Contents

Tables viii
Figures x
Contributors xi

1. Introduction 1
   Bent Greve
   1.1. Intro 1
   1.2. Central issues in relation to happiness 2
   1.3. Overview of the book 6
   1.4. Conclusions 10

2. Life satisfaction and happiness in the Czech Republic 11
   Tomáš Sirovátka and Steven Saxonberg
   2.1. Introduction 11
   2.2. Happiness and the welfare state 12
   2.3. The available evidence on happiness 14
   2.4. Happiness, living conditions and welfare state in the comparative perspective: where do the Czechs belong in Europe? 16
   2.5. Happiness at the individual level: who is happy and who is unhappy? 20
   2.6. Which factors are the most important for life satisfaction in the Czech Republic? 22
   2.7. Conclusion 25
   Annex 27

3. Happiness and the welfare state in Slovakia 31
   Miroslav Beblavý
   3.1. The Slovak welfare state in the context of the new EU member states 31
   3.2. Happiness in Slovakia in the European and post-communist context 39
   3.3. Is there a relationship between happiness, wealth and social policy in Slovakia? 49
   3.4. Implications of the research and the changing economic and social environment 51

4. Happiness in a small country: Luxembourg 53
   Carlo Klein
   4.1. Introduction 53
4.2. Core characteristics of the social security system 53
4.3. Happiness in Luxembourg 54
4.4. The relation between happiness, wealth of the society and social policy 65
4.5. Implications for policy decisions 66
4.6. Conclusions 66
Annex 67

5. Subjective well-being in Germany: evolutions, determinants and policy implications 69
Heinz-Herbert Noll and Stefan Weick
5.1. Introduction 69
5.2. The context: welfare regime type and socio-economic living conditions in Germany 70
5.3. Subjective well-being: temporal, comparative and correlative analysis 73
5.4. Some implications for policy making 83
5.5. Summary and conclusions 86

6. Happiness in the United Kingdom 89
Bill Jordan
6.1. Introduction 89
6.2. Neo-utilitarian approaches to happiness issues 92
6.3. Cultures, ethics and the collective basis for happiness 94
6.4. Conclusions 97

7. Happiness and socio-economic transformations in the Russian Federation 101
Alfio Cerami
7.1. Introduction 101
7.2. Socio-economic transformation in the Russian Federation 103
7.3. Happiness in post-communist Russia 105
7.4. Welfare state restructuring in the Russian Federation 109
7.5. Oil-led social policy: limits and perspectives of the 'Russian Miracle' 112
7.6. Happiness, welfare state functions and consolidation of democracy 114
7.7. Conclusion 115
Annex 117

8. Happiness in the extensive welfare state: Sweden in a comparative European perspective 120
Filip Fors
8.1. Introduction 120
8.2. Earlier research 122
8.3. Cognitive and affective happiness 125
8.4. Empirical strategy 126
8.5. Measures of happiness 127
8.6. Results 127
Contents

8.7. Interpreting the results 132
8.8. Discussion and implications for social policy 133

9. Happiness and social policy in Denmark 136
   Bent Greve
   9.1. The core characteristics of the Danish welfare state 136
   9.2. Happiness in Denmark – a few basic facts 137
   9.3. Relation between happiness, wealth and social policy 142
   9.4. Implications for social policy in Denmark – now and in the future 143
   9.5. Conclusions 144

10. Welfare and happiness in Italy 145
    Marco Zupi
    10.1. Introduction 145
    10.2. Analysis of happiness 150
    10.3. Application of the ordered logit models 160
    10.4. What is the relation between happiness, wealth of the Italian society and social policy? 164
    10.5. Policy implications 167
    Annex 171

11. Income inequality and happiness in 119 nations: in search for an optimum that does not appear to exist 174
    Maarten Berg and Ruut Veenhoven
    11.1. Introduction 174
    11.2. Earlier research 176
    11.3. Method 177
    11.4. Variables and analysis 179
    11.5. Results 181
    11.6. Income inequality and inequality of happiness in nations 183
    11.7. Patterns in parts of the world 183
    11.8. Discussion 184
    11.9. Explanations 186
    11.10. Conclusion 188
    Annex 11.A 189
    Annex 11.B 190

Bibliography 195
Index 216