# HOW'S LIFE IN YOUR REGION?

## Measuring local & regional well-being for policymaking

Odense, Denmark – 9 October 2013

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

# The ultimate goal of "better policies" is to support "better lives", which have different dimensions…
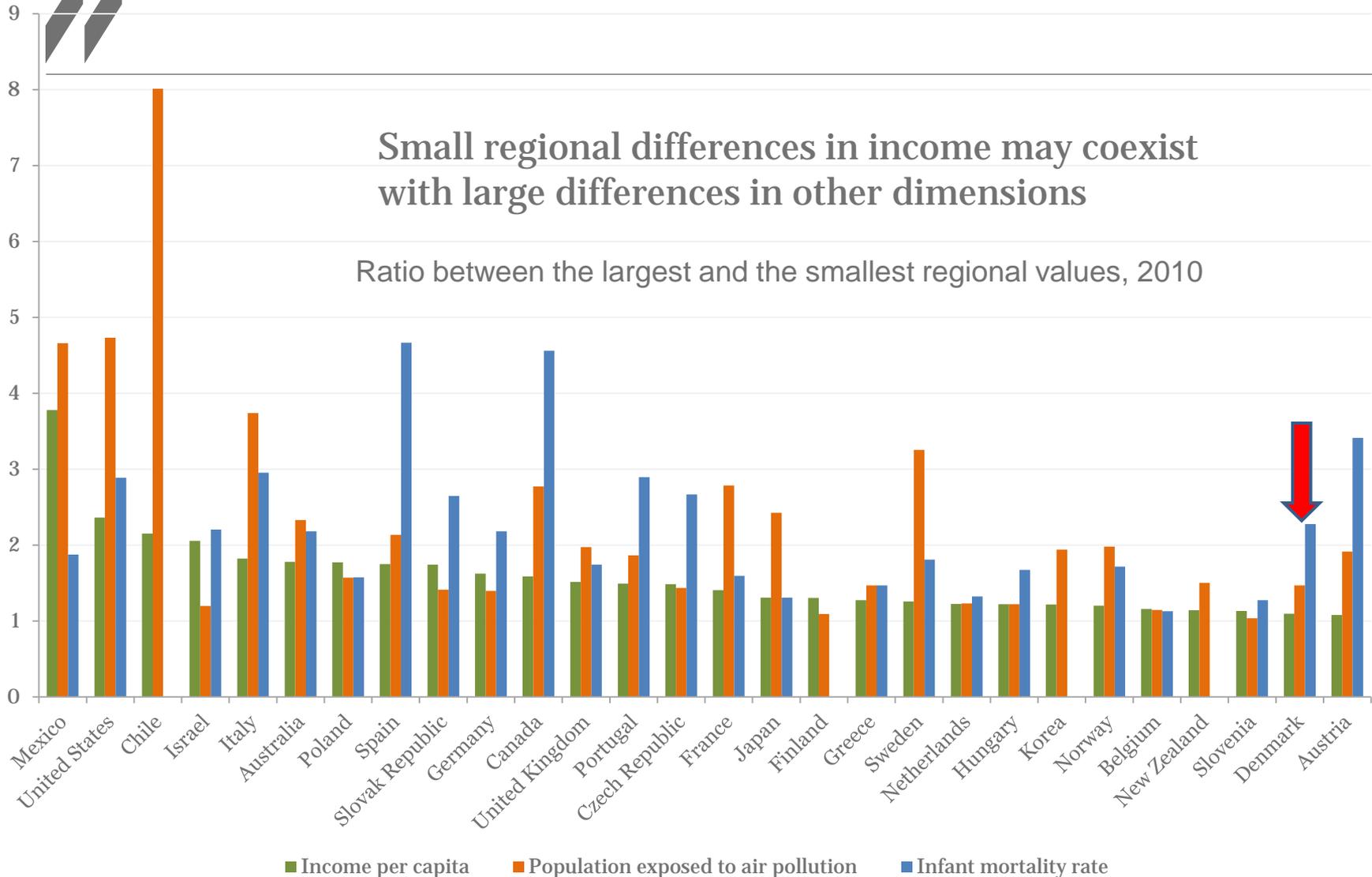


www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org

# …which are lived in a different way in different places

**Small regional differences in income may coexist with large differences in other dimensions**

Ratio between the largest and the smallest regional values, 2010



Legend: Income per capita · Population exposed to air pollution · Infant mortality rate

