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Workshop:
Well-being, plausibly. Civil society’s initiatives, tools and challenges to improve the quality of life of people and territories

Summary

This report describes the aims, execution and outcomes of the workshop organized by the Association for Social Promotion Lunaria on Tuesday, April 21st, in the context of the Web-COSI project. The event revolved around the idea (and its multiple declinations) of well-being and the role played on this issue by civil society’s actors providing tools and methods for data gathering and visualization, the elaboration of statistical indexes, the use of new, “Web 2.0” technologies and the creation of smart communities of data providers and data users.

The workshop – put in place in Rome and entitled “Well-being, plausibly. Civil society’s initiatives, tools and challenges to improve the quality of life of people and territories” – brought together experts and leading practitioners representing a number of civil society’s initiatives which are taking place in Italy, addressing different territorial scales of analysis and intervention.

During the workshop’s morning session the subject of well-being was presented and discussed in its multi-dimensionality, with special attention to social and environmental sustainability and the use of statistical indicators which supplant the limits of the GDP in the formulation of informed and forward-looking policy decisions. In the course of the afternoon session, the focus was instead on the issues of citizens’ engagement and the use of new technologies in promoting well-being and the quality of life throughout local communities and territories.

The workshop gave the possibility to present and disseminate to the audience some among the most innovative and promising civil society’s experiences and initiatives on these fields, and to carry out an intensive and thought provoking debate on well-being, its main aspects and determinants, the most suitable interactive tools and practices through which it can be accessed, measured, monitored, fostered.

A live webcast was broadcast on the day of the event, and its video-registration was made available on both Web-COSI’s web portal and Lunaria’s Youtube channel following the completion of the workshop. The workshop achieved remarkable results in terms of participation: it was attended in Rome by 56 participants, while the total amount of visualizations of the event on the web is presently (mid-June 2015) around 120.
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Introduction

This report describes the aims, execution and outcomes of a workshop organized in Rome by the Association for Social Promotion Lunaria on Tuesday, April 21st, 2015, in the framework of the programme of activities of the Web-COSI project.

Lunaria’s event revolved around the idea (and its multiple declinations) of well-being and the role played on this issue by civil society’s actors providing tools and methods for data gathering and visualization, the elaboration of statistical indexes, the use of new, “Web 2.0” technologies and the creation of smart communities of data providers and data users.

The workshop – entitled Well-being, plausibly. Civil society’s initiatives, tools and challenges to improve the quality of life of people and territories – brought together well-being experts and leading practitioners representing a number of civil society’s initiatives which are taking place in Italy, addressing different territorial scales of analysis and intervention.

In the workshop’s morning session the subject of well-being was thus presented and discussed in its multidimensionality, with special attention to social and environmental sustainability and the use of statistical indicators which do supplant the limits of the GDP in the formulation of informed and forward-looking policy decisions. In the afternoon session, the focus was instead on the issues of citizens’ engagement and the use of new technologies in promoting well-being and the quality of life throughout local communities and territories.

This report is structured as follows: in section 1 the aims of the workshop will be introduced and connected to an overarching theoretical background, in order to highlight the overall scope of the initiative; in section 2 an overview of the workshop’s agenda as well as of the invited speakers’ presentations will be given; in section 3 the main results and the open issues of the workshop will be outlined and discussed, with an eye to the implementation of the forthcoming Web-COSI deliverable in charge of Lunaria; in section 4 final remarks and considerations on the workshop will be provided; finally, in section 5 the collection of the most relevant materials related to the promotion and execution of the workshop will be hosted, thus finalizing the report.

1. The aims of the workshop

1.1 To provide insights and guidelines in the field of well-being definition, assessment and measurement

The overall objective of the workshop “Well-being, plausibly. Civil society’s initiatives, tools and challenges to improve the quality of life of people and territories” – realized in Rome on Tuesday, April 21st – was to provide useful and up to date theoretical insights and practical guidelines in the field of well-being definition, assessment and measurement.

Building on the experience of the previous webinar organized by Lunaria in the framework of the Web-COSI project’s initiatives in June 2014, the April 2015 workshop tackled the concept of well-being in its complexity and multi-dimensionality with the aim of answering relevant and living
questions such as: what is well-being? Which are its determinants and dimensions? How can we measure it? Who are the subjects most entitled to carry out this work? And why is it so urgent, specially today, to talk about well-being and to give voice to the instances of the so-called “beyond GDP” movement?

In general, well-being refers to the capacity of each person to lead a fully satisfactory life, a life worth living it: in this broad meaning, well-being has to do not only with health, income and/or education’s conditions, but also with the quality and quantity of networks of support, solidarity and participation to which everyone of us has access, as well as with the possibility of living in an healthy and not degraded environment.

All these are crucial elements which call into question multiple dimensions and domains of human life, concurring to impinge on our well-being. Still, these elements are not properly counted or are even completely neglected in the calculation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), that is the indicator that represents the “North Star” that traditionally guides the choices of economic and social policy made by the governments.

The structural limits of the GDP in taking into account fundamental aspects that go into determining the quality of life of people have been known for a long time. Yet, it is also well known that today we can count on many proposals and tools to integrate the GDP – thus overcoming its shortcomings – with large and refined sets of indicators that incorporate and synthesize the amount of information, data and statistics related to the assessment and measurement of citizens’ well-being.

1.2 To highlight the role of CSOs in providing statistical information on well-being

In order to continue outlining the objectives of the workshop, it is worth remarking that the above mentioned proposals and tools to integrate GDP with well-being indicators have been defined and launched also thanks to the leading role and initiative of civil society’s actors and organizations (CSOs): these subjects have succeeded in activating their social and scientific resources and skills – from public advocacy to consultation and direct cooperation with institutional bodies (such as NSIs) – to meet this goal.

What has to be stressed here, and what indeed has been the core of Lunaria’s workshop, is the role of CSOs in the collection, production, systematization or reworking of statistical information on the issues, dimensions and determinants of well-being. This role played by CSOs is even more crucial today, in an era marked by profound changes and transitions which, since the ‘80, are deeply affecting our social, political and economic systems.

To cite just a few: globalization and the opening up of nation-states’ frontiers to capitals, goods, technologies (and people); the ICT revolution and the change in the composition of working force and labour markets; the processes of supranational political integration; the sustained pluralisation of lifestyles and consumptions’ attitudes; the rapidly changing social, urban and environmental contexts.

