

Abstract: Measuring quality of life in regions and urban areas

Lewis Dijkstra will present the EU strategy to highlight the urban and regional dimension of GDP and beyond. This strategy is based on strong evidence that the sub-national dimension of well-being is often more relevant than the national level. It shows that a higher spatial resolution can help to bridge the credibility gap identified by the Stiglitz report. The EU uses three different spatial angles to assess progress at the subnational level: regional, by type of region and by degree of urbanisation. The goal is to ensure that more sub-national indicators of progress are collected and published by statistical offices and are used by policy makers.

The second part of this presentation will focus on the on-going work with the Joint Research centre covering a number of dimensions of quality of life. This work combines objective indicators and perception indicators. The perception based indicators are seen as an important complement to the objective indicators. This approach has been applied to two first dimensions: poverty and health. The presentation will explain the indicators selected and the ones dropped and show the final index for each dimension.