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MINISTRY  
OF REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT CZ

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

# QUALITY OF LIFE AS AN EVALUATION CRITERION

10-11/FEB 2021

EES THEMATIC WORKING GROUP 7 ON EU POLICIES  
CZECH EVALUATION SOCIETY  
MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

### Theme description

EU policies cover a wide range of economic, social, cultural and international domains where they aim to promote sustainable development, ensure cohesion and solidarity, and secure an area of freedom, security and justice. Considering the variety of their objectives, the funds involved, and the interconnections among Member States, these policies deserve to be evaluated, in order to ensure that they bring an added value to the EU, meet their objectives, and demonstrate their relevance, effectiveness and efficiency to EU citizens.

The first workshop of the European Evaluation Society's Thematic Working Group 7 on EU Policies will discuss the quality of life as an evaluation criterion. Within EU policies, this criterion has been rarely used in evaluations (an exemption is, for example, the study of Gorzelak (2017) concerning EU cohesion policy). Thus, it enables the Thematic Working Group to open a new and important area in the field of evaluation.

The reason for the low appearance of such evaluations is the multidimensionality of understanding the concept "quality of life." For example, the OECD better life index covers 11 sub-indexes, who in turn cover a plethora of topics: housing, income, jobs, community, education, environment, civic engagement, health, life satisfaction, safety, and work-life balance (OECD, 2020). Evaluations in the EU are usually provided by bodies responsible for a particular theme and who cover a single policy field. Such practice requires us to discuss the multidimensionality of the quality of life from various perspectives.

This session welcomes contributions aiming to shed light on the different evaluation themes, their relation to evaluating the quality of life, and EU policies. This theme includes but is not limited to the following:

- Interlinking thematic evaluations with quality of life as an evaluation criterion.
- Use of quality of life as a direct evaluation criterion.
- Defining quality of life and comparison with other concepts used in evaluations, such as wellbeing.

- Quantitative and qualitative assessments of quality of life.
- Methodological and interpretative limits of quality of life evaluation.
- Differences in quality of life evaluation at national, regional and local levels.
- Distinguishing between hard and soft aspects of quality of life in programmes.
- Infrastructure investments and evaluation of their impact on quality of life.
- Soft projects and evaluation of their impact on quality of life.
- Evaluation of quality of life in the context of sustainable development.

We welcome both empirical and conceptual papers, and practice-oriented contributions as well.

### **Practical information**

This workshop will be held under the auspices of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic co-organised with the European Evaluation Society's Thematic Working Group on EU policies and the Czech Evaluation Society.

If you are interested in presenting a paper during this workshop, please submit your abstract of no more than 400 words (per e-mail to [oto.potluka@unibas.ch](mailto:oto.potluka@unibas.ch)) by 23 December 2020.

Please note that while we will assess all the proposals submitted to this special session, only a limited number of submissions will be selected, bearing in mind their fit with the topics outlined above, complementarities between them, and the overall coherence of the session.

The workshop is expected to lead to a joint publication endeavour to be discussed and specified after the workshop (e.g. a special issue). To be part of this initiative, the authors will be asked to submit full papers within a short period after the workshop.

**Participation in the event is free of charge.** Participants not presenting papers are very welcome **but will need to register.** We also welcome non-EES members to attend.

**Depending on the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the event will be held either in the premises of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, or online.**

Do not hesitate to contact Oto Potluka ([oto.potluka@unibas.ch](mailto:oto.potluka@unibas.ch)) for more information about this session.