MEASURING WELL-BEING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

“Increasing the capacities of local administrators and officials in defining policies consistent with the Sustainable Human Development Approach”
(UmanamENTE)

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Aims

- to measure well-being “beyond the GDP” at a city level
- to “complete” GDP with statistics analysing the other economic, social and environmental aspects upon which the well-being of citizens critically depends;
- to help shape local policies that are in keeping with the human development approach.
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE:

1. Multidimensional vision of development
2. Shared definition of the quality of development

- consultation process with Arezzo’s local government and its various internal departments;
- identification of the dimensions considered relevant for monitoring the evolution of well-being in Arezzo.
THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE ON HOW TO MEASURE WELL-BEING

- The Human Development Index
- The contribution of the OECD
- Recommendations of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission
- European Commission programs
- National initiatives

- The QUARS index *Sbilanciamoci*! Campaign
  (Qualità Regionale dello Sviluppo – Quality of Regional Development).
  It is an indicator that attempts to identify and connect the components of
development quality based on environmental sustainability, promotion
of rights and quality of life.

- Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW)
DIMENSIONS:

- **Environment**: assessment of the environmental impact of various forms of production, distribution and consumption; good practices adopted to mitigate the negative impact of human activities on the environment;
- **Economy and Labour**: working and economic conditions;
- **Health**: quality, efficiency and proximity of services, prevention, general health status of the population;
- **Rights and Citizenship**: social inclusion of youth, the elderly, underprivileged individuals and immigrants;
- **Education and Culture**: participation in the school system, quality of services, educational levels of the population, cultural “demand and supply”;
- **Participation**: political and social engagement of citizens;
- **Gender equity**: the absence of gender-based obstacles limiting people’s ability to take part in economic, political and social life.
Measuring well-being in Arezzo: research methodology

- Focus: city of Arezzo
- Time series 1999-2009
- Development of a theoretical framework
- Matching
- Identified 45 indicators/variables, for a total of more than 60 elementary indicators;
- 1999 was selected as our base year;
- Comparable index values from our raw data values, the baseline values of each of the 45 headliners has been set at 100;
Measuring well-being in Arezzo: research methodology

- Equal treatment of all indicators at the current time;
- Weighting and aggregation of the variables into a summary measure (Canadian Index of Well-being)
- Construction of an index for each of the single well-being dimensions.
- Summary index for the quality of the city’s overall development.
- Positive percentage changes for each one indicate some improvement in wellbeing while negative percentage changes indicate some deterioration.
Critical issues:

- lack of certain data at the city-level (or of their availability in time series) limited the range of options, and in some cases made it necessary to use proxy variables.

Interviews to 18 citizens with a strong knowledge of the territory.
The composite indicators of well-being
Thank you!
http://www.umanam-ente.org/