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# What people experience in their own daily lives determines their support for public policy

Per cent of citizens who trust other people in their city and who think their city government spends its resources well, by city size
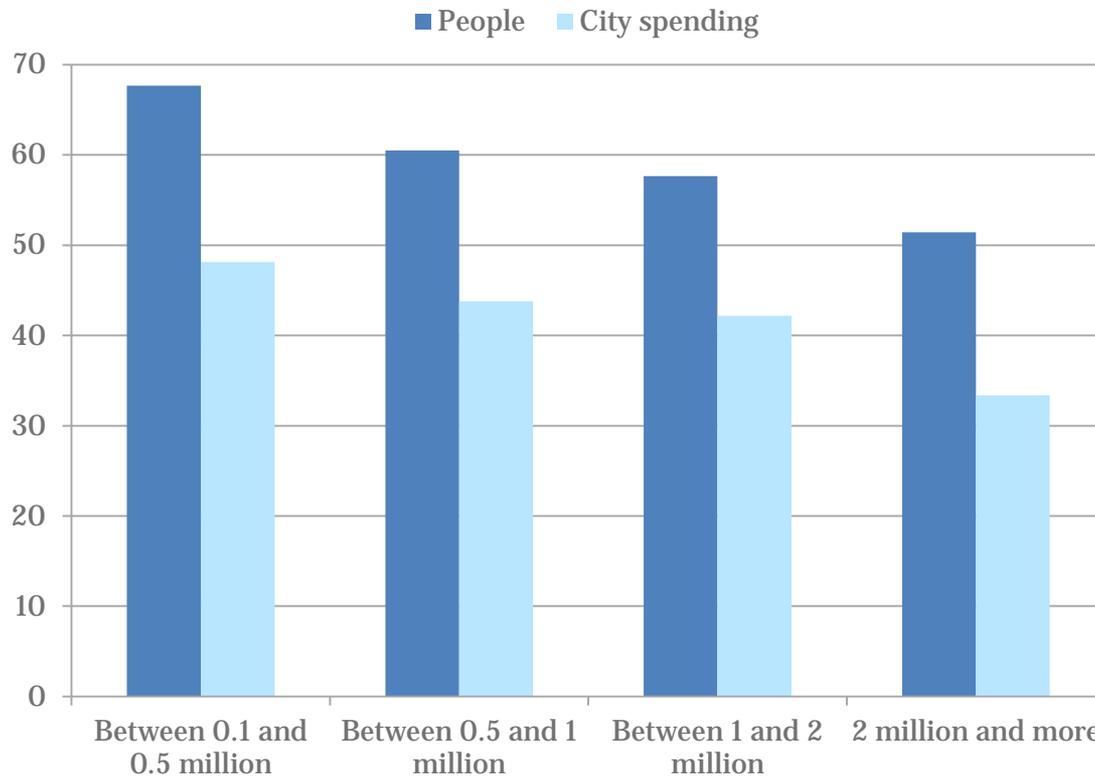


Source: OECD calculations based on Eurostat's Urban Audit – Perception Survey 2009
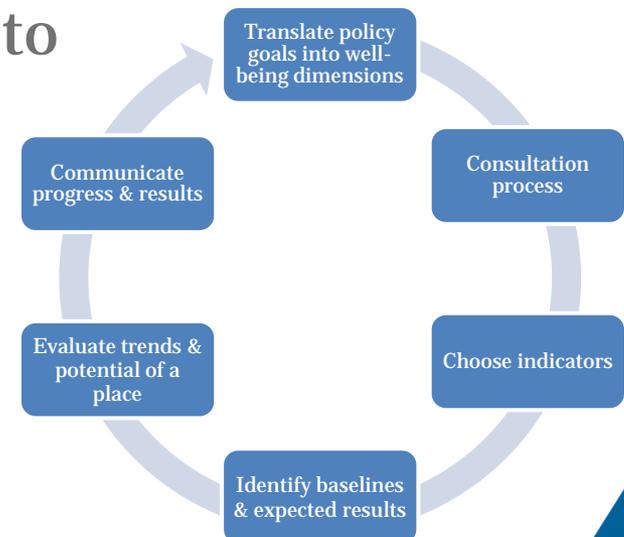
# Objective of the OECD project "How's Life in Your Region?"

