

# Exploring Local Well-being and Vulnerability through OpenStreetMap: the case of Italy

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This paper explores the potential use of OSM data to evaluate major dimensions of wellbeing. We apply the linear LASSO approach for the Italian provinces to identify the most important predictors of well-being at the local level. We provide evidence that OpenStreetMap information are highly correlated with several traditional socioeconomic metrics. Moreover, we claim that some specific points of interest can be used for a rapid territorial appraisal of vulnerable territories and regions, i.e. areas that are affected by economic backwardness, poor institutions, low human capital and that, for these adverse conditions, deserve special attentions by policy-makers concerned with a reduction of regional disparities. We suggest that OSM can become a powerful source for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation. However, future works in the field should explore the adoption of various models and tools such as machine learning techniques to grasp even non-linear relationships between variables.