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## Connecting growth, well-being and health: experience of the Netherlands

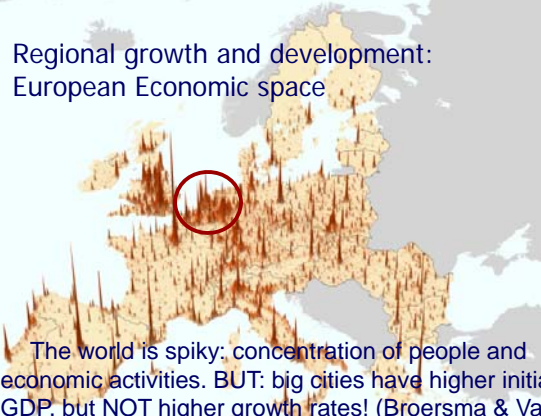
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 Presentation OECD Mission in Southern Denmark, October 9th - 10th 2013

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## Overview

- > Growth
- > Well-being
- > Health
- > Conceptual issues
- > Measurement issues
- > Variation over persons, households
- > Variation over time and space

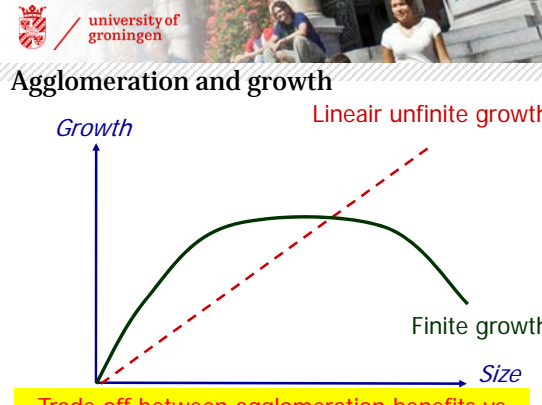
Regional growth and development:  
European Economic space



The world is spiky: concentration of people and economic activities. BUT: big cities have higher initial GDP, but NOT higher growth rates! (Broersma & Van Dijk, 2008 and OECD, Regional Outlook, 2011)

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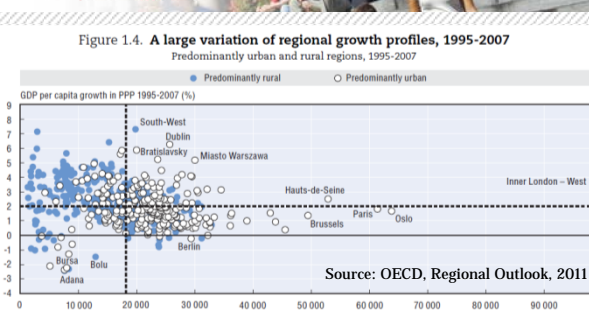
## Agglomeration and growth



Trade off between agglomeration benefits vs congestions cost? (Broersma & Van Dijk, 2008)

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Figure 1.4. A large variation of regional growth profiles, 1995-2007  
 Predominantly urban and rural regions, 1995-2007



