

# The Commission initiative on Sustainable and Inclusive Wellbeing

Feeding the new consensus

Peter Benczur

*European Commission Joint Research Centre*

*May 2026*

*The views expressed are those of the presenter and do not necessarily reflect the official view of the European Commission.*



# From GDP to sustainable and inclusive wellbeing



“This broad approach to measuring and monitoring resilience should feed into an **integrated approach to measuring people’s wellbeing.**” *SFR 2020*

“The resilience dashboards are an important step towards a more **integrated approach for measuring wellbeing beyond GDP.**” *SFR 2021*

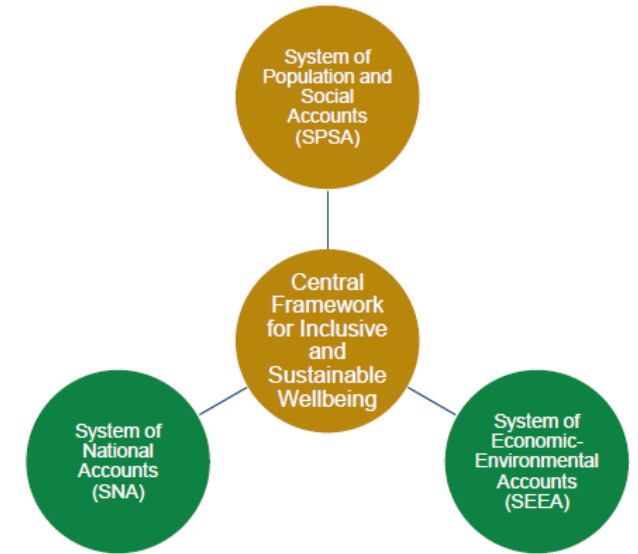
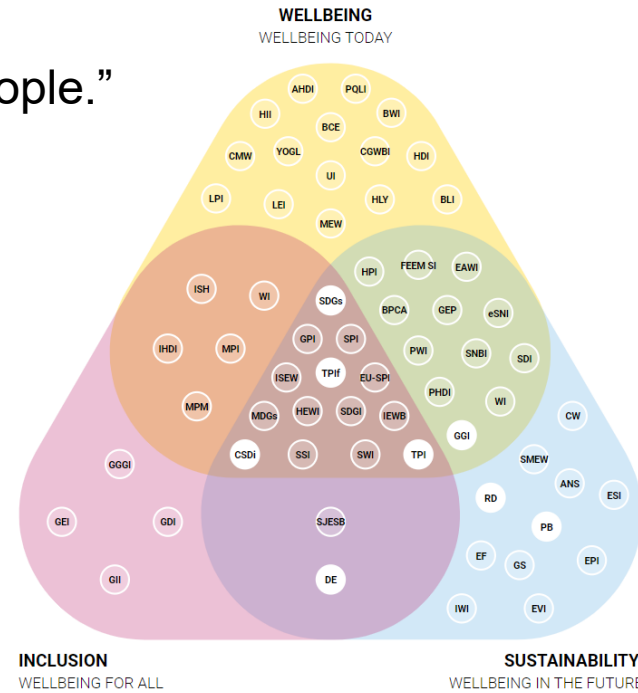
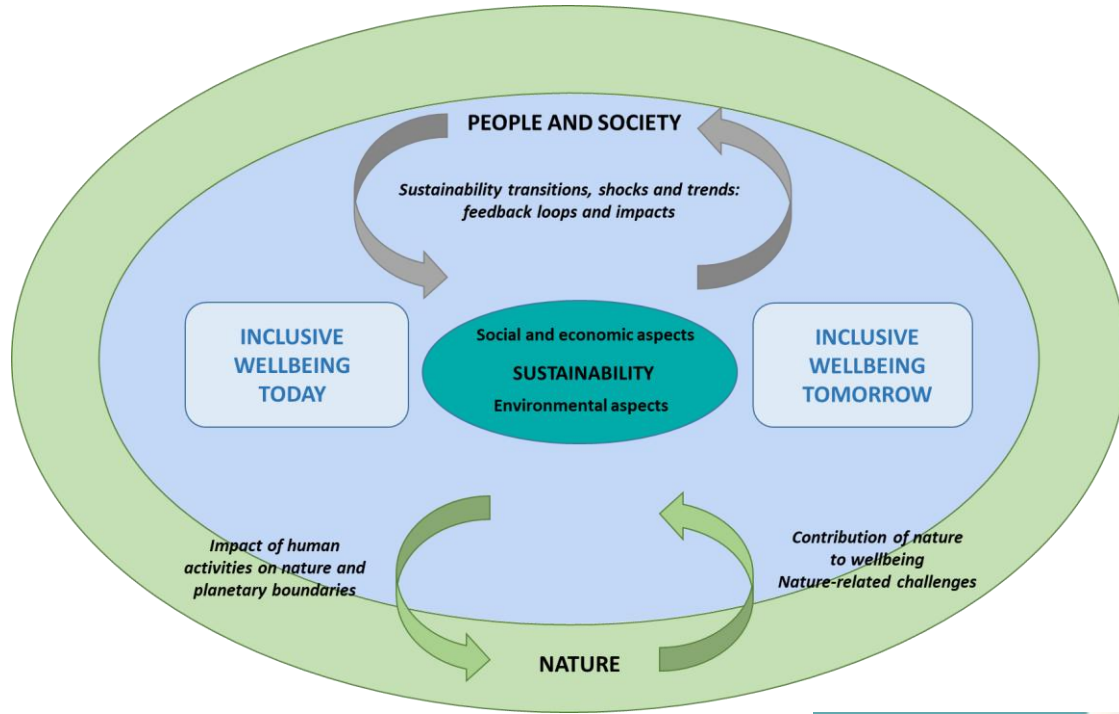
“The EC has launched internal work on **developing Sustainable and Inclusive Wellbeing metrics for the EU to complement GDP.**” *SFR 2023*

