

DIMENSIONS OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND LIVING STANDARDS

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Abstract: This article aims to present and capture some relevant aspects about the two concepts "quality of life" and "living standards". Quality of life it is a multidimensional concept, much broader than economic production and living standards and includes a variety of areas: material living conditions, health, housing, work place, family life, balance between private and professional life, well-being subjective. This includes factors that influence the value of people in life, beyond the purely material aspects. Quality of life being a multidimensional concept, the set of indicators was developed and organized along the eight addition one dimensions, which constituted the "quality of life" framework. The research will be based on the revision of the specialized economic literature using the method of scientific observation.

JEL classification: I30, I31

Key words: quality of life, standards of living, indicators of quality of life.

1. INTRODUCTION

The quality of life is looked at from the perspective, much broader than economic production and living standards, and encompasses a variety of areas: material living conditions, health, housing, work place, family life, balance between private and professional life, well-being subjective (Precupețu I, 2018). of factors that influence the value of people in life beyond the purely material aspects. Quality of life being a multidimensional concept, the set of indicators was developed and organized along the 8 + 1 dimensions, which constituted the "quality of life" framework. In this framework, the dimensions can be statistically measured in this framework, the dimensions can be measured using statistical methods in order to obtain a representation of complementary aspects that concern the quality of life, thus completing the indicator commonly used as a standard for measuring economic and social development, GDP. Eight of these dimensions relate to people's abilities to achieve Eight of these dimensions relate to people's abilities to achieve well-being, taking into account each person's own priorities and values. The last dimension, the "general life experience" refers to the personal perception of the quality of life. In 2013, Eurostat has introduced in the statistical analysis, a section that is intended for subjective well-being. This includes "the income and living conditions" of the population. A set of variables with subjective assessments of life in general, but also several dimensions of quality of life, have supplemented the information "income and living conditions", which are largely used in the context of poverty analysis and social exclusion.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this research article is to review the specialized literature that refers to quality of life, dimensions and representative indicators that measure its level.

3. METHODOLOGY

The article aims to review the literature on quality of life, its dimensions and standards of living, highlighting the issues that must be considered in order to ensure the prosperity of a nation. As a research methodology used during this research, I mention the scientific observation of the specialized literature.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Material living conditions. A first dimension of quality of life is represented by the material conditions of life. There are two sub dimensions that will be measured based on income, consumption and material conditions (deprivation, housing). The income has a significant importance due to the impact it exerts on most indicators. However, for the moment, the wealth aspect is covered by this subdivision of economic security. Material conditions (deprivation and housing) give us enough important information that is complementary to those approaches that are based on money. EU-SILC also contains those indicators that are used for this sub-dimension. The progress of countries has traditionally been linked to access to material goods or property. In the economic sciences, this mentality has been especially reflected in the theory of growth - expressed mainly by changing the GDP rates, whose main objective is the production side of goods and services, which can be considered a progress of the unilateral society, measured material or monetary. It has often been criticized. Nowadays many national institutions and initiatives strive to understand how society's progress and human well-being can be achieved. They claim that the traditional policy based on economic growth is not enough to guide us towards a better future.

Productive or main activity. The productivity or main dimension of the activity is measured by three sub-dimensions: the quantity of jobs, the quality of employment, other main activities. Citizens are involved every day in various activities, the most prominent being their work.

Paid work and unpaid, such as domestic work, affect the quality of life. These forms of work generate an income and a utility that represent determining factors that act on personal identity and offer possibilities for social interaction. Access to jobs is a quantitative aspect, quantified numerically while the remuneration of the work is qualitative with implications on personal dignity. The employment aspect from a quantitative and qualitative point of view is particularly important being complementary and, therefore, should not be replaced when it comes to measuring the quality of life. Quantitative improvements mostly affect the unemployed and the non-employed, while the improvement in quality affects the majority of the employees. The complementarity between the quantity of jobs and the quality that concerns welfare has been introduced in the European Commission's European Employment Strategy for "more and better jobs". Health is part of the quality of life, being very important and can be embodied in a form of human capital. Poor population health can affect society, its general progress. The health problems developed on the physical and / or mental level negatively influence the subjective well-being of the citizens. Health in the European Union, the health status of citizens is measured by three dimensions of quality of life: health outcome indicators, such as life expectancy (mortality tables),

number of healthy life years (EU-SILC data), self-assessment health, chronic diseases, activity limitations; the determinants of health (healthy behaviors - sport, consumption of vegetables and fruits, etc. and unhealthy behaviors - consumption of alcohol, smoking, etc.)

