

Measuring quality of life in the Alpine area – mission impossible?

Naja Marot, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, naja.marot@bf.uni-lj.si

Tadej Bevk, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

Maja Debevec, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

David Klepej, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

Pina Klara Petrović Jesenovec, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

10th Report on the state of the Alps (to be published end of January 2025) focuses on quality of life (QoL). The topic created both, a conceptual, and then also, a statistical challenge on how to sufficiently measure QoL in 8 Alpine countries, including Monaco and Liechtenstein. The concept was defined on the basis of ESPON Territorial quality of life report. After identification of QoL topics, a broad screening of the available data was done, based on existing European and national databases, including EUROSTAT, European Environmental Agency database and other publicly available sources. The preconditions of the data selection were to be available for the period 2017-2021 and at least for NUTS3/NUTS2 regions within the Alpine Convention perimeter, since no cross-country analysis was pursued. Instead, the Alpine area was examined as a whole and the regions compared on the base of ESPON's urban-rural typology. The evaluation of the data availability ended with the list of 80 indicators, which was further downsized to 60 indicators due to data gaps. Besides statistical and spatial data, also relevant European surveys (e.g. European Social Survey) were scrutinised for data on subjective perception of QoL, as was the preparation and implementation of own survey. As important outcome of the report, data gaps were identified and challenges of measuring QoL were reflected upon. Importance of having territorially specific data for precise decision making was highlighted.