“The EC’s work on a **dashboard of sustainable and inclusive wellbeing indicators** that has the potential to reduce reporting burdens is now **mature enough to be embedded into policy evaluation, and investment and reform decision-making.** The EC should strengthen cooperation with the OECD and the on the **international efforts to develop ‘beyond GDP’ frameworks,** building on the 2030 Agenda and their sustainable development goals.” *SFR 2025*



# SIWB: an emerging new consensus

**Treaty on European Union:** “The Union’s aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its people.”



- <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC137910>
- [https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session\\_55/document/s/BG-3g-NetEcoStats-beyond\\_GDP-E.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_55/document/s/BG-3g-NetEcoStats-beyond_GDP-E.pdf)
- <https://beyond-gdp.world/wise-database/wise-metrics>
- [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/interim\\_report\\_high-level\\_expert\\_group\\_on\\_beyond\\_gdp\\_251105.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/interim_report_high-level_expert_group_on_beyond_gdp_251105.pdf)

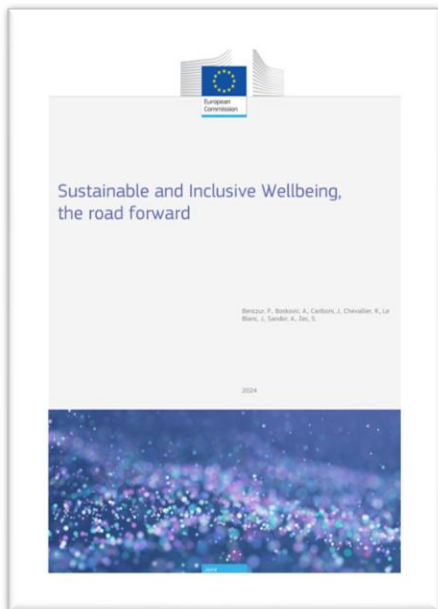
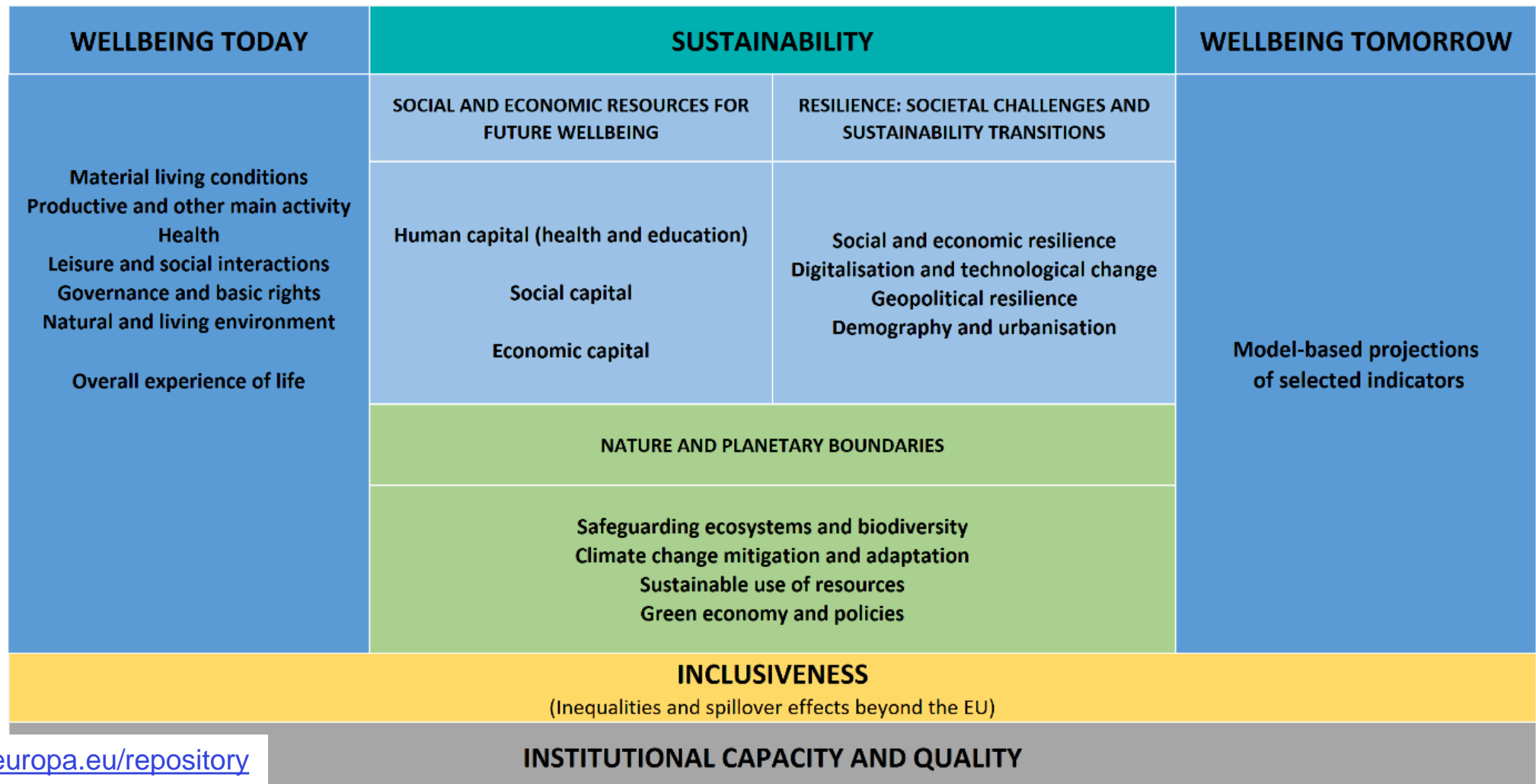
SAVE THE DATE  
14 - 15  
January  
2026  
BRUXELLES



