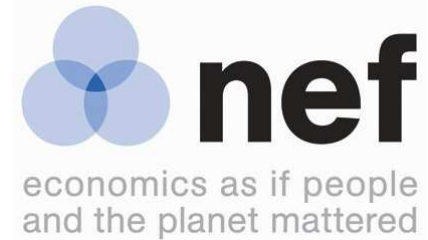


# Well-being and sustainability: A perfect alliance?



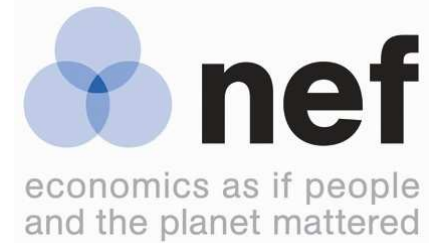
## Beyond GDP

6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009,  
Parliamentary Office for  
Future Generations,  
Budapest

Saamah Abdallah  
*Centre for Well-being*  
**nef** (the new economics foundation)

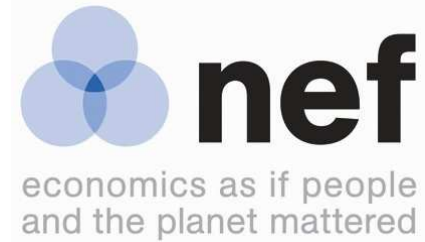


# Outline



- Well-being and sustainable development
- A winning combination
- The Happy Planet Index
- Beyond the HPI

# About nef



An *independent* UK think-and-do-tank (founded 1986).

Inspired by 3 principles

Sustainable development

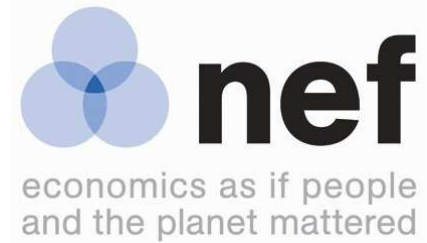
Social justice

People's well-being

Aim of the centre for well-being:

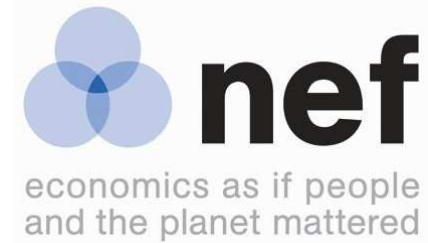
“Enhance individual and collective well-being in ways that are environmentally sustainable and socially just”

# Outline



- Well-being and sustainable development
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# Well-being matters



- Brundtland:  
“meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”
- EU:  
“**FIND QUOTE**”

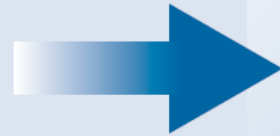
# Making sense of it all

Figure 1: Inputs, means and ends of human society

**INPUT**

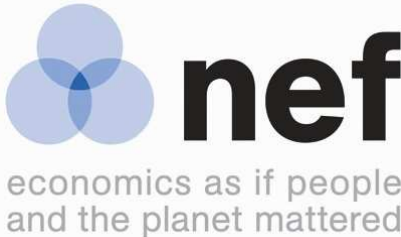
**MEANS**

**PLANETARY  
RESOURCES**

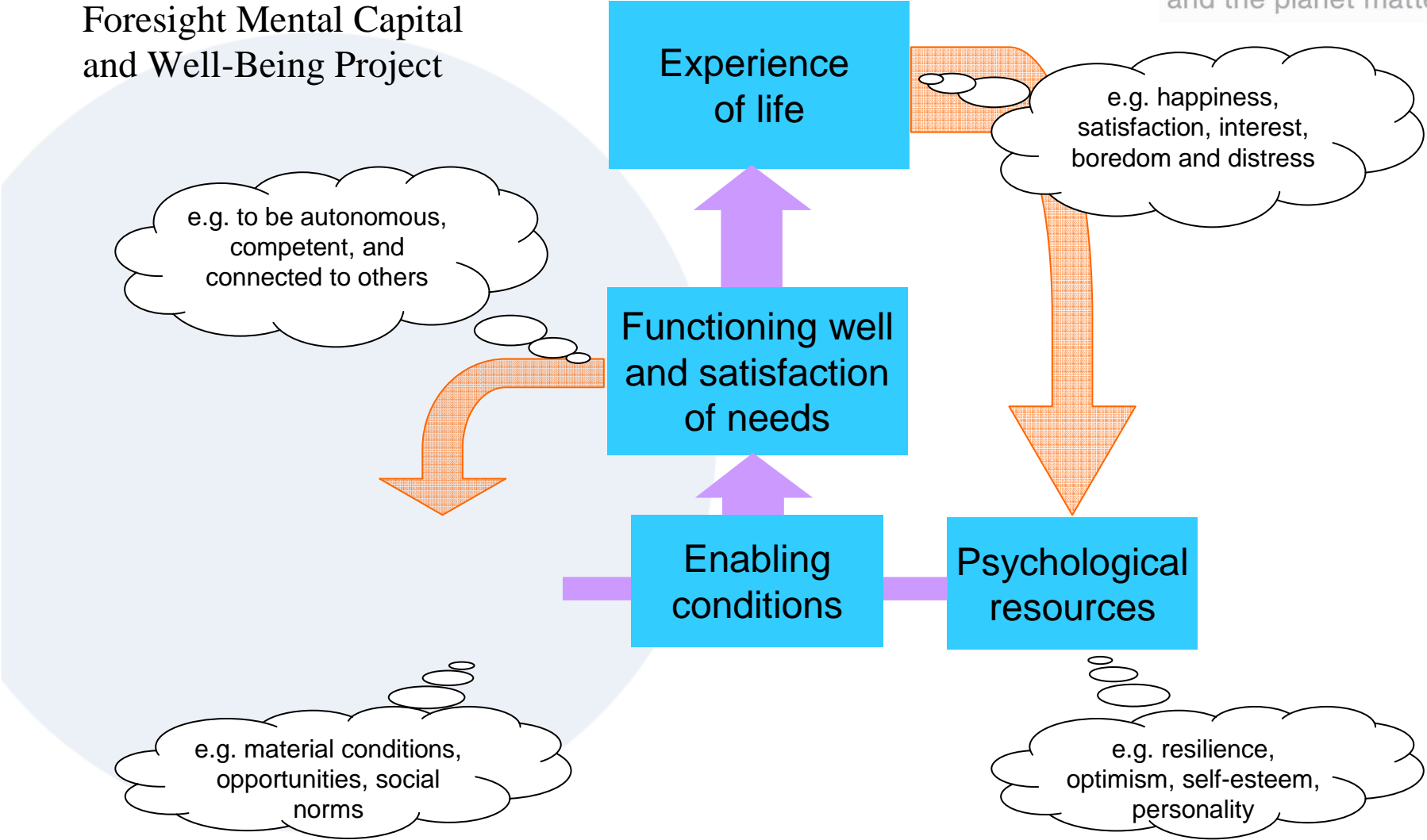


Community  
Technology  
Healthcare  
Economy  
Values  
Family and friends  
Education  
Governance  
Employment  
Consumption  
Leisure time

