

Personal and Social Well-being

Abstract:

An explicit aim of the European Union is to evaluate the success of European countries at promoting the well-being of their citizens. This requires systematic and detailed national well-being accounts for all EU countries. These will allow exploration of different political and social policies and contexts on the levels of well-being experience by citizens. Crucially, this relies on repeated measurements of the different facets of well-being. The proposal therefore makes the case for repeating, in Round 6 of the ESS, the Well-being Module first implemented in Round 3. Growing policy interest in the measurement of well-being in general, and specifically in the findings from the previous module, indicates that there is an enthusiastic audience for the repeat measures which this would provide. We propose to retain many of the key features of the module's design, including the emphasis on both personal and social well-being, while strengthening its conceptual underpinning by tying it to the policy-relevant dynamic model of well-being. We will include new items to improve measurement of some existing concepts, incorporate a new validated scale of positive well-being, and include questions to explore developments in the evidence base on well-being promoting behaviours.

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