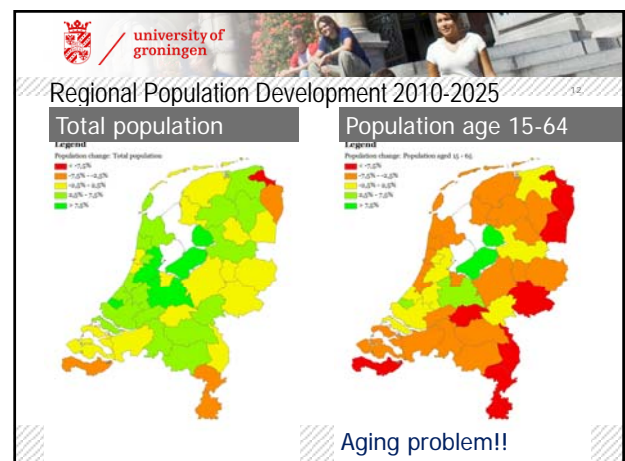
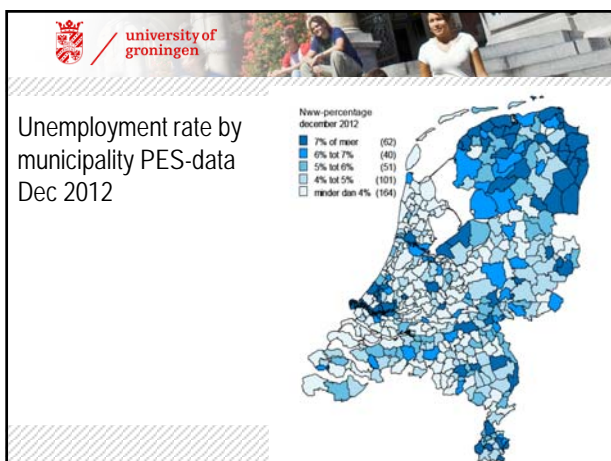
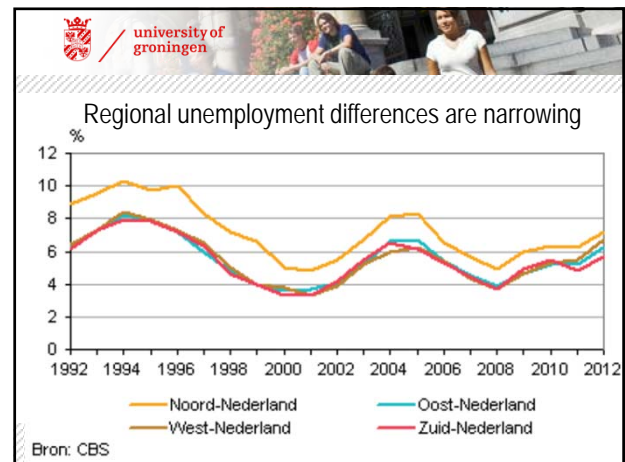
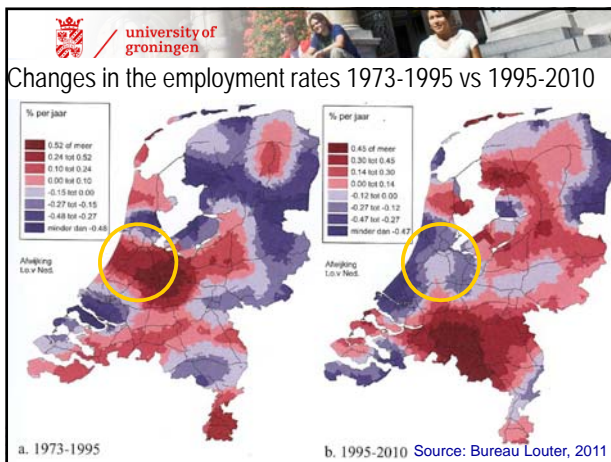
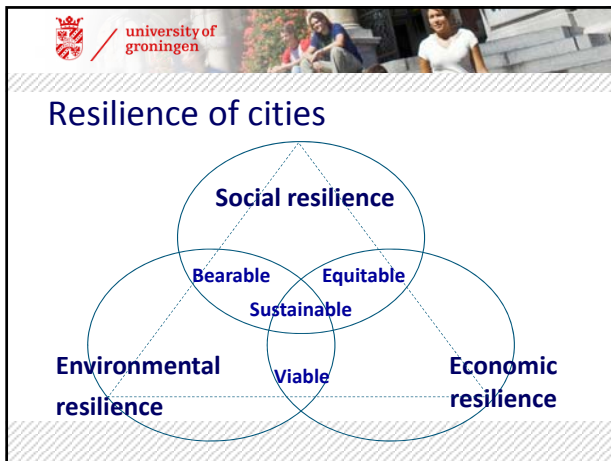
Source: OECD, Regional Outlook, 2011