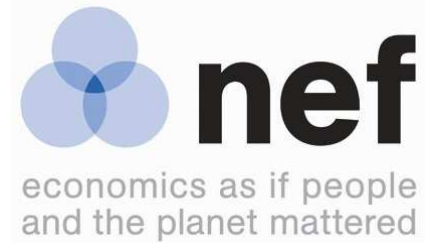
# Understanding well-being



Foresight Mental Capital and Well-Being Project



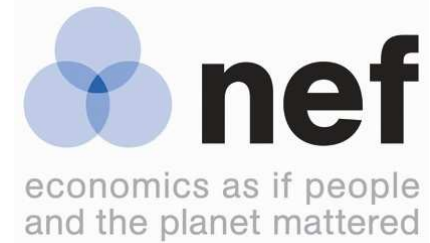
# What we mean by well-being



- *More than just happiness and/or satisfaction*
  - “... a dynamic state, in which the individual is able to develop their potential, work productively and creatively, build strong and positive relationships with others, and contribute to their community. It is enhanced when an individual is able to fulfil their personal and social goals, and achieve a sense of purpose in society” (Foresight MCWB, 2008)

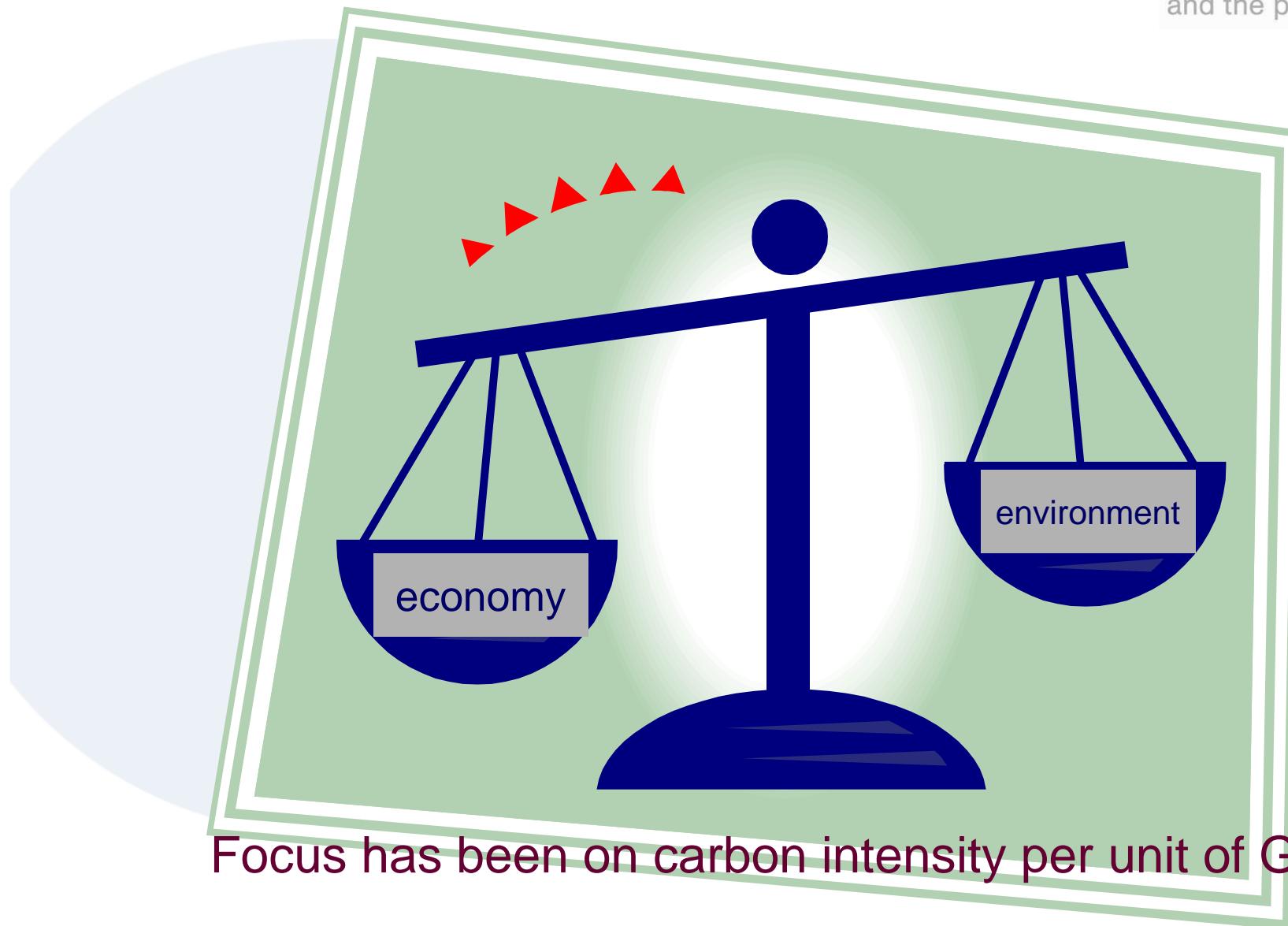


# Outline



- Well-being and sustainable development
- **A winning combination**
