

Common Human Development Index

This year, the research work promoted within the National Festival of Civil Economy on civil metrics to measure the progress and integral development of society is enriched with an important new chapter: the **Common Human Development Index**.

This new summary indicator is based on two findings, the result of consolidated analyses on Well-Living and Generativity in recent years, also present in the 2025 Report.

First evidence. Public happiness increases when development policies take into account the multidimensionality of living well, not only economic (income) and access to fundamental rights (health and education), but also those related to community building, proximity, networks, generativity, and business biodiversity—all elements characterizing the *BenVivere* model, which represents the conceptual framework within which this new metric is inserted.

Second evidence. Happiness grows when people build quality relationships, share community-minded values, and find meaning in their work: happiness is not a matter of individual interest and satisfaction, but of choices to build the communities where our personalities unfold.

Starting from this, the research process towards the Common Human Development Index was divided into two phases: the first, the micro foundation of this new metric; the second, the macro transposition of what emerged at the micro level, to arrive at the Community Development Index alongside those of the traditional Human Development Index (Life Expectancy Index, Education Index, and Gross National Income Index).

The first phase, conducted using the Italian survey on *generativity*, shows that overcoming unhappiness requires a sufficient income, essential health services, and community infrastructure (civic spaces, associations, cultural and sports networks). Furthermore, achieving maximum happiness requires education and cultivating interest, belonging, participation, and meaning in relationships and work. The results demonstrate the importance of the three traditional pillars of human development for happiness—health, income, and education—and add a fourth: the **relational pillar**, linked to the importance of being part of a community. The variables included in the survey allowed us to construct a micro and approximate version of the Common Human Development Index.

The second phase explored how the importance of community membership can be translated into indicators capable of reflecting the level of community development in a given country (Community Development Index), as a fourth element to be added to those already present in the traditional version of the Human Development Index. The result achieved to date is an initial articulation of the sub-dimensions of community (sense of belonging/inclusion; ability to influence; mutual satisfaction of needs; active engagement),



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which can be measured, taking into account the current availability of data on an international scale, with these initial indicators: people who do not feel excluded from society; democracy index; people who can be counted on in times of need; people who participate in volunteer and active citizenship activities.

The third phase of research has already begun to develop the advanced version of the Community Development Index and, subsequently, the Common Human Development Index, the results of which will soon be available.

