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**ENPI
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CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN


wealth Promoting
Local Sustainable
Economic Development

The role of civil society in Well-being measurements

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Our research activities

Two main focus:

- Legitimacy, decision making process and the role of civil society and stakeholders engagement
- Regionalism, localism and well being indicators

Our research outputs

- The role of civil society and regionalism for progress in well-being measurement projects – insights from international case studies (with A. Itay, T. Rondinella, E. Segre, D. Zola)
- Stakeholders Consultation in Well-being Assessment: Theoretical Framework and Experiences at Local Level from Italy and Israel (with T. Rondinella)

Why a focus on these topics?

- **Role of civil** society to grant legitimacy to wellbeing indicators
- **Public consultation and engagement** are gaining attention as core principles of 'Beyond GDP' initiatives. This is because a set of statistical indicators able to take into account all the aspects related to the idea of a country's progress should, in the first place, embody and represent an idea of progress that is widely shared.
- Recent evidence suggests that **regional** work can play a distinctive and essential role in well-being assessment. A substantial amount of experience gained in the last few years has shown that processes taking place at the regional level are extremely effective.



1. Legitimacy, decision-making processes and the role of civil society

- Sets of indicators aim at measuring well-being and the progress of societies with a shared vision.
- The validity of these sets depend on their relevance: indicators reflect issues that people consider important and that are good measures of these issues.
- Civil society may provide fundamental contributions – in terms of stimulating social participation, bottom-up approaches, activation of resources, sharing of information, understanding and knowledge – to legitimize progress and social wellbeing perspectives and to define indicators suitable to measure them.



2. Public consultation and engagement

- Involving all relevant stakeholders (those who the indicators represent and those who will use or learn from them) in the selection process is a key element to achieve a relevant set
- Stakeholder engagement practices in the selection of well-being statistics are a relatively new area to explore
- What aspects have to be considered in stakeholders engagement practices?
- What can we observe from local experiences?



3. Case studies

- Examination on how some local institutions carried out the consultation processes.
- Review of four relevant case studies at the subnational level in Italy and Israel.
- Israel's Progress Index ("Erech")
- New indicators of well-being - Province of Rome
- SardegnaBenessere
- The regional well-being indicators initiative in Israel



The questionnaire

Duration

Who was engaged?

How many people did you engage?

How many organizations did you engage?

How have they been selected? (eg. self-selection, chosen by organizers, random sample, open call, partners of pre-existring project, etc...)

Who was engaged in priorities' definition

in the definition of the framework

in the indicators' selection

in the dissemination of results

Which tools were used (workshops, roundtables, conferences, surveys, etc...)

How did the different tools were used

Strengths /weaknesses of the different tools



Results

- Weaknesses and strengths of the different practices
- The structure of the population influences the strategies set up by local initiatives.
- A more homogenous context -> more benefit from the simple consultation; More complex societies need a deeper involvement of minorities to be able to provide a community view of well-being.
- Initiatives promoted by civil society may be seen as tools to criticize the government or local administration, if the initiative is promoted by a public authority people may not trust it.
- Local level are the best place to engage citizens in an open debate and find solutions to improve service delivery, and in turn to increase social capital and trust in institutions.



Thank you!!!