**Reality          Indicators**

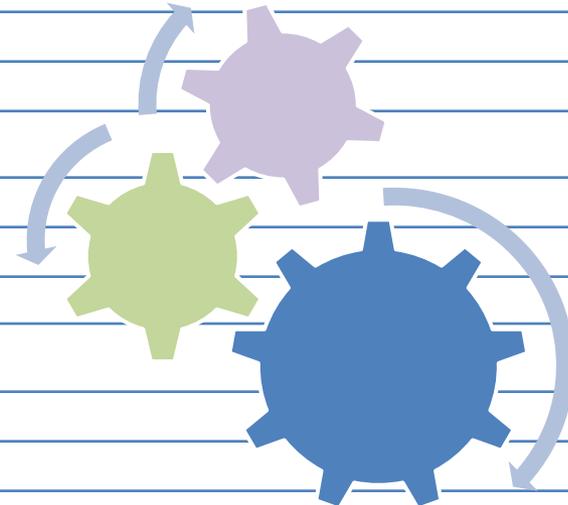1. Measuring the "right" things at the most relevant geographic scale *(offering a common framework of indicators)*



2. Helping citizens and policymakers to assess the results of policies & monitor progress *(using indicators in policymaking)*
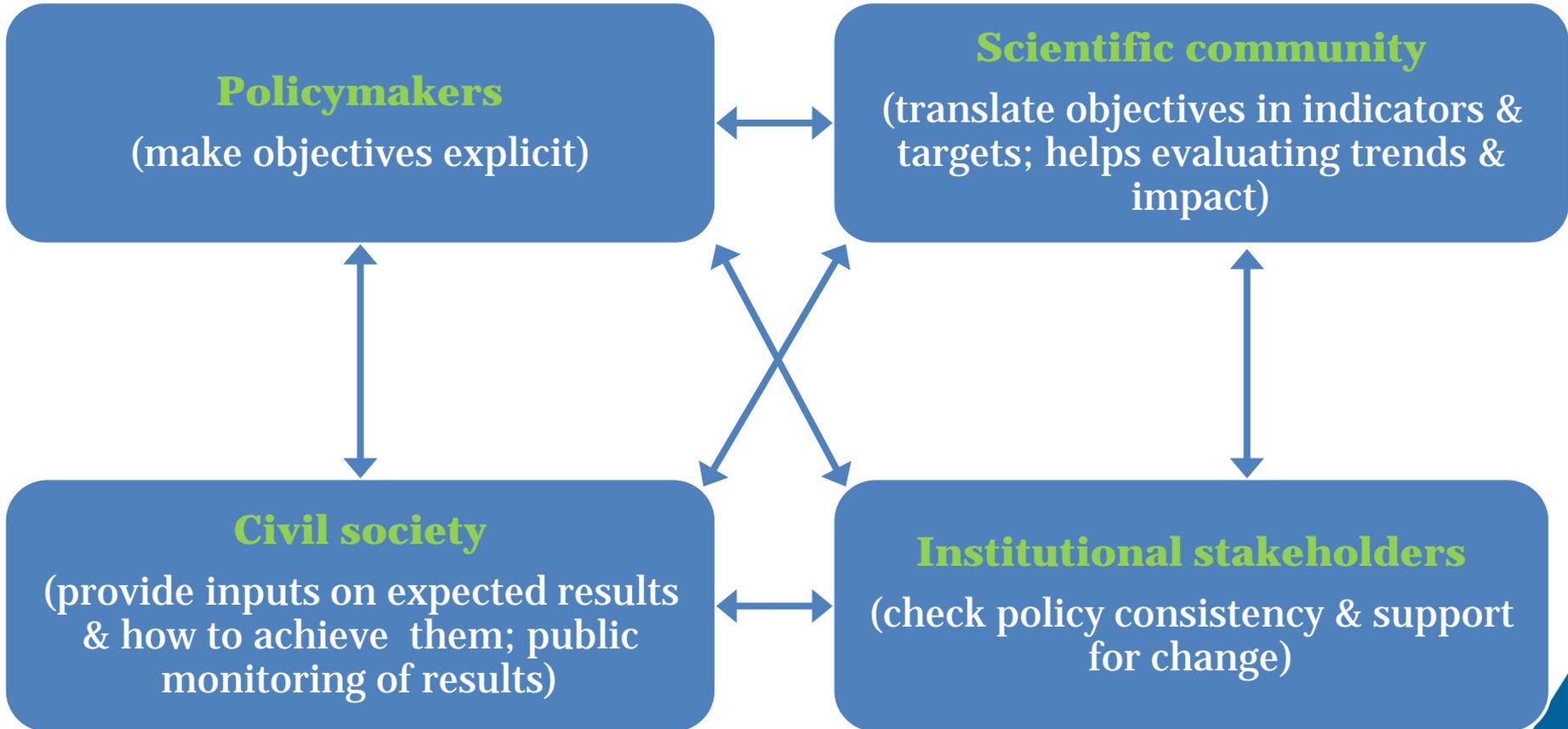