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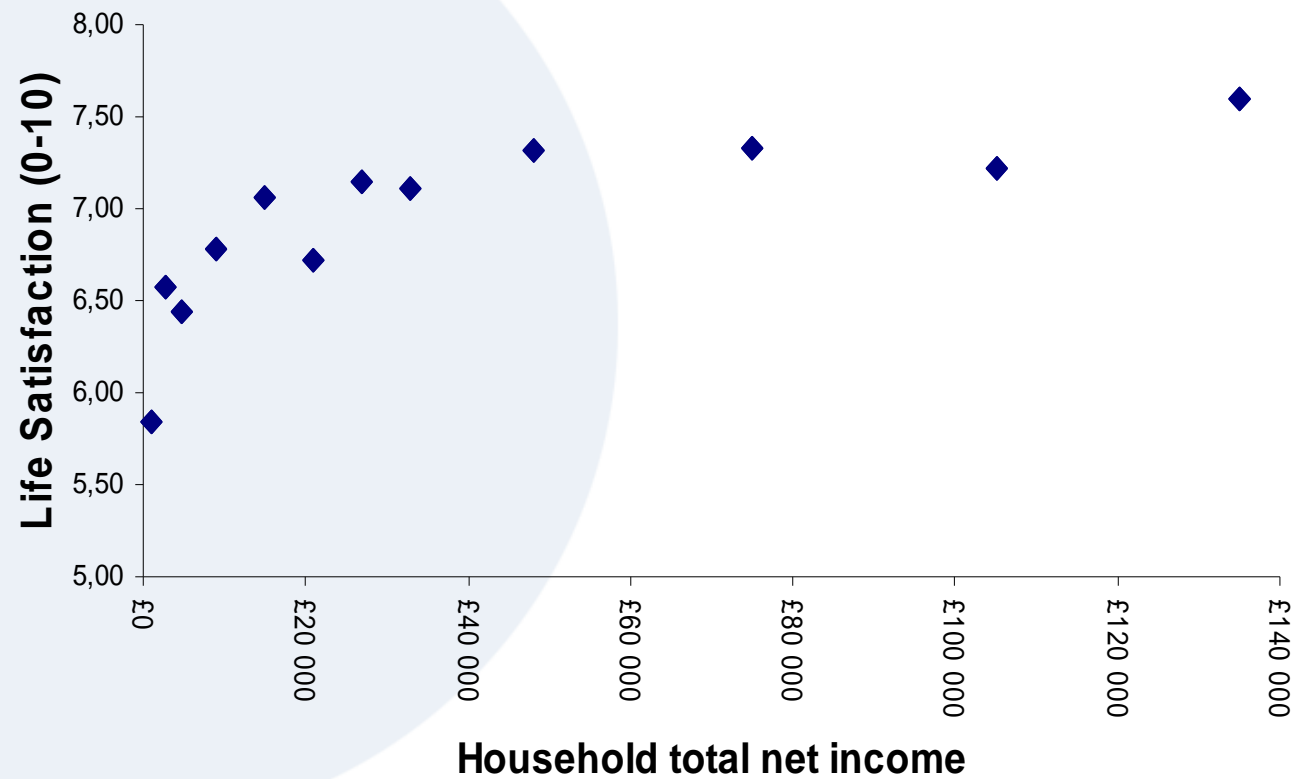
# Clashing priorities



Focus has been on carbon intensity per unit of GDP

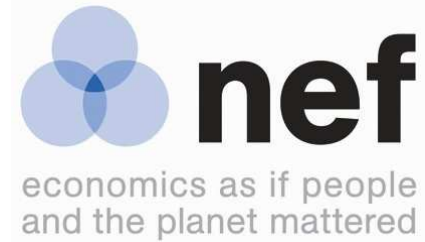
# The decoupling delusion

Life satisfaction and Household income in the UK



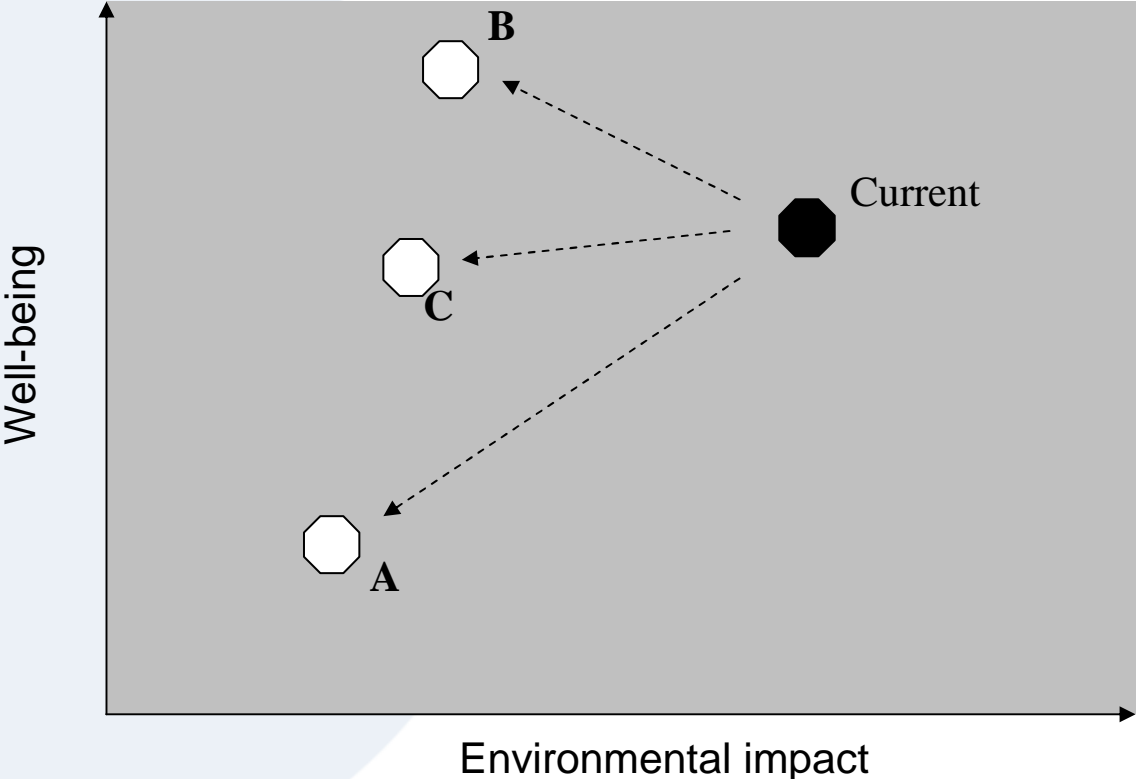
Note: Preliminary findings, ahead of our forthcoming *Growth isn't Possible* report

# Harmonious priorities



- Well-being only partly determined by size of economy, other factors include:
  - social capital
  - democratic rights
  - opportunities to learn
  - leisure time
  - physical activity
  - contact with nature
- Focus on these factors need not increase environmental impact

