

Risk Assecuration Statistics

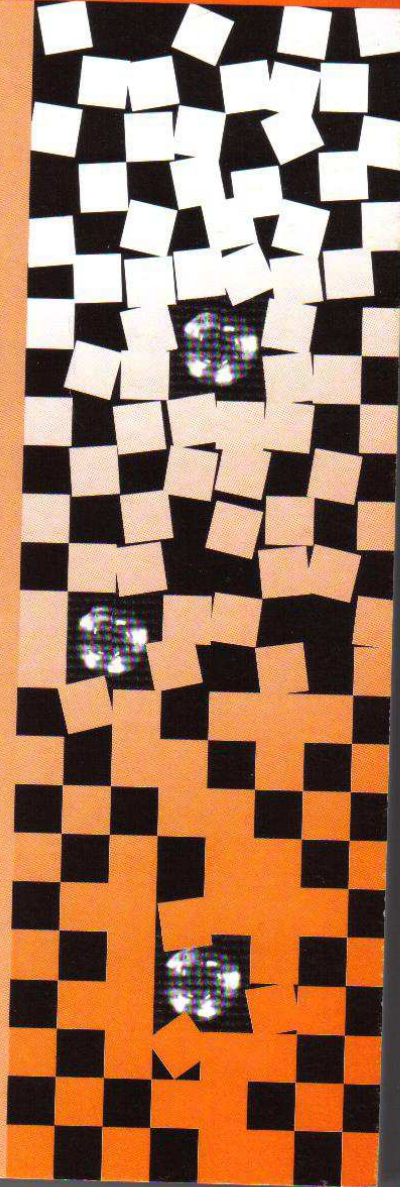
Nr 45

Quality of Life Improvement through Social Cohesion

Proceedings of the Fourth
International Conference
Wrocław 2008

edited by Walenty Ostasiewicz

Department of Statistics
Wrocław 2008



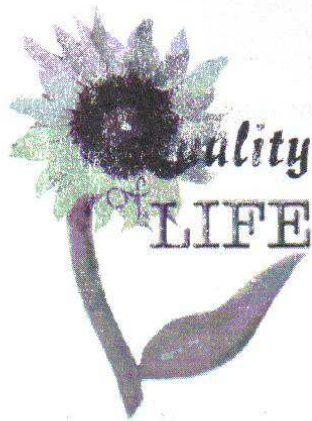
Wrocław University of Economics

Quality of Life:

Quality of Life Improvement through Social Cohesion

Proceedings of the Fourth
International Conference
Wrocław 2008

edited by Walenty Ostasiewicz



Department of Statistics, 2008

Edited by
Walenty Ostasiewicz

© Copyright by Department of Statistics

Typesetting: Dariusz Biskup
Printing and Binding: Zakład Graficzny AE we Wrocławiu, Poland

**The Fourth International Conference
on Quality of Life Research**

**Organized by Department of Statistics
of the Wrocław University of Economics**

General Chairman

Prof. Walenty Ostasiewicz

Program Committee Members

Prof. Mario Bolzan
Prof. Stanisław M. Kot
Prof. Wolfgang Glatzer
Prof. Irena E. Kotowska
Prof. Achille Vernizzi

Wrocław, 15-18 September 2008

Table of Contents

Józef Biolik: Problemy oceny i pomiaru jakości kształcenia w szkolnictwie wyższym _____	9
Tadeusz Borys, Piotr Rogala: Lokalne standardy badania jakości życia _____	10
Adelina Chitu, Dana Murgescu, Marcel Dragos Stoica, Vladimir Ticovschi: A Framework for the Estimation of the Influence of the Weight of the Intangible Assets vs Tangible Assets on the Quality of Life _____	23
Hanna Dudek: Subjective Aspects of Economic Poverty – Ordered Response Model Approach _____	24
Adelina Dumitrescu: Personal loans: help or problem? _____	42
Karel Helman: Analysis of seasonality in selected climatology element time series in the Czech Republic _____	43
Cyprian Kozyra: Health-oriented lifestyle research _____	66
Ioana Lupasc, Dana Murgescu, Gheorghe Negoescu, Marcel Dragos Stoica, Vladimir Ticovschi: Invisible Statistics and Tax Dodging _____	67
Filomena Maggino, Elena Ruviglioni: Choice of subjective weights for subjective variables _____	68
Ivana Malá: Characteristics of the residual lifetime _____	70
Andrzej Malawski: Distributive justice and Schumpeterian innovative evolution – an axiomatic approach in the context of social cohesion _____	80
B. L. Meel: Post-retrenchment of mineworkers: A poor quality of life in Transkei region of South Africa _____	99
B. L. Meel: A poor quality of life among Asbestos sick mineworkers and their compensation claims in the Transkei region of South Africa. _____	105
B. L. Meel: Witchcraft in Transkei Region of South Africa. A Poor Quality of Life for Elderly Women _____	111
B. L. Meel: The Psychosocial Effects of Minework on Migrants' Return to their Rural Communities Of Origin – the Impact of the System Of Oscillatory Migration on Ex-Mineworkers and their Communities _____	117