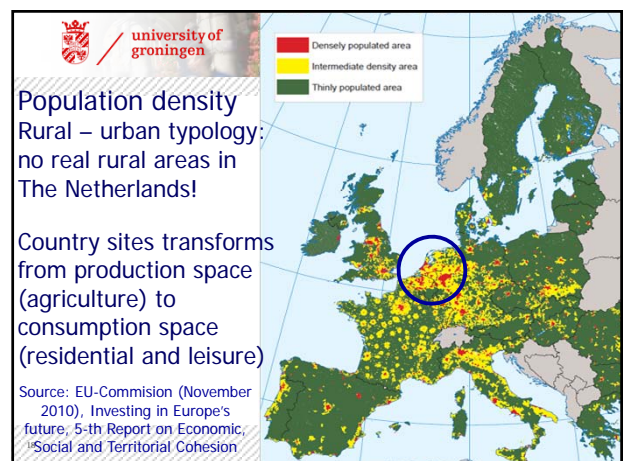
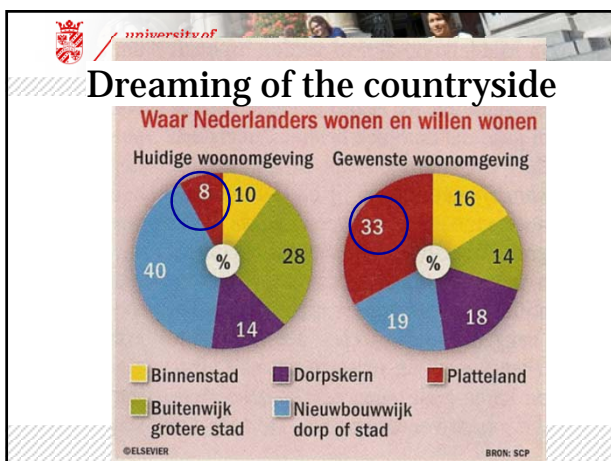
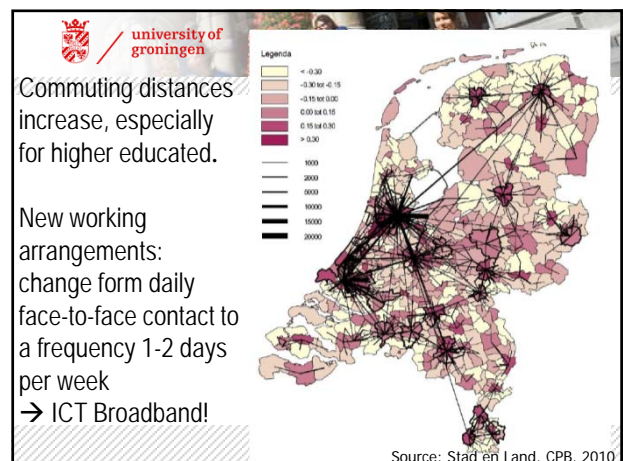
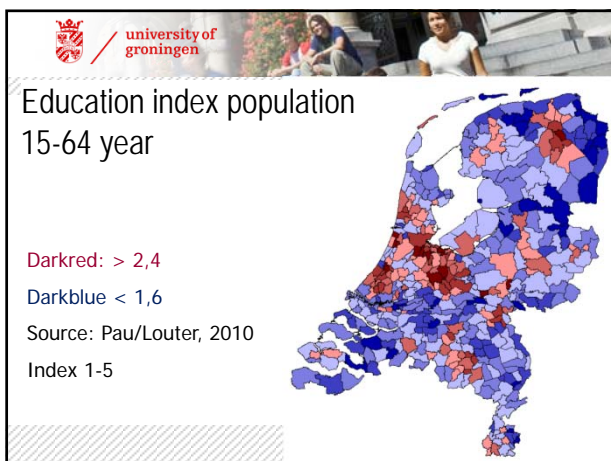
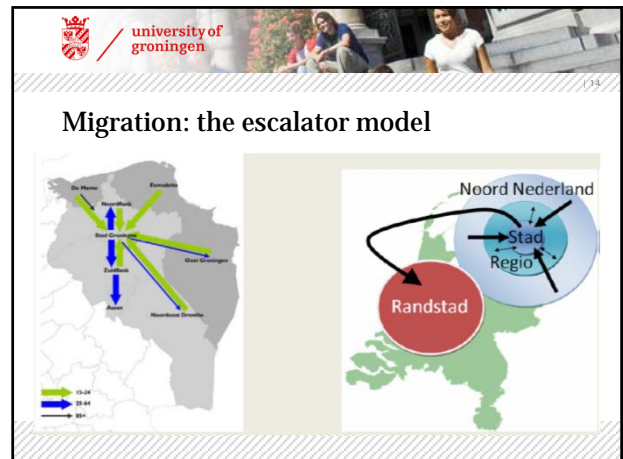
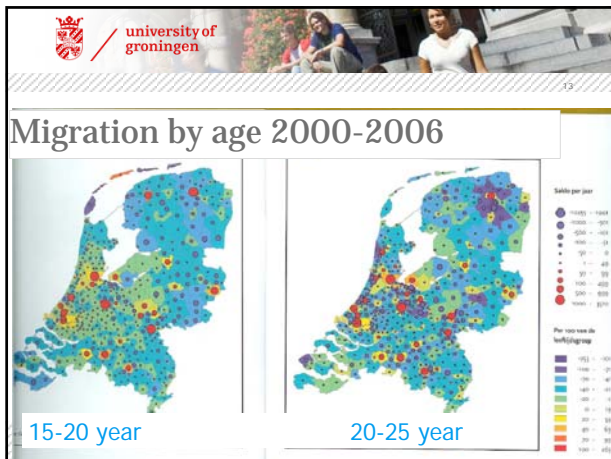
Big cities have higher initial GDP, but NOT higher growth rates!  
 Opportunities for growth are observed in all type of regions!