# Double dividends



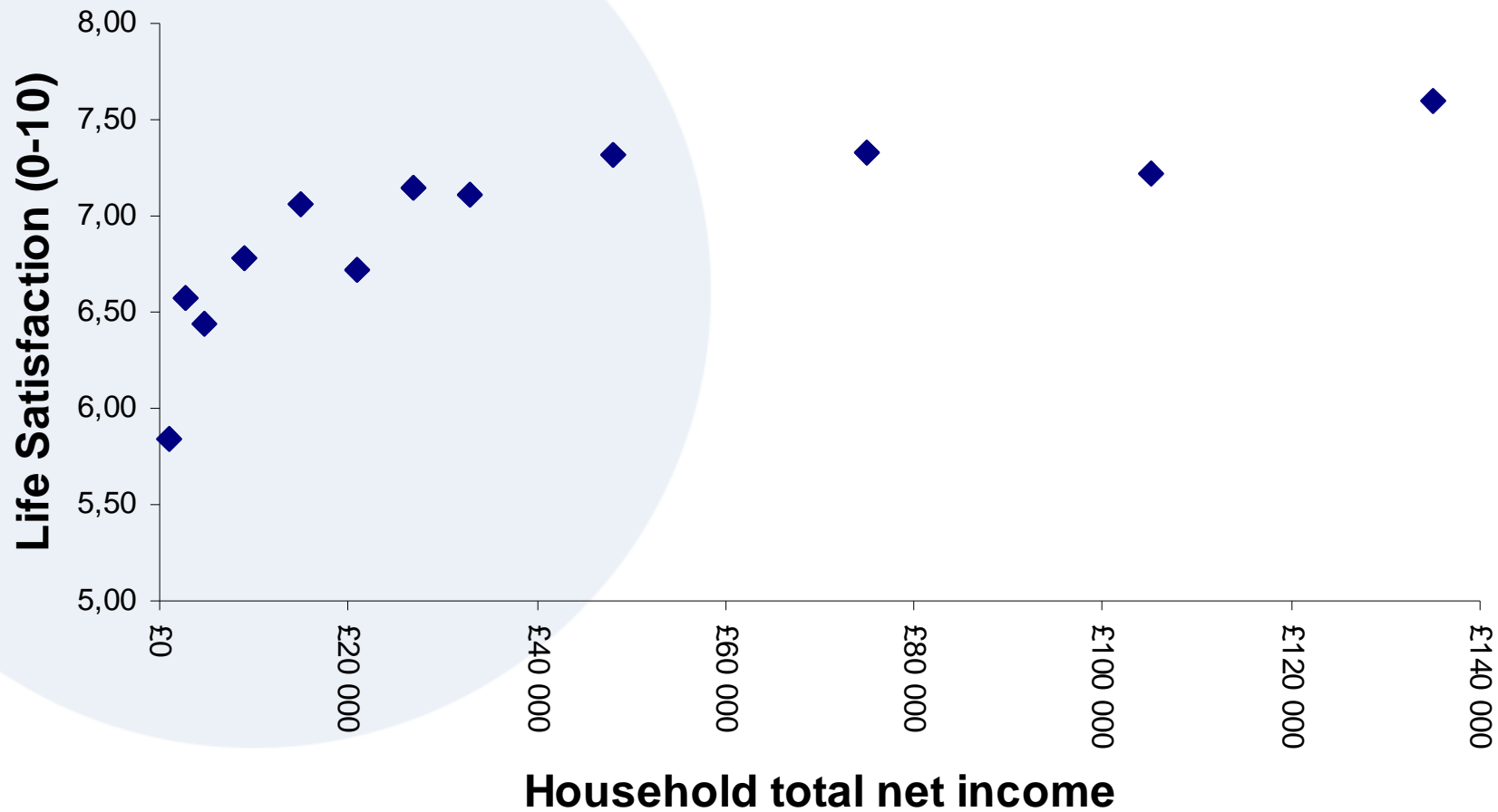
# Commuting



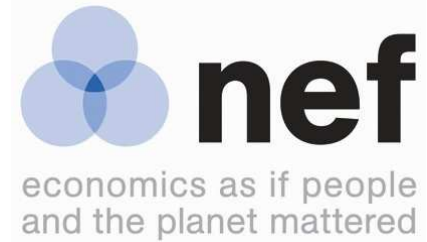
Evidence that cycling is better for subjective well-being as well as health

# Inequality

## Life satisfaction and Household income in the UK



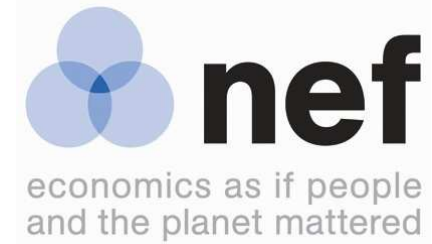
# Democratic mandate



- International survey found 75% believe that environmental, health and social indicators should be given as much weight as economic ones
- 81% in Britain think that government's prime objective should be to 'greatest happiness' rather than 'greatest wealth'



