

V elundini local municipality Textbook

V elundini Local Municipality is a prominent local government authority situated within the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. Covering a vast and diverse area, V elundini plays a crucial role in delivering essential services, fostering economic development, and promoting sustainable growth in the region. This municipality is characterized by its rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and strategic importance, making it an essential focus for residents, investors, and policymakers alike.

Overview of V elundini Local Municipality

V elundini Local Municipality is one of the administrative divisions within the Joe Gqabi District Municipality. Its geographical boundaries encompass a mixture of rural communities, small towns, and semi-urban centers, creating a unique blend of challenges and opportunities.

Location and Geography

Located in the northeastern part of the Eastern Cape, V elundini borders the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, offering a strategic position for trade and regional cooperation. The municipality's terrain includes mountains, valleys, and plains, supporting a variety of agricultural activities and tourism potential.

Population and Demographics

The municipality serves a diverse population that predominantly speaks isiXhosa, along with other languages such as Sesotho, Afrikaans, and English. The community comprises various age groups, with a significant portion engaged in farming, small business enterprises, and government services.

Key Sectors and Economic Activities

Understanding the economic landscape of V elundini is essential for appreciating its development trajectory and potential for growth.

Agriculture and Livestock Farming

Agriculture remains the backbone of V elundini's economy, with key products including:

- Maize
- Sorghum

- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Livestock such as cattle, goats, and sheep

The municipality's climate and fertile soils provide favorable conditions for farming, which supports local food security and employment.

Tourism and Natural Resources

V elundini boasts natural attractions such as:

- Mountain ranges and scenic landscapes
- Historical sites and cultural landmarks
- Wildlife reserves and game parks

These features attract domestic and international tourists, creating opportunities for eco-tourism, hospitality, and cultural festivals.

Small and Medium Enterprise Development

Encouraging entrepreneurship is a priority for V elundini, with initiatives aimed at supporting local businesses in sectors like crafts, trade, and services. The municipality provides platforms for market access, training, and funding opportunities.

Infrastructure and Service Delivery

Effective infrastructure is vital for improving residents' quality of life and promoting sustainable development.

Water and Sanitation

V elundini faces challenges related to water access, particularly in rural areas. The municipality has embarked on projects to:

- Upgrade water supply systems
- Improve sanitation facilities
- Promote water conservation practices

Roads and Transportation

A well-maintained road network facilitates transportation and commerce. Efforts include:

- Repaving and maintaining main roads
- Developing rural access roads
- Enhancing public transport options

Electricity and Communications

V elundini is working towards expanding electricity coverage and improving communication infrastructure to connect remote communities and support economic activities.

Governance and Community Engagement

Effective governance is essential for sustainable development in V elundini.

Local Government Structure

The municipality is governed by an elected council led by a mayor, with various departments managing service delivery, planning, and community development.

Community Participation

V elundini promotes active community involvement through:

- Public meetings and consultations
- Local development forums
- Partnerships with civil society organizations

This participatory approach ensures that development initiatives align with residents' needs and priorities.

Development Challenges and Opportunities

While V elundini has significant growth potential, it also faces several challenges.

Challenges

- Limited access to basic services in remote areas

- High unemployment rates, especially among youth
- Inadequate infrastructure funding and maintenance
- Environmental concerns such as land degradation and water scarcity

Opportunities

Despite these hurdles, V elundini possesses numerous opportunities for advancement, including:

- Expanding agricultural productivity through modern techniques
- Developing eco-tourism and cultural tourism sectors
- Leveraging regional partnerships for infrastructure projects
- Encouraging youth entrepreneurship and skills development programs

Future Outlook and Strategic Plans

V elundini Local Municipality is committed to fostering sustainable growth through strategic planning and innovative initiatives.

Key Development Strategies

- Economic Diversification: Promoting sectors beyond agriculture, such as renewable energy, ICT, and manufacturing.
- Infrastructure Investment: Upgrading roads, water supply, sanitation, and electricity networks.
- Social Development: Improving education, healthcare, and social services to uplift communities.
- Environmental Sustainability: Implementing conservation programs and promoting climate-resilient practices.

Community-Centered Approach

The municipality aims to prioritize inclusive development, ensuring that all community members benefit from growth initiatives and participate actively in decision-making processes.

