

HAPPINESS

(Happiness, Political Institutions, Natural Environment and Space)

A Comparative Analysis of the influence of environmental conditions, environmental regimes and political context on subjective well-being



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND LAW



Outline

- Team
- Scope
- Objectives
- Work Plan
- Funding status
- Teaming arrangements
- Intra-CRP networking activities

Team

- Partner 1 (University College Dublin, Ireland)
 - Dr. Susana Ferreira, Prof. J. Peter Clinch, Mirko Moro, School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy
 - Dr. Finbarr Brereton, Urban Institute Ireland
- Partner 2 (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)
 - Prof. Olof Johansson-Stenman and Prof. Peter Martinsson, Department of Economics
- Partner 3 (Universidad de Navarra, Spain)
 - Prof. Juncal Cuñado, Department of Economics

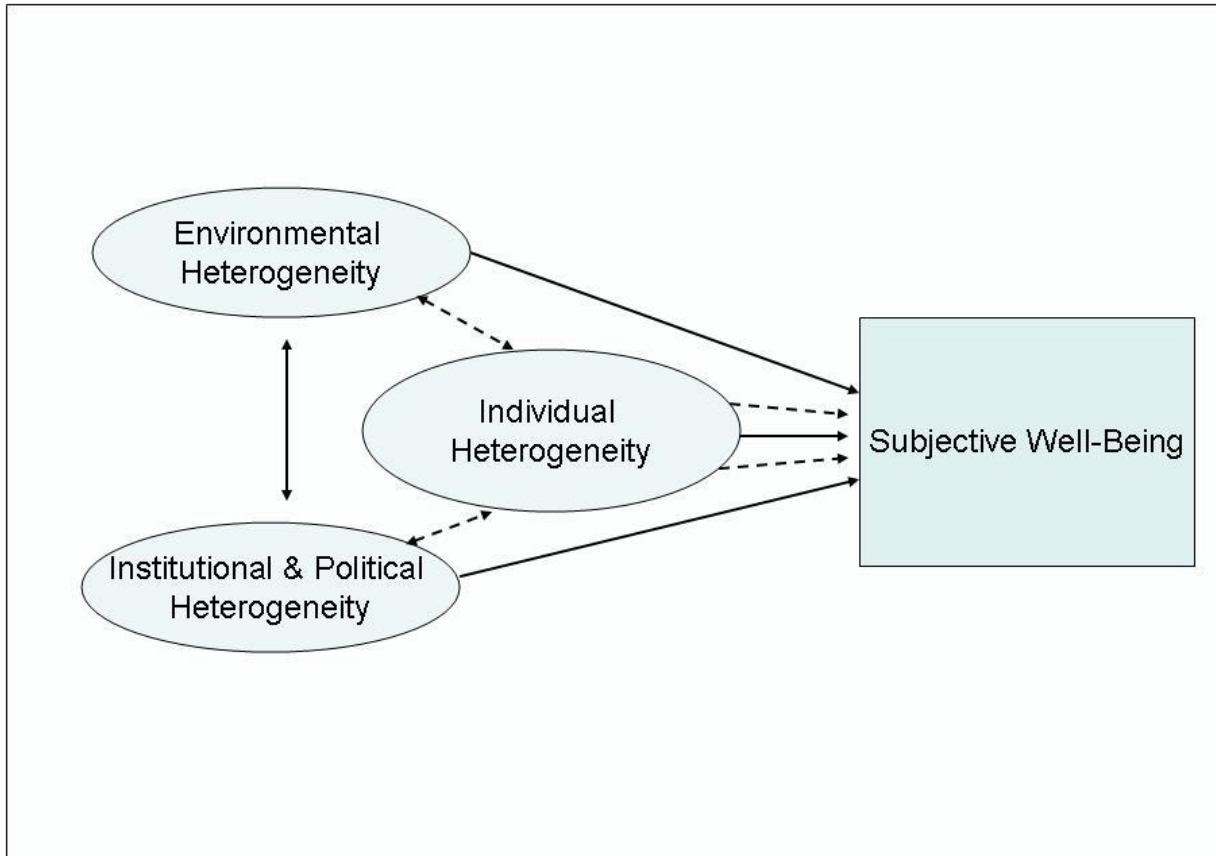
Scope

- Spatial dimension of subjective well-being in Europe; the “geography of happiness”

Scope

- Spatial dimension of subjective well-being in Europe; the “geography of happiness”
- Spatial heterogeneity
 - Different sources of spatial heterogeneity:
 - Environmental
 - Institutional and Political
 - Multi-level modelling
 - Individual
 - Regional
 - National