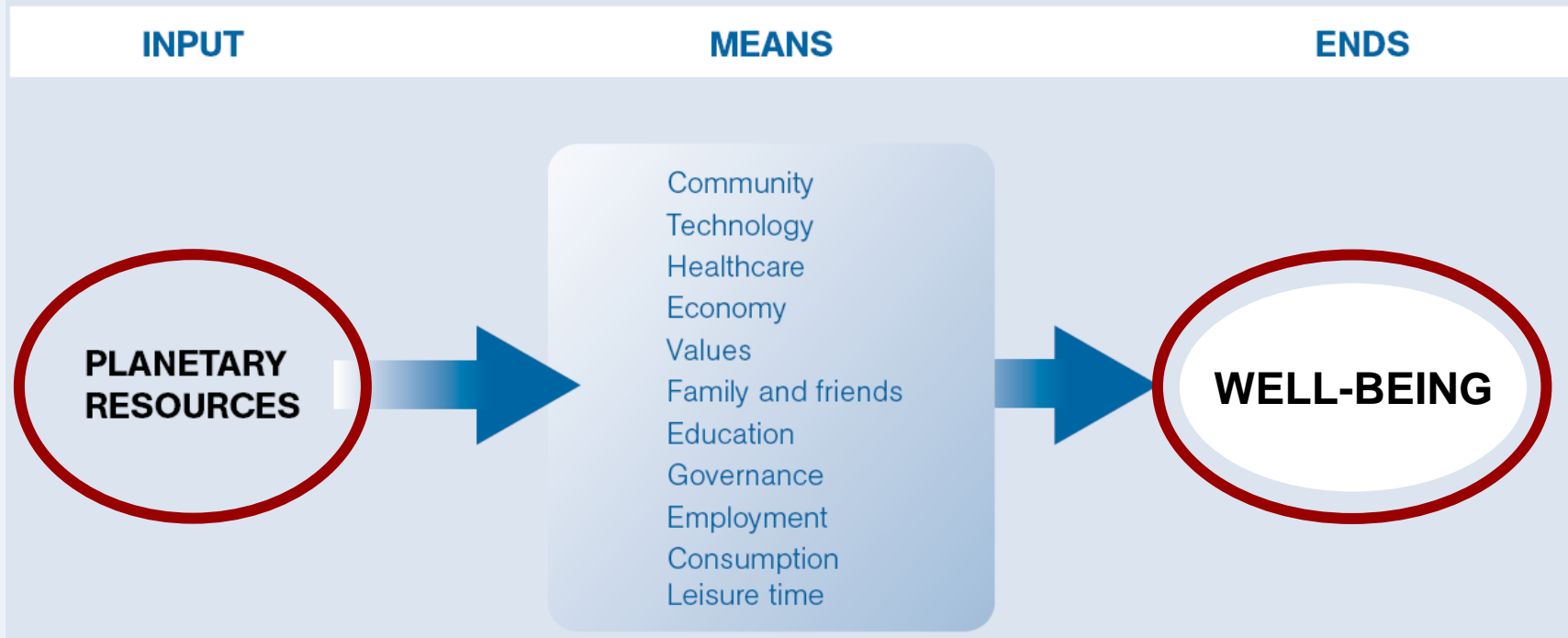
# Outline



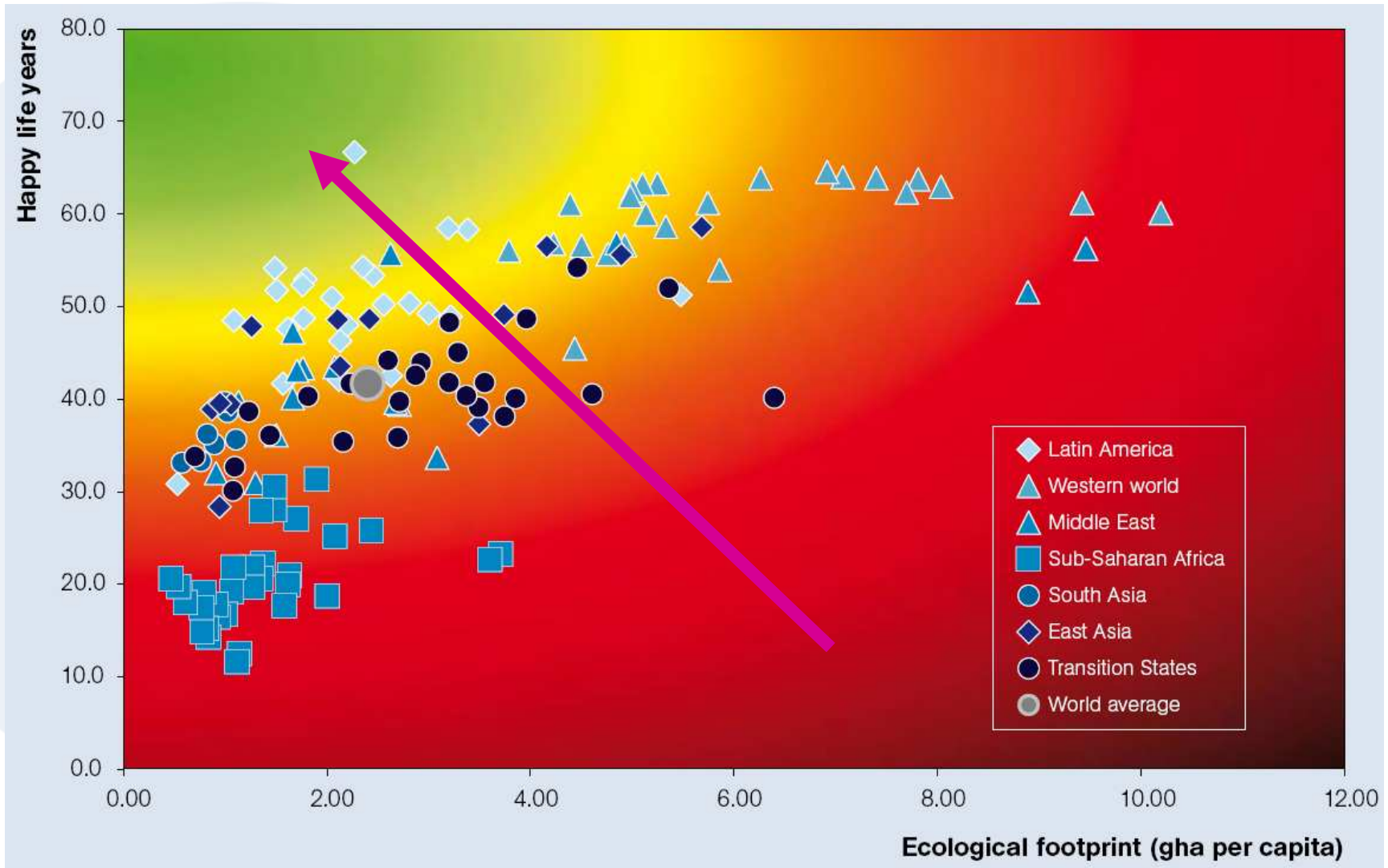
- Well-being and sustainable development
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# Measuring what matters