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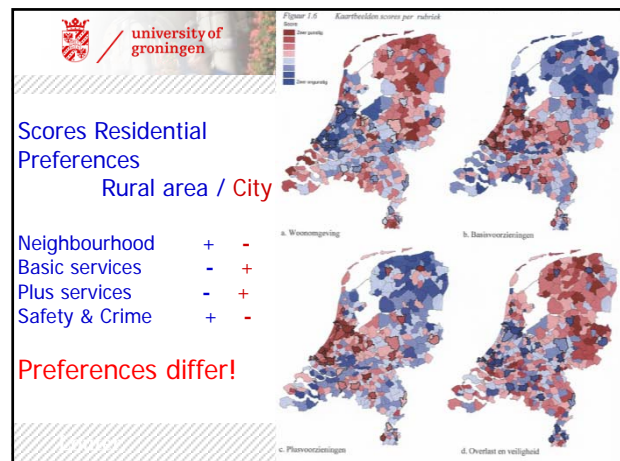
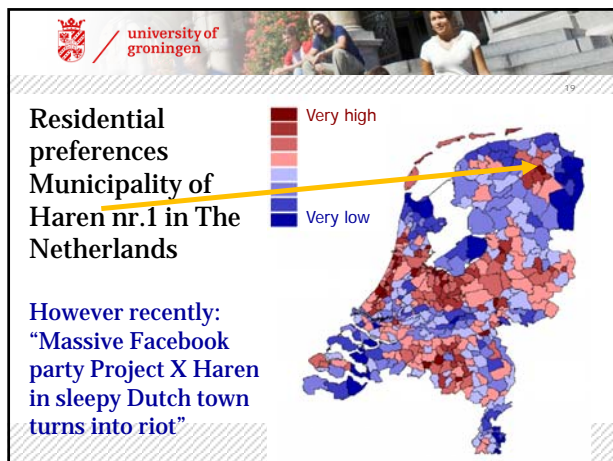
## The Role and Value of Big Cities from pure economic and broad well-being perspective

- > **ECONOMIC:** Big cities have higher productivity, generate more knowledge outcomes (patents, innovations, copyrights, licenses), have higher human capital – both stocks and inflows
- > **But also:** higher land and housing/land prices
- > **WELL-BEING:** Big cities have high quality services and amenities like universities, musea, concerts
- > **But also:** more traffic jams, more air pollution, more crime, higher risk of being the target of war and terrorist attacks









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**The future of cities in the world:**

Shifts in the spatial structure of the economy? (Broersma/Van Dijk, 2008)?

Scale effects in production (Krugman, NEG) versus amenities (Philip Graves; Partridge, 2011)

Concentration followed by spread effects?

Access to services: broadband, health, education, banking

Environmental and social sustainability: less traffic, renewable energy, environmental protection, climate change, safety, social cohesion, house with a garden

→ **Focus on well-being, quality of life, livability and sustainability (amenities)**

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**Well-being**

> The problem of **definition**

**short term: emotional feelings of happiness**

> Many terms for more or less the same thing (how well one's life is going)

**long term: life satisfaction**

- Quality of life
- Welfare
- Health
- Happiness

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**People's Well-being: changing preferences**

<b>Objective measures</b>	<b>Subjective measures</b>
> Life expectancy	> Health perception
> Mortality rates	> Access to services
> Poverty	> Material deprivation
> Crime	> Safety and trust
> Income	> Life satisfaction
> Un-/employment	> Happiness
> Education	> Capabilities
> Gender balance	> Equal opportunities
> Working hours	> Work life balance

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[http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110202/full/470018a.html?s=news\\_rss](http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110202/full/470018a.html?s=news_rss)

> From the article:  
[Social science lines up its biggest challenges](#)

> **Top ten social-science questions**

> **1. How can we induce people to look after their health?**

> 2. How do societies create effective and resilient institutions, such as governments?

> 3. How can humanity increase its collective wisdom?

> 4. How do we reduce the 'skill gap' between black and white people in America?

> 5. How can we aggregate information possessed by individuals to make the best decisions?

> 6. How can we understand the human capacity to create and articulate knowledge?

> 7. Why do so many female workers still earn less than male workers?

> 8. How and why does the 'social' become 'biological'?