The duration and quality of life of people is low if it is affected by physical and mental health problems, poor health which leads to a shortening of human life and a poor quality. These things impede economic and social development and the existence of poor health conditions shows that a large part of the population does not enjoy the progress of society and involvement in civic activities. A long and healthy life is a personal goal for all people and is a generally accepted measure of social welfare, incorporated into relevant quality of life indices. In Europe, considerable amounts of money are allocated by governments to improve people's health through disease prevention and treatment. The results of these considerable efforts of governments can be measured taking into account objective criteria and by assessing people's perceptions of them. Indicators of health outcomes, such as life expectancy or infant mortality, do not take into account conditions that affect individual health such as dental problems, mild mental disorders. In Europe, population health is established by combining objective indicators that target health outcomes, such as life expectancy, health self-assessments and subjectivism regarding access to health care.

These indicators have elements that are considered lifestyle risk factors for health, such as hazardous behaviors (eg, smoking) that could impact future health levels and thus on well-being. European countries. Existing data indicate that although health is influenced by GDP, they do not depend entirely on the wealth existing in the economy. Although in the poorer countries, the rate of reduction in the number of deaths (for example, infant mortality) is lower than in developed countries the significant differences between countries may be due to other factors, such as efficiency of national health care systems, inequalities in access to health care, the living environment, and individual and cultural choices (for example, eating habits).

For example, for healthcare in the U.S. much more money is allocated than in a European country. The World Health Organization shows that life expectancy, life expectancy in the states of the European Union, the vast majority of them is higher than in the U.S.A. This shows that the organization of the provision of healthcare (private or public organizations), the quality of health services is very important. Health outcomes are influenced by cultural choices, by environmental factors. Health is a major European policy objective. The third EU health program for 2014-2020 highlights the importance of health policy, particularly in light of the challenges of demographic change in Europe and the need to reduce health inequalities as a condition for "inclusive growth".

Education. In knowledge-based economies, education has an essential mission within a nation and constitutes a factor of major importance in determining progress. Education levels can determine the job that an individual will have. People with limited skills have limited opportunities to access jobs and, most of the time, do not benefit from the opportunities to reach valuable goals within the company. They also have reduced opportunities for economic prosperity. At the level of society, they represent the largest and most important part of human capital. This dimension in the European Union is measured. It is also the most important form of human capital, at the societal level. This dimension is measured in the European Union by the indicators currently available, grouped into four dimensions: the educational achievements of the population

(included in quantitative terms the number of people who left school early); self-assessed and evaluated; participation in lifelong learning and educational opportunities (enrollment rate of students in pre-school education). Are used many data sources, the most important being EU-LFS. The information is also collected through the OECD, PIACC survey.

Free time and social interactions. Meanwhile, broader aspects of community, such as social cohesion, are considered important in determining social outcomes, like "government performance and reduced incidence of crime" (Stiglitz, Sen & Fittoussi, 2009; 1, Scrivens & Smith, 2013). These four sub-dimensions illustrate the interpretations of social capital identified in the OECD report (Scrivens & Smith, 2013). Leisure relations and social interactions are very important for the quality of life, but the political class has taken them into consideration. Spending leisure time is very important for people and is represented by activities that they perform outside of working hours, paid or unpaid. In 1930, economist John Maynard Keynes believes that 15 hours a week can be worked under economic development conditions, and the rest would be free time, which would be a sign of society's progress (Keynes, 1930). The UN Declaration on Human Rights content "the right to rest and leisure" (Art. 24). The importance that modern societies attach to the balance between professional and personal life underscores the role that free time plays in people's lives and in defining the quality of their life. The latest research findings have confirmed that leisure opportunities are indeed associated with a better life experience (Zganec, 2011). Free time has a quantitative aspect - the simple availability of the time we can spend for the activities we wanted, but also a qualitative aspect that indicates the nature and time allocated to the activities. Although the field of politics seems to be outdated by social interactions, there are many aspects of politics that can directly or indirectly affect them. Community outcomes will be determined by policies aimed at urban planning, increasing the quality of public spaces, accessibility of housing, integration of immigrants, mobility in the labor market. In the meantime, as a rest, the possibility of having personal relationships in the private life is influenced by the availability of time, which, in turn, depends on working hours and commute time.