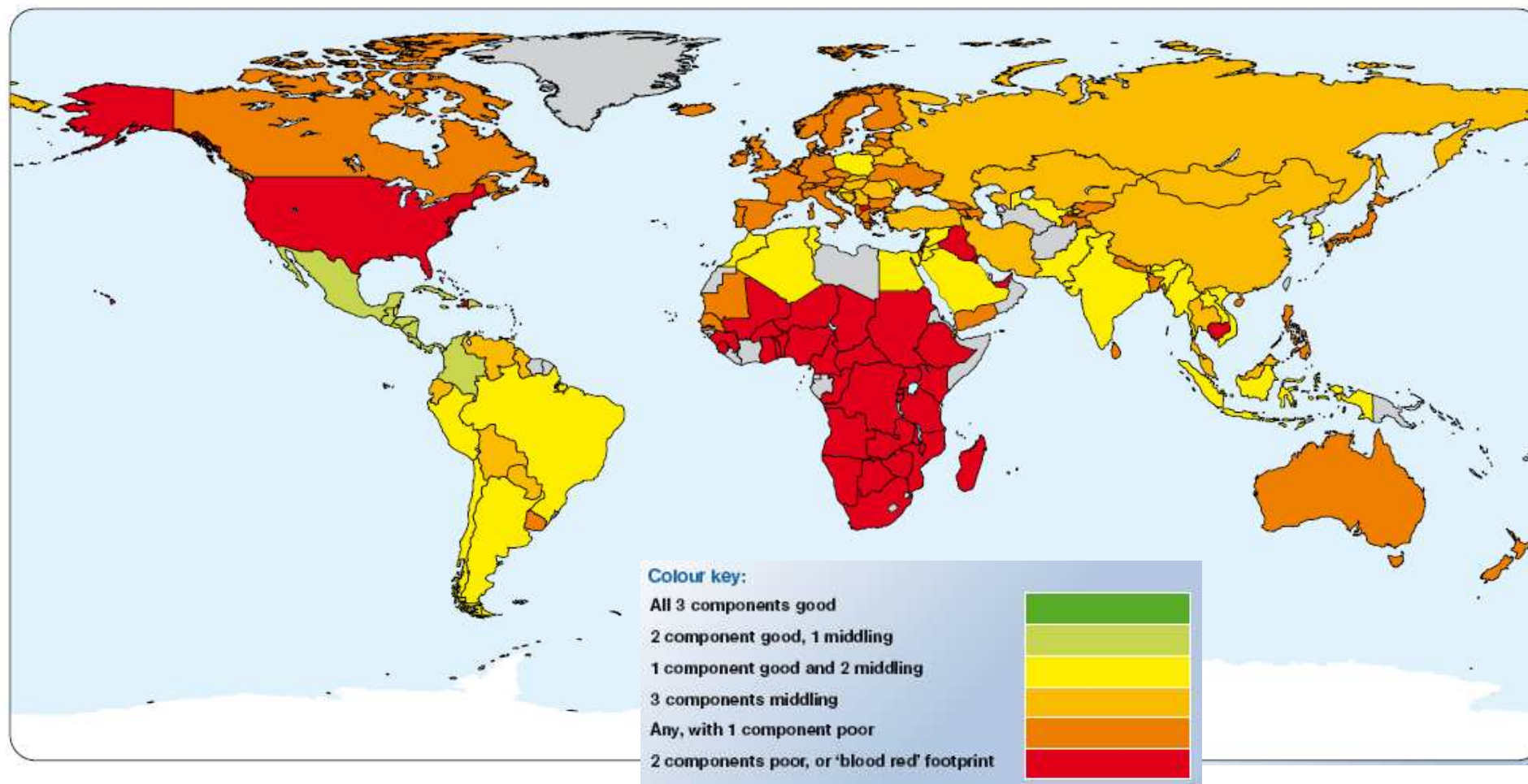
Figure 1: Inputs, means and ends of human society



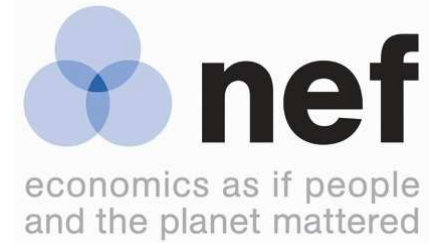
# Measuring what matters



# What the numbers say



# What's the HPI?



**Life Sat x Life Exp**

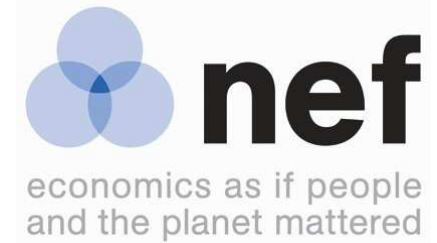
**(divided by)**

**PLANETARY  
RESOURCES**

**LONG, HAPPY,  
FULFILLING LIVES**

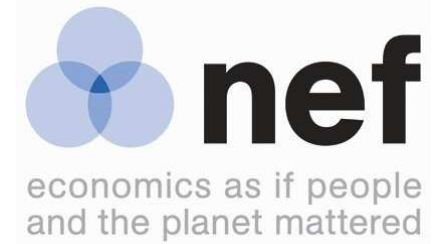
**Ecological Footprint**

# What the numbers say



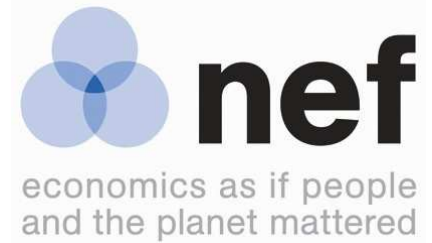
HPI rank	Countries	Region	Life Sat	Life Exp	EF		HPI
1	Costa Rica	1a	8.5	78.5	2.3	=	76.1
2	Dominican Rep	1a	7.6	71.5	1.5	=	71.8
3	Jamaica	1a	6.7	72.2	1.1	=	70.1
9	Brazil	1b	7.6	71.7	2.4	=	61.0
20	China	6a	6.7	72.5	2.1	=	57.1
35	India	5a	5.5	63.7	0.9	=	53.0
43	Netherlands	2c	7.7	79.2	4.4	=	50.6
74	UK	2c	7.4	79.0	5.3	=	43.3
114	USA	2b	7.9	77.9	9.4	=	30.7
143	Zimbabwe	4a	2.8	40.9	1.1	=	16.6

# Outline



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# National Accounts of Well-Being



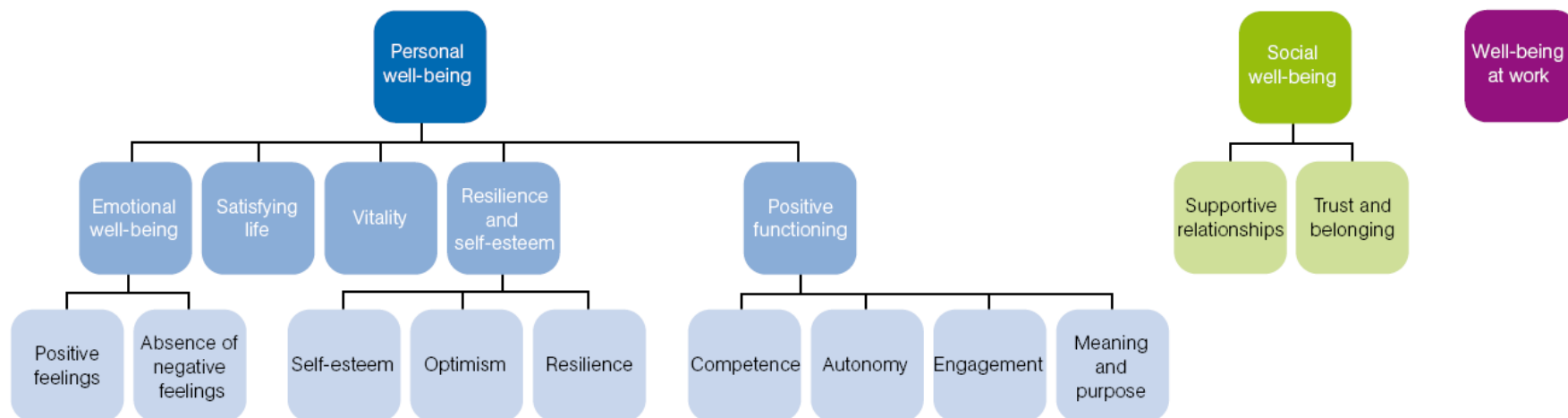
- Based on data from European Social Survey, 2006
- c. 40,000 respondents in 22 countries
- Over 50 questions on well-being





# National Accounts of well-being: a structure

Figure 1 – Indicator structure within the example national accounts framework.

