



Mapping the beyond-national-borders distribution of well-being: a multidimensional study with socio-, economic and environmental indicators

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- Andreoni, V., & Galmarini, S. (2014). How to increase well-being in a context of degrowth. *Futures*, 55, 78–89
- **Exploratory project milestones:**
 - Review literature on well being
 - Opt for a methodology for representing well being
 - Look for proxies at regional scale level across Europe
 - Map well-being level at regional scale across EU

Well-being

Subjective

Objective

Happiness

Needs

Life satisfaction

Capitals

Multiple discrepancies

Individual communities

World regions

Europe

Africa

South America

interviews

indicators

Individual opinions

World database of happiness

World values survey

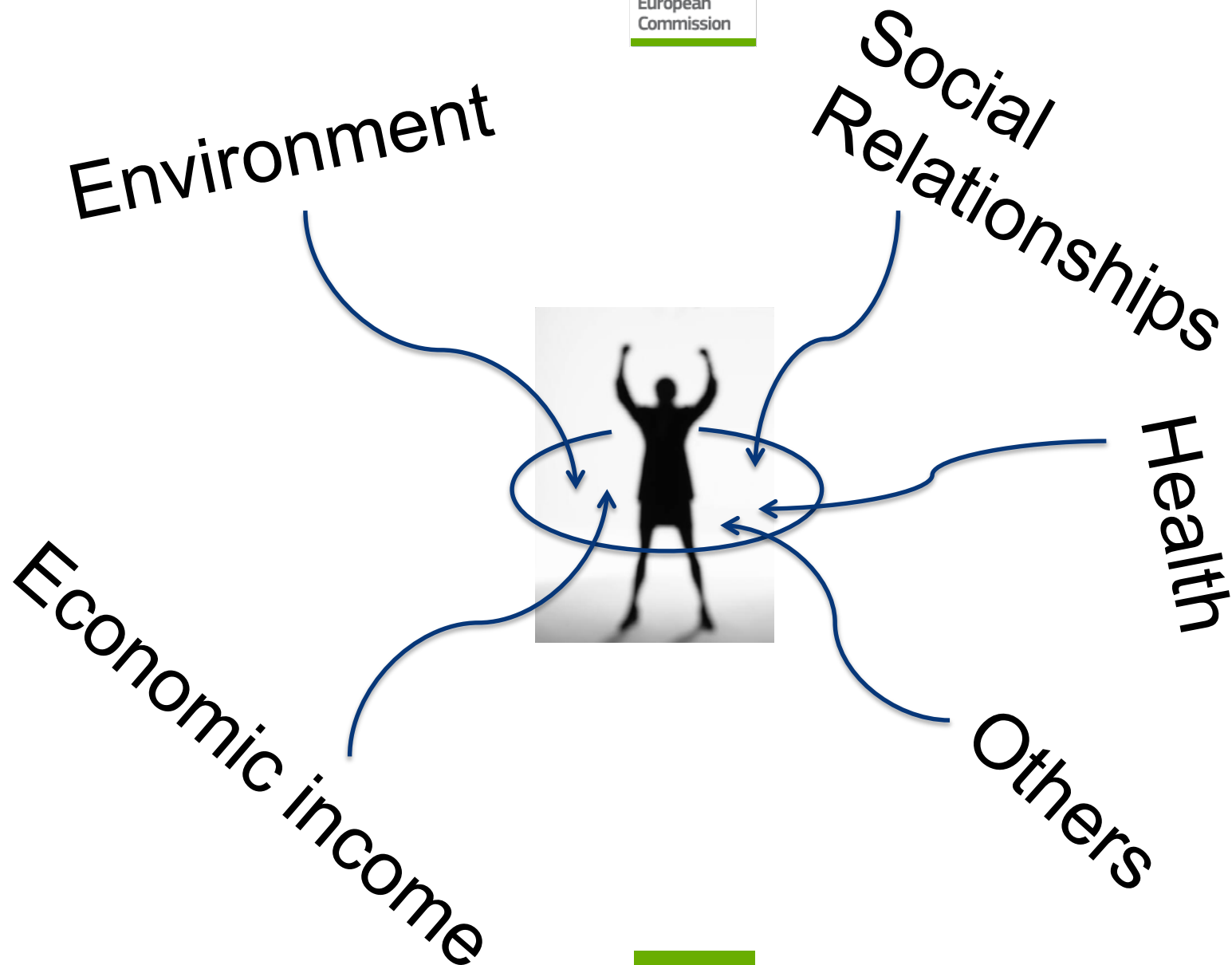
Satisfaction with life Index

Latin barometer

Afro barometer

Better Life Initiative

Individual scale



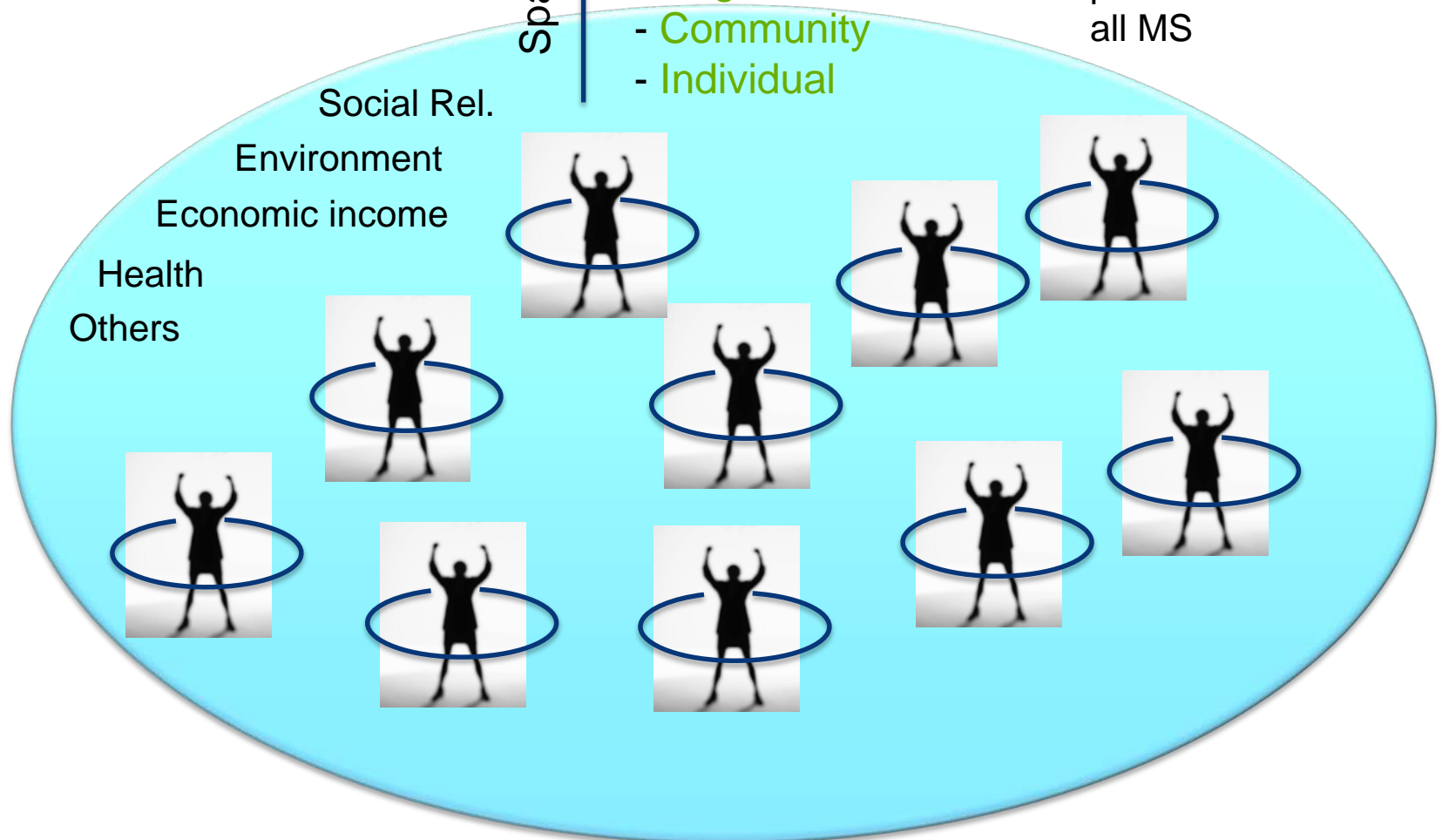
Why the regional scale?



