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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910774874803321 |
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| Titolo | Social capital, economic growth and Well-being // Francesco Sarracino |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Firenze : , : Firenze University Press, , 2012 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (166 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) |
| Collana | Premio Ricerca «Città di Firenze» ; ; 4 |
| Disciplina | 306 |
| Soggetti | Quality of life |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Sommario/riassunto | <p>In the long run economic growth does not improve people's well-being. Traditional theories – adaptation and social comparisons – explain this evidence, but they don't explain what shapes the trend of subjective well-being and its differences across countries. Recent research identified in social capital a plausible candidate to explain the trends of well-being. This dissertation adopts various econometric techniques to explore the relationship over time among social capital, economic growth and subjective well-being. The main conclusion is that social capital is a good predictor of the trend of subjective well-being, both within and across countries. Hence, policies for well-being should aim at preserving and enhancing social capital for the quality of the social environment matters.</p> |