

Hybrid Version of Well-Being – Results for Selected European Countries

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There are two main problems of well-being theory that the approaches to well-being such as hedonism, preference fulfillment theory, and the objective list theories have to deal with. The first one concerns maintaining agent's autonomy and the second breaking the vicious circle of personal adaptation to poor living conditions. While hedonism and preference fulfillment theory are able to effectively tackle the autonomy problem, they cannot overcome the problem of personal adaptation. In contrast, the objective list theories can solve the adaptation problem but encounters difficulties as far as the agent's autonomy is concerned.

The aim of this paper is to investigate the possibility of building the hybrid version of well-being, and making an attempt of its operationalization. We believe that it could be the step forward into adequately solving both autonomy and adaptation problems. The hybrid version of well-being (HWB for short) is some kind of trade-off between subjective and objective well-being. In order to calculate HWB index firstly we will need to find some measure of subjective and objective well-being. In order to obtain one, objective and aggregated assessment of respondents' quality of life or well-being (Q) we referred to fuzzy sets theory proposed by Zadeha (1965), which is typically applied to evaluate people's degree of poverty risk. Without going into mathematical details of fuzzy sets theory it is worth noting that the theory was successfully applied to form a membership function of poverty in both monetary and non-monetary approaches. Among those who used this strategy to poverty analysis were Cerioli, Zani (1990), Cheli (1995), Betti, Cheli, Lemmi, Verma (2005), and in Poland: Panek (2011), Ulman, Soltes (2015). Because poverty can be treated as a low level of well-being, it is possible to build a membership function to the sphere of well-being. The subjective well-being we will take directly from dataset described below. We are going to make appropriate calculations for several selected European countries.

Our findings will be based on empirical analysis of datasets from European Quality of Life Survey Integrated Data File, 2003-2012. The depositor of the data is The European

Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. The data file contained 484 variables collected for 34 countries in three waves. The fourth wave dataset is prepared to publication now. The microdata will be made available to the public in 2018.

The initial results obtained for Poland indicated the possibility of construction one aggregated measure of well-being (on the base of six areas of objective well-being - life, health, education, emotions, relationships, and income) and comparison of these results with the subjective evaluation of happiness which allows for the construction of hybrid version of well-being. Moreover, it is interesting how large is the diversity between subjective and objective assessment of well-being generally and in each mentioned above area.