

MURCIA DECLARATION 2026

Infraestructuras para la Vida cotidiana desde la Economía Feminista del Bienestar (IVcEFBi)

Towards an International Agenda on Infrastructure for Everyday Life, Well-being and New Metrics for Public Decision-Making

Murcia, 12 June 2026

The participants in the First International Symposium *Infrastructure for Everyday Life, Social Well-being and New Metrics for Public Decision-Making*, held in Murcia on 11 and 12 June 2026, share the conviction that the challenges facing contemporary societies require new ways of understanding progress, guiding public policies and evaluating collective development.

Across the world, communities are confronted by profound transformations. Population ageing, changing patterns of care, climate change, growing inequalities, difficulties in accessing housing, unwanted loneliness, demographic transitions and increasing concerns regarding physical and mental health require innovative responses capable of placing people and their well-being at the centre of public action.

For many decades, economic growth has been considered one of the principal indicators of social progress. While economic prosperity remains important, it is increasingly recognised that growth alone does not fully capture the conditions that allow individuals and communities to flourish. Public decision-making therefore requires complementary approaches capable of assessing how people actually live and how societies create opportunities for human development.

Well-being is multidimensional. It depends not only on income and economic activity, but also on health, education, mobility, housing, care, social relationships, culture, participation, safety, environmental quality, available time and the freedom to pursue meaningful life projects.

From this perspective, we affirm that infrastructure plays a fundamental role in the production of well-being.

We understand infrastructure in a broad sense. Beyond physical assets and technical systems, infrastructure encompasses the material, social, institutional, cultural and environmental conditions that make everyday life possible and expand people's real opportunities to participate in society.

Infrastructure contributes to well-being in different ways.

Some forms of infrastructure sustain life. Health systems, educational institutions, housing, care services, public transport, digital connectivity, access to water and energy, and other essential services provide the foundations upon which everyday life depends. They enable autonomy, security, dignity and the development of human capabilities.

Other forms of infrastructure enable people to live well. Public spaces, cultural institutions, sports facilities, green infrastructure, community spaces, opportunities for artistic expression and mechanisms for democratic participation enrich everyday experience, strengthen social relationships and contribute directly to subjective well-being.

Both dimensions are essential. Infrastructure that sustains life creates the conditions necessary for human development. Infrastructure that enables people to live well allows individuals and communities to flourish, develop meaningful relationships and pursue lives they have reason to value.

We recognise that infrastructure needs evolve throughout the life course and differ according to age, gender, income, family circumstances, disability, place of residence and other social conditions. Equitable access to infrastructure remains a fundamental challenge for public policy.

We also recognise that time constitutes a critical dimension of well-being. Time is a finite resource that is unequally distributed within societies. Across the world, women continue to perform a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic and care work, affecting their opportunities for employment, participation, leisure, health and personal development. We therefore call for greater attention to the measurement of time use and time poverty, and for the systematic incorporation of these dimensions into public policy design and evaluation.

We further affirm that environmental sustainability, social equality and human well-being should be understood as complementary and mutually reinforcing objectives. The infrastructure of the future must contribute simultaneously to ecological transition, social cohesion and improved living conditions.

We believe that systems of information, evaluation and public accountability must evolve accordingly. Alongside traditional economic indicators, there is a need for new metrics capable of assessing how infrastructure contributes to capabilities, subjective well-being, health, equality, sustainability and social cohesion.

We welcome ongoing efforts to develop new measurement frameworks capable of capturing these relationships, including initiatives such as the Well-being and Infrastructure from a Gender Perspective (WIGI) model and related approaches that seek to evaluate the contribution of infrastructure for everyday life to human well-being.

Scientific research has an essential role to play in this transformation. The challenges of the twenty-first century require interdisciplinary approaches capable of connecting economics, sociology, public policy, urban planning, architecture, health sciences, environmental studies and other fields of knowledge.

We therefore reaffirm the importance of international cooperation among universities, public administrations, international organisations and civil society. Shared challenges require shared learning, collaborative research and collective action.

In this regard, the participants in this Symposium express their commitment to further strengthening the international cooperation promoted through EuWIGeN (European Well-being, Infrastructure and Gender Network) and to fostering the exchange of knowledge, evidence and good practices that contribute to improving well-being and enriching public decision-making.

We invite universities, research centres, public administrations, international organisations, professional bodies and civil society organisations to endorse this Declaration and to contribute to the development of a shared international agenda on infrastructure for everyday life and well-being.

From Murcia, we call for a new generation of public policies and public metrics:

An agenda that places well-being at its centre.

An agenda that recognises the role of infrastructure in sustaining life and enabling people to live well.

An agenda that values time, care, equality and sustainability.

An agenda that promotes new forms of measurement capable of capturing what truly matters for people's lives.

An agenda committed to realising the human rights of all by building healthier, fairer and more flourishing societies for present and future generations.

Approved in Murcia on 12 June 2026.

Initial Signatories

Participants in the First International Symposium *Infrastructure for Everyday Life, Social Well-being and New Metrics for Public Decision-Making*.

Open for Institutional Endorsement

This Declaration remains open for endorsement by universities, research centres, public administrations, international organisations, professional associations and civil society organisations committed to advancing research, policy development and public action on infrastructure for everyday life and well-being.