“We plan to address the overreliance on GDP through our proposed conceptual framework, which will be operationalized through a dashboard of inclusive/equitable and sustainable well-being indicators.”

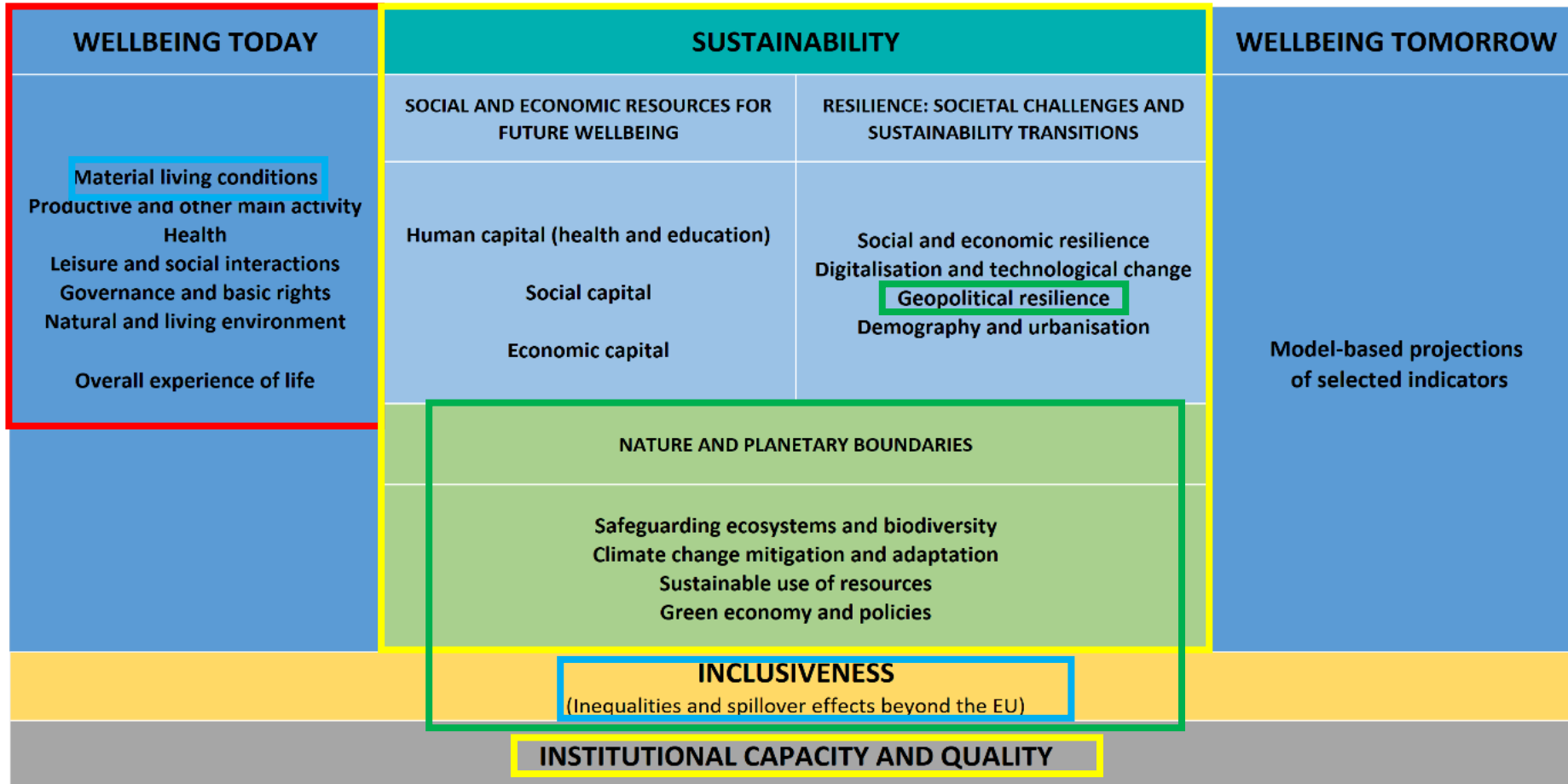
# Sustainable and inclusive wellbeing

*The wellbeing of all people of current and future generations, and of the planet*



<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC137910>

# Relationship with the HLEG's proposed structure



Current wellbeing: very similar domains

Sustainability and resilience:  
 Similar capitals  
 "Braver" use of resilience proxies  
 Institutions  
 Nature not only as capital