Scope



Key relationships addressed by project

Scope

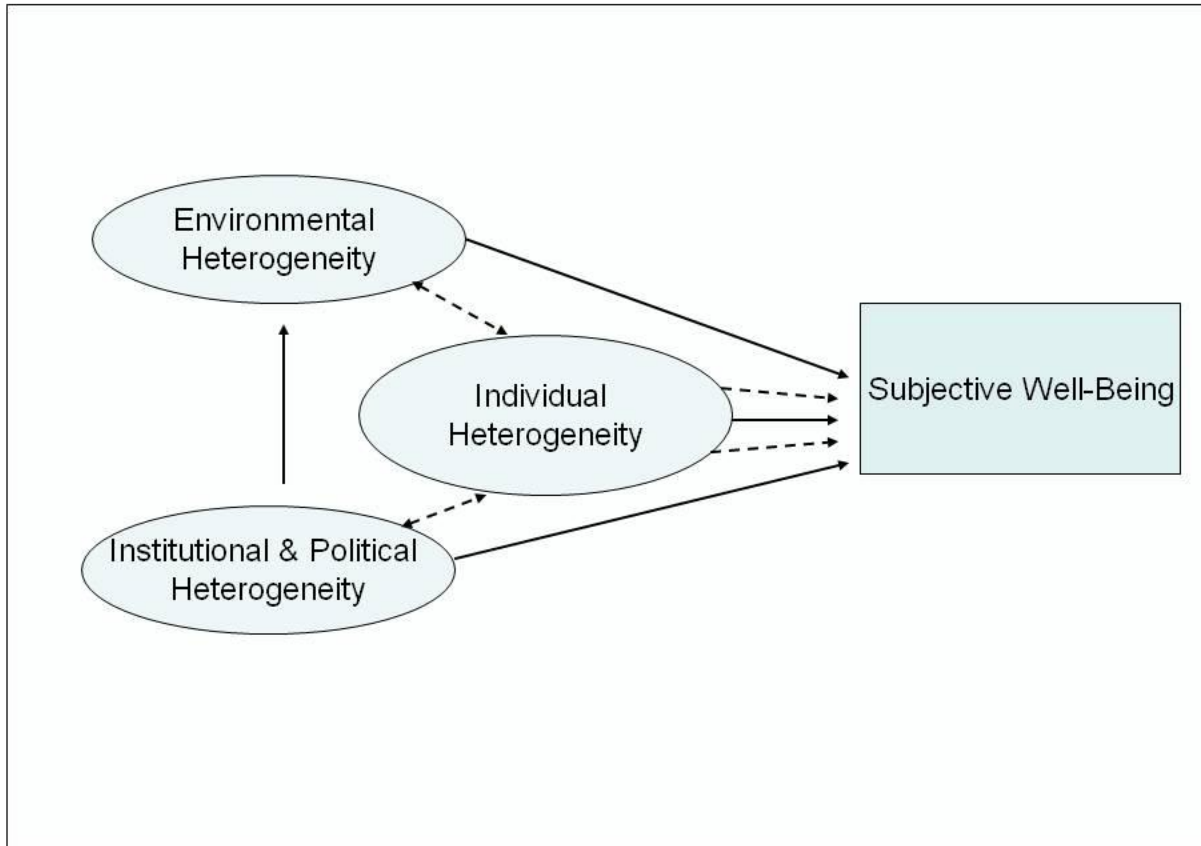
- We attempt to address 3 limitations of previous literature:
 - Previous studies focus on cross-country variation of e.g. climate or air pollution, but individual experiences environmental amenities at a *regional* or *local* level
 - Investigation of causal channels through interaction with individual characteristics (e.g. Does air pollution affect more the SWB of unhealthy individuals? Or of those with stronger environmental values? Do differences in institutional settings have differential impacts for citizens/non citizens?)
 - Consideration of interactions at the macro/meso level (e.g. is environmental quality related to the importance of the green vote or viceversa?)

Objectives (i)

- To assess how multi-level heterogeneity,
 - Environmental heterogeneity
 - Institutional and political heterogeneity
 - Individual heterogeneityinfluences subjective well-being or life satisfaction across European regions and countries.

Objectives (ii)

- To investigate how systemic factors related to the environmental and institutional settings affect SWB (and interact with and modify individual characteristics, attitudes and behaviour)
- To assess the relationships between the national political climate and scope of environmental policies and
 - Individual environmental awareness, perceptions and attitudes
 - Objective environmental quality at the local, regional and national level



Key relationships addressed by project

Objectives (iii)

- To collate data on spatial attributes (environmental endowments and political and institutional context) at local, regional and national level across Europe
 - To link spatial attributes to individual data at the highest possible level of disaggregation through GIS
- To make the resulting dataset available to the international research community via a website
- To communicate findings to key stakeholders and the general public through academic peer-reviewed papers and policy briefs

