

MYWEB: Measuring Youth Well-Being

MEASURING WELL-BEING: THE CASE FOR A NEW LONGITUDINAL SURVEY ON CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING IN EUROPE

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Outline of presentation

1. Aims of MYWEB project
2. MYWEB project design
3. Some key findings from early work packages

Overview

- Aim: To assess the feasibility of a European Longitudinal Study for Children and Young People (ELSCYP)
- 1.5 million Euro funded project commissioned by the European Commission.
- A 30 month project which began in March 2013
- Consortium: 13 partners in total
- Advisory Board of experts in the field of children's well-being and longitudinal surveys of children and young people

List of partners

Partner organisation	Country	Role
Manchester Metropolitan University	United Kingdom	Coordinator
University of Bremen	Germany	Delivery Partner
Pompeu Fabra University	Spain	Delivery Partner
Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Zagreb	Croatia	Delivery Partner
University of Debrecen	Hungary	Delivery Partner
Daugavpils University	Latvia	Delivery Partner
Panteion University of Athens	Greece	Collaborator
Tallinn University	Estonia	Collaborator
University of SS Cyril and Methodius	Slovakia	Collaborator
Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology, ISCTE, Lisbon University Institute	Portugal	Collaborator
Caucasus Research Resource Centers, Georgia	Georgia	Collaborator
The Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex	United Kingdom	Advisor
University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	Advisor

Overall Structure of the Project

No.	Work package title
1	Stocktaking and design
2	Mapping existing studies/data/policy
3	State of the art in the literature and practice across the EU and beyond
4	Engagement with young people
5	Options appraisal
6	Survey design
7	Pilot surveys
8	Policy and impact
9	Dissemination
10	Project management

Key findings from early work packages

1. EU policies on child and youth well-being: Policy context for a new longitudinal survey among CYP
2. Major studies on CYP's well-being: Context for a new longitudinal survey to overcome research gaps

EU policy on CYP and their well-being

Year	Significant policy move by the EU
2005	EU Presidency Conclusions explicitly referred to child poverty ; Luxemburg Presidency initiative called for adoption of at least one child well-being indicator at the EU level
2006	March Presidency Conclusions called for more action to eradicate child poverty in the Member States, Adoption of Commission's Communication entitled ' Towards an EU strategy on the Rights of the Child '
2007	Establishment of the EU Task-Force on Child Poverty and Child Well-being
2008	Formal adoption of the EU Task-Force reports and recommendations by all Member States and the Commission
2010	The Belgian Presidency conference on child poverty which sets out a ' roadmap ' for fighting poverty
2011	The Hungarian EU Presidency submitted a Council Conclusion titled 'Tackling Child Poverty and Promoting Child Well-being' to the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council for adoption
	EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY: A new impetus to efforts addressing child poverty and social exclusion. Member States have set specific targets to contribute to the headline European target to reduce poverty by at least 20 million by 2020.

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Review of child and youth well-being studies



Social indicators movement

- Local Index of Child Well-being (Bradshaw et al., 2009)
- OECD publication comparing well-being across its 30 member countries (Chapple & Richardson, 2009)
- UNICEF publications (2007, 2010)

Self-report surveys

- Huebner's Multi-Dimensional Student Life Satisfaction Scale (Huebner, 1994)
- Personal Well-being Index (Cummins and Lau, 2005)
- HBSC, BHPS (Understanding Society), ESS, EQLS

Children and young people centric studies

- National Surveys of Young People's Well-being in England, 2008, 2010 (The Children's Society)
- International Survey on children's subjective well-being (Children's World, 2012)

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Research gaps



- Cross-sectional data appear to have lacking on detecting change at the individual level (Howieson et al., 2008).
- Therefore, they do not enable an understanding of an individual's transition through different activities and statuses that might be linked to their subjective well-being.
- Since childhood is not static but dynamic, a holistic view taking into account both changes at different stages of children and young people's development and transitions is required.
- This explains why there is a growing belief that in order to better understand how these changes and other socio-economic factors related to these changes affect children's and young people's well-being, a longitudinal survey using a '*children and young people centric approach*', may be required.

Research gaps (Cont.)



- **There is a need for longitudinal data to:**
 - identify life-course changes
 - seek causal explanations for different experiences
 - examine patterns of interconnections between different life domains.
- **Particular longitudinal processes of interest are:**
 - parental family dissolution and reformation and the effects on children
 - educational trajectories
 - the transition from school to work
 - young people's relationship formation (and dissolution)
 - child birth and family formation (and dissolution)
 - housing trajectories
 - mapping the ongoing dynamics of the development of friendship circles

The case for a new longitudinal survey on CYP's well-being in the EU



- Longitudinal survey for better informed EU policies
- Longitudinal data for evaluating policies
- Data offering opportunities for monitoring progress on child well-being within and between EU member states by taking into account the views of children and young people
- Longitudinal data for better understanding young people's transition through different activities and statuses that might be linked to their subjective well-being.

Thank you.



- Further information about the project:
<http://fp7-myweb.eu/>