Conclusion

V elundini Local Municipality embodies a region rich in natural resources, cultural heritage, and potential for economic development. By addressing its challenges through strategic planning, infrastructure development, and community engagement, V elundini can unlock sustainable growth and improve the quality of life for its residents. As part of South Africa's broader efforts towards decentralization and local development, V elundini stands as a vital hub in the Eastern Cape, poised

for a prosperous future.

Keywords: V elundini Local Municipality, Eastern Cape, local government, regional development, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, community participation, sustainable growth, economic development

Velenini Local Municipality: An In-Depth Guide to Its Governance, Economy, and Community Development

Nestled within the heart of South Africa's Limpopo Province, Velenini Local Municipality stands as a vital hub for local governance, economic activity, and community development. As a key component of the Capricorn District Municipality, Velenini plays a crucial role in delivering essential services, fostering local growth, and improving the quality of life for its residents. This comprehensive guide aims to explore the various facets of Velenini Local Municipality, offering insights into its governance structure, economic landscape, social infrastructure, and future prospects.

Understanding Velenini Local Municipality

Velenini Local Municipality is a local government entity responsible for providing administrative support, infrastructure, and services to its communities. It functions within the framework of South Africa's local government laws, notably the Municipal Systems Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act, which govern service delivery, budgeting, and planning.

Geography and Demographics

Location and Boundaries

Velenini is situated in the northern part of Limpopo Province, sharing borders with neighboring municipalities and districts. Its geographical landscape features a mix of rural farmlands, small settlements, and natural features such as rivers and hills, contributing to its diverse environment.

Population and Demographics

The municipality is home to a predominantly rural population, with a rich cultural heritage and diverse communities. Key demographic features include:

- Population size: Approximately [insert latest estimate]
- Main languages: Northern Sotho (Sepedi), Tsonga, and Venda
- Age distribution: A youthful population with a significant percentage under 30
- Socioeconomic status: Mostly low-income households with limited access to advanced

infrastructure

Governance and Administrative Structure

Leadership and Council

Velenini Local Municipality is governed by an elected municipal council, which oversees policy, service delivery, and financial management. The mayor and councilors work in tandem to address local issues and ensure community participation.

Departments and Services

The municipality's administrative departments include:

- Municipal Manager's Office: Overall coordination and strategic planning
- Finance Department: Budgeting, revenue collection, and financial oversight
- Public Works and Infrastructure: Maintenance of roads, water, and sanitation
- Community Services: Health, education, and social development programs
- Planning and Development: Land use, zoning, and urban planning

Key Challenges Facing Velenini Local Municipality

While Velenini holds significant potential, it faces several obstacles:

- Limited Infrastructure Development: Many rural areas lack reliable access to clean water, electricity, and proper roads.
- Unemployment and Poverty: High unemployment rates hinder socio-economic progress.
- Service Delivery Backlogs: Insufficient resources and capacity affect the timely provision of services.
- Access to Education and Healthcare: Rural communities often experience limited access to quality facilities.

Economic Landscape

Main Economic Activities

Velenini's economy is primarily driven by:

- Agriculture: Subsistence farming and small-scale commercial agriculture, focusing on crops like maize, vegetables, and fruits.
- Livestock Farming: Cattle, goats, and poultry farming contribute to local livelihoods.
- Small Businesses and Trade: Local markets, spaza shops, and informal trading provide income streams.
- Employment in Public Sector: Education, health, and municipal employment are significant sources of income.

Opportunities for Growth

Potential areas for economic expansion include:

- Agribusiness development and value addition
- Eco-tourism centered around natural and cultural heritage sites
- Small and medium enterprise (SME) incubation programs
- Infrastructure upgrades to attract investment

Social Infrastructure and Community Development

Education

Velenini boasts several primary and secondary schools, but challenges remain:

- Insufficient classrooms and learning materials
- Shortage of qualified teachers
- Limited access to vocational training

Healthcare

The municipality has health clinics and community health programs; however:

- Many clinics are under-equipped or understaffed
- Rural communities face difficulties accessing emergency healthcare
- Health promotion initiatives focus on HIV/AIDS, TB, and maternal health

Housing and Sanitation

Housing conditions vary, with many residents living in informal settlements. Sanitation facilities are

often inadequate, impacting public health.

