With or Without You? Measuring the Quality of Relational Life Throughout the World

Con o senza di te? La misura delle relazioni sociali nel mondo

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Riassunto: This paper proposes a new method for the measurement of the quality of relational life. Building on the recent literature on the determinants of subjective well-being, we value and aggregate scores on different dimensions of relational life using estimates from microeconometric life-satisfaction equations. We apply the proposed method to a large sample of individuals from 82 countries, representing about 85 per cent of the world population, to construct indicators that focus on three dimensions of interpersonal relations: time spent with others, active participation to voluntary organizations and family relations. We use the relational indicators to compare the quality of relational life across countries throughout the world. We also examine the determinants of the quality of relational life, both at the individual level and at the country level.

Keywords: subjective well-being, economic geography