



**Web-COSI EU FP7 Project
Kick off Meeting
Rome, 9 January 2014
Aula Magna, Istat, Via Cesare Balbo 14**

**Web-COSI
Web COmmunities for Statistics for Social Innovation:
overall vision, structure and objectives**

www.webcosi.eu

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Web COmmunities for Statistics for Social Innovation

a two-year **CA** project (1/2014 -12/2015) funded by the EC-DG CONNECT, FP7 Work Programme 2013, Theme 3, ICT- Information and Communication Technologies

fostering the engagement of citizens and society at large in the area of new measures of societal progress and well-being

using the opportunities given by Web2.0

implementing tools for collecting/producing/visualizing information and data for a better integration of official and non-official statistics

developing of a Wiki of progress statistics

enforcing the use of locally generated grassroots data

Web-COSI consortium

• *ISTAT the Italian National Statistical Institute (coordinator)*  Istat

• *OECD the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*



• *LUNARIA the Lunaria- Social Promotion Association*



• *i-GENIUS the World Community of Social Entrepreneurs*



The consortium sees the collaboration among **two relevant Institutions** – Istat and OECD- and **two young civil society organisations** - Lunaria and i-genius- representing society at large.

All partners are fully involved on beyond GDP debate representing stakeholders' different perspectives and participating to important national and international initiatives related to progress statistics



Web-COSI is funded within the call ICT-2013.5.5

Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation (CAPS)

The call, within Europe 2020 and the priorities of the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE), has the general objective *“to stimulate and support the emergence of innovative ICT based **platforms for grassroots Social Innovation**, providing societally, environmentally and economically sustainable approaches and solutions to tackle societal challenges. Such **collective intelligence platforms** will include collective decision-making tools and innovation mechanisms allowing and encouraging **individual and community creativity, participation and situational awareness**”*

Web-COSI context

CAPS projects <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/caps-projects>

based on the idea that collaborate through crowd sourced platforms can produce solutions for a wide range of social needs

DecarboNet	Raising collective awareness about environmental challenges
CAP4ACCESS	Collectively removing barriers to inclusion
CATALYST	Experimenting new collective forms of creativity and collaboration
Wikirate	Enabling citizens to rate companies on corporate social responsibility
D-CENT	New tools for direct democracy, participation, new economic models
Ia4Si	Impact assessment of collective awareness platforms
SciCafe 2.0	Promoting new collaboration models
CAP2020	Increasing awareness of the potential of the network effect (concertation for Caps)
CHEST	Seed funding for digital social innovation based on the network effect

Web-COSI Increasing trust in collectively-generated statistics



Web-COSI frame

Web-COSI deals with

- ↪ **statistics beyond GDP**
- ↪ capitalizes on the long lasting debate
GDP & Beyond

Web-COSI wants to foster

- ↪ **involvement of communities for statistics**
- ↪ capitalizes on the Web2.0 collective platforms

GDP & Beyond for better statistics

From the beginning of the new millennium, the need to integrate GDP with new indicators for the measurement of well-being and societal progress aroused an **intense global debate** on the complex phenomena to this related

The discussion was carried out by numerous initiatives promoted firstly by

**the public and private world of research
the data producers in government and statistical offices**

to analyse and deepen

- methodological and theoretical aspects
- technical aspects

for the construction and dissemination of better statistics beyond GDP

GDP & Beyond for better statistics

The conclusions and recommendations of these initiatives provide the **starting point for** Web-COSI

Some of them:

- the OECD World Forums (Palermo 2004, Istanbul 2007, Busan 2009 and New Delhi 2012)
- the EU “Beyond GDP” Initiative launched in 2007(EU Roadmap 2009)
- the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission (2008)
- the Sponsorship Group on “Measuring Progress, Well-being and Sustainable Development” (established in 2009 by the ESSC) (Final report 2011)

GDP & Beyond for better statistics

Thanks to the many important initiatives at European and global level, the debate grew up enormously creating during the years a **global movement** involving a multiplicity of actors

civil society organizations, social entrepreneurs, consumers, workers, citizens and society at large

willing to give voice for the set up of new indicators to go beyond GDP

ICT revolution has given the opportunity to enlarge the engagement of all stakeholders for the sharing of information and data on progress statistics

Web 2.0 applications, **social networks and platforms**, have introduced a new participatory process experiencing the expansion of the horizons allowing producers and consumers of content **to meet interactively**

GDP & Beyond for better statistics

The necessity to involve communities for better statistics beyond GDP has consolidated during the years

 bridge top-down and bottom-up approaches

in the recent years, using Web 2.0 many initiatives have been set up in this direction

Among these:

OECD's Better Life Initiative (2011)

designed to invite users to visualise and compare some of the key factors that contribute to well-being

BES Initiative for Measuring Equitable and Sustainable Well-being in Italy (2011)

carried out stakeholders' consultation to define the dimensions of the new indicators and their components (others in Europe, National Well-being Initiative in UK,..)