Environmental Management and Sustainability

Velenini's natural environment offers both challenges and opportunities:

- Water Resources: Management of rivers and groundwater is critical amid climate variability.
- Waste Management: Initiatives aim to improve waste collection and recycling.
- Conservation Efforts: Protecting biodiversity and promoting eco-tourism are priorities.

Strategic Plans and Development Initiatives

Velenini's development trajectory is guided by various strategic frameworks:

- Integrated Development Plan (IDP): Outlines priorities such as infrastructure upgrades, social services, and economic development.
- Financial Recovery Plans: Address budget deficits and improve revenue collection.
- Community Engagement Programs: Foster participatory planning and local ownership of projects.

Future Outlook and Opportunities

Looking ahead, Velenini Local Municipality aims to:

- Improve basic service delivery through infrastructure investments
- Promote sustainable economic growth via agriculture and tourism
- Strengthen governance and capacity building within municipal structures
- Enhance community participation and social cohesion

Key Recommendations for Stakeholders

- Enhance infrastructure funding and implementation
- Foster partnerships with NGOs, private sector, and development agencies
- Invest in education, healthcare, and skills development
- Prioritize environmental sustainability and climate resilience

Conclusion

Velenini Local Municipality embodies both the challenges and potential of rural South African communities. Its success hinges on strategic planning, effective governance, and inclusive development efforts. As the municipality continues to navigate its unique socio-economic landscape, a focus on sustainable growth, community empowerment, and infrastructure development will be essential to unlocking its full potential. Stakeholders—from government officials and local residents to investors and development partners—must collaborate to transform Velenini into a vibrant, resilient, and prosperous community.

Question What are the main service delivery initiatives currently underway in V Elundini Local Municipality? V Elundini Local Municipality is focusing on infrastructure development such as road upgrades, water supply improvements, and electrification projects to enhance service delivery for residents. How does V Elundini Local Municipality plan to address unemployment in the area? The municipality is promoting local economic development through supporting small businesses, agricultural projects, and skills training programs aimed at creating job opportunities. What are the key challenges faced by V Elundini Local Municipality? Challenges include inadequate infrastructure, limited financial resources, high unemployment rates, and the need for improved service delivery and infrastructure maintenance. How can residents of V Elundini participate in local government decision-making? Residents can participate through public meetings, community forums, and by providing feedback to ward councillors and municipality officials to influence local development plans. What initiatives are in place to improve healthcare services in V Elundini? The municipality collaborates with health departments to improve clinic facilities, increase healthcare access, and promote health education campaigns within the community. Are there any ongoing projects aimed at improving education in V Elundini? Yes, projects include upgrading school infrastructure, providing learning materials, and supporting skills development programs to enhance educational outcomes. How has V Elundini Local Municipality responded to the COVID-19 pandemic? The municipality implemented health and safety measures, facilitated community awareness campaigns, and distributed aid and PPE to vulnerable populations to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Related keywords: Elundini Local Municipality, Eastern Cape, Amathole District, local government, municipalities in South Africa, public administration, local development, municipal services, governance, South African municipalities

LOCAL IS OUR FUTURE STEPS TO AN ECONOMICS OF HAPP

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In an increasingly interconnected world, the importance of local economies has gained significant

recognition as a crucial pathway toward achieving sustainable happiness and well-being for communities. Emphasizing local production, consumption, and social cohesion can foster resilient economies that prioritize human happiness over mere financial gains. Transitioning to a more localized economic model not only reduces environmental impact but also strengthens community bonds, supports small businesses, and promotes a more equitable distribution of resources. This article explores the concept of "local is our future" as a foundational step towards an "economics of happ"?an economic paradigm centered on happiness, sustainability, and social well-being.

Understanding the Shift: From Globalization to Localization

The Limitations of Globalization

Globalization has historically driven economic growth by expanding markets, optimizing supply chains, and enabling the rapid exchange of goods and ideas. However, it has also led to significant drawbacks:

- Environmental degradation due to long-distance transportation
- Vulnerability of global supply chains to disruptions
- Economic inequalities between regions
- Loss of local cultures and traditions

The Rise of Localization

In response to these challenges, there is a growing movement toward localization?focusing on local economies that prioritize community well-being and environmental sustainability. Localization entails:

- Supporting local businesses and artisans
- Promoting local sourcing and production
- Encouraging community-based decision-making
- Reducing reliance on global supply chains

This shift aims to build resilient communities capable of withstanding economic shocks while fostering a sense of belonging and purpose.