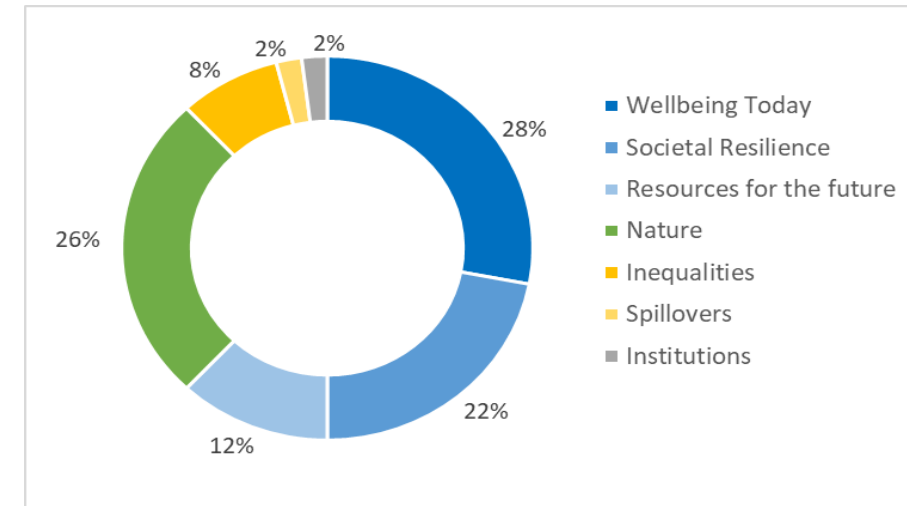
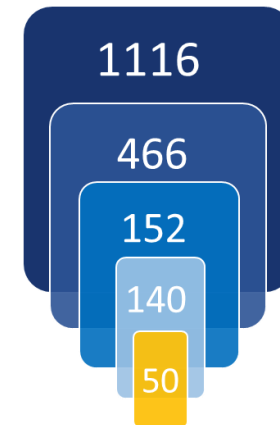
Foundations:  
 Nature  
 Human rights in inclusiveness  
 Peace (partly) in resilience

Equity and inclusion:  
 Very similar variables  
 Deprivations more in material living conditions



# Building on existing frameworks and expert consensus

		EC								non-EC		
		EU SDGs 2022	Quality of Life	Social scoreboard	Resilience Dashboards	TPI	EU Regional SPI	8th EAP	Statistics for EGD	ES Country Reports (2022)	OECD	The Doughnut
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> over 0.67</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">●</span> 0.33 to 0.66</li> <li><span style="color: red;">●</span> 0 to 0.33</li> <li><span style="color: white;">○</span> 0</li> </ul>										
	Wellbeing today	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
Sustainability	Social and economic resources for future wellbeing	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
	Resilience: societal challenges and sustainability transitions	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
	Nature and planetary boundaries	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
	Inclusiveness	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
	Institutional capacity and quality	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: white;">○</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
<b>Total number of (mapped) indicators</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>28</b>

