



Departamento de Economia

Sobre a Medição do Desenvolvimento – Indicadores Desagregados e Compósitos com uma Aplicação Empírica a Portugal

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation centers on the empirical evaluation of countries/regions' levels of development, viewed as broadly as possible. By looking at both a wide variety of distinct theoretical perspectives focused on the economic dimension of the concept and approaches to its enlargement we attempt to convey a comprehensive notion of development. Accordingly, the measurement methodology of development is based on a nomenclature that disaggregates the concept into eight dimensions. We focus on two complementary measurement approaches – one assesses each dimension of development through the use of a number of indicators for each individual dimension and the other evaluates these different dimensions simultaneously, using a composite indicator of development.

An assessment is carried out on the methodological issues and indicators involved in the measurement of development and its constituent items taking both approaches into account. We rely on a list of 54 development indices and a range of specialized areas of economic research in measurement to that end. An application of this research based on evidence from Portugal encompasses a selection of both specialized indicators for the measurement of development and those that will make up part of the index. Furthermore, we propose methodological procedures and indicators in an attempt to improve upon existing procedures. The major proposals are illustrated using micro-data from Portugal and a public-opinion survey conducted in Portugal.

Keywords: development, multidimensionality, measurement, disaggregated indicators, composite indicators, weights, Portugal.

JEL Codes: O10, O11, O12, E01, F00.