These processes, in their being interconnected and overlapping, have given life to a sort of “cognitive crisis”, in that they have put a serious strain on our ability to read and interpret the major changes occurring around us, and thus to respond appropriately to the difficulties posed by what two leading sociologists as Ulrich Beck and Zygmunt Bauman have named, respectively, our “risk society” and “age of uncertainty”.
In this context, unlike other intermediary bodies (notably, political parties and trade unions) which are increasingly losing or divesting important functions of social integration, there are still a number of CSOs which have maintained or activated sensors scattered throughout our territories: these sensors are able indeed to capture, articulate and disseminate social needs and demands coming from below.

Most importantly in order to highlight the aims of Lunaria’s workshop, the above mentioned civil society actors have cultivated and refined in recent years a cultural-scientific sensitivity allowing them to offer a credible reading and articulation of these demands from below. This sensitivity, in turn, has found a major channel of expression in the collection, production, reworking and visualization of data and statistical information on well-being and the quality of life for a given population in a given geographical area.

1.3 To exploit the potentialities of open data, citizens’ engagement and new technologies in well-being assessment and promotion

In such an historical era marked by unprecedented systemic complexity and social, economic, technological and environmental interdependence, a major need to know, decipher, interpret and share statistical data and information on subjects of public interest – people’s well-being, in this case – strongly emerges: this is why, at first, data produced by both public institutions and CSOs should be as open, reliable and understandable as possible.

The present condition of high complexity and interdependence also entails a growing role and importance of new technologies (i.e. wiki technology, online crowd sourcing applications and monitoring platforms, new social media) and of citizens’ activation and involvement as key tools to raise public awareness about the collection, dissemination, reuse and visualization of statistical data and information on the different topics and facets related to well-being.

In both cases – and taking seriously their being carriers of social innovation and sustainability – civil society actors are experimenting a number of initiatives which disclose new and fascinating scenarios and opportunities. In particular, three interrelated reasons show why it is crucial exploiting all the potentialities of open data, citizens’ engagement and the use of new technologies in the field of well-being assessment and promotion:

1) to grant the basic conditions for fully informed and forward-looking policy choices and policy decisions;
2) to ensure the sharing of a common vocabulary and of a set common ends between public institutions and civil society, which, in its turn, can lead to the establishment of a permanent link between these two spheres based on an open, ongoing and rational terrain of confrontation;
3) to open up and to foster spaces of democratic participation and community building for active citizens, i.e. citizens wishing to take part in the public sphere (and consequently to animate public deliberations) having in their hands all the tools necessary to think, discuss and act on a basis of awareness and knowledge.

Therefore, the last aim of Lunaria’s workshop was to shed light on the multiple and virtuous relationships occurring nowadays in the field of well-being assessment and promotion among open data availability, citizens’ engagement in the production of non-official statistical information, and the use of new technologies.
2. The presentations

2.1 The workshop agenda

Building on the above mentioned objectives and theoretical background underpinning the realization of the workshop, it was decided to organize a one-day event in Rome (from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, see annex 1). The selected hosting venue for the workshop was Porta Futuro, a large and fully-equipped facility of the Metropolitan City of Rome (formerly known as Province of Rome) situated in a Rome central district. Alessio Pontillo, Porta Futuro’s event manager, welcomed all the participants in his welcome address given at the very outset of the workshop. In particular, he expressed his appreciation of both the “philosophy” and the objectives of the Web-COSI project, finding also some relevant interconnections between the Web-COSI approach and the work done in recent years by the Metropolitan City of Rome for the promotion of well-being, sustainable development and smart social innovation throughout the province of Rome territories.

The opening session – entitled The new statistics for well-being and societal innovation – was specifically dedicated to present the Web-COSI project, to disseminate its results, and to introduce the structure and the aims of the workshop to the public: Donatella Fazio from ISTAT (Web-COSI project coordinator) and Duccio Zola from Lunaria (Web-COSI scientific coordinator for the Lunaria research unit) took the floor in representation, respectively, of the leading institution of the Web-COSI project and of the Web-COSI partner organization in charge of organizing the Rome workshop. In particular, Donatella Fazio remarked that the Web-COSI project moves from, and revolves around the conviction that statistics (i.e. data becoming information and, finally, knowledge) have to be considered as fundamental in order to drive individual as well as public behaviour towards smart social innovation objectives. This is even truer with “beyond GDP statistics” measuring societal progress in terms of well-being and sustainability. Fazio added that Web-COSI capitalizes on two major revolutions which have been occurring for the last 15 years, involving academics, researchers, practitioners and ever more even the large public: the taking hold of the “beyond GDP” debate, and the “data revolution” connected to the Internet explosion, which is profoundly changing the roles of producers and users of data moving towards a bottom-up approach for the construction of statistics. In this context, Fazio concluded, civil society networks and organizations at the very centre of Lunaria’s workshop do play a crucial role in combining in an innovative and groundbreaking way the two above mentioned revolutionary elements.

The morning session – entitled Measuring well-being, beyond GDP. Definitions, dimensions, goals – revolved around the theme of the definition, assessment and measurement of well-being: the first goal of this session was to present a set of relevant initiatives carried out on these issues at different territorial scales, from the international to the local. Moreover, a second goal of the session was to give due visibility to an important result obtained thanks the a long-standing advocacy role exercised by Italian CSOs, that is the recent presentation of a Bill to the Italian Parliament which proposes to introduce well-being indicators in the formulation, implementation and impact-assessment of public policies. The afternoon session – entitled Civic participation, open data and new technologies. The statistical information in the data revolution era – tackled the subjects of open data, citizens’ engagement and the use of new technologies as key drivers for CSOs active in the field of well-being assessment and promotion: the main objective of this second session was to
show the importance as well as the co-implication of these items in the collection, production and visualization of well-being statistics. In the following paragraph, a brief overview of the presentations given by the speakers of the morning as well as of the afternoon session of the workshop will be provided.

2.2 The morning session

The morning session (h. 11.00-13.15) of the workshop, entitled as said Measuring well-being, beyond GDP. Definitions, dimensions, goals, saw the participation of four speakers: Kate Scrivens (OECD), Chiara Assunta Ricci (Sbilanciamoci! coalition), Mirko Laurenti (Legambiente), and Giulio Marcon (Italian MP, Member of the Chamber of Deputies’ Budget Commission).

