

Quality of life in the European cities: insights from the Eurobarometer 2023 survey

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Background. Improving urban quality of life is now increasingly at the top of the political agenda of modern cities. However, right policy treatment requires a thorough analysis and correct diagnosis.

Aim. The aim of the current study was to examine the most recent Eurobarometer (2023) survey data on the quality of life in 83 European cities to explore which quality of life dimensions (safety, trust, environment, infrastructure, public transport, governance, livability, economic situation) should be still improved in the European cities and, thus, need the most attention of the policy makers.

Methods. Principal Components Analysis (PCA) method was used to obtain one numerical variable per each quality of life dimension per city (based on the value of first principal component of the PCA), and also a composite quality of life indicator per city, which then was rescaled to a 0–100 point scale for representation purposes. The use of the PCA was justified by the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin criterion.

Results. Northern European cities tend to show higher quality of life satisfaction in almost all quality of life dimensions than Southern European cities. Capital cities tend to show lower quality of life satisfaction in all dimensions except economic situation.

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