Translate policy goals into well-being dimensions

Consultation process

Choose indicators

Identify baselines & expected results

Evaluate trends & potential of a place

Communicate progress & results

# A multi-dimensional framework of indicators…

| | |
|---|---|
| **Income** | - Regional household disposable income (Regional Database) |
| | - Mean & median disposable income |
| | - Gini (within regions) |
| | - Relative poverty (2 thresholds: 50% and 60% of national median income) |
| | - Headcount ratio before and after taxes and transfers (STD) |
| **Jobs** | - Unemployment (long-term and youth unemployment) |
| | - Part-time employment |
| | - Women participation rate |
| **Education** | - Educational attainments (% of labour force with at least secondary education) |
| | - PISA (not all OECD countries) |
| **Health** | - Life expectancy |
| | - Infant mortality rate |
| **Environment** | - Air quality (exposure to PM10) |
| | - Loss of forest and vegetation |
| **Security** | - Murder rate |
| | - Car theft rate |
| **Accessibility to services** | - Access to green spaces |
| | - Broadband connection |
| | - Physicians per capita |

# … to be designed & used by different actors in continuous collaboration over time

**Policymakers**
(make objectives explicit)

**Scientific community**
(translate objectives in indicators & targets; helps evaluating trends & impact)

**Civil society**
(provide inputs on expected results & how to achieve them; public monitoring of results)

**Institutional stakeholders**
(check policy consistency & support for change)

# Case studies in OECD regions
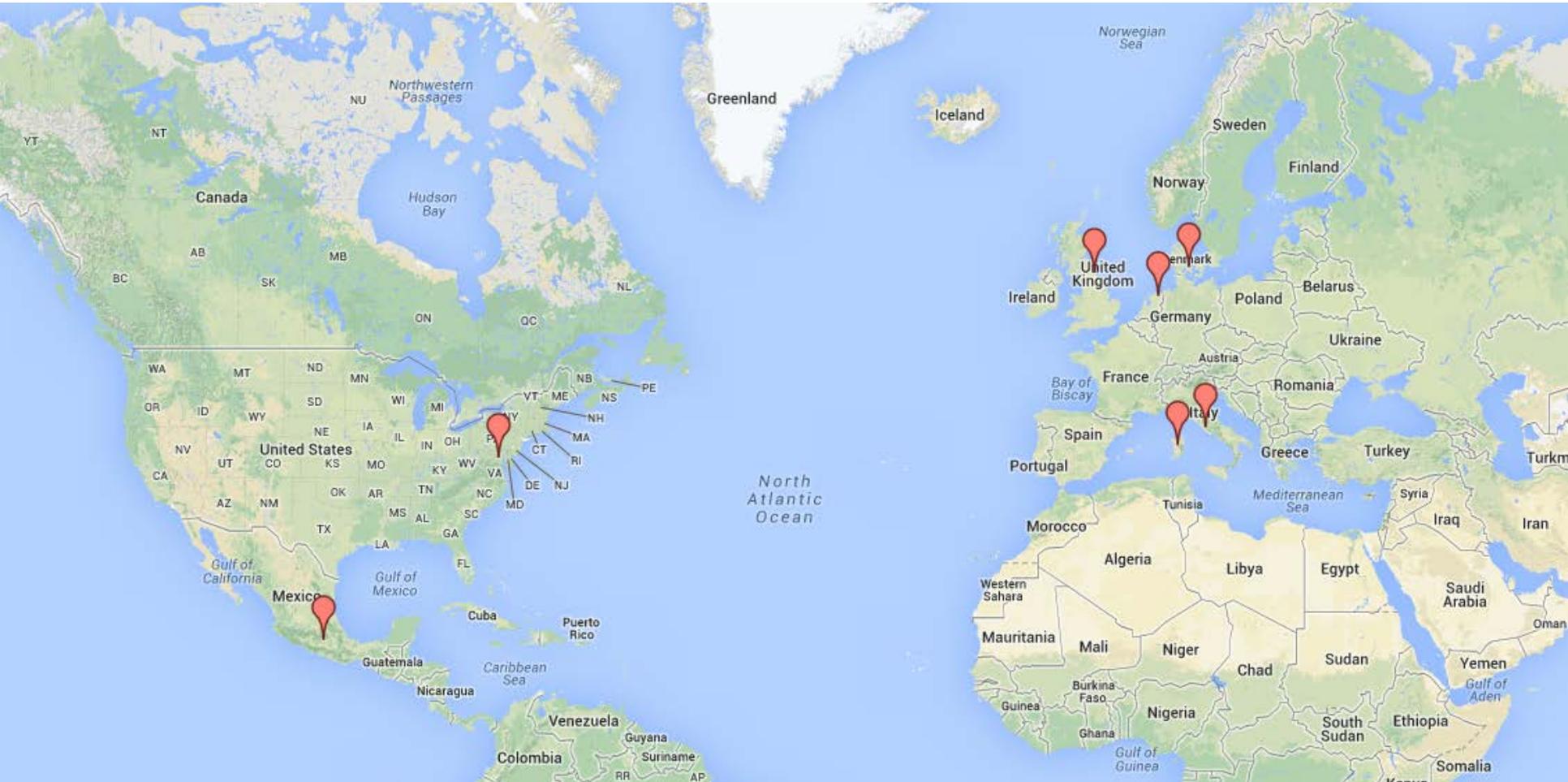
# City of Newcastle (UK)

**Measures and objectives:**

•Based on WHO concept of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being

•Using the Barton & Grant model (2010): global ecosystem, natural environment, built environment, activities

•Indices of Multiple Deprivation

•Focus on the link between low income and poor outcomes (e.g. health & life expectancy) rather than improving the quality of service provision

**Opportunities & challenges for use in policymaking:**

•Strong leadership by the Newcastle City Council & commitment around the "Well-being for Life Strategy" (2013-2016) led by the Well-being for Life Board

•Good collaboration with the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and potential complementarities with the "Measures of National Well-being wheel"

•Uncertainties from recent institutional reform with the creation of a new Combined Authority responsible for transport, skills and economic development starting from April 2014. The effectiveness of new governance tools such as the City Deals and Local Enterprise Partnerships remains to be seen.