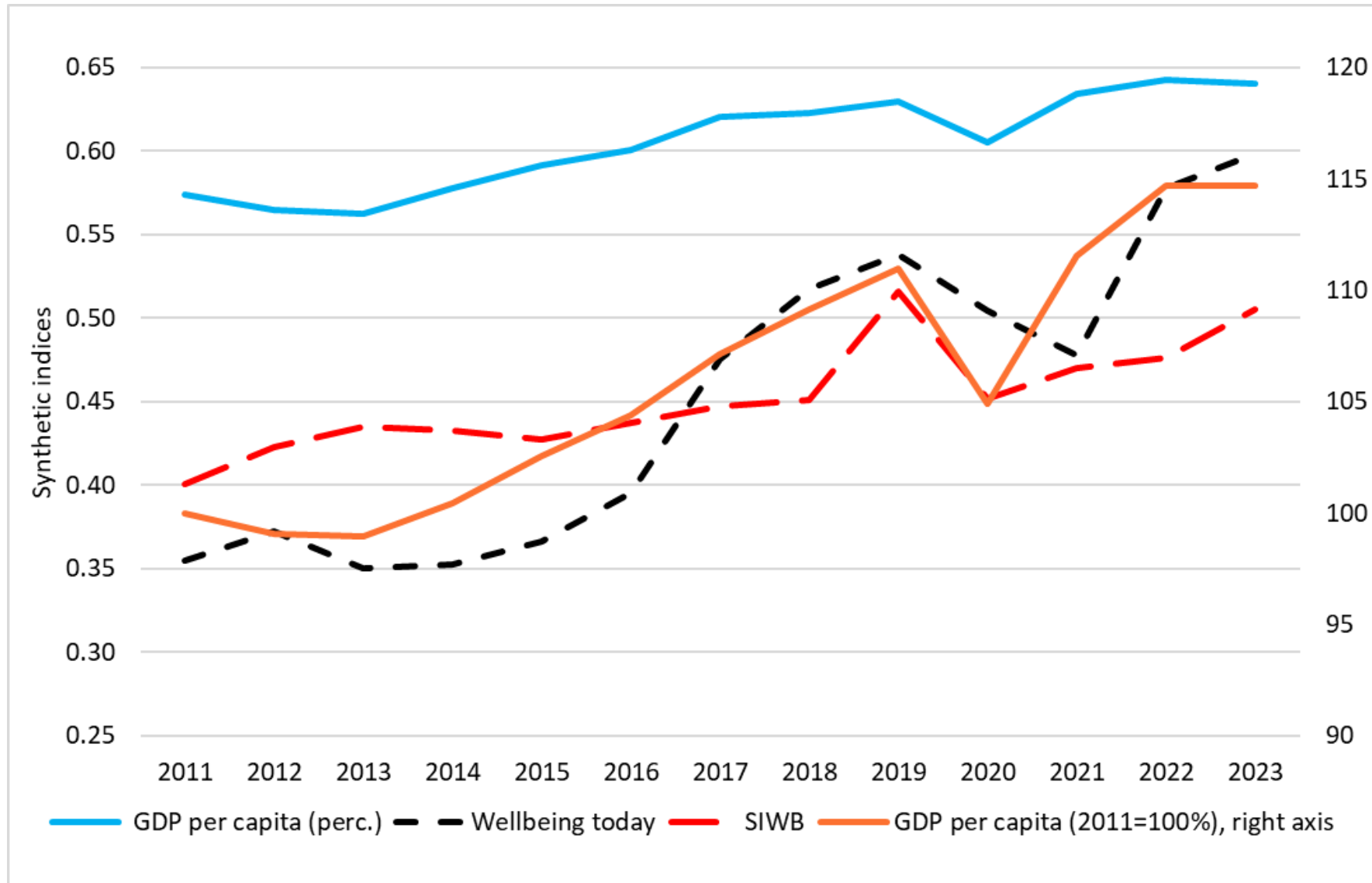


<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC140456>  
<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC141068>