Space Scale

- Country
- Region
- Community
- Individual

Minimum scale at which homogeneous data on proxies are available for all MS



Data

- Eurostat
- NUTS 2 for 2009
- 266 regions
- Selection criteria: only those data present for at least 95% of European regions
- Missing values substituted with national values
- 12 indicators meet the criteria
- Following Munda (2008) an even distribution of parameter has been selected for each category



Economic Dimension

- Gross Domestic Product
- Long-Term Unemployment Rate (1/)
- R&D Expenditures

Social Dimension

- Fertility Rate
- Tertiary Education
- Intentional Self-Harm

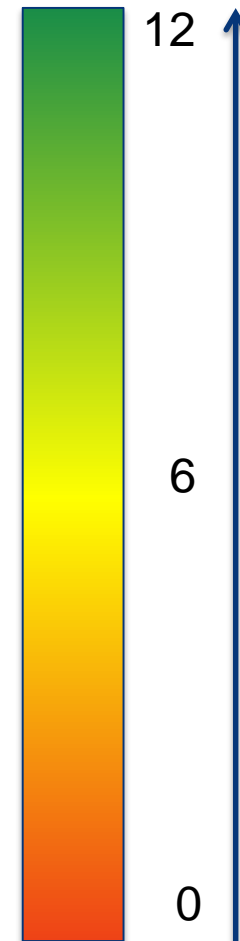
Health Dimension

- Infant Mortality Rate (1/)
- Life Expectancy
- Malignant Neoplasms (1/)

Environmental Dimension

- Generation of Municipal Waste (1/)
- Organic Crop
- Total Nights Spent by Tourist

