

Web-COSI project (2014-2015)

Web COmmunities for Statistics for Social Innovation

www.webcosi.eu

FP7 Call ICT 10

Objective ICT-2013.5.5

Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation

Executive Summary



Project description

Web-COSI, Web-Communities for Statistics for Social Innovation, is funded by the EC-DG CONNECT within the FP7 ICT Work Programme 2013, responding to the Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation (CAPS) call¹. The call had 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”*.

Following the request of the call, Web-COSI, a co-ordination action project, is designed with the general objective to foster 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 Web 2.0. Specific objective of Web-COSI is to implement tools for collecting, producing and visualizing information and data towards a better integration of official and non-official statistics. The development of a Wiki of progress statistics is envisaged by the project with the aim to involve communities to access data, fostering the use of locally generated grassroots data with a bottom-up approach.

Web-COSI is built upon the background given by the global discussion on the new measurements beyond GDP, carried out by various initiatives involving, firstly, the public and private world of research and, currently, countless of local, national and international actors: civil society organisations, social entrepreneurs, researchers, practitioners, consumers, workers, citizens and society at large. Several specific research initiatives, set up from the beginning of the new millennium, represent the starting point for Web-COSI. Among these: the OECD World Forums (Palermo 2004, Istanbul 2007, Busan 2009 and New Delhi 2012)²; the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission (2008)³; the Sponsorship Group on ‘Measuring Progress, Well-being and Sustainable Development’ (established in 2009 by the European Statistical System Committee).

Contextually to the growing beyond GDP debate, the last decade has seen the explosion of Internet technologies. Web 2.0, implementing new ways of collecting and producing information, makes it possible a bottom-up approach to share information and data. Internet has contributed enormously to enlarge the community involved in the discussion beyond GDP, bringing to the set up new initiatives based on the interaction among stakeholders. Among these: the OECD’s Better Life Initiative (2011)⁴; the BES Initiative for measuring Equitable and Sustainable Well-being in Italy “BES” (2011)⁵.

In this framework, Web-COSI will carry on activities contributing to support awareness, grassroots processes and practices to share knowledge and data on well-being and societal progress.

Specifically, in its 24 months’ life cycle, Web-COSI work plan aims at:

- 1) Mapping and distilling best practices of existing digital initiatives for communities’ involvement carried out by NSIs, civil society organisations, social entrepreneurs, etc. with the release of an interactive crowd-sourced map. Moreover a specific survey addressed to NSIs will be conducted.
- 2) Create a critical mass through: blogs, on line discussions, webinars, newsletters, target citizens campaigns, data visualisation competitions, the setup of a European Wikiprogress University Programme, ‘youth initiatives’. The organisation of face to face events: 5 workshops, 4 focus groups and a final conference.
- 3) Facilitate the communities’ access to statistics empowering the collection of civil society grass root locally generated data with the development of a Wiki of progress statistics.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/caps-projects>

² <http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/>, <http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/previousoecdworldforums.htm>

³ http://www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr/documents/rapport_anglais.pdf

⁴ <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/>

⁵ www.misuredelbenessere.it

Consortium

Partner	Participant organisation name	Short name	Country	Main contacts
1 (co-ord.)	Italian National Institute of Statistics	Istat	IT	Donatella Fazio (<i>scientific coordinator</i>) Maria Grazia Calza (<i>project manager</i>)
2	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	OECD	FR	Romina Boarini Kate Scrivens
3	Lunaria- Social Promotion Association	LUNARIA	IT	Duccio Zola Chiara Ricci
4	Social Entrepreneur Business and Enterprise Community	i-GENIUS	UK	Tommy Hutchinson

Web-COSI, coordinated by the Italian National Statistical Institute, sees the collaboration among two relevant Institutions (Istat and OECD - the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and two young civil society Organisations (Lunaria – the Italian Association for Social Promotion and i-genius - the Social Entrepreneur Business and Enterprise Community) representing society at large. The consortium is well-balanced and multidisciplinary in order to create synergies towards a growing integration of the different approaches.

The Consortium includes the following expertise:

- 1) The Italian National Statistical Institute, **Istat**, representing the official statistics producers (NSIs), wants to face the challenge supplied by the Web 2.0 technology to involve the community for the statistics, in particular, on the measurement of well-being and societal progress beyond GDP. This is in line with Istat's strategic vision which rests on a modern way to look at statistical production as a tool of democracy which, through the new technologies, is able to reach citizens at large involving them in a more direct democratic participation.
- 2) The international organisation **OECD**, with a long-lasting worldwide experience on well-being and societal progress initiatives via its Web 2.0 platforms, Wikiprogress.org, will play a key role in engaging citizens in the dialogue about societal progress with the final aim to make statistics more accessible for society at large.
- 3) An Italian civil society organisation, **Lunaria**, dealing with research and action research, training and communication on several social issues. In the context of advancing initiatives aiming at social innovation and sustainability, this partner brings into the Consortium the key role played by civil society to participate in debate and deliberation about policy issues. In particular, this partner will represent the involvement of civil society in the production of non-official statistical indicators beyond GDP, stressing its networking ability, extension of participation and creation of critical mass.
- 4) A world community of social entrepreneurs, **i-genius**, with over 15,000 members in over 200 countries. The presence of this partner stresses the key role that the social entrepreneur community is asked to play in order to contribute for a more sustainable social and economic development. The initiatives implemented by social entrepreneurs are built on the communities' needs and preferences and aim to achieve social gains in an efficient manner. Information and "good" data and the capacity to understand them is a crucial need to support the effectiveness of these initiatives.

Deliverables

Digital Initiatives

Communication tools	March 2014
On line discussion on “Engaging citizens in well-being and progress statistics: good practice from Europe and around the world “	April 2014
Webinar on “Civil society engagement in well-being statistics: good practices from Italy”	June 2014
On line discussion on “Making data more accessible for society at large”	June 2014
Set up of a European Wikiprogress University Programme	November 2014
Set up of an interactive crowd-sourced map of initiatives in Europe and in the World	December 2014
Citizens campaign and ‘youth section’ and data visualisation competition on the Wikiprogress platform	December 2014
A short film for YouTube and social media distribution to showcase better practice examples with reference to the needs defined in the data gathering process	October 2015

Development of Web2.0 tool

Wikipedia of progress statistics	August 2014
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Meeting, workshops and conferences

The dissemination plan envisages the organisation of 5 international workshops/seminars. Moreover a Final Conference to disseminate the main findings in terms of new knowledge, new concepts and the European value added, key messages and recommendations for policy-makers. The workshops will be organised in order to involve the largest audience possible. To 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 if necessary. In order to foster the discussion, the workshops can be anticipated by call for ideas and a forum on the major questions handled.

Kick off meeting	January 2014
Workshop on “Using Technology to Engage Citizens with Well-being Statistics – Perspectives from Civil Society”	September 2014
Workshop on “Using Technology to Engage Citizens with Well-being Statistics – Perspectives from Official Statistics and Government”	October 2014
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
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
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
Final Conference	December 2015

Documents

Report on mapping initiatives best practice, the results of citizen dialogue on well-being and societal progress	August 2014
Report 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
Report on the NSIs experiences and best practices, focus on EU level	April 2015
Report 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
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

Project details

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Consortium: Istat (Coordinator), OECD, LUNARIA, i-genius

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