# Evolution of SIWB and its components, 2011-23



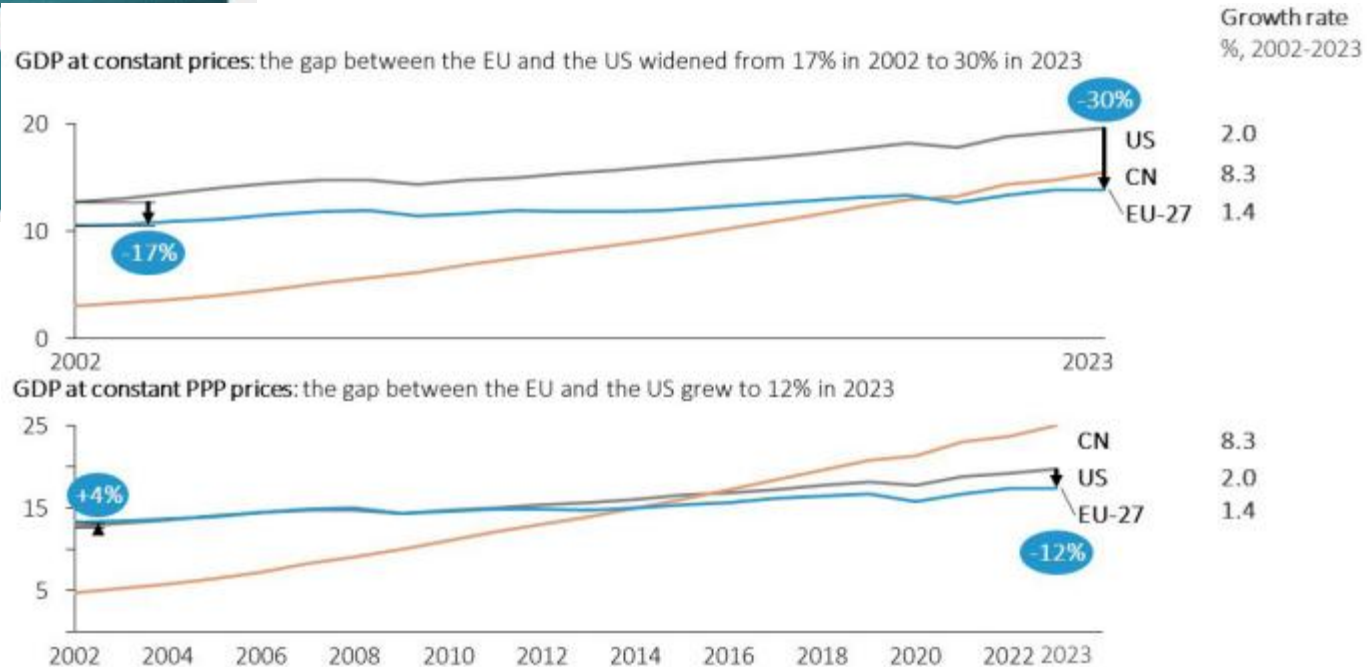
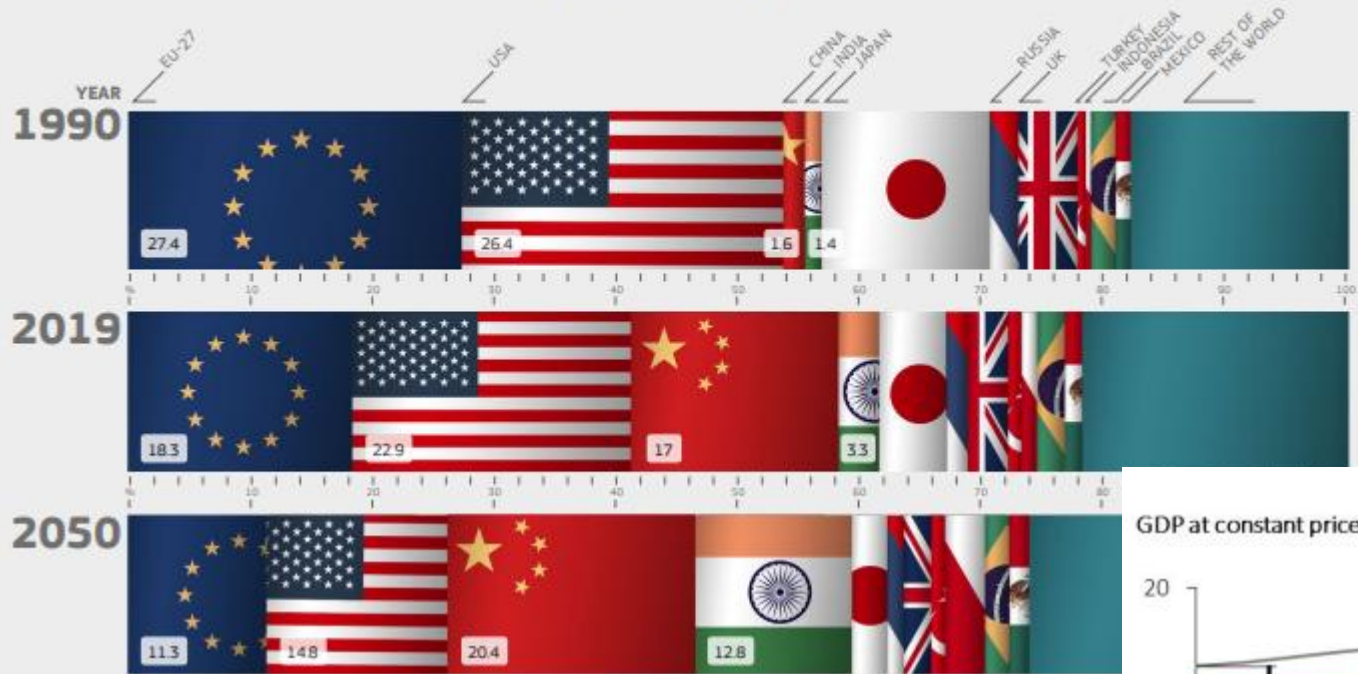
# The shift to the East (and the West)

