

## I. Introduction

What makes life happy? This is a question people often ask. It should also be a major concern of economists of countries in the world, since economists give advices to policymakers and help them in making decisions. Traditionally, economists use some economic indicators such as GDP and CPI to measure the economic health of one country. However, criticisms rise towards such practice, main concern being if these statistics can really give a true account of people's current and future well-being at a point of time. Afterall, the ultimate goal of economic and social development is to promote people's well-being. Thus, this project is motivated by a comparison of "true" life level of different countries. In this study, I would like to use some indicators more directly associated with the happiness of the people in different countries, leveraged by the Foursquare location data, to answer the two following questions: First, which aspects are more important for happiness of life ? Second, does the venue clusters share common characters with the happiness indicators cluster among different countries? The answers of these questions will be helpful for meaningful for economists to get more holistic decryption of one country and help policymaker in their policy design.

## II. Data

This study will use " OECD Better Life Index" combined with Foursquare location data. Since May 2011, OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) begun to publish " OECD Better Life Index". They attempt to address the criticisms mentioned above and to bring together internationally comparable measures of well-being in line with the recommendations of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress. These indicators covers 11 topics which OECD has identified as *"essential to well-being in terms of material living conditions (housing, income, jobs) and quality of life (community, education, environment, governance, health, life satisfaction, safety and work-life balance)".*<sup>1</sup> Each topic is reflected by one to four specific indicators. Currently, the index

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<sup>1</sup> Explanation from OECD, <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/about/better-life-initiative/>.

cover 35 members countries of OECD, including most of the world's developed economies and a few emerging countries. The data can be downloaded from OECD's website (<https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=BLI>). OECD Better Life Index allows us to answer the first question. To see the venues in these countries and answer the second question, we will rely on Foursquare data.