Variables'description for the Better Life Index data set

Material well-being

- ***Dwellings without basic facilities***: This indicator refers to the percentage of the population living in a dwelling without indoor flushing toilet for the sole use of their households. Flushing toilets outside the dwelling are not to be considered in this item. Flushing toilets in a room where there is also a shower unit or a bath are also counted.

- ***Housing expenditure***: This indicator considers the expenditure of households in housing and maintenance of the house, as defined in the SNA (P31CP040: Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels; P31CP050: Furnishings, households' equipment and routine maintenance of the house). It includes actual and imputed rentals for housing, expenditure in maintenance and repair of the dwelling (including miscellaneous services), in water supply, electricity, gas and other fuels, as well as the expenditure in furniture and furnishings and households equipment, and goods and services for routine maintenance of the house as a percentage of the household gross adjusted disposable income. Data refer to the sum of households and non-profit institution serving households.

- ***Rooms per person***: This indicator refers to the number of rooms (excluding kitchenette, scullery/utility room, bathroom, toilet, garage, consulting rooms, office, shop) in a dwelling divided by the number of persons living in the dwelling.

- ***Household net adjusted disposable income***: It's the maximum amount that a household can afford to consume without having to reduce its assets or to increase its liabilities. It's obtained adding to people's gross income (earnings, self-employment and capital income, as well as current monetary transfers received from other sectors) the social transfers in-kind that households receive from governments (such as education and health care services), and then subtracting the taxes on income and wealth, the social security contributions paid by households as well as the depreciation of capital goods consumed by households. Available data refer to the sum of households and non-profit institution serving households.

- ***Household net financial wealth***: Net financial wealth consists of : currency and deposits, securities other than share, loans, shares and other equity (including shares issued by investment funds), insurance technical reserves, and other accounts receivable or payable, net of household financial liabilities, as defined by the System of National Accounts – SNA. Data refer to the sum of households and non-profit institution serving households.

Jobs

- ***Employment rate***: It is the number of employed persons aged 15 to 64 over the population of the same age. Employed people are those aged 15 or more who report that they have worked in gainful employment for at least one hour in the previous week, as defined by the International Labour Organization – ILO.

- *Job security*: This indicator presents the probability to become unemployed. It is calculated as the number of people who were unemployed in 2013, but were employed in 2012 over the total number of employed in 2012.

- *Long-term unemployment rate*: This indicator refers to the number of persons who have been unemployed for one year or more as a percentage of the labour force (the sum of employed and unemployed persons). Unemployed persons are defined as those who are currently not working but are willing to do so and actively searching for work.

- *Personal earnings*: This indicator refers to the average annual wages per full-time equivalent dependent employee, which are obtained by dividing the national-accounts-based total wage bill by the average number of employees in the total economy, which is then multiplied by the ratio of average usual weekly hours per full-time employee to average usually weekly hours for all employees. It considers the employees' gross remuneration, that is, the total before any deductions are made by the employer in respect of taxes, contributions of employees to social security and pension schemes, life insurance premiums, union dues and other obligations of employees.

- *Employees working very long hours*: This indicator measures the proportion of dependent employed whose usual hours of work per week are 50 hours or more.

Happiness

- *Quality of support network*: It's a measure of perceived social network support. The indicator is based on the question: "If you were in trouble, do you have relatives or friends you can count on to help you whenever you need them, or not?" and it considers the respondents who respond positively.

- *Life satisfaction*: The indicator considers people's evaluation of their life as a whole. It is a weighted-sum of different response categories based on people's rates of their current life relative to the best and worst possible lives for them on a scale from 0 to 10, using the Cantril Ladder (known also as the "Self-Anchoring Striving Scale").

- *Time devoted to leisure and personal care*: This indicator measures the amount of minutes (or hours) per day that, on average, full-time employed people spend on leisure and on personal care activities. Leisure includes a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities such as walking and hiking, sports, entertainment and cultural activities, socializing with friends and family, volunteering, taking a nap, playing games, watching television, using computers, recreational gardening, etc. Personal care activities include sleeping (but not taking a nap), eating and drinking, and other household or medical or personal services (hygiene, visits to the doctor, hairdresser, etc.) consumed by the respondent. Travel time related to personal care is also included. The information is generally collected through national Time Use Surveys, which involve respondents keeping a diary of their activities over one or several representative days for a given period.

Health and safety

- ***Air pollution***: The indicator is urban-population weighted average of annual concentrations of particulate matters less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10) in the air in residential areas of cities with more than 100,000 residents.

- ***Water quality***: The indicator captures people's subjective appreciation of the environment where they live, in particular the quality of the water. It is based on the question: "In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of water?" and it considers people who responded they are satisfied.

- ***Life expectancy***: Life expectancy measures how long on average people could expect to live based on the age-specific death rates currently prevailing. This measure refers to people born today and is computed as a weighted average of life expectancy for men and women.

- ***Self-reported health***: This indicator refers to the percentage of the population aged 15 years old and over who report "good" or better health. The WHO recommends using a standard health interview survey to measure it, phrasing the question as "How is your health in general?" with response scale "It is very good/ good/ fair/ bad/ very bad".

- ***Assault rate***: The indicator is based on the question: "Within the past 12 months: have you been assaulted or mugged?" and it considers people declaring having been assaulted or mugged.

- ***Homicide rate***: Deaths due to assault

Education

- ***Educational attainment***: Educational attainment considers the number of adults aged 25 to 64 holding at least an upper secondary degree over the population of the same age, as defined by the OECD-ISCED classification.

- ***Student skills***: Students' average score in reading, mathematics and science as assessed by the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

- ***Years in education***: This indicator is the average duration of education in which a 5 year old child can expect to enrol during his/her lifetime until the age of 39. It is calculated under the current enrolment conditions by adding the net enrolment rates for each single year of age from the age of five onwards.