## Where does Newcastle upon Tyne stand compared to their its neighbours?



Most deprived — Least deprived
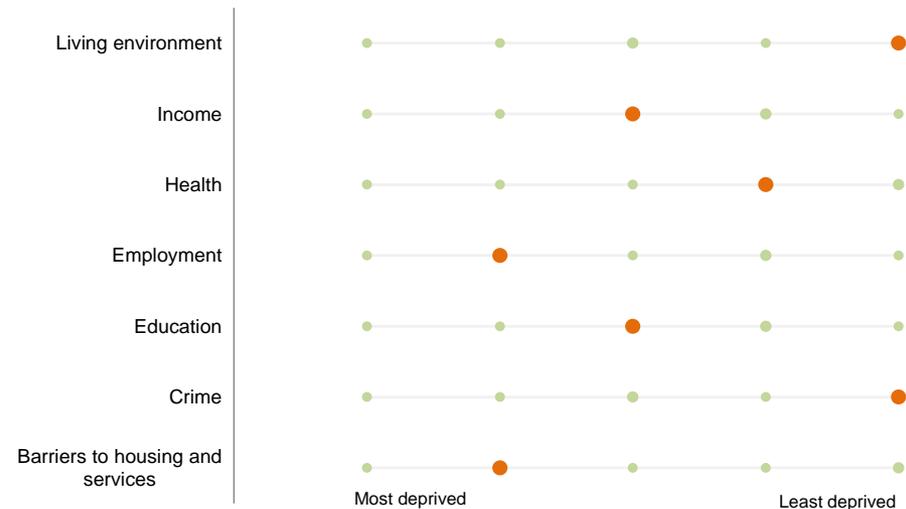
**Note:** The Local Authority District (LAD) of Newcastle upon Tyne is represented by the orange dot; green dots represent the four contiguous LADs (Gateshead, North Tyneside, Northumberland, and South Tyneside).
**Source:** The English Indices of Deprivation 2010: Local Authority District Domain Summaries.
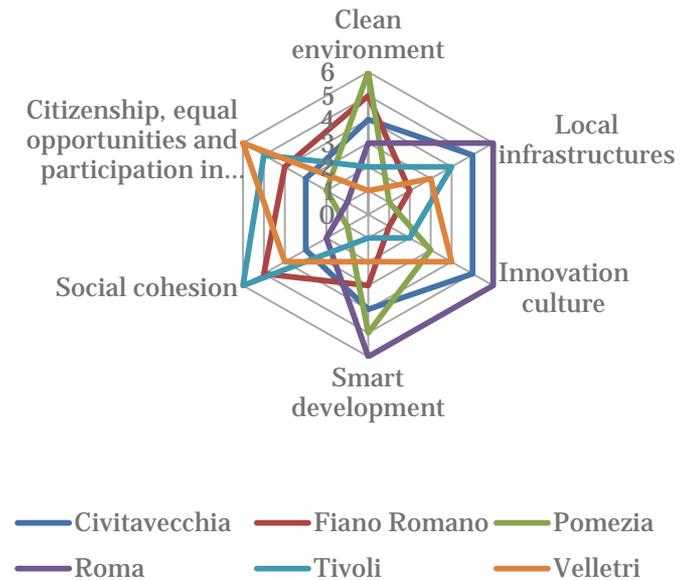
# Province of Rome (Italy)

**Measures and objectives:**

•Multi-dimensional index relying on 6 main axes: clean environment; local infrastructure; smart development; social cohesion; innovation culture; citizenship, equal opportunities an participation in public life

•Dynamic approach: no comparison with other regions in Italy, but measuring internal progress towards well-being targets

•Objective: to produce indicators at municipal level for reducing local disparities

**Opportunities & challenges for use in policymaking:**

•Optimal use of existing information & successful collaboration across ministries & levels of government for collecting information

•Solid campaigns of consultation and communication: a steering committee representing key stakeholders & a scientific commission to select & build the indicators; public discussion of results with civil society and policymakers

•Potential to improve the amount & quality of current indicators thanks to the active presence and experience of the national statistical agency (ISTAT) on well-being measures

•An increasing number of local initiatives in Italy: co-ordination across different initiatives could promote knowledge spillovers, reduce the cost of comparable information and pool resources for the collection of indicators not available from official sources (e.g. perception and life satisfaction measures)

No territory within the province of Rome is consistently on top in every dimension

Legend: Civitavecchia, Fiano Romano, Pomezia, Roma, Tivoli, Velletri

**Note:** Every axis represents a dimension of wellbeing; high scores imply better performance in each dimension. Coloured lines represent each of the territorial systems composing the province of Rome (Civitavecchia, Fiano Romano, Pomezia, Roma, Tivoli, and Velletri).
**Source:** OECD elaborations based on data from "Nuovi indicatori di benessere: Monitorare la qualità dello sviluppo nella capitale metropolitana" by the Province of Rome.
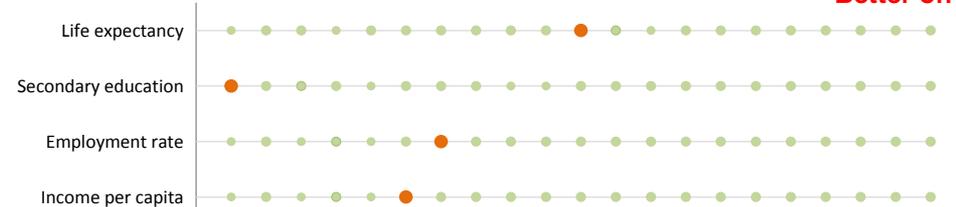
# Region of Sardinia (Italy)