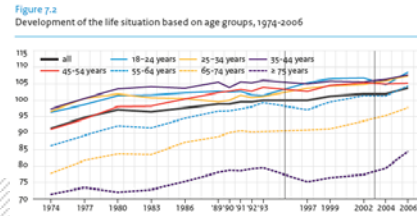
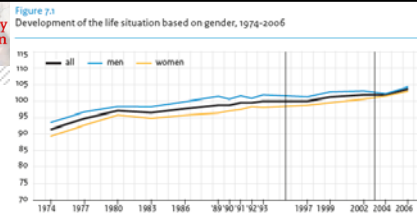
> 9. How can we be robust against 'black swans' — rare events that have extreme consequences?

> 10. Why do social processes, in particular civil violence, either persist over time or suddenly change?

The **Netherlands Institute for Social Research** (Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau SCP) each year publishes a '**life situation index**' in which it describes 'life situation' as a combination of welfare and wellbeing, that can be described with an index based on **eight indicators** for a range of 'social domains', viz. **health, social participation, housing situation, ownership of consumer goods, mobility and holiday patterns**. The SCP publishes the results from its life situation monitor since 1974

## SCP Lifesituation index 1974-2000

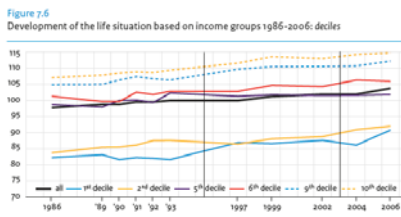
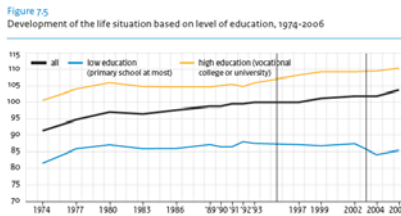
Relation with **gender** (upper panel) and **age** (lower panel)



Bron: Boelhouwer 2010  
Well-being in The Netherlands

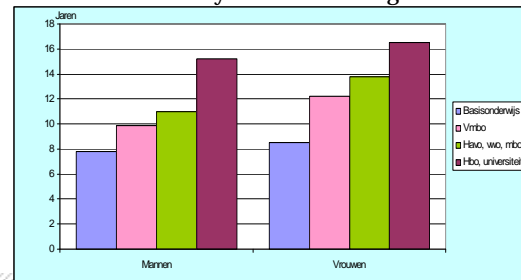
## SCP Lifesituation index 1974-2000

Relation with **education** (upper panel) and **income** (lower panel)



Bron: Boelhouwer 2010  
Well-being in The Netherlands

## Social returns to education: healthy years to live after 65 by education and gender

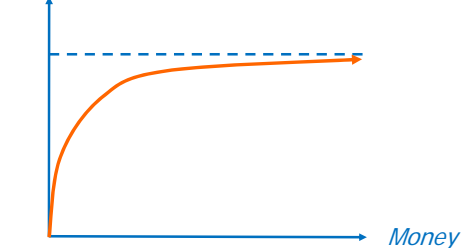


Source: Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 2010

## More money does not always leads to more happiness

Happiness

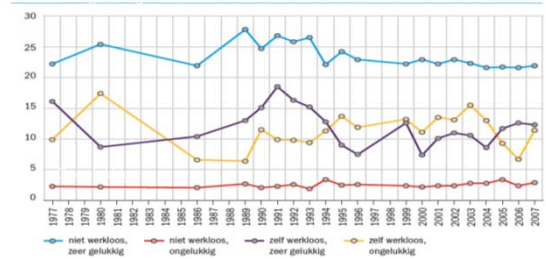
Source: Veenhoven, EUR



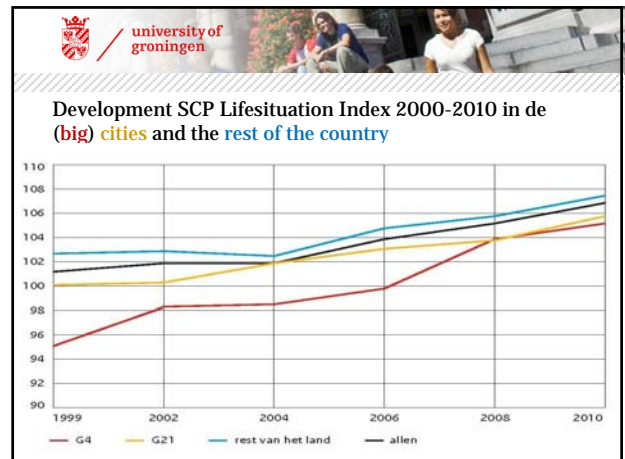
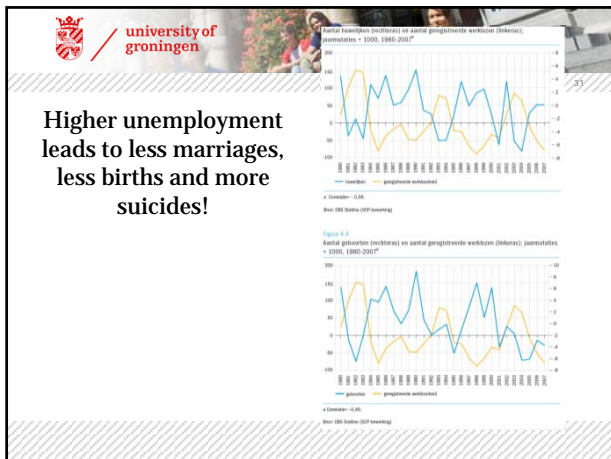
But: unemployment makes unhappy!