Core Principles of an Economics of Happiness

Redefining Success Beyond GDP

Traditional economic metrics like Gross Domestic Product (GDP) focus solely on economic output, often neglecting quality of life and social well-being. An economics of happiness emphasizes:

- Well-being and life satisfaction
- Mental and physical health
- Social connections and community engagement
- Environmental sustainability

Key Components of Happiness-Centered Economics

To implement an economics of happiness, several principles should guide policy and community initiatives:

- Equity and Fairness: Ensuring resources are distributed justly
- Environmental Stewardship: Protecting natural resources for future generations
- Community Engagement: Fostering participatory decision-making
- Work-Life Balance: Promoting meaningful work alongside personal time
- Local Resilience: Building local capacities to withstand external shocks

Steps Toward Building a Localized Economy of Happiness

1. Promoting Local Production and Consumption

Encouraging communities to buy local products and support local farmers, artisans, and businesses helps:

- Reduce carbon footprints
- Keep wealth within the community
- Preserve local culture and traditions

Strategies include:

- Farmers' markets and local craft fairs
- Incentives for local startups
- Local currency initiatives

2. Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

SMEs are vital for local economic vitality and job creation. Policies to support SMEs involve:

- Providing accessible financing and grants
- Reducing regulatory burdens
- Offering business development support

3. Developing Community-Based Infrastructure

Investing in local infrastructure enhances connectivity and quality of life:

- Community centers and shared spaces
- Local renewable energy projects
- Sustainable transportation options

4. Encouraging Participatory Governance

Empowering residents to participate in decision-making fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility. Initiatives include:

- Participatory budgeting
- Community councils
- Local planning committees

5. Prioritizing Education and Awareness

Educating citizens about the benefits of localism and happiness-focused economics:

- Workshops and seminars
- School curricula emphasizing sustainability and community values
- Media campaigns promoting local pride

Benefits of Embracing a Localized Economy of Happiness

Environmental Benefits

Localized economies tend to have a smaller ecological footprint due to:

- Reduced transportation emissions
- Promotion of sustainable local practices
- Preservation of biodiversity and natural habitats

Economic Resilience

Community-focused economies are more adaptable to global shocks such as pandemics or financial crises. Benefits include:

- Diversified local industries
- Stronger social safety nets
- Greater control over economic destiny

Social Cohesion and Well-Being

A focus on local relationships fosters:

- Trust and social bonds
- Collective problem-solving
- Enhanced mental health and happiness

Cultural Preservation

Supporting local artisans and traditions maintains cultural diversity and identity, enriching community life.

Challenges and Solutions in Transitioning to Local Economies

Challenges

Transitioning to a local economy of happiness is not without obstacles:

- Resistance from large corporations and global supply chains
- Limited access to capital for local entrepreneurs
- Consumer habits favoring convenience and low prices
- Regulatory barriers and bureaucratic hurdles

Potential Solutions

Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts:

- Policy reforms favoring local businesses
- Education campaigns to shift consumer behavior
- Establishing local investment funds
- Building networks among local producers and consumers

Case Studies and Success Stories

Transition Towns

Several communities worldwide have adopted localized, happiness-centered approaches:

- Totnes, UK: Focused on local food, renewable energy, and community resilience
- Ecovillages: Designed to promote sustainable living and social cohesion
- CittaSlow Movement: Emphasizes slow, local, and sustainable urban living

Local Currencies and Payment Systems

Examples include:

- The Bristol Pound (UK): Encourages local spending
- BerkShares (USA): Supports local businesses in Massachusetts

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Programs where consumers directly support local farmers, ensuring fresh produce and stable income for farmers.

The Future of Local is Our Future

Building a sustainable and happiness-oriented economy rooted in localism requires collective effort, innovative policies, and cultural shifts. The "local is our future" movement underscores the importance of community resilience, environmental sustainability, and social well-being. By embracing local production, fostering community participation, and redefining success beyond monetary metrics, societies can move toward an "economics of happ"?an economy that prioritizes human happiness and sustainable development.

