

# **A Novel Approach to Computing a Regional Social Progress Index**

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## **Abstract**

In the context in which social progress is perceived to be a measure of the people's true well-being, measuring social progress is as crucial as ever. The calculation of a regional Social Progress Index (SPI) has been on the policy-makers' agenda for many decades as it is used to assist in the proposal of strategies that would create the conditions for all individuals in a society to reach their full potential, enhancing and sustaining the quality of their lives, while reducing regional inequalities. In this paper, we demonstrate a novel way to calculate a regional SPI under a two-layer approach. In the first layer, we aggregate the sub-factor level information into a factor-level index using an Objective General Index (OGI); in the second layer, we use the factor-level index to obtain the regional SPI through a pure DEA approach. We further apply the method developed to analyse a single period of social progress in Peru. Among others, the results reveal the existence of the resource curse of the mining regions of Peru. The paper is a contribution to the practical measurement of social progress.