Here are some specific approachs each of could consider for the project. Perhaps, each of us can take the lead on building something akin to what we have below. We'll certain need to run some standard builds, such as global map and color indexings for different results, or possibly trendlines form prior years leading into a 2020 report projection. Individuals can be creative and go with their interests. On the technical side, I see an ability to draw in historical WHR data and other historic elements or coorelating elements below in order to look for unseen patterns across a wide range of dimensions (time, location and conditions etc.)

I've spent the day preparing a lot of resources and options for the team to consider at the individual level. Regarding our presentation, we could tag a few of these areas with subject specific images in addition to general 'happy' images in order to present some loose ideas about areas of added interestvalue we will pursue during the project. I've prepared a Sway slidedeck from my personal image collection to help with part of this work. Feel fee to add images as needed. Once we determine what we'll use, we can save a final copy which only includes the chosen images. To finish our prepartions, will everyone prepare at least one slide with an image alongside their approach or area of interest - perhaps with a sample piece of data or target infograph/metrics they want to display on the final project? This way we know everyone has at least one area which they feel should be included? We don't have to this - or any of these things, provided we get a presentation together and which doesn't commit us to specific outputs until we've evaluated what we think we can certainly support.

Using the last 5 years of WHR data, can we model what drives the 6 individual happiness indexes?
We could mine for associations, clustering/nearest neighbor and naïve bayes etc.
In addition to the above, we could provide visuals which present maps, trends, frequency etc..

What area provide a strong correlation to national happiness topics?
Can we discover any KPIs which drive, or are derived from, a self-reporting happy nation?
Let's assume WHR runs a sound basis worldwide; questioning this/providing a better option is beyond our pay grade.
Does X, Y, Z make us happier?

Relative change to population?
Population fluxes by natural means and/or immigration?
Racial diversity?
Blood pressure?
Healthcare benefits?
High densities of healthcare workers and services?
Food, nutrition, clean water and sanitation services?
Obesity among 20+ adults?
Per capita national debt spending or net cashflows?
Consumer prices, interest rates?
Percentage of family budgets spent on housing, discretionaries or food?
High income and a consumer lifestyle?
A home with power and utilities?
High electric consumption per household?
Annual Vacation days?
Hours worked per week?
Global lat/long?
Type or form of government: socialist, communist, republic, democracy, dictatorship, monarch, theocracy etc?
Average rainfall, sunny days, or temperatures?
Marriage and gender issues?
Some average age or percent outside of the 15-60 group?
Racial diversity?
Homicide rates?
Suicide rates
Life expectancy?

I looked into many data sources for something conclusive by nation and using a systemic statical systems we could rely on. The UN adopted a universal statistics standard when reporting on worldwide issues. They also have the greatest body of by country research under the same website which I've been able to find today. With that the following website can be a central source for our work. I've outlined over 50 specific areas in which we can attempt to find clustering/nearest neighbor, association rule mining or naive bayes insights in order to address areas of interest such as those above or within the much larger menus below (all to be found at the listed website below).

The following are menu selections found at: http://data.un.org/Explorer.aspx
      Trade Good communities top5 per capita per type
      Households by age, housing conditions, utility access
      Internally displaced persons

Income share held by x% of populations
Armed Forces Personnel
Arms Imports/Exports
Battle Related Deaths
Net Migration
Death rates
Birth rates
Per Capita Suicides?
Distance to Frontier
Per Capita Debt Service public guaranteed
Racial Diversity, and race breakdown
Employed population
The State of the World's Children - loaded with info
World Contraceptive Use and Unmet Needs
Marital Status
first marriages by age of groom
Live births in wedlock
Relative change in population
Live births by age of father
Homicide Stats
UIS Data Centre - loaded with literacy and educational stats
WHO Data -> World Health Statistics :
        health insurance
        annula poplulation growth rate
        Per Captial GDP?
        Population by ages mean, over 60, under 15 etc
        Obese adults 20 or older
        Alcohol and tabacco usage
        Raised blood pressure
        Healthy life expectancy
        adult mortality rate (prob of dying between 15-60
        Health Systems: costs, copays, relative medication prices, density of services and providers
OECD/ODA received - economic stimuli grants
National Accounts Official Country Data
        Individual consumption by category - LOADED WITH USEFUL COMPARISONS TO THE WHR
        General Government - tons of info e.g. how much per captia debt spending and disposable income
LABORSTA - consumer prices employment by economic activity, wages, general unemployment
International Financial Statistics
        Bond yields
        Earnings
        Interest Rates
        Labor
        Production
        Reserves
        Cnetral Govt net cashflows, gross debt, assets and liabilities, net worth, imports/exports
Indicators on Women and Men
        Legal marriage age/status, maternity leave benefits, p/t employ, teaching staff, women leadership
Human Development Indices - poverty, gender equality/development, trends etc
Gender Info - TONS TONS TONS OF GOOD DATA
FAOSTAT Nutrition, access to food, land use
Environmental Stats - access to clean/treated water and waste collection
Energy Stats - electricity consumed by household, nuclear production