

# Personal & Social Well-being: Creating Indicators for a Flourishing Europe

## Abstract:

It has become customary to judge the quality of a society by the use of objective indicators, predominantly socio-economic ones. Yet in most developed nations in Europe and elsewhere, increases in income, health and education have not produced comparable increases in happiness or life satisfaction. To address this issue, this proposal seeks to evaluate the success of European countries at promoting the personal and social well-being of their citizens. Whilst much has been learnt from introducing subjective measures of global happiness or life satisfaction into survey research, significant recent progress in the development of high quality subjective measures of personal and social well-being is not being fully utilised, and should be systematically developed across Europe. We suggest that domain-specific measures, such as income, family and work satisfaction, require further understanding both in terms of their causes and effects. Most importantly, we argue that the next generation of advancement in the field requires us to look beyond 'hedonic' measures of well-being (feeling and evaluation) to 'eudaimonic' measures of capabilities and functionings since these are associated with sustainable rather than transient well-being. This module represents the first systematic attempt to create a set of policy-relevant national well-being accounts.

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