



Web-COSI
Web COmmunities for
Statistics for Social Innovation
INCREASING TRUST IN COLLECTIVELY
GENERATED STATISTICS



Civil society engagement in well-being statistics: good practices from Italy

Webinar organized by Lunaria
in the framework of the European Project
Web-COSI (www.webcosi.eu)

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WEBINAR

**Civil society engagement in well-being statistics:
good practices from Italy**

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An introduction to the webinar



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The webinar is organized in the framework of the Web-COSI Project two-years activities program

It aims at encouraging **the exchange and dissemination of good practices** carried out by 4 Italian civil society organizations (CSOs) in the field of the **production of statistical information on well-being.**



The webinar stems from three different even if not unrelated premises:

1. the awareness of the **multidimensionality** of “**well-being**”;
2. the awareness of **the limitations** of official **statistics** in covering with adequate and fit-for-purpose statistical information **relevant dimensions and aspects** which determine or have an impact on the quality of life of citizens;
3. the use of **new technologies** by CSOs.



i. The multidimensionality of “well-being”

- Well-being is a **prismatic term** and a “catch-all” **concept**.
- We decided to maintain this complexity by giving voice to a **wide range of CSOs experiences** which have to do with the **relationship between well-being and statistical information** in its multiple declinations and territorial extensions: **individual lifestyles**; the quality of life of a given population in a given geographical area; **environmental sustainability**; institutional transparency; **citizens participation**.



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2. The limitations of official statistics in covering with adequate statistical information relevant dimensions and aspects of well-being

Today, in a condition of deep economic crisis which adds to a growing social complexity and ecological interdependence, the role of CSOs in monitoring and collecting data and information on the various dimensions of well-being becomes more and more central.



2. The limitations of official statistics

- The role played by CSOs is more and more considered a **valuable lever for integration of official statistical information** produced by public institutions at the local, national or supranational level.
- An **example**: over the last 20 years, **a major rise of experiences by CSOs** which aim at monitoring and influencing EU and national policy-making in the field of **collecting and disseminating non-official statistical indicators other than Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for measuring human well-being and societal progress.



2. The limitations of official statistics

- This consciousness came about due to the recognition that economic growth and well-being rarely go hand in hand, and growth can have distorting, and even negative, consequences for the quality of life of a given population.
- On the political front, the debate on well-being is fueled by the fact that the issue of its assessment and measurement, as well as a mere statistical exercise, has a very strong political significance: the selection of statistics and indicators influences the evaluation of policies: what is measured is the basis of what one does.



3. The use of new technologies by CSOs

The use of new technologies (web 2.0 interactive technologies, **crowd-sourcing applications**, social networks, **open data**) by CSOs is **more and more important**. It can be considered as:

1. a pillar of **social innovation**;
2. an essential tool for **raising public awareness and encouraging the direct involvement and activation of citizens** in the collection, dissemination and re-use of data and statistical information **on the issues and different aspects related to well-being**.



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The speakers

1. Donatella Fazio (Web-COSI Project Coordinator): *Welcome address*
2. Eva Alessi (Head of the Sustainability Program, World Wildlife Fund - Italy): *The Ecological Footprint Initiative.*
3. Luigi Reggi (co-founder, Monithon): *The Civic Online Monitoring of Italian Public Policies*
4. Mirko Laurenti (Head of the Urban Ecosystem Program, Legambiente): *The “Urban Ecosystem” Report*
5. Elena Mondo (Project Coordinator, Open Budget Initiative): *The Open Budget Index*



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- The speakers will tackle major issues. Among them: **the vision of well-being** which lays behind their experiences, **the kind of “non-official” statistical information** provided, the role of new technologies, the **relationship with the political and institutional world**.
- The speakers will take the floor for **a first round of presentations** lasting up to 15 minutes each.
- The listening public is invited to **join and animate the online discussion** by writing questions and comments, which will be collected and circulated among the speakers in a **final roundtable discussion**.



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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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