GDP & Beyond for better statistics

During the last years several research and coordination projects have been funded by the European Commission and the European Statistical System to analyse and deepen the complex phenomena GDP & Beyond from diverse perspectives, to pave the way for the future research activities

Among these:

➤ **e-Frame** *European Framework for Measuring Progress*

CA project funded by DG Research and Innovation

Co-chaired by Istat and Statistics Netherlands

19 EU partners

(OECD, 4NSIs, 7 Universities, 5 Research Centres, 2 Civil Society Organisations)

Duration (1/2012-6/2014)

The experience of the *European Network on Measuring Progress on Wikiprogress.org*



The European Network on Measuring Progress



Set up to connect stakeholders, researchers, civil society organizations, policy makers and citizens to foster the engagement of society at large on the topics GDP & Beyond and to state a European position

It was launched in June 2012

It is hosted by the platform Wikiprogress.org (OECD) and it functions alongside the Regional Networks of Africa and Latin America

The European Network on Measuring Progress on Wikiprogress.org offers interactivity in a global dimension through **online discussions, blogs, eBrief, news alerts,...**



GDP & Beyond for better statistics

The above debate and initiatives allows to define the main streams for better statistics beyond GDP research



on **theoretical** and **methodological** aspects of the measurements
(set of indicators, composite indicators, dash board,..)



on the development of tools to **collect, produce** and **share** data
using the opportunities given by Web2.0

foster the use of non official data (open data/big data)
empower the use of civil society grass root local data



on **communication aspects** to

involve communities for the construction of statistics
educate for the understanding and usage of the new indicators

Web-COMmunities for Statistics for Social Innovation

arises from the GDP & Beyond debate and the **global crowd sourcing experiences and initiatives** to it related, where Internet communities interact providing a measure of how the roles of producers and users of information are radically changing

Web-COSI is based on the awareness that **the power of online communities grows ever stronger** and that the Institutions of diverse type and scope cannot ignore their centrality to produce better statistics for better policies, steering to take **co-established decisions responding to the real social needs.**



increasing trust in collectively - generated statistics

Web-COSI will carry out its activities in 24 months

1 January 2014 -31 December 2015

- starting from the **mapping** of beyond GDP existing initiatives
- in the next months the work plan will carry on **specific initiatives** and **target on-line campaigns** with the aim to empower the engagement of communities in the debate on progress statistics, reaching a high level of citizens' involvement at the end of the project
- the development of a **Wiki of progress statistics**, at mid term of the project, will constitute a tool to manage for the collection of civil society grass root locally generated non-official data integrated with official data

Web-COSI project

- The digital activities of the project will be carried on Wikiprogress.org and on www.webcosi.eu and on the other Internet platforms managed by the partners, using **social networks**, **online discussions**, **blogs**, **eBrief** and an extensive network and local grassroots partnerships.
- A strong **communication strategy** on the work on going will be carried out through videos and short films for social media distribution.

Web-COSI project

- During the life of the project communication and dissemination **open events** will be organised: **5 workshops, 4 focus groups and a final conference.**

The open events will be organised in order to involve the greatest number of audience. At this aim most of them will be **webcast live** and audio recorded so that podcast and Youtube videos of the highlights can be created and shared with a wider audience. Video conferencing will be made available.

In order to foster the discussion the workshops can be anticipated by **call for ideas** and a forum on the major questions of their topics.

Mechanisms for information-sharing with Eurostat, will be undertaken and these will lead to better dissemination and exploitation of project results and activities. The role and the presence of the relevant **EU DGs** and of **Eurostat** will be actively encouraged at the workshops and the final conference of the project.

- Stocktaking and reporting **documents** on the involvements of communities on statistics beyond GDP in Europe and abroad will be delivered.
- During the two years **concertation meetings** with CAPS projects will take place to share experiences and best practices to develop synergies.
- Moreover, the project will take stock from on-going or just completed related **EU FP7** initiatives and **Eurostat** initiatives. Connections and interactions with projects will be fostered.