2.2.1 Well-being: what it is, how it counts, why it counts

Kate Scrivens’ speech opened the morning session of the workshop with a presentation on the topic Well-being: what it is, how it counts, why it counts. Scrivens is a researcher at the OECD, manager of Wikiprogress, and coordinator of the OECD research unit in the Web-COSI project. She has a wide experience in the field of well-being and societal progress measurement and is closely involved in the OECD’s work supporting “beyond GDP” statistics.

Scrivens began her presentation underlining that the concept of well-being is intimately complex, multidimensional and open to different meanings and interpretations. Therefore, well-being measurement reveals to be an extremely difficult exercise, fraught with hard questions and choices regarding for example its very definition, the adoption of both the theoretical and methodological framework to be applied, the nature and the kind of objectives to be pursued through the measurement exercise.

Against this background, Scrivens argued, civil society has been trying to tackle seriously the challenge of defining and measuring well-being. This inevitably happens as it is more and more felt and diffuse the need to go beyond GDP, that is to overcome the social and ecological limits of an economic growth traditionally taken as an end in itself by governments and public authorities. Instead, Scrivens added, economic prosperity is only but one ingredient impinging on the overall well-being of the population, and a number of other variables and dimensions have to be taken into account.

This premise allowed Scrivens to introduce the seminal work done by the OECD in the field of well-being and societal progress assessment and measurement: a work that aims primarily at reducing the gap between what politicians are used to propose in terms of policies adopted and what people really ask for. The OECD has been playing for the last decade a pioneering and leading role in considering and sieving the multiple factors and domains that influence the quality of life of the people.

Thus in 2011, during the week of celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Organization, an ambitious work plan on the issues of well-being assessment and promotion has been established thanks to the formal launch of the Better Life Initiative. In particular, Scrivens added, the Initiative gave birth to a new and challenging mission for the OECD which can be summarized under the efficacious slogan “better policies for better lives”. The two major products related to the implementation of the Better Life Initiative are the Better Life Index and the How’s Life Reports.
The Better Life Index (www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org) is a web interactive tool which has been set up with the specific goal of involving world citizens on a major debate on well-being, thus spreading interest and raising awareness on the issue. This web-based platform give the possibility to compare the performance on well-being of different nations according to the importance that each user may assign to 11 dimensions selected in order to measure well-being. In other terms, the Better Life Index allow citizens to compare countries’ performances according to their own preferences in terms of what makes for a better life.

The 11 dimensions taken into account combine indicators monitoring both people’s quality of life and material conditions. They are: Housing (housing conditions and spending); Income (household income and financial wealth); Jobs (earnings, job security and unemployment); Community (quality of social support network); Education (education and what you get out of it); Environment (quality of environment and environmental health); Governance (involvement in democracy); Health (health conditions of the population); Life satisfaction (level of people’ happiness); Safety (murder and assault rates); Work-life balance. How’s life Reports (www.oecd.org/statistics/how-s-life-23089679.htm) are biyearly publications which complement with the Better Life Index, aiming at providing a global perspective and an in-depth and up to date description of well-being variables, trends and results in all the countries adhering to the OECD, and according to the above mentioned articulation in a plurality of well-being dimensions and indicators.

The overarching goal of the OECD, concluded Scrivens, is to promote the implementation of public policies which may lead to improve the living conditions of the people: in order to do this, well-being and the quality of life should be put once and for all at the top of the agenda in the policy-making process of our governments, thus informing and guiding their policy choices and decisions.

2.2.2 The role of civil society in the measurement of well-being at the national and local level: the Italian experience

The second presentation was given by Chiara Assunta Ricci in representation of the Italian civil society coalition Sbilanciamoci! (www.sbilanciamoci.org). Ricci is involved in the Sbilanciamoci! coalition as a researcher and an expert in the fields of well-being indicators and public policies assessment: her speech at the workshop was entitled The role of civil society in the measurement of well-being at the national and local level: the Italian experience.

At the outset of her presentation, Ricci emphasized the importance of statistical indicators that can provide fundamental guidance for decision-making. Quoting the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, Ricci remarked that indicators can help to measure and calibrate progress towards sustainable development goals while providing an early warning, sounding the alarm in time to prevent economic, social or environmental damage. Moreover, indicators are important tools to communicate our ideas, thoughts and values.

After a brief resume of the main issues concerning the debate on alternative indicators to GDP as well as of the important steps that have been undertaken worldwide towards going beyond GDP, Ricci discussed the crucial role of civil society in outlining a widely shared vision of well-being and societal progress. Indeed, civil society may provide fundamental contributions (in terms of stimulating social participation, bottom-up approaches, activation of resources, sharing of information, understanding and knowledge) to legitimize, on the one hand, well-being and societal progress perspectives and issues and to define, on the other hand, suitable indicators to measure them. This contributions, added Ricci, are particularly effective at the sub-national level.
Ricci went on presenting the most relevant experiences carried out by civil society actors in Italy in the definition of well-being indicators. She reviewed in particular the groundbreaking experience implemented by the Sbilanciamoci! coalition with the aim of measuring social and environmental sustainable development at the regional level. To this end Sbilanciamoci! set up a broad consultation process among the organizations adhering to its network, that is more than 40 major CSOs active on a number of different issues, from environmentalism and fair economy to community welfare and solidarity.

This process allowed Sbilanciamoci! to identify key sustainable well-being dimensions and variables – reflecting major social priorities and needs – and to combine them in a composite indicator: the QUARS, that is the Italian acronym for Regional Quality of Development (www.sbilanciamoci.org/quars/).

The QUARS is composed by 41 variables grouped in seven dimensions: Environment (environmental impact and policies adopted to mitigate its effects); Economy and labour (working conditions and income distribution); Rights and citizenship (accessibility of services and social inclusion); Education and culture (education of the population, participation to cultural activities); Health (quality, proximity and efficiency of health services, health conditions of the population); Gender equity (absence of sex-based barriers to economic, political and social life); Democratic participation (political and social participation).

Therefore, the QUARS gives an overall and sound picture of well-being in Italian regions, ranking them while synthesizing in a single number the differences provided by the analysis of the 41 variables taken into account. Ricci also presented other studies carried out by the Sbilanciamoci! coalition which are based on the QUARS theoretical and methodological approach. These studies assess well-being performances and the quality of development at the Italian sub-regional level, as in the cases of the provinces of Rome, Trento and Ascoli Piceno, and the municipalities of Arezzo and Cascina.