## Unemployed are less happy

Geluk onder werklozen en niet-werklozen in Nederland, 1977-2007 (in procenten)



Bron: LSS ('74-'86); DLO ('89-'96); POLS ('97-'07)



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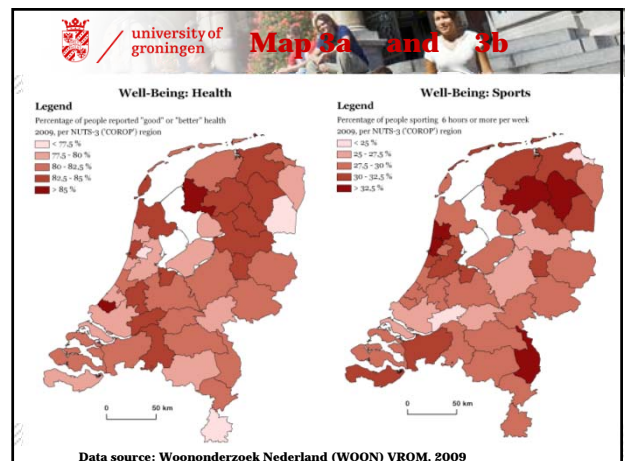
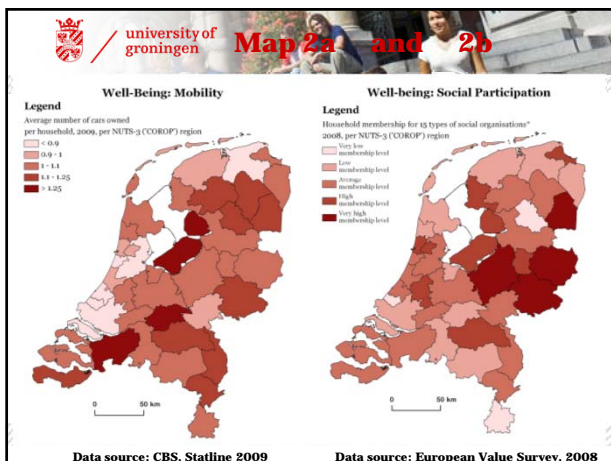
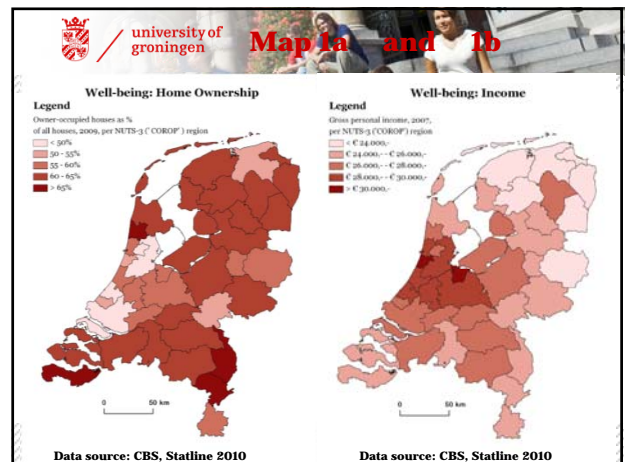
Series of *The Netherlands in Maps* (Pellenburg & Van Steen, 2011)