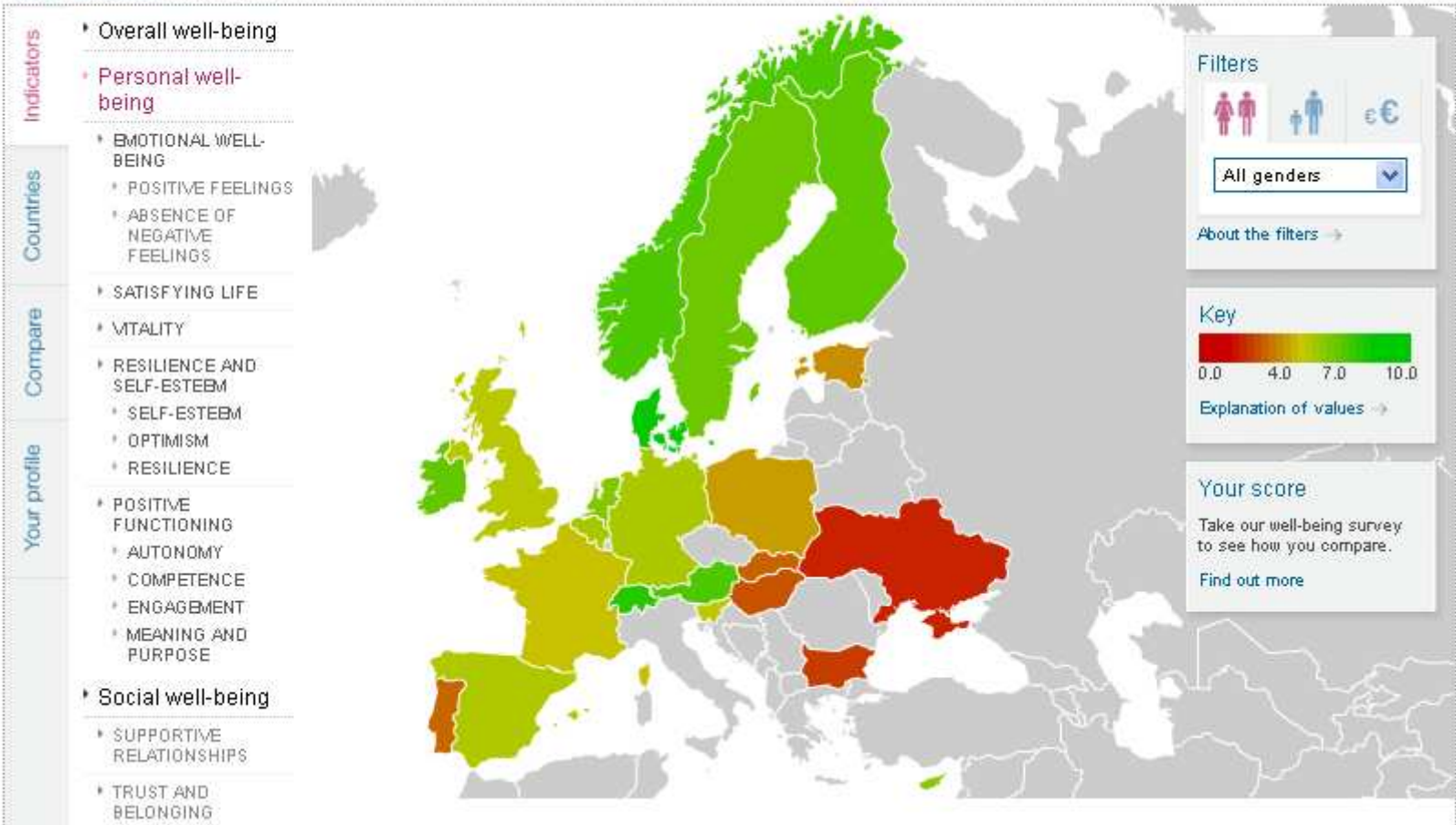


# Personal well-being

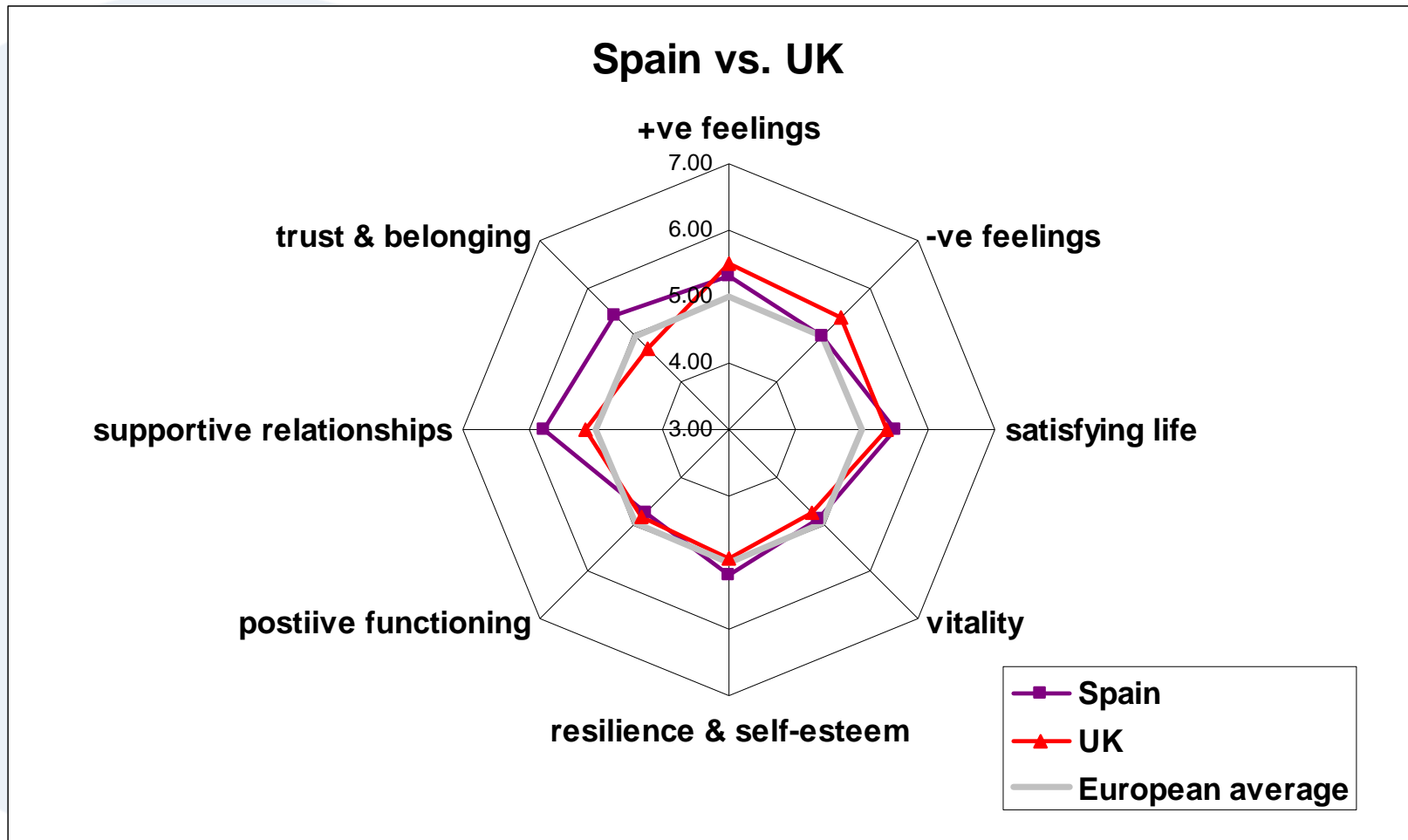


## Personal well-being

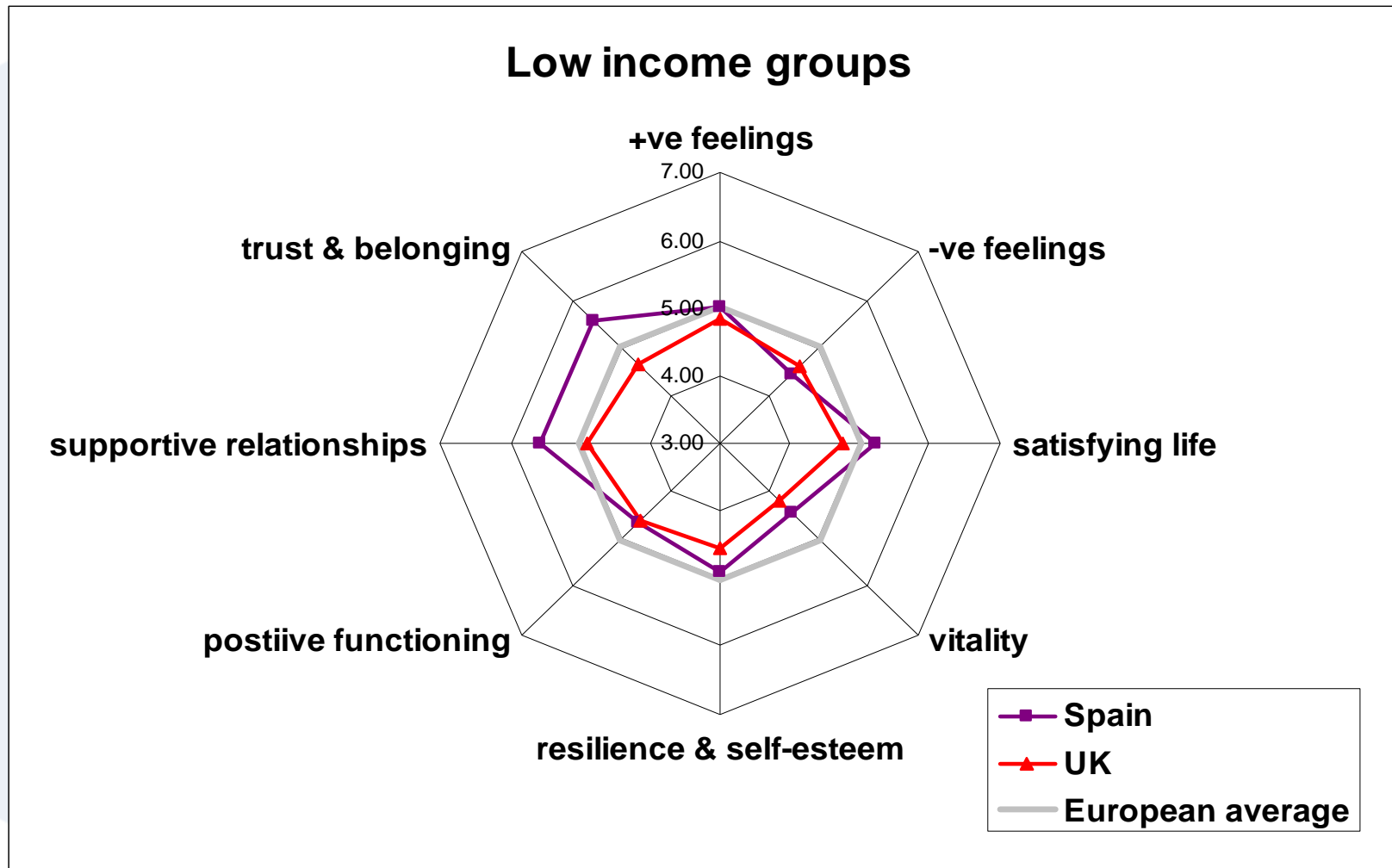
HOME > EXPLORE > INDICATORS



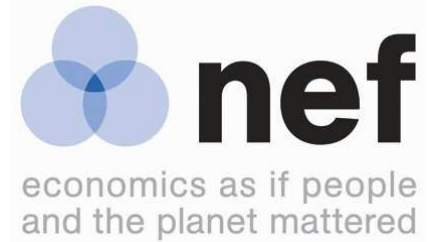
# Country well-being profiles



# Country well-being profiles



# Revision notes...



- Well-being is a central part of sustainable development
- Re-focusing policy towards well-being, rather than economic growth will lead to less resistance to sustainability policies
- Governments need to be measuring well-being using regular, textured surveys – success is a low carbon, high well-being future!

*Thank you!*

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