Concluding her speech, Ricci underlined that civil society actors play nowadays a fundamental role in collecting and disseminating a large and useful amount of statistical data and information on well-being, sustainability and societal progress which should be better disclosed and valued. In this sense, CSOs and official statistics providers are called to further consolidate and strengthen their interaction in order to broaden the participation (thus heightening its legitimacy) to the central process of defining what should be measured and what should really count in terms of well-being and the quality of life.

2.2.3 How’s life (and how it could be) in Italian cities

After Chiara Assunta Ricci’s speech, Mirko Laurenti took the floor for the third presentation of the morning session: How’s life (and how it could be) in Italian cities. Laurenti is the Head of the Urban Ecosystem Program at Legambiente (one of the most important and long-dated environmental CSOs in Italy), and opened his speech with a review of best practices concerning urban sustainable development and the improvement of the quality of life in a number of European cities. Laurenti’s review served as a basis of comparison with the (poor) performance of Italian cities in these fields.

According to Laurenti, the common element among this variety of remarkable European experiences consists in the eagerness of implementing policy recipes which focus first of all on inhabitants’ well-being as a driver of urban regeneration, putting this keyword at the very centre of
the policy-making process. In this vein, Bilbao successfully dismantled its old industrial area in the city centre to leave room to a more suitable and comfortable urban landscape organized around the Guggenheim Museum and the related cultural-leisure spaces and commercial activities. Also in Malmö, the steel mill and the large shipyards were the subject of an extensive urban regeneration program addressed to give new life to abandoned industrial areas.

By the same token, Barcelona took advantage of the 1992 Olympic games to launch an ambitious requalification plan for its degraded districts (notably Raval, Barceloneta and Santa Caterina). While Italy, hosting country for the 1990 Football World Cup and the 2009 World Aquatics Championships, was left with an impressive set of unfinished, expensive and/or useless public works throughout its major municipalities. Moreover in Italian cities, Laurenti remarked, it is almost impossible to find areas such as the Beddington Zero Energy Development (BedZed) district in south London, that is a real zero carbon emission urban settlement.

While in Freiburg, the successful experience in the Vauban district (6,000 inhabitants and 2,000 buildings) led to the realization of an entire car-free district. And a similar, though smaller, car-free experiment is being conducted in Wien, in the Nordmangasse district (600 inhabitants and 250 buildings). Hamburg and Helsinki are presently planning ambitious interventions aimed at reaching the objective of becoming in the next 15 years entirely free-car cities.

For what concerns the implementation of other relevant sustainable mobility policies, Laurenti added that in the course of the last 7 years Hungary succeeded in increasing by 20 percent the share of cycling mobility; in Berlin as well as in Paris the speed limits in the city centre are being reduced to 30 km/h. According to Laurenti, these best practices related to smart urban regeneration, mobility and environmental sustainability in European cities – urban well-being, to put it shortly – show, on the contrary, how Italian cities are poorly performing. This judgement is based on the results of the 21st edition of the Ecosistema Urbano (Urban Ecosystem) Report, a survey on 104 major Italian municipalities published yearly by Legambiente (the Report can be freely download here: www.legambiente.it/sites/default/files/docs/ecosistema_urbano_2014.pdf).

Laurenti explained that Ecosistema Urbano aims at monitoring environmental loads, quality of natural resources and “green” management in the municipalities taken into account: it gathers – by means of specific questionnaires, interviews addressed to local public administrators and bureaucrats, and the use of official data – statistical data on 125 environmental parameters, resulting in a total amount of more than 125,000 data collected. This huge amount of information is then re-classified within 26 sustainability indicators, with the final aim of producing a synthetic index which measures both urban sustainability and environmental quality in Italian cities.

Referring to the Report’s results, Laurenti said for example that the total extension of the cycling lanes in the 104 Italian municipalities equals that of only three European cities: Helsinki (1,500 km), Stockholm and Hannover (750 km each). Or that the average motorization rate of the 104 Italian municipalities is 64.8 cars per 100 inhabitants, while in large European capitals such as London, Berlin or Paris it is approximately 32 cars/100 inhabitants. The problem in Italy, Laurenti claimed, is a dramatic lack of awareness that cities “capable of well-being” are complex ecosystems marked by a sustained interconnection and osmosis among their single components.

In other terms, Laurenti concluded, the promotion of well-being in Italian cities inevitably passes through the adoption of a new and holistic political approach towards urban problems and issues: a major attention to land and energy consumptions; a different kind of mobility with low rates of motorization and high levels of efficiency and satisfaction; safer, quieter and healthier public spaces.
where to encourage social relationships and a shared feeling of attachment to our own districts, neighbourhoods, communities.

2.2.4 The role of well-being indicators in public policies’ design and implementation

The last presentation of the morning session was given by Giulio Marcon, an Italian MP, member of the Chamber of Deputies’ Budget Commission. His speech was entitled The role of well-being indicators in public policies’ design and implementation: Marcon is indeed the promoter and first signatory of a Bill on the adoption of well-being indicators in public policies’ definition, implementation and impact assessment. The relevance of this law proposal consists in its being the first, groundbreaking attempt to formally integrate a set of well-being measurement and evaluation tools in the policy-making process at the national level.

The Bill issued by Marcon, named “Disposizioni per l’utilizzazione degli indicatori di benessere nelle politiche pubbliche” (“Dispositions for the use of well-being indicators in public policies”), has been recorded in February 2015 and will be discussed in the next few months by the Italian Parliament. As Marcon noticed, the Bill appears to be shared and supported by a large number of MPs belonging to both left and right-wing political parties represented in the Italian Parliament (the full text of the Bill can be visualized at this Chamber of Deputies’ website institutional link: http://www.camera.it/_dati/leg17/lavori/schedela/apriTelecomando_wai.asp?codice=17PDL0029790). Together with Marcon there are more than 50 other signatories of the law proposal: among them, just to cite a few authoritative political-institutional personalities, the President of the Chamber of Deputies’ Budget Commission, the President of the Chamber of Deputies’ Commission on the Environment, the President of the Chamber of Deputies’ Commission on Fiscal Federalism, the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies.

Marcon highlighted that nowadays in Italy well-being indicators are not yet recognized as they should as a fundamental tool for the definition and evaluation of public policies. In this sense, the Bill under scrutiny tries to fill the gap, if it’s true that the elaboration of well-being indicators must not be considered as a mere theoretical or academic exercise, but as a crucial preparatory step towards the implementation of ever more sustainable, equitable and forward looking policy measures.