Economic and physical security. Insecurity offers fear and anxiety that affect the quality of life negative sense of the people in such situation. The insecurity of the people who face a certain risk, concerns the phenomenon of uncertainty of the future that leads to a decrease in the quality of their life. Given such considerations, there is a tradition of research aimed at measuring "insecurity" and assessing its effect on prosperity. In order to have appropriate approaches to its measurement, the difference between economic insecurity which refers to a material uncertainty in perspective that can generate stress and anxiety and personal insecurity must be distinguished. Economic insecurity can be defined as uncertainty about the material conditions that may prevail in the future.

Producing a risk contributes in a negative sense to the quality of life of the people who belong to this category. The intensity of the risk, the period of its life, the imprint associated with it (for example, unemployment) and the aversion of each individual to the risk. National and international statistical systems offer an opportunity to measure the consequences of unemployment in terms of financial, old age or health. These consequences, however, influence the cost and type of protection practiced. There are dimensions that are not included in the calculation system in most cases. Personal insecurity is affected and influenced by external factors that negatively affect

the physical integrity of people. The most serious factors are crimes and accidents which, in serious form, it reaches death of the persons involved. Less serious forms are more commonly encountered affecting a significant number of people at a country level. Threats to personal safety affect the quality of life even if it does not manifest itself in their serious form. The most representative example is crime. Crime statistics can be obtained from a variety of sources.

Governance and fundamental rights. The political voice is an integrated dimension of quality of life. Inherently, participation in society as active citizens, to get involved and to pronounce in policy making, to speak without fear of what is considered to be wrong, are the essential freedoms. From a political point of view, the political voice can provide a correction through the accountability of public officials and institutions, it can reveal what people need and value and it draws attention to significant deprivations. The role of the political voice is to reduce conflicts and to have consensus in key actions, with rewards for economic efficiency, social equity and inclusion in public life.

At the level of each state there is a system and a political voice that have specific institutional characteristics such as functional democracies, universal vote, free press, civil society organizations. There are key aspects that differentiate the governance of each state - legislative guarantees, the rule of law. Constitutional rights are part of the legal guarantees and are rights provided by the general laws that contribute to increasing the quality of life of the inhabitants and which indicate the prevailing social consensus in different states. Laws, their structure can affect the investment climate of a country with market influence, economic growth, jobs and material prosperity. However, legal guarantees must be applied by various institutions.

These indicators are supplemented by conducting surveys on citizens' perceptions of how political, legal and executive institutions work, the difficulties encountered in addressing them and the confidence they have in them. These surveys should also to include to include inequalities that may arise in access to institutions within socio-economic groups.

Natural and living environment. Environmental conditions play an important role not only for ensuring sustainability but also for the immediate impact on people's quality of life. They directly influence human health, through air and water, through hazardous substances and noise and indirectly, through climate change, loss of biodiversity and natural disasters that affect ecosystem health. People are beneficiaries of environmental services through access to clean recreation areas with the right to be informed and to have access to this information. On the other hand, appreciate the advantages or disadvantages of the environment and these assessments affect their real choices such as where to live. Finally, environmental conditions produce natural disasters and climate variations - drought, floods, which damage both property and the lives of affected people.

Effects measurement must take care of environmental conditions in terms of people's lives is complex. These effects are manifested over different periods, and their impact varies depending on the population and its characteristics. Significant progress has been made over the last 20 years in measuring environmental conditions, through better data on the environment, regular monitoring of indicators and their accounting (for example, assessing the associated morbidity and mortality, labor productivity, , economic effects due to climate change, biodiversity change, damage caused by natural disasters), making access to environmental information accessible. However, in terms

of quality of life, existing indicators remain limited in terms of capturing important issues.

General life experience. This is a final dimension that is part of the quality of life indicators and has a distinct conceptual role that appreciates the quality of life in general and does not refer to a particular area of human life. There is a many of evidence to show that life experience or subjective well-being is measured by life satisfaction as an indicator with the The OECD guidelines on measuring the well-being of subjects provide that subjective well-being measures are used to provide information about the changes that are taking place and their impact on the well-being perceived by respondents in the context of social and economic conditions. (OECD, 2013).

Subjective well-being is vast and seems like a vague concept of hope. It's not necessary. There is, in fact, a general agreement between experts on the specific issues that encompass subjective well-being. There is a differentiation between the assessments that involve a cognitive assessment of the respondent's entire life and measures of influence that capture the feelings the respondent experiences at a particular point in his or her life (Diener, 1984, Kahneman, 1999). Some researchers believe that between assessment and affection there are differences but also an aspect of subjective well-being that reflects the meaning and purpose of people (Huppert, 2009).