Dana Murgescu: Efficiency of the European funds in increasing the Quality of Life _____	134
Dana Murgescu, Adelina Dumitrescu: The Impact of Workforce Migration on the Quality of Life in Romania _____	135
Geoffrey I Nwaka: The Urban Poor and Environmental Health Policy in Nigeria: Strategies Toward Social Harmony _____	136
Walenty Ostasiewicz: Social Cohesion as a Base for a Good Life _____	138
Jan W. Owsiański: How can we read out life quality assessments from the official socio-economic data on Polish municipalities? _____	140
Fermina Rojo-Perez, Gloria Fernandez-Mayoralas, Karim Ahmed-Mohamed, Maria-Eugenia Prieto-Flores, M. João Forjaz, Concepción Delgado-Sanz, Pablo Martinez-Martin, Jose-Manuel Rojo-Abuin: Informal support according to level of competence related to health and functioning in Quality of Later Life _____	156
Zofia Rusnak: Relatywne koszty utrzymania dzieci. Wyniki badań empirycznych _____	158
Wojciech Rybicki: Some thoughts on intergenerational equity and related problems (extended abstract and announcement of selected bibliography) _____	159
Agnieszka Sompolska-Rzechuła: Jakość życia kobiet _____	163
Teresa Słaby: Consumerism as a substitute for the quality of life _____	185
Krzysztof Szwarz: Analiza głębokości ubóstwa gospodarstw domowych według płci głowy gospodarstwa _____	193
Piotr Tarka: Statistical exploration and analysis of the Polish – Dutch youth' systems of values _____	194
Achille Vernizzi, Marek Kośny, Edyta Mazurek: Redistribution and equity of Polish personal income tax: measurement using micro data from tax returns _____	195
Beata Zmyślona: Application the IRT models with external and internal factors to statistical inference with missing data _____	196

It
organ
you i
for t
all h
W
conf
W

Filomena Maggino, Elena Ruviglioni

Università degli Studi di Firenze

Choice of subjective weights for subjective variables

Abstract

Comparison between findings concerning subjective characteristics observed at both macro (e.g. countries) and micro (cases or groups) level represents one of the more vexed issues in the field of social research and surely is among the much-discussed matters.

One of the difficulties in dealing with comparison issues concerns if and how the differences might be explained, and if and how explanations could help in performing comparisons more accurately.

This topic is perceived and judged particularly sensitive in quality of life research also for the implications at policy level, where one of the goals is that to compare different levels of subjective well-being. According to different explanatory models, differences in well-being could be explained by objective characteristics, e.g. different living conditions and different national structures, but also by different cultural traits and value orientations that should be properly considered in order to perform comparisons at macro level (region, country, etc.). In this perspective, the question could be how to carry on comparisons between individuals (or groups) by taking into account inter-individual (or inter-group) differences yielded by different contextual conditions, i.e. cultural traits and value orientations.

One of the possible answers may involve the definition of "subjective weights".

For example, according with the bottom-up model, satisfaction with life as a whole could be observed by combining satisfactions with different life ambits (family, work, income, and so on). The combination that generates the total satisfaction has to take into account the *importance* (in terms of "life value" or in terms of "expectations") that each individual assigns to each ambit. This allows scores of satisfaction to be compared by taking into account the importance assigned by individuals to each ambit.

As known, the consolidated methodology aimed at the construction of composite indicators states particular approaches allowing differential *importance* weights to be determined and to be assigned to the indicators composing the synthesis. In this ambit, it is always asserted that the choice of weights should be preferably derived from objective principle.

In recent works, further views were introduced about weighting in the context of composite indicators construction, which should take into account the agreement among

citizens c
should n
consider
composit
Our p
weights t
particular,
- t
- j
- t
This w
1. to int
attenti
2. to ide
a. Statist
ambit
b. Multi-
c. Scalin
(i) to
way, (l
level,
weight
Pros a
discussed.

citizens concerning the importance to be assigned to each indicator. The final composite should maximize this agreement. In their work, they provide a framework to jointly consider weights and social indicators as part of the research problem of constructing a composite indicator.

Our purpose is to identify procedures that provide a framework allowing differential weights to be determined and managed (*subjective/individualized weighting procedure*). In particular, the framework must clarify how:

- to obtain importance weights at individual-subjective level through subjective judgments
- to assign the weights to the corresponding subjective scores.

This work intends

1. to introduce the general underlying principles in obtaining weights, with special attention to subjective weights
2. to identify and analyze the approaches for obtaining weights:
 - a. Statistical approaches (for obtaining "objective" weights), generally applied in the ambit of composite indicators construction
 - b. Multi-Attribute approaches
 - c. Scaling models, allowing subjective data to be managed; among these, the models able (i) to handle subjective evaluations and judgments, expressed in explicit or implicit way, (ii) to obtain subjective [importance] weights at group level and at individual level, will be identified and described in the perspective of obtaining subjective weights

Pros and cons of these approaches in the perspective of subjective weighting will be discussed.