To this end, Marcon remarked the importance of the involvement of civil society actors, referring in particular to the seminal role played in the course of the last decade by organizations and networks – such as Sbilanciamoci!, Legambiente or the Symbola Foundation – in the fields of raising awareness, of stimulating debate (in both the public and institutional spheres) and of producing innovative and useful set of data and indicators on well-being. The overall objective of the Bill, Marcon added, is in fact to reach a major and large sharing (and legitimation) of the relevance of well-being indicators in ensuring real societal progress through the adoption of fully informed, smart public policies. In this vein, civil society and citizenship at large should be as much as possible involved in the processes of definition, sharing and dissemination of well-being related concepts, measurement tools and policy objectives.

Marcon went on with his speech detailing the key points of the Bill. The first one relates to the use of indicators related to well-being, environmental sustainability, social quality and gender equality not only in the measurement of the social, environmental and economic situation in Italy, but also in concretely orienting national and regional public policies towards the pursuit of communities’ well-being conditions. Secondly, it is foreseen that the set of indicators composing the BES Report
(acronym for Equitable and Sustainable Well-Being) released yearly by the ISTAT – one of the most recent ISTAT’s flagship initiatives, addressed to monitor well-being performances in Italy throughout 12 domains (www.misuredelbenessere.it) – be introduced and taken in due account in the legislative process: in particular, in the definition of the Government Budget Law and of the Documents relating to the economic-financial planning in charge of all the Ministries.

Thirdly, it is expected that the technical reports annexed to the Bills’ submission adopt well-being indicators, and that these indicators be also used during and after the implementation of the Laws (i.e. once the Bills have been approved) in order to assess their effectiveness. Fourthly, it is claimed the introduction of an environmental accounting system in order to measure the impact of enacted policy recipes on fundamental environmental assets such as land conservation, the consumption of natural resources, the overall environmental sustainability of economic measures. Fifthly, the Bill refers to the need to adopt the gender auditing in the national legislation process as a crucial means of orientation of public policies as well as of evaluation of economic and public spending measures for the improvement of women’s condition and the assurance of equal opportunities (for example in terms of work-life balance issues).

Finally, the Bill refers to the Europe 2020 strategy, which defines sustainable development objectives for EU countries. In the last article of the Bill there is an explicit commitment addressed to the Italian Government to meet the Europe 2020 objectives, thus granting all the necessary resources and budget allocations. Marcon concluded his presentation saying that 10 or 15 years ago, well-being was almost completely absent as a topic of discussion and policy intervention priority in the public and political debate. Today things are changing for the better, mostly thanks to civil society’s initiative. And for what concerns in particular the above mentioned Bill, according to Marcon its conversion in Law will crucially depend on the capacity of civil society to raise debate and pressure from below in order to assist and facilitate this finalization process.

2.3 The afternoon session

After a light lunch offered by Lunaria to the invited speakers and the public attending to the workshop, the afternoon session (h. 14.15-17.00) – entitled Civic participation, open data and new technologies. The statistical information in the data revolution era – took place. Also this session saw the participation of four speakers, in order of appearance: Chiara Ciociola (Monithon), Tina Napoli (Cittadinanzattiva), Vittorio Alvino (Openpolis), and Andrea Borruso (Confiscati Bene).

2.3.1 Civic monitoring and open data. What they are and why we should be interested in

The session was opened by Chiara Ciociola, with a presentation entitled Civic monitoring and open data. What they are and why we should be interested in. Ciociola is co-founder and activist of Monithon (www.monithon.it): a civil society independent initiative based on the civic monitoring of projects funded by the Cohesion Policy in Italy, thanks to the availability of open data which are published on the OpenCoesione institutional web portal (www.opencoesione.gov.it/).

In its turn, as Ciociola explained at the outset of her speech, Open Coesione is Italy’s first national portal on the implementation of investment’s projects programmed by Regions and State Central Administrations via cohesion policy resources. These investment’s projects are financed either by EU structural funds or national specific funds. Open Coesione provides in particular accurate
analysis and monitoring on the use of cohesion policy resources, offering accessible information – in an open data format – on what is funded, who is involved and where.

Ciociola then added a working definition for open data, that is information accessible and downloadable online, available in a language used by common computer programs, and – above all – freely reusable by the users. This first part of Ciociola’s presentation already shows the relevance of open data as crucial tools through which citizens may at any time evaluate if and how projects under their interest and scrutiny meet their needs, and whether financial resources are allocated effectively. Open data appear thus to be strictly linked to almost two well-being keywords: public transparency and participation.

Ciociola went on with her speech introducing the experience of Monithon, whose groundbreaking characteristic consists first of all in an innovative and smart combination of open data and civic monitoring. The term Monithon derives from the crisis of “monitor” and “marathon”, highlighting its overall objective: to give life to a sustained and interactive activity of citizens’ observation and reporting based on an extensive civic engagement with open data. Monithon represents a successful practice built on the establishment of a virtuous cycle between the institutional and the civil society spheres: in this vein, the Italian government releases basic information (in an open data format through the Open Coesione web portal, as said) on projects and on beneficiaries of funds, and the Monithon initiative further boosts this transparency, asking citizens to actively engage with the open government data and to produce valuable information through it, refining and detailing the one already provided by government institutions.

According to Ciociola, Monithon thus stimulates and consolidates a civic use of open data, so that citizens may experiment a closer connection with public policies, and in particular with the ways in which public money and EU funds are being concretely invested. In their turn, public authorities in charge of the implementation of monitored projects can take major advantages of an in-depth, real time civic feedback. Citizens engaged with Monithon collect indeed information on a funded project of their interest, and report on it onto the Monithon web platform.

This information can refer to all the stages of a project’s life cycle (from the monitoring of the related bid of tender, up to its finalization), and is produced in the form of specific reports based on citizens’ field reconnaissance where the projects at stake are being implemented. Citizens are also asked to enrich their reporting activity with qualitative interviews with stakeholders, key informants and experts, the collection of quantitative data, the formulation of specific comments, criticisms and suggestions. Each report is usually complemented with pictures and videos made by the “monithorers” (i.e. the Monithon reporters).

The overall information provided is then aggregated and geo-referenced onto the Monithon web portal. The final output is a useful form of bottom-up, collective storytelling benefiting both the citizenry and the public institutions. Ciociola added that Monithon can also be seen as an innovative, shared method of community building: to this end a toolkit on civic monitoring, providing accurate guidelines to interested citizens and civil society organizations, is regularly published and updated on the website, allowing to replicate everywhere and at any time civic monitoring initiatives. Moreover, this dissemination activity is regularly carried out in occasion of the yearly Open Data Day, during which Monithon is used to launch a marathon of civic monitoring which succeeds in engaging a large number of civic activists in Italy.