“The question has been reopened as to which model is more suitable for increasing the wellbeing of a nation, showing perspective, and providing security.”

(2026, Gordon Bajnai, Hungary’s PM in 2009-10)

[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2021-strategic-foresight-report\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2021-strategic-foresight-report_en)  
[https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/draghi-report\\_en#paragraph\\_47059](https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/draghi-report_en#paragraph_47059)

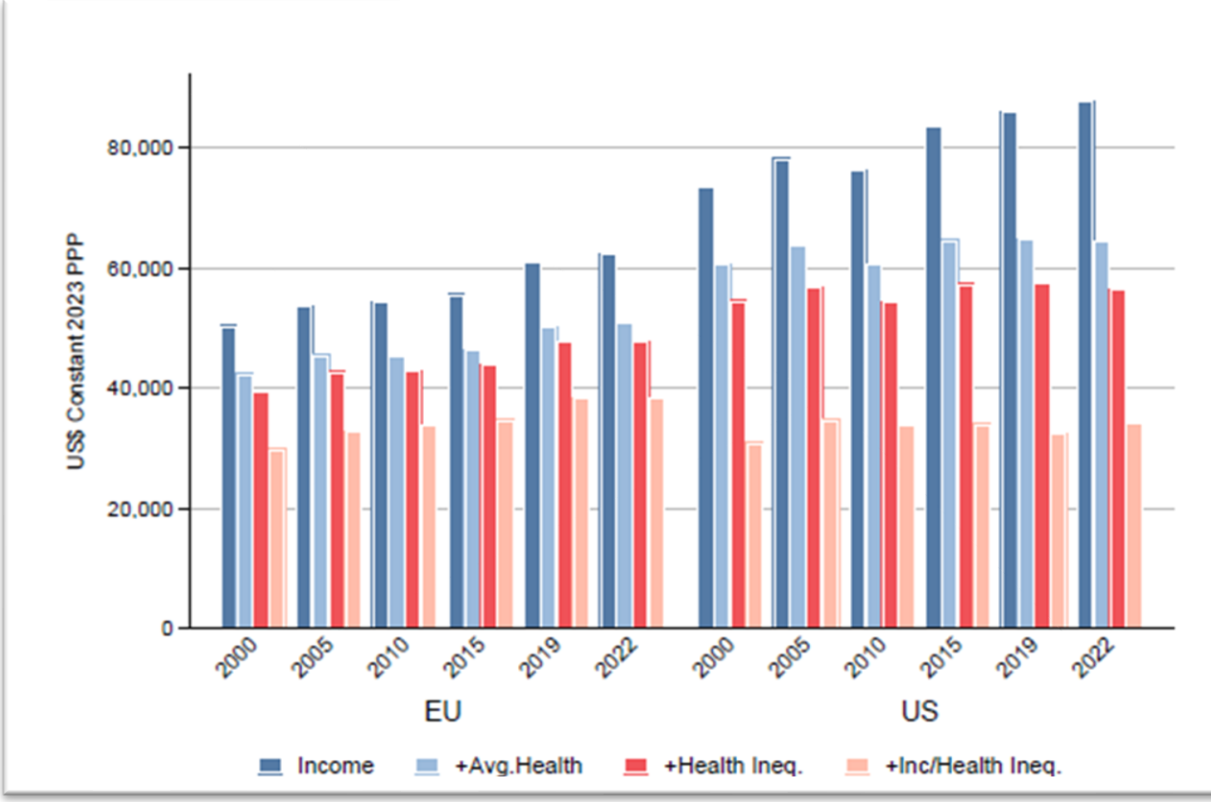
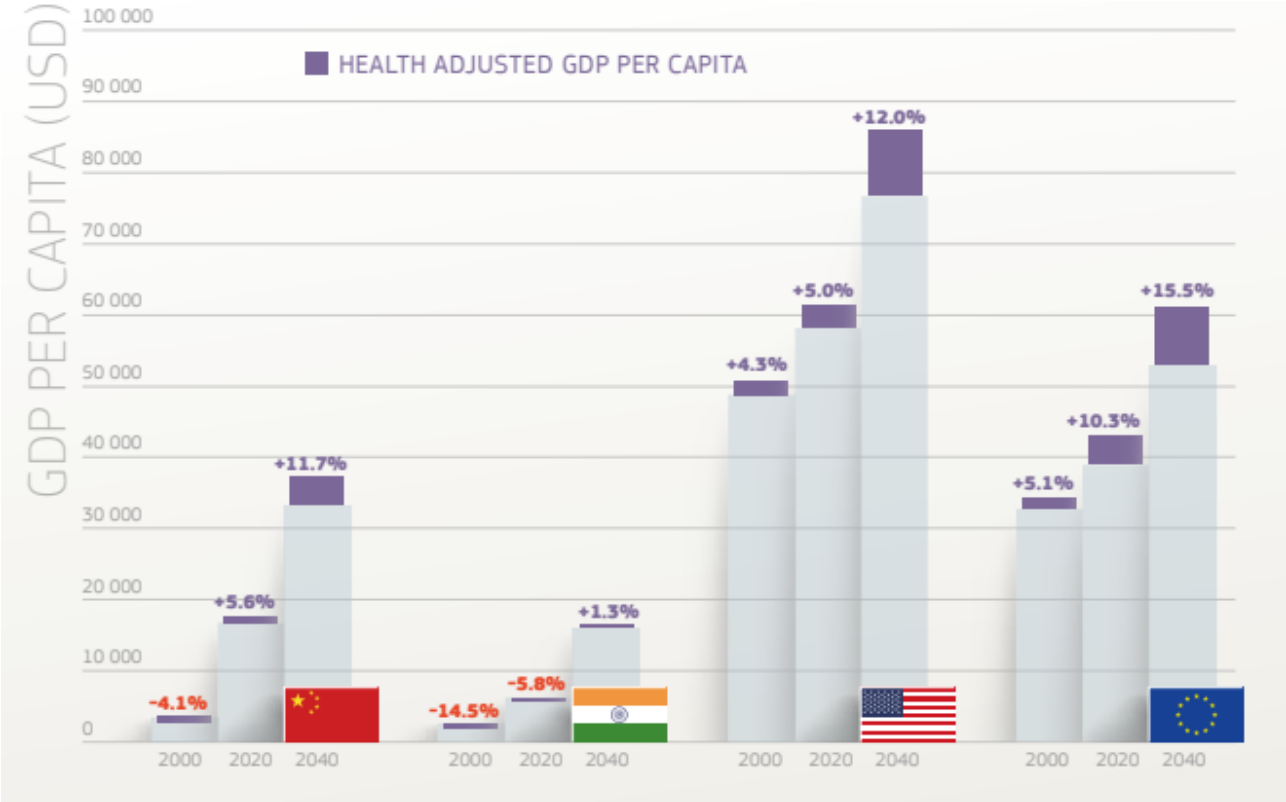
## GLOBAL GDP



## A directionality for competitiveness

- To use resources efficiently to deliver wellbeing to people in a sustainable and inclusive way.
- Need to take into account the resources that were devoted to elements of societal wellbeing not measured in GDP.

# Adjusted income metrics: SFR 2023 pilot and beyond



<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC134152>

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC141950>

“The second, “e-GDP”, adjusts average GDP downward, [...] reflecting that the same average GDP can translate into different levels of welfare depending on its distribution.

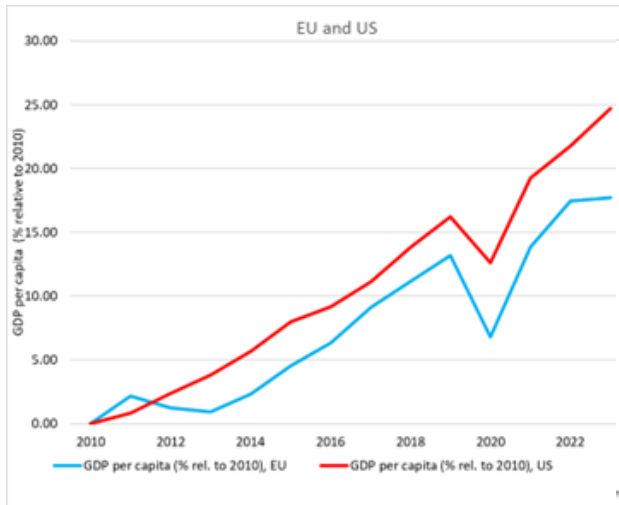
“preference-based normative weighting approach”

