

## **Trends in happiness distribution around the world and across population groups**

Marina-Selini Katsaiti, Vincenzo Atella, Marco Angrisani, Joanna Kopinska

### **Abstract**

The evolution of income around the globe has followed different patterns in the recent decades, which have been frequently addressed in economic research. While economists are concerned with human welfare, recently they have started to analyse other domains which contribute to social progress, such as health and happiness. Over the last 20 years, important economic events have significantly affected the human welfare, not only in terms of its absolute levels, but also in terms of its distribution. Globalization and the Great Recession (GR) have induced enormous reshuffling of income distribution which is likely to have affected both directly and indirectly individual health, happiness and life satisfaction. In this perspective, the aim of this research is to study the evolution of the “distribution” of happiness and life satisfaction around the world in relation to changes in the distribution of income and health following of the events of the recent decade. In dealing with happiness, health and income, this project entails a number of novel approaches, supported by the use of individual data provided by the Gallup World Poll survey. We will explore the heterogeneous evolution of the three issues within population subgroups identified in terms of demographic and socio-economic characteristics (gender, age, education, etc.).