
AGENDA

23 January 2014, OECD Conference Centre, Room CC13
2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris, France

Website: http://www.oecd.org/regional/how-is-life-in-your-region.htm
Contact: regionalwellbeing@oecd.org

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:15 OPENING REMARKS by Mario Marcel, Deputy Director of the Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

9:15 – 10:45 SESSION 1. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT CITIZENS’ PERCEPTIONS AND CHOICES IN WELL-BEING?

Moderator: Joaquim Oliveira Martins, Head of Regional Development Policy Division, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

Insights:

Eloi Laurent, Senior Economist, OFCE/Sciences Po and Stanford University
Sarah Burds-Sharp, Director, Measure of America, Social Science Research Council
Marco Mira D’Ercole, Head of the Household Statistics and Progress Measurement Division, Statistics Directorate, OECD

Questions for floor discussion:
Making better policies for better lives starts with understanding what matter to people. What do people perceive and value about where they live and work? How do they behave when they are not satisfied with one or more dimensions of well-being in their region? How do inequalities in the accessibility to services matter in shaping citizens’ choices and the resilience of different places?

Quality of life is shaped by a multitude of material and non-material dimensions that interact with each other. How can the OECD conceptual framework for regional and local well-being take into account the coherence among the different dimensions and reflect the impact that integrated policies at local level can have on national prosperity and well-being?

The well-being framework put forward by the OECD suggests focusing on results and outcomes rather than drivers and inputs. What are the benefits and limitations of using outcomes (results) as measures of well-being in different regions? How can the different outcomes and dynamics of places be reflected and used for policy design?

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 SESSION 2. HOW TO MEASURE WELL-BEING WHERE PEOPLE LIVE?

Moderator: Duarte Rodrigues, Chair of OECD Working Party on Territorial Indicators (WPTI)

Insights:

Dominique Bonnans, Counsellor, Head of the Territorial Observatory, Datar, France
Norberto Roque, Managing Director of SNIEG Coordination in Mexico’s National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics

Vicente Royuela, Professor, University of Barcelona, Spain

Questions for floor discussion:

Better understanding citizens’ well-being where they live requires solid and tailored measurement tools. While many OECD countries are pursuing measurement efforts at regional and local level, a gap often remains between the stated objective (e.g. measuring the right things at the right scale, connecting local and national outcomes, observing different territories, etc.) and the limits of the tools available (e.g. constraints in data availability, limited information at sub-national level from household surveys, risk of misinterpreting causality, etc.). What can the OECD conceptual framework of measuring regional and local well-being offer in this regard to scale up countries’ capacity to produce geospatial statistics? What indicators and methods are most likely to be developed in the coming years for different typologies of regions (e.g. administrative, functional, cities, etc.)?

Evidence shows that inequalities are on the rise not only across regions but also within regions in many countries. The OECD has recently produced comparable estimates of regional income distribution and poverty rates in 28 countries. What indications can these measures of intra- and inter-regional inequalities provide to policy makers? For which dimensions and indicators beyond income is it possible to develop inequalities measures within regions?

A key feature of well-being metrics is that they often encompass both objective outcomes and subjective appraisal. However, the availability of comparable subjective measures at sub-national level is rather limited. What sources and which methods could be used to overcome such limitations?

The aim of developing metrics of well-being in regions and cities is to help make informed choices and improve policy results. What are the most effective ways to communicate the outcomes and the progress of different regions (e.g. composite index, headlines indicators, changes in the outcomes of regions, etc.) to increase the usefulness and use of the developed indicators?

12:30 – 14:00 Buffet lunch for participants (Marshall room)

14:00 – 14:15 How to communicate well-being outcomes? First special preview of the OECD “How’s Life in Your Region?” data visualisation tool

14:15 – 16:00 SESSION 3. HOW TO USE REGIONAL WELL-BEING MEASURES TO IMPROVE REGIONAL POLICIES? INSIGHTS FROM OECD CASE STUDY REGIONS

Moderator: Soo-Jin Kim, Policy Analyst, Regional Development Policy Division, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

Roundtable with regions participating in the project:

Helen Wilding, Wellbeing for Life Board Development Lead, Newcastle, United Kingdom

Federica Busillo, Head of Unit, Department for Development and Economic Cohesion, Ministry of Economic Development, Italy

Rune Stig Mortensen, Head of the Department of Strategy and Analysis, Region of Southern Denmark
Paola Gadsden de la Peza, Undersecretary of Planning, State of Morelos, Mexico

Philip McCann, Professor, University of Groningen and Northern Netherlands Research Consortium

Solomon Greene, Senior Advisor, Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States

Rapporteur/Discussant: Veronica Gaffey, Head of Evaluation Unit, DG for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Questions for floor discussion:

Regions and cities across OECD countries have different ways of measuring well-being and using it to assess policy results. What can policy makers learn from each other’s experience in the practical use of well-being measures for designing, monitoring, evaluating and reforming territorial policies? What are the building blocks to develop well-being measures that are relevant to policy making (e.g. identify baselines and expected results)?

Buy-in from a wide diversity of stakeholders determines the success of a regional well-being policy. What role do the various stakeholders (e.g. national, regional and local governments; private sector; academia, statistical offices, civil society and non-profit sector) play in establishing and implementing the well-being agenda? What are the available tools to align the objectives of the different stakeholders, improve the integration of policies and achieve effective governance? What are the key elements to engage citizens from the design to the implementation of a regional well-being agenda (e.g. consultation process, communication on results and progress, etc.)?

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 – 17:45 SESSION 4. WELL-BEING IN CITIES: TOWARDS A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE

Moderator: William Tompson, Head of Urban Programme, Regional Development Policy Division, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

Insights:

Eugenie Birch, Nussdorf Chair of Urban Research and Education, University of Pennsylvania

Joan Trullén, Vice-President, Area Metropolitana de Barcelona

Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Advisor to the Secretary-General and Co-ordinator of the OECD Inclusive Growth Initiative, OECD Secretariat

Questions for floor discussion:

Measuring and promoting well-being in cities is likely to shape future growth prospects. Cities are home to about two-thirds of OECD population and engines for job creation, innovation and growth. Yet, they also concentrate poverty and unemployment, infrastructure bottlenecks, and difficulties in the provision of key services. While productivity, wages and the availability of important amenities generally increase with city size, so do pollution, housing prices, congestion, inequality and crime. Urban policy can therefore both bolster and undermine well-being. How can national, regional and local governments work together to make cities more inclusive and places of well-being? What are the experiences of developing integrated policies to ensure that growth enhancement in cities is also inclusive?
The OECD Metropolitan Database, which includes indicators on the 275 OECD functional urban areas with 500,000 people or more, offers a basis to help understanding the implication of different policies in cities of different sizes. However, data are still lacking for many key social and income variables at city level. What are the most promising methods to expand the OECD Metropolitan Database to encompass measures of inequalities, equitable access to key public services and labour-market opportunities?

17:45 – 18:00  **WRAP-UP & NEXT STEPS** by **Monica Brezzi**, Head of Regional Statistics and Analysis Unit, Regional Development Policy Division, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

18:00 – 19:00  **Cocktail (Marshall room)**