Web-COSI work plan

Objective 1

- **mapping the initiatives on the measurements** of well-being and societal progress by communities in Europe and around the world

Webinar on well-being and societal progress initiatives in Europe	April 2014
Workshop on well-being and societal progress crowd sourcing initiatives in Europe	September 2014
Document on mapping initiatives best practice, the results of citizen dialogue on well-being and societal progress	August 2014
Set up of an interactive crowd-sourced map of initiatives in Europe and in the World	December 2014

Objective 2

- **distilling the best practices** of the involvement of the communities for the statistics investigating on the experiences **carried on by the NSIs** towards better integration official and non-official statistics

Workshop on the involvement of the communities for the statistics. Focus on NSIs experiences	October 2014
Document on the NSIs experiences and best practices, focus on EU level	April 2015
Document to outline the European dimension, in a global perspective, on the involvement of communities at large for official and non official statistics on well-being and societal progress	September 2015

Objective 3

- **distilling the best practices from civil society organisations** supporting the need for official and non official statistics beyond GDP in debating policy issues

Webinar to promote and disseminate the most incisive contents and methods implemented by civil society for societal innovation in the field of collecting statistics on well-being and progress	June 2014
Workshop to promote and disseminate the contents and methods implemented by civil society for societal innovation in the field of collecting statistics on well-being	April 2015
Document on the potential in civil society participation in the definition of statistics for societal progress beyond GDP, leading to suggestions to civil society networks and EU policy makers	August 2015

Objective 4

- **investigating the experiences of social entrepreneurs** for their involvement in measuring well-being and progress to steer venture capital towards socially sustainable and innovative initiatives

Workshop to create new methods and develop existing methods on creating critical mass on the usage of data for driving social entrepreneurship initiatives	February 2015
EU Seminar comprising social entrepreneurs and EU policy makers to explore the findings of the data and consultations in order to explore implications for policy	August 2015
Four focus groups of social entrepreneurs in four EU locations to gain a sample perspective on how data can be best utilised in their locality	September 2015
Document on better practice models in a variety of areas related to social entrepreneurship (e.g. health, education, community cohesion) and on the mapping exercise	April 2015

Objective 5

- engaging the citizens in the dialogue about societal progress

Set up of a European Wikiprogress University Programme	November 2014
Engaging citizens in web 2.0 technology and data: citizens campaign and 'youth section' and data visualisation competition on the Wikiprogress platform	December 2014

Objective 6

- engaging the communities to contribute and access official and non-official statistics

Webinar on making data more accessible for society at large	June 2014
Wikipedia of progress statistics (OECD)	August 2014

➤ **Communication and dissemination strategies**

Logo
Brochure

Website

Videos
A short film for YouTube and social media distribution

Policy Briefs

Releases and notes for the press will be delivered by the partners in their countries

Final Conference	December 2015
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Web-COSI impact

The **achievements** of the project will impact on the main streams of the EC call:

- **catalyzing and enabling** new production and consumption patterns, lifestyles, and socio-economic processes based on commons, sharing, exchange, and participation at local and global scales
- definition of **new concrete mechanisms** increasing society's resilience, enabled by a more accurate understanding and management of social and environmental problems
- strengthened evidence of social innovation based on **collective knowledge**, which can also make possible new forms of foresight in society (by public bodies, organisations as well as by citizens)
- providing advanced concepts and tools enabling people and communities to share, collaborate, and make use of **data/information generated**, empowering future social entrepreneurs and innovators to engage in innovative service creation and delivery

Web-COSI impact

The Consortium is multidisciplinary and well-balanced to work creating synergies in order to impact towards a growing **integration of top-down and bottom-up approaches** for better statistics beyond GDP.

The activities will be carried out **connecting** with the diverse categories of the stakeholders: from the academia, the business world, the civil society organisations and the producers of data to the citizens and society at large.

The project will take advantage from the results of on-going or just completed related **EU FP7 initiatives and Eurostat initiatives**. Connections and interactions with projects will be fostered.

The Consortium will be supported by an **Advisory Board**, composed by outstanding known personalities, who will provide advice and guidance for the development of the project to ensure high quality and excellence.

Achieving its results Web-COSI will pave the way for future research needs identifying the open issues on the integration of official and non-official statistics



Web-COSI details

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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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