Ciociola concluded her presentation highlighting that Monithon may represent a precious source of innovation for public administrations: as for the case of the realization of the new Egyptian Museum in Turin, civic monitoring communities can be actively engaged in a sustained
collaboration and cooperation with public institutions; or public institutions can take charge of the accurate information provided via civic monitoring initiatives and integrate them in ex ante, ongoing and/or ex post assessment of funded projects. Monithon is therefore a promising path towards the renovation and re-legitimization of citizens-institutions relationships.

2.3.2 Non only users. Active citizens’ promotion of the quality of public services

The second presentation of the afternoon session – entitled Non only users. Active citizens’ promotion of the quality of public services – was given by Tina Napoli, member of the National Congress of Cittadinanzattiva (Active Citizenship) and coordinator of the Consumers’ Policies unit. As Napoli stated at the outset of her speech, Cittadinanzattiva (www.cittadinanzattiva.it) is an Italian major non-profit and independent organization founded in 1978: its main objectives are the promotion of civic participation and the protection of citizens’ rights in Italy and in Europe. Napoli’s presentation revolved around the theme of civic engagement as a major tool for the improvement of the quality of public services throughout local communities and territories. In this sense, Cittadinanzattiva considers citizens as a fundamental resource for democracy who play an active role in society and should have the opportunity to participate in everyday policy-making. The mission of Cittadinanzattiva, as Napoli remarked, finds indeed its basis in the article 118 of the Italian Constitution, which reads that Italian State, regions, provinces, metropolitan cities, and municipalities promote the autonomous initiative by citizens (individually or collectively taken) aimed at performing activities of general interest, on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity.

Cittadinanzattiva adopts a complex work strategy, based on a plurality of elements. First of all, it concretely fosters the empowerment of individuals and civil society organizations, strengthening their capacity to defend fundamental rights, to take care of common goods and to participate in policy-making in a fully informed way. The main instrument to meet this goal is the training of citizens and CSOs in the use of fundamental civic tools such as Charters of rights, advise services, monitoring activities and the promotion of good practices. Another groundbreaking strategy implemented by Cittadinanzattiva is the production of civic information, to the description of which Napoli focused her attention.

In particular, Cittadinanzattiva collect, analyse and disseminate data on the quality of public services. Napoli explained that the main sources of civic information consist in the monitoring activities and the advice and assistance services of Cittadinanzattiva, which can count on more than 50 help desks scattered all over Italian regions and provinces. In Napoli’s words, citizens who turn to help desks are public services users and, at the same time, become providers of information on the functioning, condition and performance of public services, which in turn impinge on fundamental topics connected to people’s well-being: mobility and transport, gas, water and electricity, health, education and so on. Each observation and complaint raised by the citizens is then properly stock taken and archived in a single, national database. Thanks to this, an extensive qualitative and quantitative analysis on the different public services sectors can be easily and regularly carried out and updated.

In particular, Cittadinanzattiva’s dissemination activities are led by the publication of the so called PIT Reports (Italian acronym for Integrated Project of Tutelage), such as the PIT Salute (PIT Health) and the PIT Servizi (PIT Services). These Reports also contain specific proposals and suggestions for the improvement of public services. Therefore, the work done by Cittadinanzattiva “closes the cycle”, successfully giving back to the citizens what the citizens themselves have
contributed to give life to in their being co-activators of the process and primary source of civic information. Napoli also added that the implementation of Cittadinanzattiva’s civic monitoring and reporting activities are accompanied by the promotion of massive advocacy and raising awareness initiatives targeted to a number of subjects: central, regional or local institutions, public and private providers of public services, key stakeholders and experts, the citizenry at large. Moreover, where criticalities locally emerge, additional action research activities (based on the administration of specific surveys to public services’ users) are carried out thanks to the establishment of social coalitions with local networks, communities, consumers organizations and civic associations. In conclusion, Napoli highlighted Cittadinanzattiva’s potentiality in boosting social, smart innovation through civic engagement. Indeed, even if the production of civic data and information does not have true statistical value, nevertheless it provides an useful thermometer and a major source of first hand information which can be at any time exploited by both citizens and public authorities eager to monitor, assess and improve the quality of public services.

2.3.3 Who controls the controller? Institutional transparency as fundamental driver of well-being

After Tina Napoli’s speech, Vittorio Alvino took the floor for the third presentation of the afternoon session: Who controls the controller? Institutional transparency as fundamental driver of well-being. Alvino is the President of Openpolis, an independent civic observatory founded in 2006 with the aim of carrying out an extensive and ongoing monitoring of Italian politics (www.openpolis.it). Alvino said that Openpolis has its roots in the open government and open data movement, as it develops and implements projects in order to enable free access to public information on political candidates, elected representatives, legislative activity, and public spending, promoting therefore transparency and the democratic participation of Italian citizens. In particular, referring to the title of his speech, Alvino stressed that there is no real citizens’ participation without real political and institutional transparency, and no political and institutional transparency without the availability of free, accessible, comprehensible and updated data and information which allows to consciously and wittingly participate to democratic life. In other terms, everyone should have – thanks to an open access to public data – the possibility of exercising informed and valuable activities of control of public and private powers, which can lead to an overall improvement of their transparency and accountability towards the public sphere. Public data have therefore to been seen under this perspective as a common good that should be shared with and participated by everyone.

In this field, through the implementation of dedicated web platforms, Openpolis leads a number of groundbreaking initiatives, all of which have in common an overarching objective of boosting transparency and civic engagement and a methodology based on freeing data trapped in closed formats (or inaccessible because data are presented according to a bureaucratic instead of a user’s logic and language). Openpolis works so that information produced and handled by public administrations become available and understood by everyone. Once data become accessible, Alvino stated, official information is integrated and associated to information provided by citizens, thus animating a richer and more complete framework, where citizens are not only end users but also, at least partially, information producers.

The first Openpolis initiative introduced by Alvino is named Open Parlamento (Open Parliament, http://parlamento17.openpolis.it/), a monitoring initiative which provides citizens with a large set of
useful tools to follow, understand and participate in what is being proposed, discussed and voted by Italian MPs. Every day, official data concerning the activity of the Lower and Higher House of Parliament are extrapolated and duly reworked with the goal of making quantitative and qualitative information (usually exploited by insiders, lobbyists or experts only) accessible to everyone. Thanks to Open Parlamento users can follow the activity of an MP or the course of a bill or motion step by step and keep tuned on everything that happens in the Parliament on the different topics.

