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# MEASURING WELL-BEING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

“Increasing the capacities of local administrators and officials in defining policies consistent with the Sustainable Human Development Approach”  
*(Umanamente)*

**Chiara Assunta Ricci**  
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# Aims



- **to measure well-being “beyond the GDP” at a city level**
- to “complete” GDP with statistics analysing the other economic, social and environmental aspects upon which the well-being of citizens critically depends;
- to help shape local policies that are in keeping with the human development approach.



# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE:

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## 1. Multidimensional vision of development

## 2. Shared definition of the quality of development

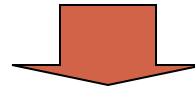
- consultation process with Arezzo's local government and its various internal departments;
- identification of the dimensions considered relevant for monitoring the evolution of well-being in Arezzo.



# THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE ON HOW TO MEASURE WELL-BEING



- The Human Development Index
- The contribution of the OECD
- Recommendations of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission
- European Commission programs
- National initiatives



## - The QUARS index *Sbilanciamoci!* Campaign

(Qualità Regionale dello Sviluppo – Quality of Regional Development).

It is an indicator that attempts to identify and connect the components of development quality based on environmental sustainability, promotion of rights and quality of life.

## - Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW)





## DIMENSIONS:

- **Environment:** assessment of the environmental impact of various forms of production, distribution and consumption; good practices adopted to mitigate the negative impact of human activities on the environment;
- **Economy and Labour:** working and economic conditions;
- **Health:** quality, efficiency and proximity of services, prevention, general health status of the population;
- **Rights and Citizenship:** social inclusion of youth, the elderly, underprivileged individuals and immigrants;
- **Education and Culture:** participation in the school system, quality of services, educational levels of the population, cultural “demand and supply”;
- **Participation:** political and social engagement of citizens;
- **Gender equity:** the absence of gender-based obstacles limiting people’s ability to take part in economic, political and social life.



# Measuring well-being in Arezzo: research methodology



- Focus: city of Arezzo
- Time series 1999-2009
- Development of a theoretical framework
- *Matching*
- Identified 45 indicators/variables, for a total of more than 60 elementary indicators;
- 1999 was selected as our base year;
- Comparable index values from our raw data values, the baseline values of each of the 45 headliners has been set at 100;



# Measuring well-being in Arezzo: research methodology



- Equal treatment of all indicators at the current time;
- Weighting and aggregation of the variables into a summary measure (Canadian Index of Well-being)
- Construction of an index for each of the single well-being dimensions.
- Summary index for the quality of the city's overall development.
- Positive percentage changes for each one indicate some improvement in wellbeing while negative percentage changes indicate some deterioration.





# Critical issues:

- ✓ lack of certain data at the city-level (or of their availability in time series) limited the range of options, and in some cases made it necessary to use proxy variables



Interviews to 18 citizens with a strong knowledge of the territory.

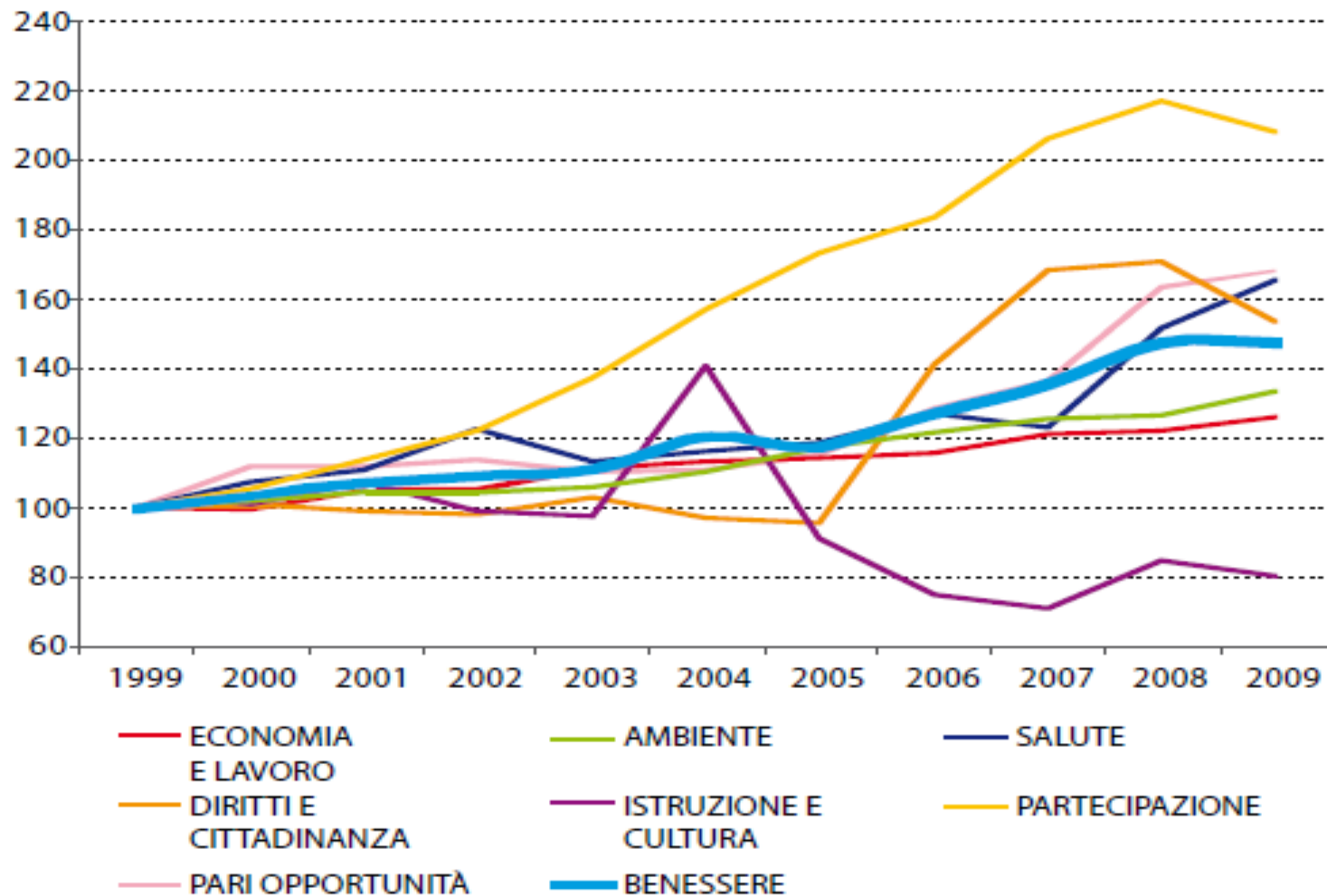




# The composite indicators of well-being

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**Thank you!**

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