Quality of life indicators - Budget and standard of living in the household

The World Health Organization defines the quality of life as a perception of the individual who positions him in middle of his own systems of value and culture related to goals, expectations, standards and concerns. There is a broad perception on the notion of quality of life affected by a complexity of perceptions: physical and psychological health, individual beliefs and social relationships. The ability of families to provide the necessities of their lives is a proof of economic well-being and stability. Poverty thresholds reflect economic deprivation in our society and the family budget is the income that the family must have to ensure a decent and safe and yet modest standard of living.(Johnson LW, 2001).

The family budget is reported differently depending on the geographical location and type of family. The geographical location is important, as the cost of housing housing is different depending on their location. This geographical dimension influences the measurement of the family budget and offers a comparative advantage over the poverty line, which uses only a national basis in measuring it. The determination of the basic budget of the family is made according to the type of family, the expenses being varied according to the children existing in the family and who runs it - a married couple or a single parent. In order to obtain a clear picture of the family budget, it is necessary a comparative analysis of data on the actual income and expenses of the active family. A comparison of this nature can show what percentage of families with two children actually earn enough income to meet the basic thresholds of the family budget. Comparisons can show, not just the weight the family budget thresholds, but also the total number of people affected. Given recent policies that emphasize that work is the solution to poverty and economic hardship, this analysis shows that sometimes work is not enough.

Poverty thresholds are represented by absolute levels of incomes obtained by active persons showing the number of those who are deprived economically and are considered the poorest in society. If we consider from a conceptual point of view, poverty, its measurement, is totally different from the way in which the family budget is

measured, which is obtained by counting the income of a family to have a modest living (Bernstein, 2001).

Poverty thresholds are absolute levels of income that indicate quantitatively, the number of people who are the most economically deprived and the poorest in our society. Conceptually, measuring poverty is fundamentally different from the family budgets. Family budgets is determined by a relative measure of the incomes that families must have in order to live modestly (Bernstein, 2001). The methodology used to determine poverty thresholds was designed more than in 1963. The consumer price index was used to update this methodology. Specialized researchers, political analysts and social scientists, most of them agree that poverty measurement with the help of the census is outdated and engaged in a dialogue to find alternative measures. Most analyzes of alternative measures of poverty shows that the concern for intensifying measures aimed at fighting poverty does nothing more than lead to an increase in their number. (Bernstein, 2001). Therefore, an obstacle to redefining the poverty thresholds is considered the political factor, with most governments being reluctant to review policies in this area.

The income of a household refers to the combined gross income of the members of a household - people over the age of 15 and living in the same household. The economic well-being of an area is determined by using the gross income as an element of comparison of living conditions between geographical regions. Household income is one of the three measures commonly referred to as individual wealth. The other two measures, family income and per capita income, measures how well people in a particular area are doing financially. A single person who occupies a home is appreciated as being a household.

Family income comes from people who are affiliated by birth, marriage or adoption. Per capita income reflects the average income of each individual in a given area. Thus, in a family in which both family members have incomes, the per capita income is calculated on each individual. The income of households is used to conclude on the economic health of the population in a certain area. Comparison the average incomes of households in different countries provides a glimpse into the places where citizens enjoy the highest quality of life. Comparing the incomes of households in an area with real estate prices indicates if the market could be oversaturated. Financial experts from households say that buyers can pay to three times their annual income to purchase a home.

Therefore, the ratio between the median household income and the median price of home sales shows that, a typical home is not accessible to the typical household. Usually, "the gross domestic product per capita" of a nation should increase with the average household income. To calculate the family budget are taken into account the housing, transport, health, food, taxes, other necessities. All these are vital and and we can't get them out of the family budget the equation. The size of the family budget determines the standard of living of family members, taking into account a number of economic-social factors. Thus, the standard of living is a tangible, quantifiable term, and refers to the factors available for a particular socio-economic class or geographical area. The quality of life is subjective but that can measure happiness. There are factors that influence the quality of life may vary between people from the same geographical area or socio-economic class.

The standard of living offers the possibility to make comparisons between different geographical areas. Metrics can include things like the levels of wealth,

comfort, goods and needs that are available to people of different socio-economic classes in these areas. The standard of living is measured by easily quantifiable things, such as income, employment opportunities, cost of goods and services, and poverty. It also includes factors such as life expectancy, the inflation rate or the number of paid days off per year. Other factors commonly associated with the standard of living include: social class disparity, poverty rate, housing quality and accessibility, working hours needed to purchase necessities, gross domestic product (GDP), access to quality healthcare, quality and availability of education, incidence diseases, infrastructure, national economic growth, economic and political stability, political and religious freedom, environmental quality, climate, family safety.