**Measures and objectives:**

•Income, jobs, health, education & environment (+focus on sustainability/competitiveness of firms)

•Index of "multiple deprivation" at municipal level (material & non-material conditions)

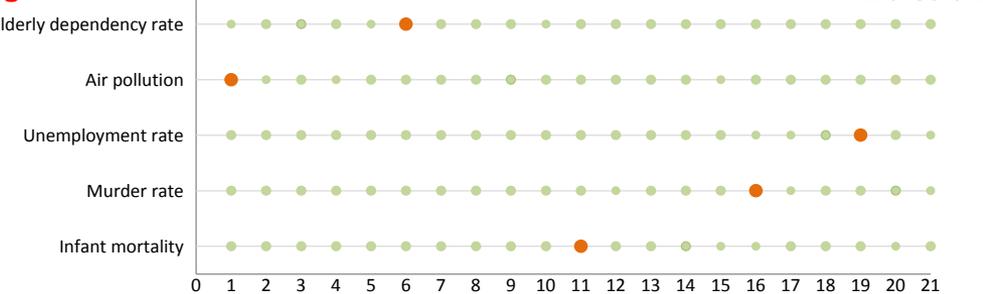•Indicators will be included in the 2014-2020 regional development plan financed by national and European funds

**Opportunities & challenges for use in policymaking:**

•Good dialogue with economic actors, but lack of political engagement on achieving measurable objectives & difficulty to engage the civil society

•Italy has developed many indicators through both national and regional initiatives. Need to strengthen the exchange of information to use already available statistics or to develop new ones according to a common framework

•Some good results in improving quality of services to citizens. Lessons learned from these experiences should more clearly be part of the ex ante evaluation



**Where does Sardinia stand compared to its peers?**

**Positive dimensions** — **Better off**

- Life expectancy
- Secondary education
- Employment rate
- Income per capita

**Negative dimensions** — **Worse off**

- Elderly dependency rate
- Air pollution
- Unemployment rate
- Murder rate
- Infant mortality

**Source:** OECD Regional Database, 2011
**Note:** The region of Sardinia is represented by the orange dot; green dots represent the remaining 21 regions (TL2) of Italy.
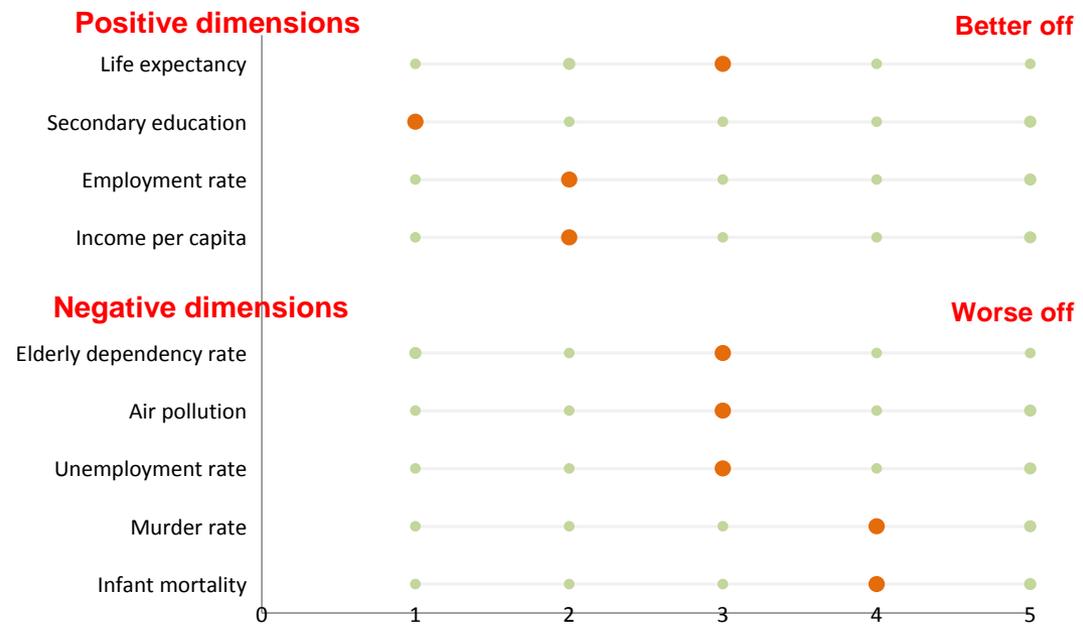
# Region of Southern Denmark