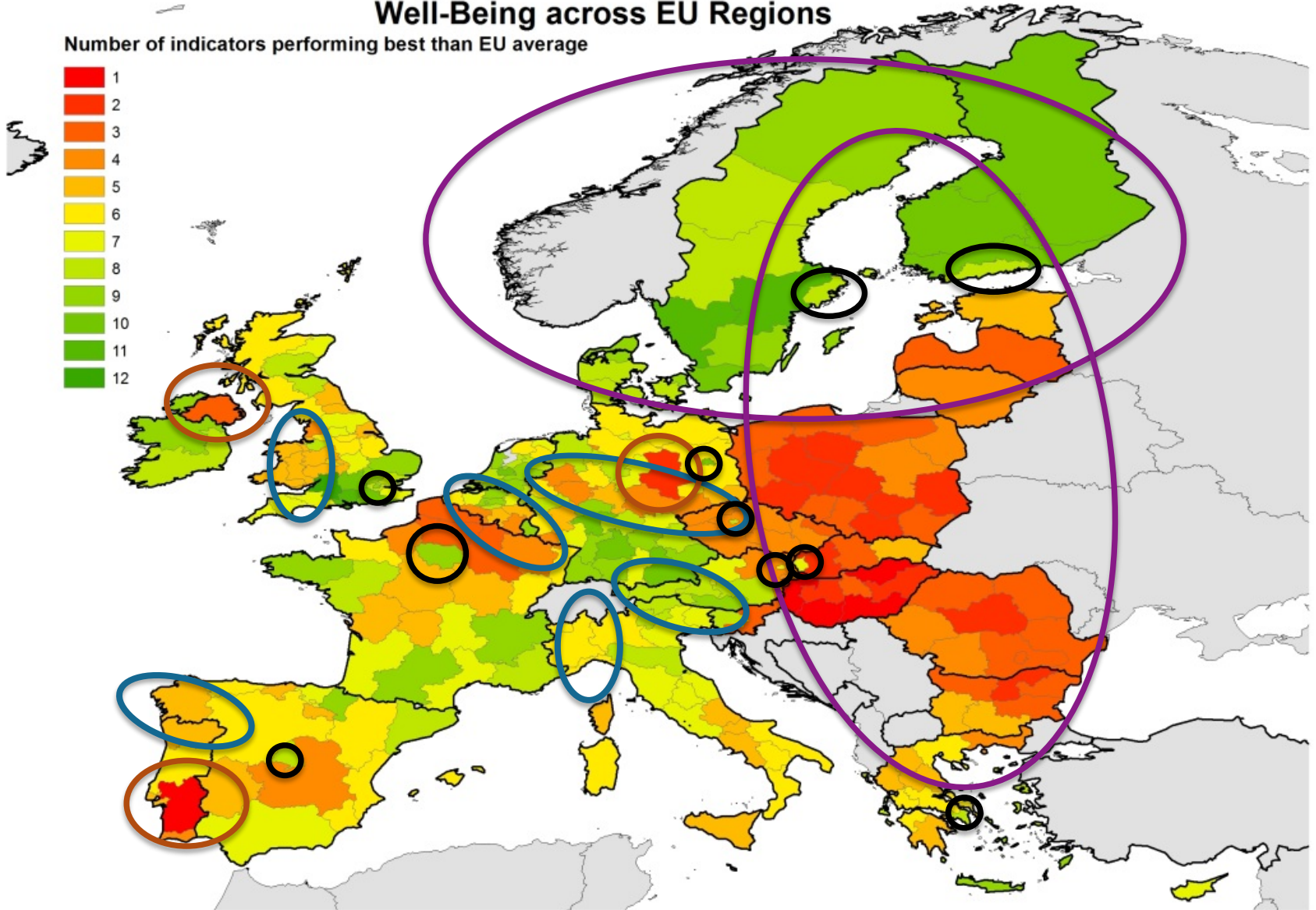
EU average



Number of indexes with values above EU average

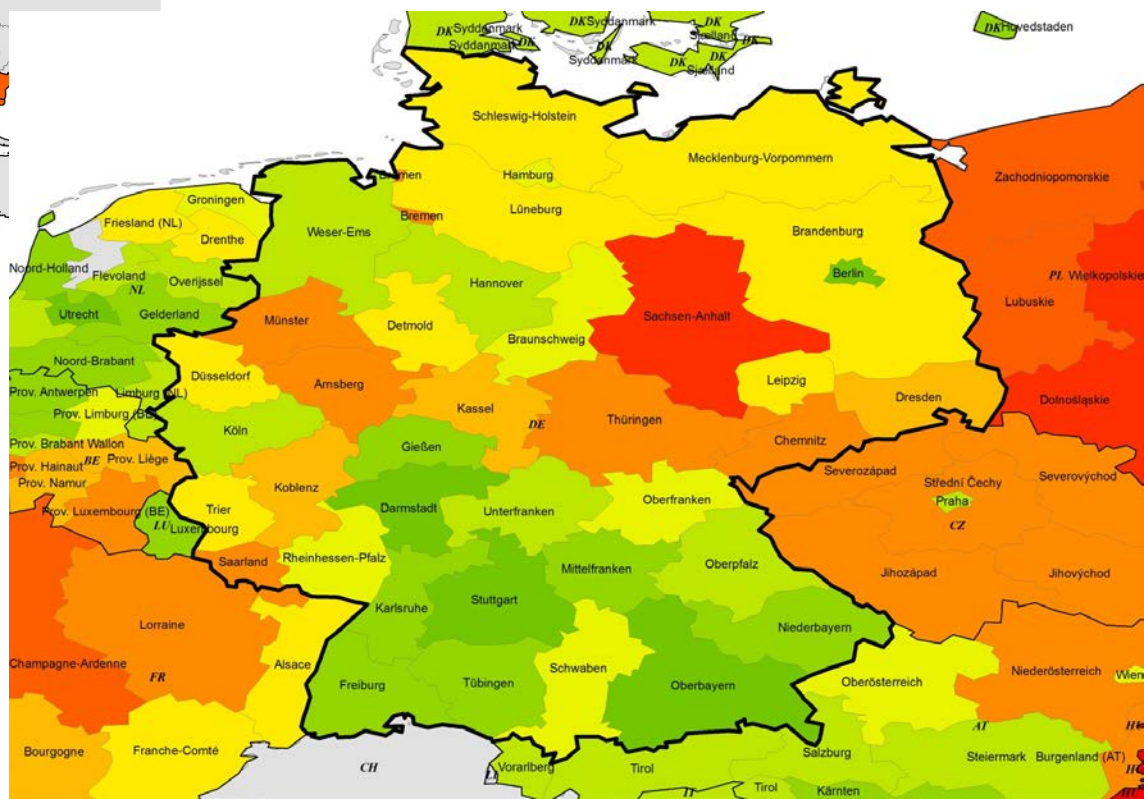
