Cultural Standards and Economic Performance: Is there a Causal Relationship?

Vesna Copic, Andrej Srakar

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Institute for Economic Research, Ljubljana and Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

In the article, we will elaborate the role of the standards of culture for the prosperity of given communities, including their economic performance. By the standards of culture we mean an achieved level of cultural life defined through a set of characteristics referring to both sides: demand (consumption) and supply (creation, production, circulation) of cultural goods and services. We will, therefore, theoretically explore the relationship of cultural standards and the economy, using findings from cultural economics (e.g. Klamer 1996; Throsby 2001; Hutter & Shusterman 2006; Hutter & Throsby 2008; Hutter & Frey 2010) and cultural policy/values of culture (e.g. Holden 2006; Holden 2012). On the basis of the article, applied for the same conference (under Srakar 2015), which elaborates a set of indicators to measure the (independent and separate) cultural dimension of sustainable development, we will construct a (simple) "index of cultural standard" and then explore the relationship of this index to different economic indicators (which are part of the Eurostat Sustainable Development Indicators, see e.g. Adelle & Pallemaerts 2009) using techniques from regression analysis. The framework will allow us to test the influence of "cultural standards" on the economic dimension of sustainable development and, by this, to make a step towards testing the relationship between culture and other dimensions of a (possibly four-dimensional) concept of sustainable development.

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*Presenting author