Work Plan

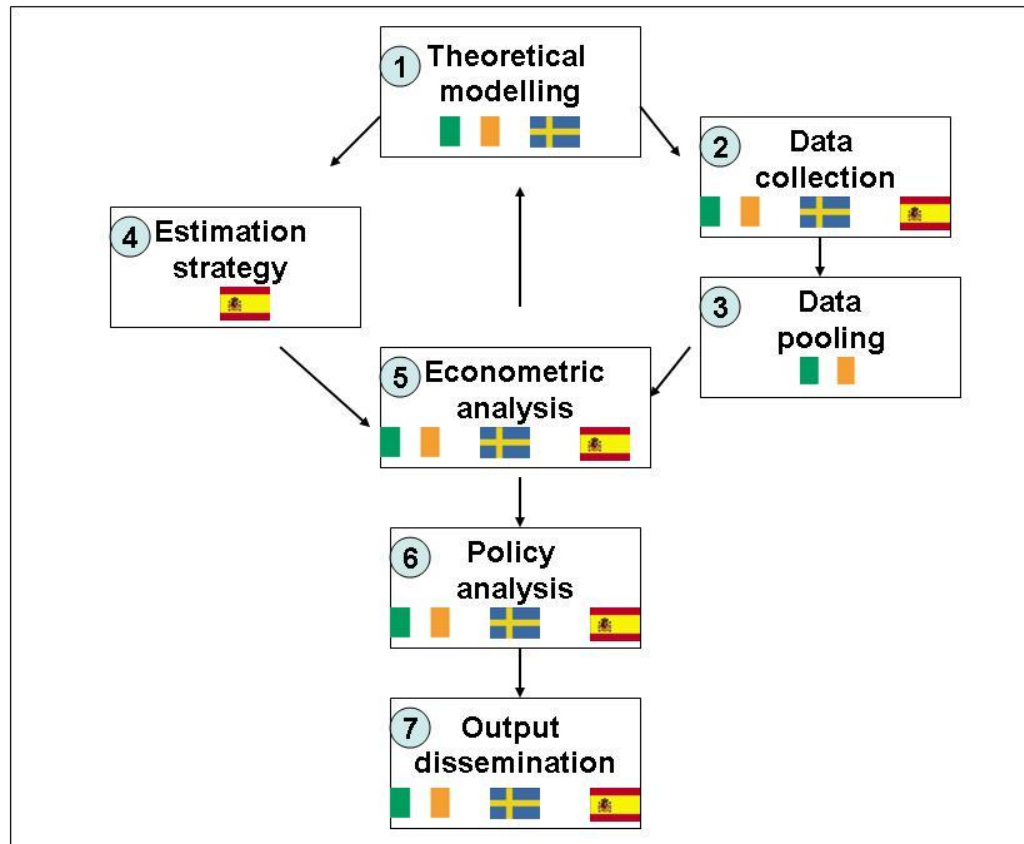
- Work-plan organized around methodological requirements
- 7 tasks:
 - Theoretical modelling (months 1-6; 29-35)
 - Data collection (months 4-22)
 - Data pooling (months 5-32)
 - Estimation strategy (months 4-32)
 - Econometric analysis (months 12-32)
 - Policy analysis (months 16-35)
 - Output dissemination (months 13-36)

Work Plan

Work description		Month																																			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	
M 1	Meeting of Project Team																																				
IP 1	Theoretical Modeling																																				
IP 2	Data Collection																																				
IP 3	Data Pooling																																				
M 2	Mid-term meeting of Project Team																																				
IP 4	Estimation Strategy																																				
IP 5	Econometric Analysis																																				
IP 6	Policy Analysis																																				
M 3	Final meeting of Project Team																																				
IP 7	Output Dissemination																																				

ant t hart : project milestones and timetable

Work Plan



. i s t r i b u t i o n o f t a s k s a m o n g p a r t n e r s

Funding Status

- Ireland
 - Partial funding (about half of requested budget)
 - 1 postdoc full-time for year 1, half-time for years 2-3
 - Other cuts
- Sweden
 - Funding close to amount requested
- Spain
 - Funding close to amount requested (pending confirmation)

Teaming arrangements

- Each partner will be responsible for:
 - Completing tasks assigned in work plan within time and budget
 - Managing its own budget
 - Liaising with home funding agency
 - Hosting a project meeting
- In addition, UCD will be responsible for:
 - Oversight and central coordination
 - Hosting website generated by project
 - Liaising with ESF and member of Eurocores-HumVIB Scientific Committee

Intra-CRP networking activities

- CRP meetings
 - Month1 (kick-off)
 - Month18 (midterm review)
 - Month 35 (wrap-up)
- Budgets do not contain allowances for more, BUT the possibility of
 - Training programmes
 - Short-term research visitsare already built in ongoing cooperation among partners