Conclusion

The transition to a localized economy centered on happiness offers a promising pathway to address many of the pressing challenges facing our world today. It advocates for a shift from relentless growth and global dependency toward resilient, community-driven systems that value well-being, environmental health, and cultural richness. While challenges exist, the potential benefits—social cohesion, environmental sustainability, economic resilience, and enhanced quality of life—make this a crucial step forward. Embracing "local is our future" is not just an economic strategy; it is a vision for a more equitable, joyful, and sustainable world.

Keywords: local economy, economy of happiness, sustainable development, community resilience, local production, social well-being, localism movement, happiness economics, community empowerment, sustainable communities

Local is Our Future: Steps Toward an Economy of Happiness

In an era marked by rapid globalization, environmental crises, and social inequality, the concept of "local is our future" has gained significant momentum as a guiding principle for building a more sustainable and fulfilling economic system. This approach emphasizes empowering local communities, fostering regional resilience, and prioritizing well-being over mere economic growth. As we explore the pathways toward an economy of happiness, it becomes clear that re-centering our economic activities around local initiatives can lead to more equitable, resilient, and joyful societies.

Understanding the Philosophy of "Local is Our Future"

The phrase "local is our future" encapsulates a shift from globalized, profit-driven paradigms to community-centered, sustainable models. It recognizes that many of the challenges we face—climate change, social fragmentation, economic instability—are intertwined with the dominance of distant, large-scale economic systems that often overlook local needs and ecological limits.

Core Principles

- Decentralization: Promoting local decision-making and governance.
- Sustainability: Prioritizing environmental health within local economies.
- Resilience: Building local capacities to withstand global shocks.
- Community Well-being: Focusing on happiness and social cohesion rather than solely GDP.

Rationale for Emphasizing Local Economies

- Reduces environmental footprints through localized production and consumption.
- Strengthens social bonds and community identity.
- Enhances economic stability by diversifying local income sources.
- Empowers citizens and fosters democratic participation.

Steps Toward an Economy of Happiness via Local Initiatives

Transitioning to a more localized economy involves multi-layered strategies that integrate economic, social, and environmental objectives. Below are key steps and considerations that can guide this transformation.

1. Promoting Local Production and Consumption

Features and Advantages

- Encourages farmers' markets, local artisans, and small businesses.
- Reduces transportation emissions associated with long supply chains.
- Supports local employment and keeps wealth within communities.
- Fosters trust and cultural preservation through local products.

Challenges

- Potentially higher costs compared to mass-produced goods.
- Limited variety or availability of certain products.
- Need for infrastructure and logistics support.

Strategies

- Establishing local food cooperatives and markets.
- Promoting "buy local" campaigns to raise awareness.
- Supporting small-scale producers with grants or subsidies.

2. Building Local Resilience and Self-Sufficiency

Features and Advantages

- Developing local renewable energy sources like solar, wind, or bioenergy.

- Encouraging food sovereignty through community gardens and urban farming.
- Creating local currencies or barter systems to facilitate trade.

Challenges

- Initial investment costs.
- Regulatory and policy barriers.
- Ensuring equitable access across diverse community groups.

Strategies

- Policy incentives for renewable energy projects.
- Education and training programs in sustainable practices.
- Collaborative planning involving local stakeholders.

3. Fostering Local Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Features and Advantages

- Supporting startups and social enterprises that address local needs.
- Creating hubs or incubators for local innovation.
- Encouraging circular economy practices to reduce waste.

Challenges

- Access to capital and funding.
- Building a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Overcoming market limitations.

Strategies

- Microfinance and community investment funds.
- Local mentorship and networking programs.
- Policies that favor local business development.

4. Enhancing Community Participation and Democratic Governance

Features and Advantages

- Inclusive decision-making processes regarding local development.
- Community-led planning and budgeting.
- Increased accountability and transparency.

Challenges

- Potential conflicts of interest.
- Ensuring broad participation across socio-economic divides.
- Balancing diverse community priorities.

Strategies

- Participatory budgeting initiatives.
- Regular town hall meetings and forums.
- Education campaigns on civic engagement.

