

# REGIONAL RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING: THE RELEVANCE OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS'

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# Place as a Means of Engaging Personal, Regional and Global Challenges

- Regional studies as a site of research and policy for addressing social, economic and environmental challenges
- The contemporary rise of interest in 'well-being'
- Sustainable Development Goals: the global agenda for achieving well-being?
- Regions and their firms as context for implementation of the SDGs and the fulfilment of wellbeing?

# To Put 'Well-Being' First

- The growth of interest in 'Well-Being':
  - **UK** 2005: Health and Wellbeing - workplace oriented
  - 2008, **Sarkozy**: Stiglitz, Sen, Fitoussi, current and sustainable well-being –measuring well-being, not just GDP
  - David Cameron speech in 2010: “we’ll start measuring our progress as a country, not just by how our economy is growing, but by how our lives are improving... government has the power to help improve wellbeing”.
  - **Australian** Government also emphasises workplace health & wellbeing; cf. **NZ** Living Standards Framework, measures to support an intergenerational well-being approach
  - Well-being Australia: supports ‘an environment where all Australians are engaged, motivated to learn and develop, and are proactive in managing their own wellbeing’.

# Wellbeing: Much More Than Economics

- 2017, OECD: 50 indicators... signs of progress, but gains have been offset by losses elsewhere... in-depth review of well-being inequalities and how to measure them... that gaps in people's achievements and opportunities extend across different dimensions of well-being.



- 2018, Dalziel et al, *Wellbeing Economics*:  
'The aim is to expand personal capabilities, which is aided by the specialist capabilities of firms, which are influenced by the local capabilities of regions, which depends on the distinctive capabilities of the Nation State for fostering and managing knowledge'.
  - personal/community wellbeing is achieved by human actions, from persons to the global community,
  - a much more comprehensive view of wealth



# A New Agenda for Global Development

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an expanded global agenda endorsed by the UN following the experience of the Millennium Development Goals
- An Open Working Group, post-2012, with widespread consultation including civil society
- 17 Goals, 169 targets
- Indicators to measure
- Significant engagement from UN agencies
- High Level Political Forum
- The Paris Agreement on Climate, November 2015



# The SDGs

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

# The SDGs (cont)

- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



# Bringing Some Focus to Bear...

Jeffrey Sachs, Global Director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) identifies 5 thematic categories of Goals:

1. the provision of **essentially public services**: health, education, utilities and infrastructure;
  2. complex 'intermediate' goals such as 'decent work' that involve close **collaboration between public and private sectors, and civil society**;
  3. **complex high-level goals** such as eliminating poverty and hunger by 2030;
  4. **transformational goals** for environmental sustainability, addressing specific topics such as climate-related change, carbon, urbanisation, food, energy and ecosystems; and
  5. **high level social objectives**, related to gender equality, reducing violence and increasing inclusion, and promoting global citizenship. (See Sachs 2015, 274-75)
- Another approach is to consider the value of place as a context for the implementation of the SDGs



# Regional Resilience (Development) and SDGs: Scale, Complexity, Participation

- 2015, Boschma (*Regional Studies*): an evolutionary approach to regional resilience: not just reactive and stabilising – distinguishes adaptation and adaptability.
- In a context of increasing global intensity, Boschma suggests that resilience depends on fundamental economic renewal, generating new growth paths
- Importance of regional knowledge networks, well connected locally and linked beyond the region, in enabling regions to adapt to shocks and to find new growth paths. Also institutional capability...
- A regional focus offers identity, granularity and accessibility to engage and mobilise stakeholders around well-being.

# Connecting Wellbeing, the SDGs and Regions

- The SDGs provide a wide-ranging map for understanding personal and community well-being; even more so, the targets outline a more specific program for intervention
- So, given the complexity and scale, the challenge is how to develop an integrated framework for cross-sectoral coherence and focus?
- Regional framing provides a focus for policy and research, linking multi-level governance with business, community and education/research stakeholders
- Developing the research agenda: questions of data, policy coherence, and democratic stakeholder engagement