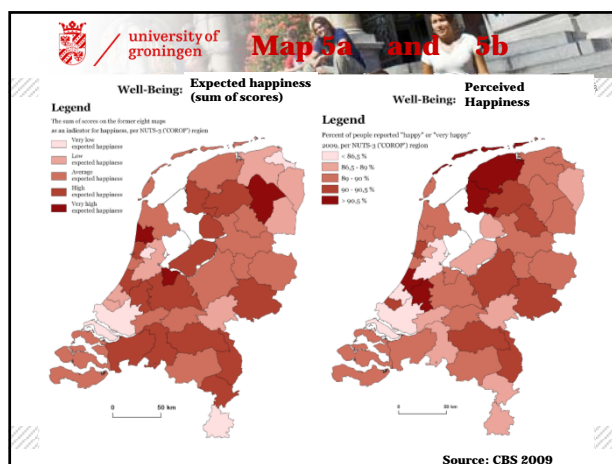
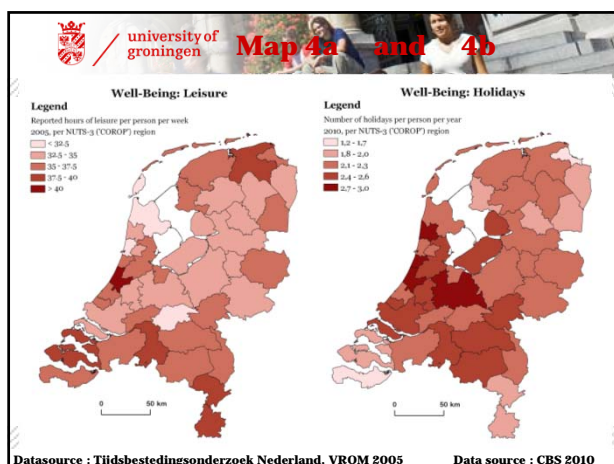
The SCP life situation index is used to visualise the spatial variation in the conditions for wellbeing. We have grouped the eight life situation indicators that are used by the SCP in **four pairs of maps**:

- > **1a and b home ownership and income**
- > **2a and b mobility and social participation**
- > **3a and b health and sports**
- > **4a and b holidays and leisure activities**

These factors are all assumed to contribute in a positive way to one's life situation. In a **fifth and final pair of maps** we will place next to each other two maps showing the spatial variation in

- > **5a the addition of all eight life situation determinants, and**
- > **5b the spatial variation in perceived wellbeing or 'happiness'**





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### Qualitative (visual) analysis of map similarities

- **Larger urban regions** (especially Amsterdam and The Hague/Rotterdam) have a **low** score on both maps
- The same is true for serious **population decline** regions (East Groningen, South Limburg)
- **Higher** values for 'expected' and 'perceived' happiness appear for **rural regions** - but not typically the same ones on both maps!

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### Quantitative analysis of map similarities

- **Single** linear regression for expected and perceived happiness:  
**positive relationship** ( $p < 0.0005$ ,  $r^2 = 0.532$ )
- **Multiple** linear regression with the eight variables:  
**higher level of explanation** ( $r^2 = 0.774$ )
- Only **housing and health** are significant contributors in this model (both  $p < 0.0005$ )
- Multiple regression with **'very happy'** instead of 'happy + very happy' as dependant variable:  
only **income** is a significant contributor ( $p < 0.0005$ ,  $r^2 = 0.487$ )

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### Conclusions

- A higher sum of scores for the 8 indicators predicts a higher score for perceived happiness
- Especially **owning a house and enjoying a good health** explain higher scores of perceived happiness
- **Income** is a good predictor for the size of the category of **very happy** people
- A lot of variation between individuals and over time and space

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Figure 1.3. Intensity of dimensions of societal progress and geographic space

	Cities	Rural areas
Efficiency/income	+	-
Environmental quality	-	+
Social dimensions: Public goods (e.g. health, education)	+	-
Social dimensions: Community-produced goods (e.g. trust, security)	-	+

Source: OECD, Regional Outlook, 2011



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Dinsdag 8 oktober 2013. Het laatste nieuws het eerst op NU.nl  
**Press Release European Union, October 8, 2013**  
 Gepubliceerd: 8 oktober 2013 18:35  
 Laatste update: 8 oktober 2013 18:35  
 Deel:

## Groningen lijkt gelukkigste stad van Europa

Groningen moet wel een van de gelukkigste steden van Europa zijn. In een dinsdag verschenen tevredenheidsonderzoek over welzijn in Europese steden scoort de stad buitengewoon hoog op allerlei vlakken, van groenvoorzieningen tot vertrouwen in medeburgers.

Voor het onderzoek naar de levenskwaliteit in Europese steden, dat de Europese Commissie dinsdag uitbracht, zijn 41.000 stedelingen uit 79 steden in de EU-lidstaten en IJsland, Noorwegen, Zwitserland en Turkije ondervraagd.