[https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/interim\\_report\\_high-level\\_expert\\_group\\_on\\_beyond\\_gdp\\_251105.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/interim_report_high-level_expert_group_on_beyond_gdp_251105.pdf)

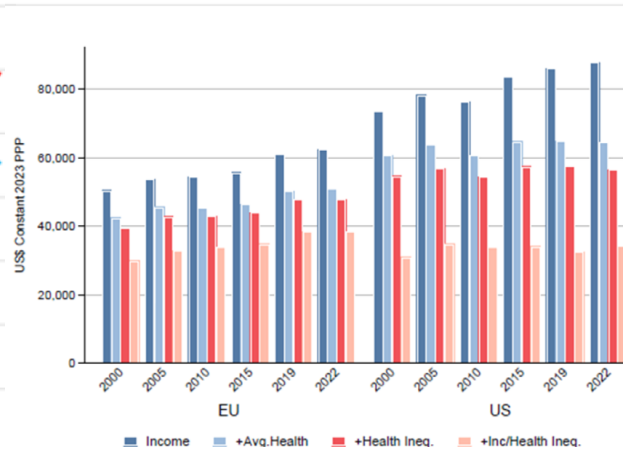


# Track the EU's performance in global comparison: EU vs US

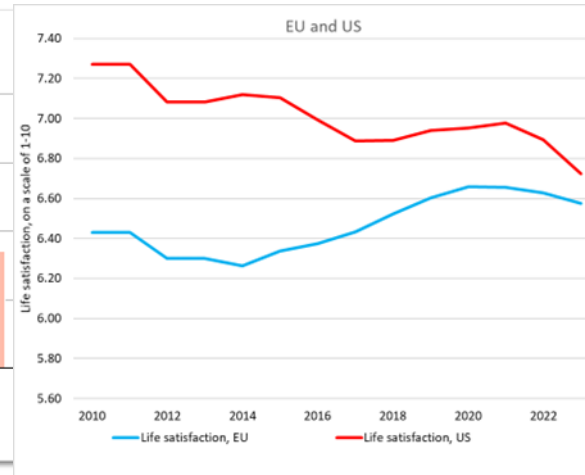
Using the three main “contenders” for summary measures



GDP per capita



Augmented income

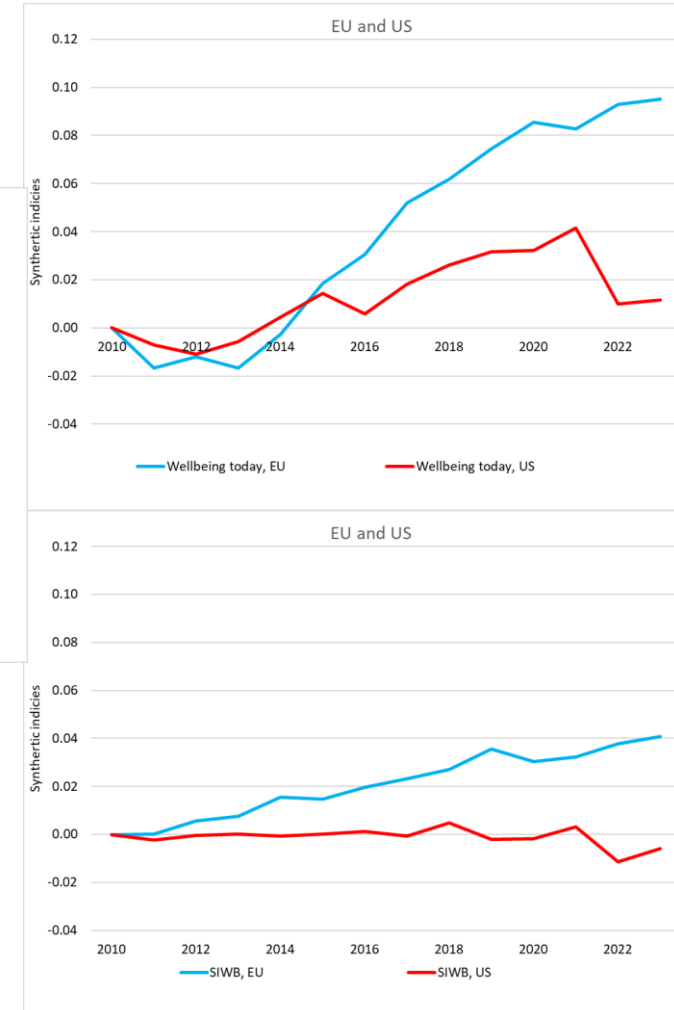


Life satisfaction

Preliminary results from the global version of the SIWB dashboard, EU versus US

Based on 42, globally available variants of the SIWB list of 50

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC146569>



Composites: wellbeing today, overall SIWB

**The EU is ready to support and implement the HLEG proposals**

# Thank you

[https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/beyond-gdp-delivering-sustainable-and-inclusive-wellbeing\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/beyond-gdp-delivering-sustainable-and-inclusive-wellbeing_en)  
[JRC-Sustainable-Wellbeing@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-Sustainable-Wellbeing@ec.europa.eu)



© European Union 2026

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.



# Some trade-offs (2023)

Wellbeing today vs resources for the future

