

## Abstract Template

**Petri Kahila**

**Co-authors:**

**Stefanie Lange**

**Peter Schmitt**

**Organisation :** Nordregio

**Short description:** Nordregio is a centre for research and development on spatial development. The centre is established in 1997 by the Nordic Council of Ministers and it is located in Stockholm, Sweden.

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### Presentation title:

A Revealed Preference Approach to Quality of Life in Urban-Rural Interference

### Executive Summary of your Abstract:

Quality of life is broadly used by the public and policy makers, and it also has become an important dimension in various policy fields. A desire to perfect the quality of life in a specific location and environment or alternatively for individuals is a crucial focus of attention for planners and policy makers. Investments in addressing quality of related questions will improve the prerequisites for growth and development, and make city-regions more appealing places in which to live and invest.

### Abstract:

The search for meaningful definitions and approaches of quality of life in different policy agendas at various scales and with different purposes is the focus of this presentation. Quality of life is a term broadly used both by the general public and among policy makers. The concept has also had a significant impact on social and political trends, and has in addition become an important dimension in various policy fields, including spatial and environmental planning, health promotion and social policy. It is argued that planners and policy makers have to take into closer account the concept of quality of life in order to consider the individual aspects in plans and projects. So far, the attempts and methods of managing quality of life in the frameworks of urban-rural interaction have been rather limited.

Life is lived individually and publicly and reflects the preferences we make in shaping our choices to quality of life. Our community and place of living influence our interpretations of what is essential in defining a quality of life. However, it does not refer solely to the living conditions approach but focuses also on enabling people as far as possible to achieve their goals and choose their ideal lifestyle. Therefore, a desire to perfect the quality of life in a specific location and environment or alternatively for individuals is a crucial focus of attention for planners and policy makers.

If the individual aspects and preferences can be addressed in an integrated manner, planners and policy makers can initiate new measures and processes. The central concern here is the question of how each individual may attain a higher quality of life in the city-regions. Investments in addressing quality of related questions will improve the prerequisites for growth and development at the local, regional and national levels, and make city-regions more appealing places in which to live and invest.

**Resumé:** Petri Kahila holds a PhD and in Human Geography and works in Nordregio as Senior Research Fellow. His specialisation is regional development, regional and local governance and urban-rural interaction. Since 2006, Kahila has worked at Nordregio in various European research and development projects.

**Recommended reading:** Fahey, T., Whelan, C.T. & Maître, B. (2004): *Quality of life in Europe*. First results of a new pan-European Survey. European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Luxembourg, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. <http://www.eurofound.eu.int/publications/htmlfiles/ef04105.htm>.