Met name Groningen staat opvallend vaak bovenaan - hoger dan Amsterdam en Rotterdam, de andere Nederlandse steden uit het onderzoek. Groningen staat aan kop met tevredenheid over gezondheidszorg (95 procent), openbare ruimte (94 procent) en onderwijs (89 procent).

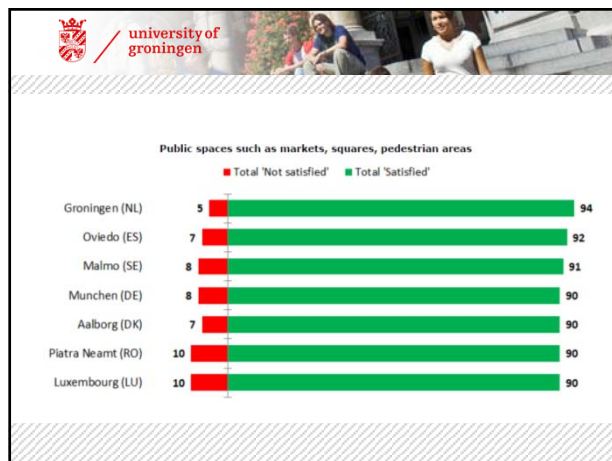
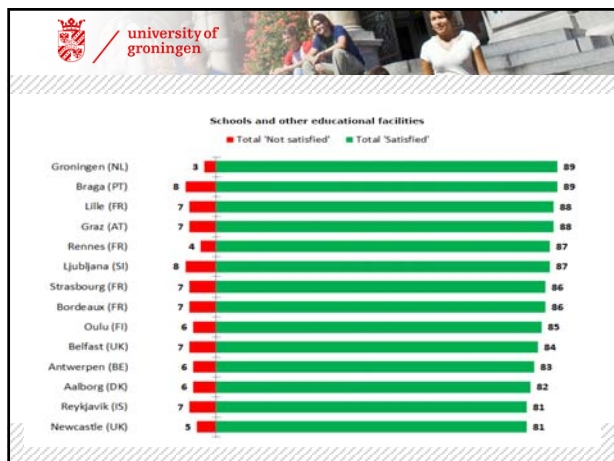
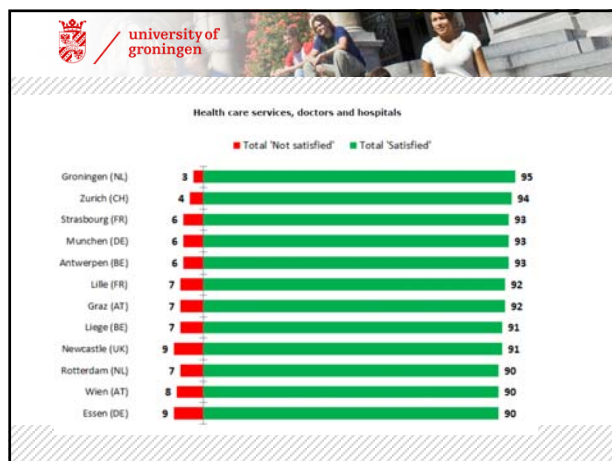
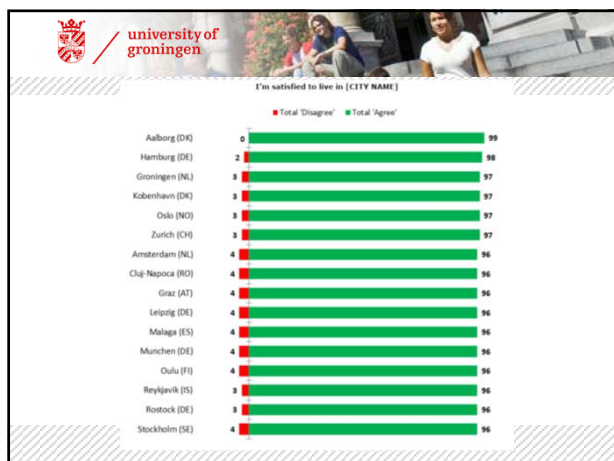
 Foto: ANP

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European Commission

## Flash Eurobarometer 366

### QUALITY OF LIFE IN EUROPEAN CITIES







#### V. MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING CITIES

Respondents were asked to identify the three most important issues for their city from a list of 10 which included the following items: safety, air pollution, noise, public transport, health services, social services, education and training, unemployment, housing and road infrastructure.



Thank you for your attention