The Role of Policy and Governance in Advancing a Localized Economy

Effective policy frameworks are critical in nurturing local economies that prioritize happiness. Governments at various levels can implement supportive measures:

Policy Measures

- Legislation: Enacting laws that favor local procurement and small business support.
- Incentives: Tax breaks or subsidies for local producers and renewable energy projects.
- Urban Planning: Designing cities that facilitate local commerce, green spaces, and walkability.
- Education: Incorporating sustainability and local economic principles into curricula.

Challenges in Policy Implementation

- Balancing local interests with broader economic goals.
- Overcoming bureaucratic inertia.
- Ensuring equity and inclusiveness.

Case Examples

- The success of local currencies like the Bristol Pound in the UK.
- Urban agriculture initiatives in cities like Detroit and Havana.
- Community-led renewable energy projects in Germany and Denmark.

Measuring Success Beyond GDP: Indicators of Happiness and Well-being

Transitioning to an economy of happiness necessitates redefining success metrics. Traditional economic indicators like GDP fail to capture social and environmental well-being. Alternative measures include:

- Gross National Happiness (GNH): Emphasizing spiritual, environmental, and social health.
- Happy Planet Index (HPI): Combining ecological impact and life satisfaction.
- Community Well-being Indices: Tailored metrics capturing local satisfaction, social cohesion, and environmental quality.

Implementing New Metrics

- Incorporate happiness surveys into policy evaluation.
- Use participatory assessments to understand community priorities.
- Foster transparency in reporting progress toward well-being goals.

Global Perspectives and Local Actions: Synergies and Challenges

While the focus on local economies is vital, it must be integrated within broader global frameworks to address transnational challenges like climate change and economic inequality.

Synergies

- Local initiatives can serve as models and pilot projects for larger-scale reforms.
- Regional collaborations can amplify impact through knowledge sharing.
- Local economies contribute to global sustainability goals (e.g., SDGs).

Challenges

- Navigating global trade and supply chains.
- Ensuring local initiatives are inclusive and equitable.
- Avoiding isolationism or protectionism that could hinder cooperation.

Conclusion: Embracing a Happiness-Centered Future

The movement toward "local is our future" signals a profound rethinking of how economies serve human needs and ecological limits. By fostering local production, resilience, entrepreneurship, and participatory governance, communities can cultivate environments where happiness and well-being are at the core of economic activity. While challenges remain, the combined efforts of policymakers, citizens, and businesses can pave the way for a future where economic success is measured not just in monetary terms but in the quality of life and ecological health of communities. Embracing this paradigm shift is essential for creating a sustainable, equitable, and joyful world for generations to come.

Question What is the core idea behind 'Local is Our Future' in promoting an economy of happiness? 'Local is Our Future' emphasizes strengthening local communities and economies to enhance well-being, sustainability, and social cohesion, prioritizing quality of life over mere economic growth. How can local economies contribute to an economy of happiness? Local economies foster stronger social connections, support small businesses, reduce environmental impact, and create a sense of community, all of which contribute to increased happiness and well-being. What are practical steps communities can take to implement 'Local is Our Future' principles? Communities can promote local purchasing, support local farmers and artisans, develop local currencies, encourage community events, and invest in local infrastructure to strengthen local resilience. How does focusing on local economies help address global challenges like climate change? Localizing economies reduces reliance on long supply chains, decreases carbon emissions, and encourages sustainable practices that are more easily managed and adapted at the community level. What role do policymakers play in advancing 'Local is Our Future' initiatives? Policymakers can create supportive regulations, provide incentives for local businesses, invest in local infrastructure, and promote policies that prioritize community well-being and sustainability. Are there successful examples of communities implementing 'Local is Our Future' strategies? Yes, examples include Transition Towns, local currency initiatives like the Bristol Pound, and community-supported agriculture programs that boost local resilience and happiness. How does an economy of happiness differ from traditional economic models? An economy of happiness focuses on well-being, social connections, and environmental sustainability as primary goals, rather than solely on GDP growth and material wealth.

Related keywords: local economy, happiness economics, sustainable development, community well-being, local resilience, social entrepreneurship, economic happiness, regional growth, social innovation, community empowerment

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