Unemployment and migration - Unemployment rate is a measure of the weak dimension of the labor market, being also an relevant indicator of economic and social well-being. The breakdown of unemployment by sex shows how certain groups are doing compared to others and to the global population. Unemployed are defined as those who declare that they are out of work, they want to get hired and have made efforts to find a job. Many young people are leaving their home country to find a job abroad. This phenomenon shows that migration can solve the worrying situation in which young people in developing countries, who are either unemployed or not studying, are available to integrate into the labor market? According to heads of state, political decision-makers and recruiters, the answer is positive. Some governments conclude multi-country transactions to create new youth employment opportunities abroad. Some private sector companies in some countries are recruiting young people without jobs to work aboard. The phenomenon of labor migration offers young people better opportunities for access to decent work. There is a mistaken view of some who believe that the transition to the labor market in another country or society, namely that it is smooth and simple. This is not simple, especially for young migrants from developing countries. Developers and policymakers should focus on a number of areas to improve the experience of young migrants in terms of safety, security and labor migration.

Poverty and social inclusion - One of the five main objectives of the Europe 2020 Global Indicators is to reduce poverty and social exclusion. An estimated 20 million people will be at "risk of poverty or social exclusion" by 2020. The indicators that describe poverty and social exclusion are calculated taking into account geographical and temporal comparisons of monetary and non-monetary elements using statistical data on "income and living conditions (EU-SILC)". Comparisons in recent years allow, among other things, an analysis of the evolution of the social situation and its impact on the main objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Although the level of disposable income of households has increased in almost all Member States, the return to pre-crisis levels is still impossible in some states. (Europe 2020 Strategy). The European Platform dedicated to fight against "Poverty and Social Exclusion" is one of the seven flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This is an instrument meant to support EU countries to achieve the main objective, namely to reduce the number of poor and socially excluded by 20 million. The platform was launched by the European Commission in 2010 and will remain active until 2020. Its objective is to ensure social integration in parallel with economic growth - encouraging an economy with high employment, which will ensure both social cohesion, as well as territorial throughout Europe (Europe 2020 Strategy).

The World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995 defines general poverty as: "the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; poor health system; lack or limitation of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality due to diseases; lack of housing or inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion". Poverty can also be manifested by not participating in decision making, in civil, social and cultural life. (United Nations, 1995).

According to the World Bank Organization, poverty measurement is based on income. A person is considered poor if his income level falls below a minimum level necessary to meet his basic needs, relative to the society in which he lives, each country using lines that are appropriate to his level of development, norms and social values "(BBC, 2011).

Social exclusion has been defined by the Department for International Development as a process whereby certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated against on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, descent, sex, age, disability, HIV, migrant status or place in who live (DIFD, 2005). Social exclusion is a syntagmatic label for what can happen when individuals or certain areas suffer from a combination of issues related to unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing. (Levitas R., 2005). Prior to 1997, the term "social exclusion" was rarely used in the discussion of social policies. Until then, poverty was generally used to describe a situation where people did not have many of the opportunities available to the average citizen. Another definition of social exclusion would result in the inability to participate effectively in economic, social, political and cultural life, alienation and distance from the mass society (Duffy K., 1995).

The term social exclusion clearly refers to the removal or exclusion of certain persons within the company. Looking at the general way, two elements are needed to determine the level of poverty in a one-dimensional approach, namely: an indicator that reflects the well-being and resources of the household and which allows the comparison of the standard of living of the households and a limit of poverty, established by the level of the index of poverty. household welfare, against which, the wealth level of each household can be compared to that of a lower level.

Social inclusion indicators are classified into main and secondary indicators, calculated on the basis of EU-SILC data. In the category of main indicators we mention: the poverty line, according to the type of household - single-person household, household with two adults and two children; the poverty rate of the selected sexes and age groups; persistent rate of poverty risk based on gender and selected age groups; the median median difference of the risk of poverty by sex and the selected age groups; the rate of material deprivation - poor and non-poor, by age. In the secondary indicators we mention: the poverty risk rate according to sex and age; poverty rate by household type; the rate of poverty risk according to the intensity of work, by selected genders and age groups; rate of poverty risk according to economic activity and gender - employees, unemployed, pensioners, inactive persons); dispersion around the poverty risk threshold (poverty threshold is 40%, 50% and 70% of median income by sex and age; material deprivation rate (average number of deprivations) according to poverty status - poor, without age , by sex and age.

