al., 2013) and degrowth transition (Büchs & Koch, 2019) advocate new alternatives to sustainable living that encourage a shift towards well-being policies that prioritize long-term environmental health and societal equity over pure economic growth aligned with sustainability concerns. New economic, social and environmental conditions need to be reflected to the development of policies and practices tailored to the needs of diverse communities, at both national and regional scale.

The special session is open, but not limited, to papers addressing inter alia the following topics:

- Limitations of traditional well-being and happiness indicators and new perspectives on sustainability and inclusive development;
- Rise of well-being inequalities and how these align with or diverge from spatial equilibrium contexts;
- Subjective and objective measures of well-being assessment at various scales;

- Place-based well-being dimensions that consider simultaneously environmental, social and territorial conditions;
- New perspectives on regions or cities as happiness producers;
- Role of local governance within well-being policy frameworks;
- Degree of interdependencies between places, people and policies in designing well-being frameworks;
- New opportunities offered by digital technology (e.g. social media platforms) to distil through text analysis satisfaction or well-being feelings.