



Social Situation Monitor

Seminar on regional well-being indicators (Development of the Inclusive Society Index)

19 October 2016

**Hotel Martin's Brussels EU - Boulevard
Charlemagne 80 - 1000 Brussels**

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion



Reducing regional disparities is one of the main objectives of the European Union and one which is pursued through Cohesion policy aimed at strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion across the EU. But in order to ensure the success of the policy, there is a need to measure both the extent of such disparities in social as well as economic terms and the effect to which the measures taken reduce them. This can be done using a scoreboard with multiple indicators. However, a single headline indicator for social cohesion could ensure greater visibility. Such an indicator should apply to the regional as well as the national level and should be comparable across regions – ideally regions defined at the NUTS 2 level since this is the focus of the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund set up to finance measures for reducing regional disparities.

The European Commission is at present examining the possibility of constructing a regional inclusive society index which can be used for this purpose. Developing an index of this kind, however, is far from straightforward, since data are in many cases not readily available at regional level, especially at NUTS 2 level, for the aspects which it seems desirable to include, such as household income and the proportion of people with income below a minimum acceptable level, access to education, healthcare and other essential services of good quality or a safe and pollution-free environment. Moreover, once such data have been assembled, they need to be combined in an appropriate way to calculate a composite index.

This seminar will focus on these two broad issues – of the aspects to be included and the data available, or potentially available, to quantify them and the methodology to be used for constructing a composite index.

The seminar is part of a series of biannual seminars organised by the Social Situation Monitor (the successor to the Social Situation Observatory) which is supported by the European Commission and composed of Applica in Brussels, the Athens University of Economics and Business, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna, ISER at the University of Essex in the UK and Táarki in Budapest.

Final Agenda

9.00-9.30 Registration and welcome

9.30-9.40 Introduction (Barbara Kauffmann, Director, DG EMPL European Commission)

9.40-12.40 Session 1: Methods to create regional/social progress indicators
(Chair: Ralf Jacob, DG EMPL European Commission)

9.40-10.00 Measuring regional and local well-being in OECD countries
Paolo Veneri, OECD

10.00-10.20 Discussion

10.20-10.40 The UNDP social exclusion index for Europe and Central Asia
Mihail Peleah, UNDP

10.40-11.00 Discussion

11.00-11.20 Coffee-break

11.20-11.40 The territorial dimension of poverty and social exclusion in Europe
Patricia Melo, The James Hutton Institute

11.40-12.00 Discussion

12.00-12.20 Mapping the beyond-national-borders distribution of well-being: a multidimensional study with socio-, economic and environmental indicators
Stefano Galmarini, Joint Research Centre

12.20-12.40 Discussion

12.40-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 Session 2: Assessing well-being in European regions
(Chair: Terry Ward, Applica)

14.00-14.20 Measuring the good life in Southern Denmark
Rune Stig Mortensen, Region of Southern Denmark

14.20-14.40 Discussion

14.40-15.00 Measuring national well-being in the UK
Matthew Steel, Office for National Statistics

15.00-15.20 Discussion

15.20-15.40 The Sardinian deprivation index
Eloisa Canu, Region of Sardinia

15.40-16.00 Discussion

16.00-16.10 Closing remarks (Ralf Jacob, Head of Unit, DG EMPL European Commission)

Speakers

Eloisa Canu is an engineer working since 2008 as an expert at the Regional Policies Evaluation Division of the Region Sardinia. At present, her main responsibility is the implementation of the Regional Evaluation Plan 2014-2020. She worked previously in the department responsible for developing the Regional Landscape Plan. Her interests are evaluation theories, indicators and urban planning. A member of the Italian Evaluation association, she is the author of several papers and contributions on evaluation.

Stefano Galmarini is an atmospheric scientist and works for the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC). He has spent most of his career working on air quality, accidental hazardous releases to the atmosphere, evaluation of model quality. He has more than 160 peer reviewed publications on the above mentioned subjects and has been promoter over the years of a number of international projects in the EU and worldwide. He has applied his experience in mathematical modelling to economics when involved in a series of publications of economic character in particular on the subject of well-being and de-growth.

Patricia Melo is a senior researcher in the Social, Economic and Geographical Sciences (SEGS) group at the James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland. Her main fields of research are regional and urban economics, with a strong focus on the understanding of the causes of spatial disparities in socio-economic outcomes across individuals and regions, including labour productivity and income poverty. Her work has included the analysis of the effect of urban agglomeration economies and transport investment on regional development, the role of human capital on regional development, the importance of proximity to urban areas to rural development, rural-urban interactions and city-region economies.

Rune Stig Mortensen is head of the division of Strategy and Analysis in the Region of Southern Denmark and is responsible for the Regional Development Plan and The Good Life Index. He has formerly held positions as head of the regional Growth Forum Secretariat as well as Business development and International affairs. Formerly he was Principal Private Secretary to the minister at the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Mihail Peleah is a Programme Specialist Green Economy and Employment at UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub. Previously he worked as Human Development Programme and Research Officer at UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, Programme Officer at UNDP Moldova, Economist at EC Food Security Programme Moldova, Consultant at the World Bank, and Analyst at Social Policy Unit of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of Republic of Moldova. He has been engaged in policy-oriented research in a range of the development areas (including Sustainable Human Development, Social Inclusion, Poverty Diagnostics, Migration, Gender, Social Protection, and Public Finances) in countries of Europe and Central Asia.

Matthew Steel is head of the Quality of Life team at the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS). Working within the Well-being, Inequalities, Sustainability and Environment division, the team's responsibilities include regular updates of estimates of personal (subjective) well-being (to better understand how people feel about their lives), alongside statistical monitoring and reporting against the broader 10 domains of national well-being (to provide a snapshot of life in the UK). The team is currently working on the development of a robust measure of inequality in personal well-being and investigating the opportunities resulting from reporting against both National well-being and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Paolo Veneri is economist at the OECD's Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate since 2011. He has been working extensively on issues of regional development. He's one of the authors of the recent OECD report *How's Life in Your Region?* and he also contributed to the construction of the OECD Regional Wellbeing database and on the identification of ways to communicate regional well-being statistics for people and policy makers. He co-ordinated the OECD report *Rural-urban partnership: an integrated approach to economic development*, published in late 2013 and he's now one of the lead author of the forthcoming OECD report *Making cities work for all: data and actions for Inclusive Growth*. He also authored various academic works on urban and regional economics.