In this way everyone can daily see who is in, what is being done, read debates, see how MPs vote, what’s coming up in Parliament, and sign up for email alerts or updates. As Alvino explained, Open Parlamento is linked to other two Openpolis’s dissemination activities: the Camere Aperte Report (Open Parliament Houses Report, www.openpolis.it/dossier/camere-aperte-2013/) and the Indice di Produttività Parlamentare (Parliamentary Productivity Index, http://indice17.openpolis.it/). Camere Aperte is an annual Report which presents Openpolis’s own account of one year of Italian politics, while the Parliamentary Productivity Index is an original index which aggregates data on single politicians in order to show the intensity of their activity in the parliamentary debate and legislative action.

Then, Alvino presented a second flagship initiative launched by Openpolis: Open Municipio (Open Municipality, www.openmunicipio.it/). Open Municipio aims to encourage Italian municipalities to make the local governments and political-administrative activity more transparent, more open and accountable to citizens. In this case, data are drawn from official political-administrative documents provided by those municipalities that join in the project (presently, the municipalities of Udine and Senigallia). Data are disseminated as soon as they come into force in an open format, thus providing citizens with information and monitoring services which foster active participation in their own municipality.

Finally, Alvino discussed a third major initiative run by Openpolis: Open Bilanci (Open Budgets, www.openbilanci.it). Open Bilanci aims to provide access to data and information related to the budgets (both budget plans and final budgets) of all the 8,100 Italian municipalities over the last ten years. These are drawn from a central Home Office archive, then properly extracted, reworked and released in an open format in order to make them easily readable, comprehensible and reusable. To this end, Open Bilanci can also count on a large set of innovative visualisation tools and indexes, detailed focus on budget spending areas, specific rankings and comparison of municipal budgets. This is all the more important, Alvino noted, in such a technical and obscure matter as public budgeting and public spending.

In conclusion, Alvino highlighted that Openpolis’s approach and tools increase the opportunity for dialogue between citizens and their representatives in central and local governments, effectively pushing institutions and politicians to stick to the rules of transparency. The access to the above mentioned web platforms allows indeed every user to get or to supplement information on what elected representatives are doing, what laws they are proposing, how they are voting, what is the amount of municipal public spending, and so on. And the data and information provided and made available for free to everybody support in turn a large number of activities to the benefit of democratic life and civic participation, from parliamentary monitoring to data-driven journalism.
2.3.4 Mafia in-the-eye. The properties confiscated to the organized crime and the quality of life in local communities

Andrea Borruso’s speech, entitled Mafia in-the-eye. The properties confiscated to the organized crime and the quality of life in local communities, concluded the afternoon session of the workshop. Borruso is a geologist, expert in open data management and geo-referencing techniques, co-creator and project manager of Confiscatibene (Well Confiscated, www.confiscatibene.it), a civil society participatory project launched at the end of 2013 with the aim of promoting the transparency, reuse and exploitation of assets seized and confiscated to the organized crime through the collection, analysis and monitoring of data and information related to these assets.

Borruso opened his presentation tackling and stressing again the importance of open data as the key element around which the experience of Confiscatibene has been built. Borruso remarked that a data is open if there are no technological or conditions of use barriers (or, at worst, a simple source-quoting obligation) that makes it difficult to freely access, use and reuse this data. After this premise, Borruso introduced the history of Confiscatibene, which can be considered as a sort of successful spin-off closely linked to the above mentioned Monithon initiative. Indeed, as Borruso explained, it was in occasion of a monitoring marathon launched by Monithon that the idea of giving life to Confiscatibene came out.

In that occasion Borruso, together with a team of practitioners and experts in the fields of open data and of civic monitoring and reporting (web developers, graphic designers, journalists, civic activists), began to look at and analyze the data provided by the ANBSC (Italian acronym for National agency for the administration and destination of seized and confiscated assets), and immediately found a major criticality: those data were not complete, primary, reusable, updated. Moreover, they were published in thousands of web pages, making de facto impossible for the large public to read, share and disseminate them. Confiscatibene was properly founded in order to facilitate and promote an open and large access to these data and information through the implementation of a large set of user friendly visualization, research, geo-localization, ranking and mapping tools.

Presently, Confiscatibene is fostering a community composed of active citizens willing to raise awareness and to share competences and initiatives on seized and confiscated assets. Its web platform hosts large, open datasets (released in a .csv format): besides the ANBSC dataset (detailed at the regional, provincial and municipal level and complemented with a smart visualization interface), also a number of other ones specifically related to Italian regions (e.g. Campania, Liguria, Toscana) and municipalities (e.g. Milano, Bari). In the next few months, the forthcoming establishment of a technological link to the Monithon’s web platform will also allow citizens to carry out civic monitoring initiatives on seized and confiscated assets, thus providing further and more in depth data and information on them.

Borruso highlighted that Confiscatibene is the first integrated, interactive and collaborative web platform in Italy aimed at producing an informed picture on the state of the art related to issues of such major importance. Furthermore, a number of innovative research and dissemination activities are taking place, stemming from the core idea of the project. To this purpose, Borruso cited for example the measurement of the potential energy of assets seized to the organized crime (but not still re-assigned for civic use as they should, according to the dictate of the Italian Law on this matter), through the combination and correlation of official data on the amount of job employments in the not profit sector provided by the ISTAT and the own data collected by Confiscatibene.
The publication of open, refined and easily exploitable data onto the interactive and collaborative web platform of Confiscatibene also made it possible that a group of journalist expert in data journalism and joining the Dataninja network (some of them also join the Confiscatibene network, see www.dataninja.it) realized an extensive, detailed and updated journalistic inquiry on seized and confiscated assets. The journalistic inquiry has been recently published onto 20 Italians newspapers and weekly journals. According to Borruso, this is a great dissemination result, which in turn show how promising are the possibilities disclosed by the Confiscatibene strategic and operational program.

Another worth mentioning dissemination activity carried out by Confiscatibene relates to “Riparte il futuro” (Future Restarts): the largest digital campaign against corruption ever organized in Italy. The campaign was launched by Libera and Gruppo Abele (two major Italian CSOs) with the goal of fighting one of the most serious problems afflicting Italy. To this end all municipalities are first of all asked to comply with Law (Article 48 of the Anti-Mafia Code), drawing up an open, detailed (destination, address, use, duration of the concession...) and updated list of confiscated assets which are situated in their respective territories. In this vein, the technological platform of Confiscatibene will most likely publish the data provided by the municipalities which have decided to adhere to the “Riparte il futuro” campaign.