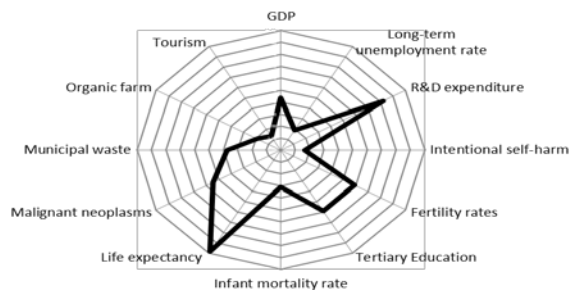
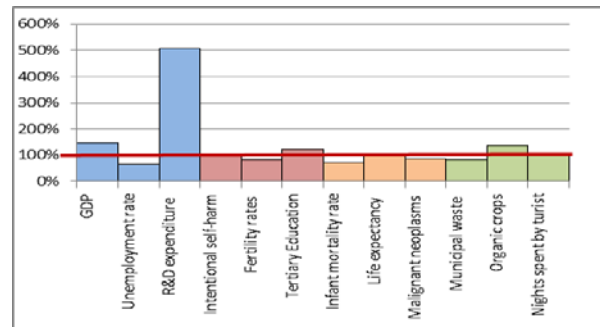
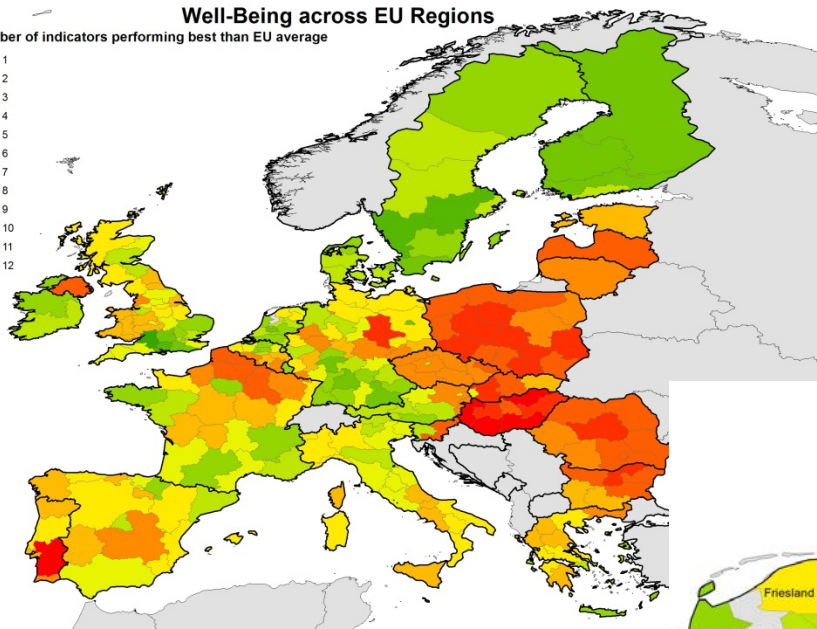
Well-Being across EU Regions

