

EDITORIAL NOTE

Ryan and Deci describe well-being as “a complex construct that concerns optimal experience and functioning. Current research on well-being has been derived from two general perspectives: the hedonic approach, which focuses on happiness and defines well-being in terms of pleasure attainment and pain avoidance; and the eudaimonic approach, which focuses on meaning and self-realization and defines well-being in terms of the degree to which a person is fully functioning” (Ryan, Deci, 2001, p.141). Thus, the topics in the special issue focus on the concept of well-being and its relationship to the underlying themes of optimal human functioning at the individual, group and institutional level.

The special issue of the *International Journal of Psychology: A Biopsychosocial Approach* covers a broad spectrum of original research articles highlighting well-being and its correlates which would contribute to the more fulfilling lives of both the individual and the society.

Kristina Kovalčikienė in her article *Towards The Well-Being Of Vocational Teachers: The Role Of Personality Characteristics* analyses teachers' professional identity, which consists of distinct aspects of expertise (subject matter experts, didactical experts, and pedagogical experts) in relation to personality characteristics. The results of the study contribute to a better understanding of the importance that personality traits have to the teachers' well-being.

Two other articles utilize the European Social Survey data which explores their well-being related interests. Ligita Šarkutė relates well-being to political issues in her article *Does Political Activism Induce Subjective Wellbeing: Evidence From ESS Data*. Some of the most interesting findings presented in her article involved the strongest positive statistically significant correlations between the indicators of political activism and items of community wellbeing and supportive relationships.

Andrius Šmitas and Loreta Gustainienė discuss health-related aspects in their article *How Do Different Emotional, Cognitive And Social Health Indicators Relate To Health Behaviour? The Case Of Lithuania*. The

data of their study confirms earlier findings that not only personal (emotional and cognitive) but also social aspects of health can affect health behaviour. Authors present interesting insights regarding the well-being of Lithuanian male and female citizens.

Rasa Markšaitytė, Kristina Žardeckaitė-Matulaitienė, Laura Šeibokaitė and Auksė Endriulaitienė (article *The Importance Of Social Trust For The Prediction Of Well-Being Of Lithuanians And Lithuanian Emigrants*) found that emotional and social well-being of non-migrants was explained by higher general trust in people, higher trust in institutions and higher levels of family income. Thus, social aspects prove to be of critical importance for Lithuanian people.

Loreta Gustainienė, Miglė Burauskaitė and Kristina Klemenytė discovered another way to discuss well-being, i.e. from the perspective of positive ageing (article *The Role Of Psychosocial Factors In Self-Rated Successful Aging In A Sample Of Lithuanian Elderly People*). In their study, social factors of self-rated successful aging were predicted by higher level of intellectual social activity and learning, having a job and a higher number of grandchildren; psychological factors were related to higher level of life satisfaction, younger subjective age identity, better self-rated health and healthier eating habits.

We express sincere gratitude to the contributors of this issue and hope that their publications will facilitate research in the area of positive psychology thus providing the resources required to utilize the findings for the sake of the society's well-being.

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Editor of the Special Issue*