**Measures and objectives:**

•A new approach to measuring the "Good Life", with a focus on community conditions (municipalities & citizen profile) and individuals' evaluation of life, rather than previous approach of compiling 10 indicators into a single index

•Tool for the Regional Development Plan (2012-2016)

**Opportunities & challenges for use in policymaking:**

•Integration of new well-being indicators for all municipalities in yearly publication KONTUR

•Trade-off between offering a wider range of indicators & conveying a unified composite index

•Need to design tools for communicating & publicly debating "Good Life" results

## Where does Southern Denmark stand compared to its peers?

**Positive dimensions**　　　　　　　　　　**Better off**

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- Income per capita

**Negative dimensions**　　　　　　　　　　**Worse off**

- Elderly dependency rate
- Air pollution
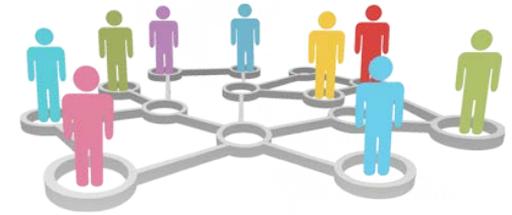- Unemployment rate
- Murder rate
- Infant mortality

**Note:** The region of Southern Denmark is represented by the orange dot; green dots represent the remaining four regions of Denmark (Sjælland, Midtjylland, Nordjylland, and Hovedstaden)
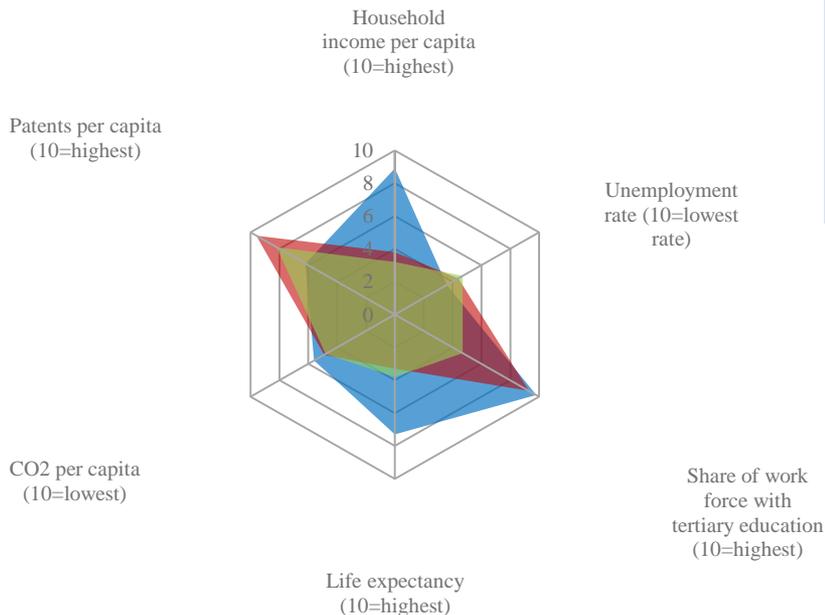**Source:** OECD Regional Database, 2011

# Communicating the results

Multidimensional comparison
across OECD regions



Household
income per capita
(10=highest)

Patents per capita
(10=highest)

Unemployment
rate (10=lowest
rate)

10
8
6
4
2
0

CO2 per capita
(10=lowest)

Share of work
force with
tertiary education
(10=highest)

Life expectancy
(10=highest)

**Greater London    Southern Denmark    Capital ( (DNK)**

**Why communicate results?**
• Engage different types of audiences
• Increase accountability
• Composite index vs. headline indicators
• Promote discussion of key topics

• Web-based data visualisation tool
• Highlight trade-offs across well-
  being dimensions and the
  relevance of regional disparities