

BOOKS RECOMMENDED

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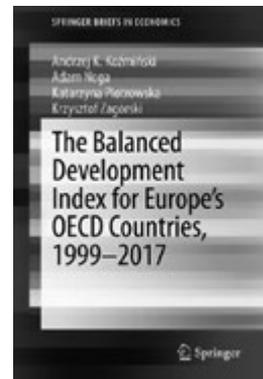
The Balanced Development Index for Europe's OECD Countries, 1999–2017

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The research presented in this book is the result of interdisciplinary collaboration between sociologists, economists, and statisticians. The book proposes a new composite index of balanced socio-economic development (BDI) and analyses development in European OECD countries. The enduring criticism of Gross National Product as a simplified indicator of economic growth which does not take social goals and human well-being into account has led to the emergence of other indices in the “beyond GDP” paradigm. However, the indices of this type suggested so far have usually concentrated on social aspects of development and neglected economic ones. The BDI index concerns socio-economic balance. First, it consists of four equally important and equally weighted middle-level indices measuring objective and subjective current social conditions, social expectations, the functioning of the economy in international surroundings, and internal economic conditions. Second, it allows the interrelations between these four aspects to be analysed and proves that socio-economic development takes place in a state of optimum balance rather than of absolute balance (equilibrium) or excessive imbalance (discrepancy). The countries are ranked by their changing level of development. They are also grouped into “rational” and “irrational,” as well as “independent” and “dependent” categories.

Polish and Irish Struggles for Self-Determination:*Living near Dragons***Edited by****Galia Chimiak and Bożena Cierlik**

Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020, pp. 165.

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This book discusses little-known linkages between two seemingly distant peoples, the Polish and the Irish, whose historical experiences share important similarities. Both Ireland and Poland have been subject to foreign rule, which they overturned in 1916 and 1918 respectively. Their predominantly Catholic societies were among the first to grant voting rights to women a century ago. This volume uses the centenary of both Ireland and Poland (re)gaining national independence and the political empowerment of women in these countries as a point of departure to analyse selected aspects of Polish and Irish people's struggle for autonomy. Cases of mutual assistance, including the awareness-raising campaigns organized by Western women in support of the independence and suffragist movements in Poland, are presented along with examples of grassroots self-organization, foreign press coverage, and military and diplomatic efforts to empower the Poles and the Irish.