All of these indicators are relevant and measure the degree of poverty and social exclusion. In order to reduce and diminish the phenomenon of social exclusion

and to achieve social inclusion, policies have been developed at European Union level. The significance of the concept of social integration and inclusion has been increasingly recognized in recent years. The ongoing global financial and economic crisis, in particular by threatening the progress made so far in social development and exacerbating social tensions in many societies, has led to an increasing number of decision makers aware of the importance of social integration and inclusion. The need for timely interventions has been felt more than ever in today's environment. Therefore, overcoming the concept and developing concrete and practical strategies for promoting social integration and inclusion are very important to ensure that the lives of many who are disadvantaged in society - those who are traditionally excluded or marginalized, those living in poverty and those who live in poverty. who are in poverty - they are further protected and improved. These policies and strategies must be based on high quality information and regularly updated, including by systemic analysis of actual impact.

Measuring poverty and social exclusion is essential at the national and subnational levels for countries to be able to assess their current performance according to an explicit set of criteria, to determine whether or not they are making progress in combating poverty and social exclusion through comparing the impact of the various policy measures taken to promote social inclusion. The measurement of poverty and social exclusion is required worldwide to allow a reasonable, harmonized, comparison of poverty and social exclusion at the country level, in order to establish progress in reducing poverty and social exclusion worldwide, and to improve international comparative analysis and mutual learning between countries through contextualized comparisons. The specific policies developed and their impact are measured through

Although quantification is essential for analyzing poverty and social exclusion, quantitative indicators are not yet sufficient. They must be accompanied by qualitative evidence, which allows the interpretation of the numbers and provides a beginning in understanding the mechanisms underlying them. Significant elements of human experience cannot be easily reduced to a simple scale. The findings from the qualitative studies may offer some reassurance that the quantitative indicators correspond to the reality on the ground.

Some of the broader indicators of social exclusion, such as the lack of political voice of the poor and the socially excluded, may contain elements that are inherently subjective, but which may prove extremely useful for analyzing certain aspects of poverty. and social exclusion. The global perspective does not imply that there should be a single global set of indicators for all countries and all purposes. Indeed, there are a wide variety of national and also sub-national circumstances throughout the world. The sources of concern related to poverty and social exclusion are varied. Countries identify different lines of action in their societies. When discussing poverty and social exclusion indicators, it is important to address various defining issues, which include: measuring poverty in absolute terms, rather than relative terms, using consumption and not income as a basis for calculating financial indicators, and the distinction between static and dynamic indicators.

Countries should adopt a goal-oriented approach to combating poverty and social ex-clusion, which should include clear quantitative and qualitative goals for social inclusion. They should focus on a narrow list of national strategic objectives, expressed in terms of social out-comes. It is essential that these goals be the result of an in-depth diagnosis and multi-dimensional analysis of the causes of poverty and social

exclusion in the country concerned, in all important areas. Integrated strategies for social inclusion must be developed. These strategies should follow a multidimensional approach that crosses and integrates a range of policy areas, as well as the active participation of all relevant actors. In this highly focused framework, the selection of policy measures to support strategies should be based on impact assessments. Academic research can play an important role in diagnosing the causes of poverty and social exclusion and in analyzing the impact of policies on social outcomes. This goal-oriented approach is a major challenge for countries that need to develop their own framework for monitoring social inclusion. The framework for each country should respond appropriately to the national (and possibly sub-national) specificities and include objectives and indicators. It should also allow for clear links with the global framework, in order to improve international comparative analysis and mutual learning between countries through contextualized comparisons.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The objective dimensions of people's living conditions were supplemented with their perception of the quality of life, also called "subjective well-being". The quality of life indicators were calculated and analyzed together with different elements that affect the quality of life, such as educational level, activity and health status, as well as family and financial situation. There is a need to supplement GDP in order to monitor social progress, since only the analysis of GDP leads to somewhat different conclusions without these additional indicators. The quality of life issues revolve around the individual and his personal life, in the context of the society in which he lives. There have been academic researches and there have been a series of initiatives in the field of quality of life, establishing its dimensions in order to measure the well-being. In an ideal context, all these dimensions should be taken into account simultaneously due to the existence of potential trade-offs between them.

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