Number of indicators performing best than EU average



Well-Being across EU Regions

Number of indicators performing best than EU average



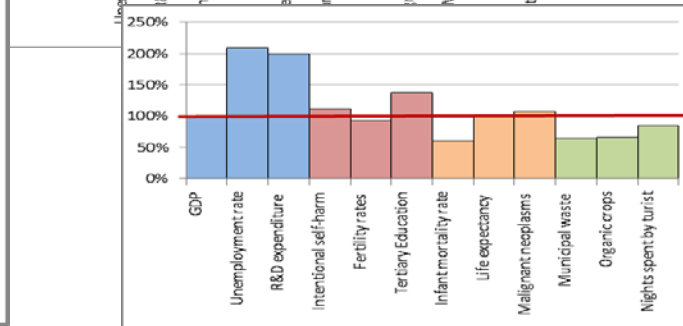
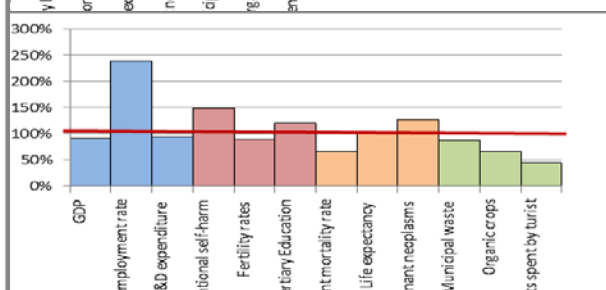
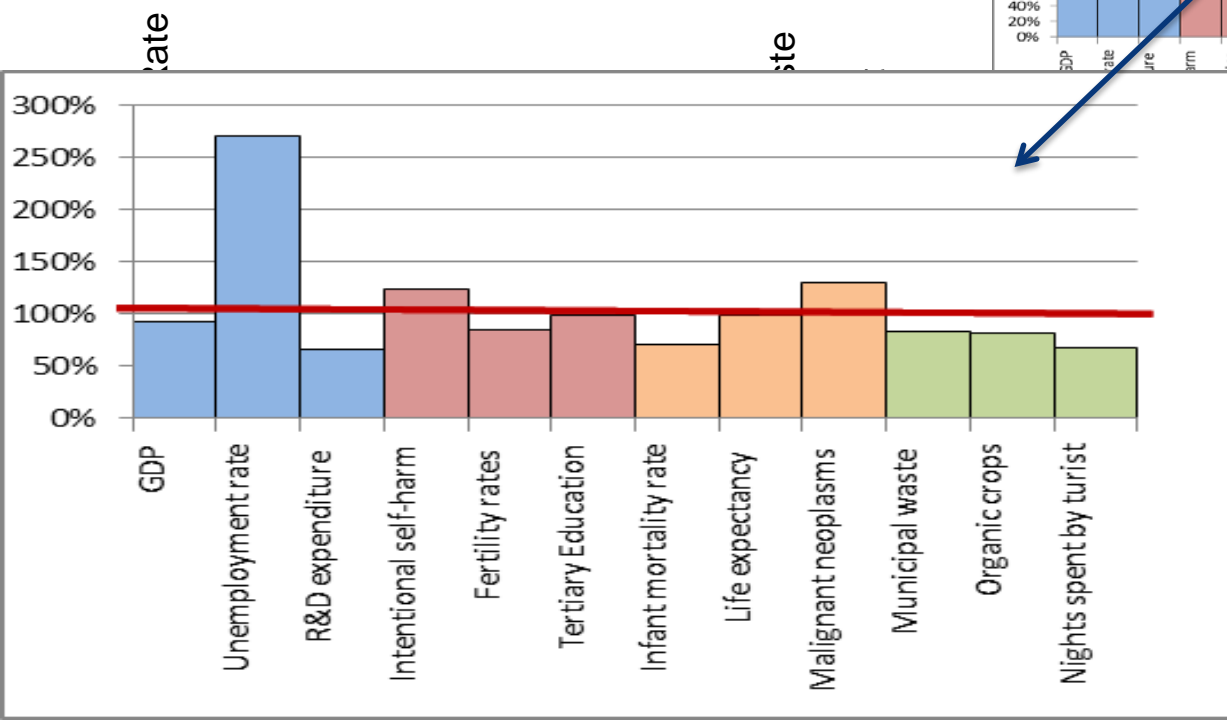
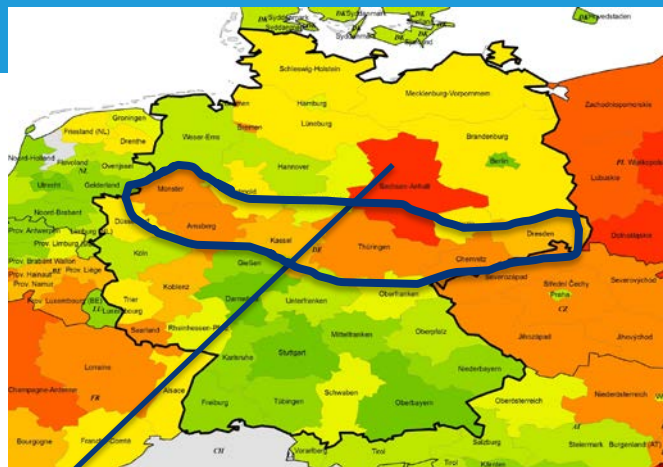
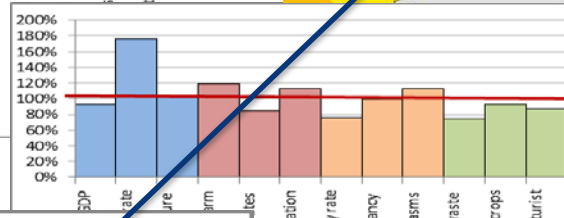
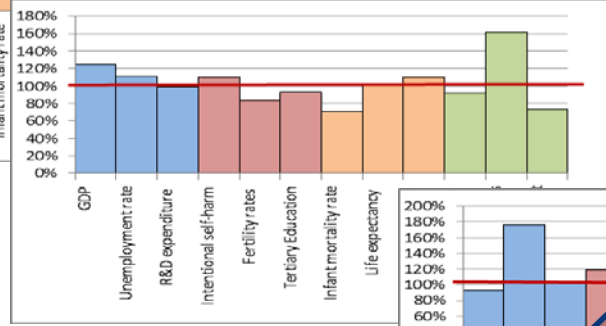
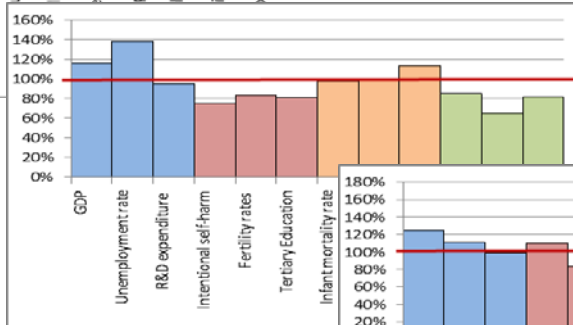
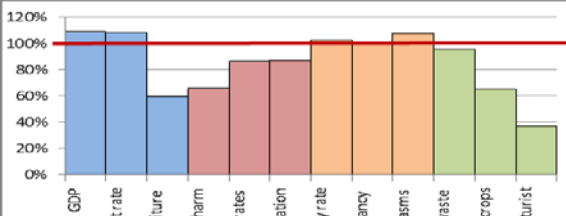


