



PRESS RELEASE OF WORKING PAPER 5.21

QUALITY OF LIFE AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

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OBJECTIVE

The main objective of Task 5.6 is to examine the quality of life and local governance and especially the degree of social cohesion within the local community and the satisfaction with the institutions of national and regional governance.

MAIN RESULTS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The two main sources of data were the European Quality of Life Survey (2012), in which the data provided were based on subjective interpretations of citizens in the 27 EU countries and Eurostat (2011) which offers statistical objective data for the same countries.

The main findings of the paper analysis show that there is a clear interlink between the degree of social cohesion and the satisfaction with the institutions of central and local government. Moreover, high scores of trust in government (central and local) correspond to high scores of national institutional quality and general satisfaction in life. Additionally, high degrees of social cohesion, measured either by subjective (perceived tensions) or objective indicators (income distribution) are accordingly analogous with the high scores of satisfaction with life in general and satisfaction with institutions in particular.

On the other hand, the European countries present intense discrepancies. The southern countries (i.e. Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal etc.) are suffering from the economic crisis, which is reflected on the citizens' poor perceptions on general satisfaction with life, institutions, social cohesion and institutional quality of their countries. On the contrary, the middle and northern Europe presents high scores regarding quality of life, trust in institutions and social cohesion.