Table 1: Gini Index of well-being indicators

Indicators		Gini Index	Average for indicator category
Economic Indicators	GDP	0.26	0.38
	Long-term unemployment rate	0.36	
	R&D expenditure	0.53	
Social Indicators	Intentional self-harm	0.28	0.20
	Fertility rates	0.11	
	Tertiary education	0.20	
Health Indicators	Infant mortality rate	0.23	0.12
	Life expectancy at given exact age	0.03	
	Malignant neoplasms	0.09	
Environmental Indicators	Generation of municipal waste per capita	0.18	0.41
	Organic crops	0.51	
	Total nights spent by tourist	0.53	



Findings

- Macro features: Scandinavia, east Europe, south Europe
- Micro feature:
 - Across border high and low levels of well being
 - Hotspots
 - Metropolitan areas WB gradients with surrounding region
- The across border concept which was one of the research questions put up for exploration was confirmed by the presence of across national bands of regions sharing the same number of indicators above and below the average.
- The methodologies and regional approach allows an identification of several features that would otherwise be lost in the national panorama
- Mapping and geo-referencing !

Limitations:

- Scarcity of homogenous indicators
- Environment-related indicators are scarce
- Far from being a representative map but viable methodology when enriched with data

Potential:

- Time evolution
- Enriched with more indicators could provide a very effective screening method of living conditions

References

- International Journal of Socio Economics, 43, 3, 226-243, 2016
- <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/mapping-well-being-europe>