In conclusion, Borruso remarked the relevance of civic engagement with open data in raising public awareness, exploiting and sharing citizens’ energies and competences, and giving life to major dissemination activities not only in the field of improving knowledge on confiscated assets but also in all the other fields which have to do with public transparency, participation, accountability.

3. The results achieved and the open issues

For what concerns the workshop’s results, it is first of all worth mentioning a remarkable public attendance and interest. 56 persons gathered in Porta Futuro, the facility of the Metropolitan City of Rome hosting the event (see annexes 2 and 8). Moreover, the workshop was entirely live broadcast onto the Web-COSI web portal and was attended live online by 55 persons (see annex 3). Then, a more refined, high quality video-registration of the workshop has been uploaded (see annex 4): thus, the total amount of visualizations of the event on the web is presently (mid-June 2015) around 120.

In particular, the workshop was designed with the aim of catching the interest of a plurality of stakeholders which in different ways and for different reasons have to do with the topics at the centre of the event: young people and CSOs members, as well as experts, practitioners and professionals and officials from public institutions.

In this vein, both the analysis of the list of participants to the workshop (see again annex 2) and the high number of questions and comments raised towards the invited speakers – which among other things allowed to further animate the debate at the end of each session – show well how a plurality of persons coming from diverse professional and educational backgrounds have been successfully reached and engaged in Web-COSI’s contents, themes, and approach.
The successful execution of the workshop and the valuable results in terms of public participation and interest was due to the amount of news, press releases, and tweets which were disseminated through Lunaria’s and Web-COSI’s formal and informal contacts, mailing lists, social networks and websites in order to encourage the attendance to the workshop. Moreover, easy-to-read information – clarifying the rationale, the issues to be tackled as well as the technical and logistic details about the event – was regularly disseminated, sparking interest among the target audience (see annexes 5, 6 and 7).

Another relevant result achieved consists in the fact that the workshop succeeded in finalizing the premises and the groundwork laid down with the execution of the June 2014 webinar (see the Report on Deliverable 2.2), which in turn had led to the development of the very first core of an informal network of Italian CSOs active on the field of providing statistical information on well-being.

In the Report on the June 2014 webinar, we stated indeed that the results of the webinar would have allowed Lunaria to settle solid foundations for future activities within the Web-COSI project. Among the expected future steps to be undertaken there were: (a) to foster the informal network of CSOs providing statistical information on well-being; (b) to involve individuals who joined the webinar, informing them on a regular basis on the activities and results of the Web-COSI project, in order to maintain contact and to identify potential participants to the workshop to be organized by Lunaria on Spring 2015; (c) to use the amount of knowledge acquired during the webinar for future activities.

Therefore, it is possible to remark today that the above mentioned expected goals have been successfully met. In this vein, the CSOs network has been further consolidated and extended: presently, the most important Italian civil society organizations and networks carrying out innovative and groundbreaking initiatives in the fields of collecting, producing and visualizing statistical data and information on well-being and societal progress have been mapped, contacted and “attracted” into the Web-COSI project. And all of them had of course the occasion to familiarize with, share and disseminate the project’s overall approach, issues and objectives.

Finally, the representatives of the CSOs participating to the webinar have expressed their personal appreciation on Web-COSI, and have declared their willingness to collaborate with Lunaria, giving their contribution for the realization of the next step of the project, that is the elaboration of a WP3 Research Report (Deliverable 3.6).

4. Conclusions

The objectives of the workshop “Well-being, plausibly. Civil society’s initiatives, tools and challenges to improve the quality of life of people and territories” executed by Lunaria have been met: as above highlighted, the number of participants and of online visualizations was fully satisfactory, and the quality of the presentations given by the invited speakers was high-prolife. Therefore, the workshop succeeded in enriching the ongoing debate on the role of civil society organizations for societal innovation in the field of collecting statistics on well-being, taking to the
fore a number of highly valuable and stimulating initiatives launched and carried out by civil society actors. These initiatives are linked to and fuelled with ideas, methods and objectives which have been investigated in detail and shared and discussed with the participating public, leading to useful and up to date theoretical insights and practical guidelines in the fields of well-being definition, assessment and monitoring. To this end, a wide and thought provoking range of activities are being put in place by civil society actors: data collection, the elaboration of statistical indexes, the management of open data and of new technologies, the implementation of smart data visualization arrangements, and so on.

Moreover, these initiatives led by civil society actors reveal the common aim of promoting civic engagement while advocating for better policies. The overall picture emerging from the workshop is thus one of major civil society involvement on these issues and challenges. To put it shortly, civil society actors connect data to generate public awareness and transparency, and disseminate them to prompt active and informed civic participation. This increases the opportunity for dialogue between citizens and their representatives, pushing government institutions and individual politicians to adopt a new approach towards well-being.

In conclusion, the findings and suggestions of the workshop (and the personal contacts which have been established therein) undoubtedly constitute a relevant step beyond towards the achievement of a better understanding of how – and with which methods, social alliances and objectives – civil society organizations and networks concretely work in the field of providing statistical data and information on well-being issues and dimensions, at the same time boosting smart and sustainable social innovation. These findings will be thus of utmost importance and will be taken in due account for the realization of the Research Report in charge of Lunaria within the WP3 activities (Deliverable 3.6).
THE ASSOCIATION LUNARIA, WITHIN THE “WEB-COSI” EUROPEAN PROJECT’S INITIATIVES, PRESENTS THE WORKSHOP

Well-being, plausibly
Civil society’s initiatives, tools and challenges to improve the quality of life of people and territories

TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST 2015, 9.30-17.00
PORTA FUTURO, VIA GALVANI 108, ROMA (TESTACCIO DISTRICT)

Free attendance
Info and registration: Sara Nunzi, globi@lunaria.org, + 39 (0)6 8841880

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<td>Alessio Pontillo • event manager, Porta Futuro</td>
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<td>Mirko Laurenti • Legambiente</td>
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<td>h. 16.30-17.00</td>
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The role of well-being indicators in public policies’ design and implementation
Giulio Marcon • MP, Chamber of Deputies, First Signatory of a Law Proposal on this issue
Annex 2. The list of participants

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Annex 3. The live stream of the workshop
Annex 4. The videoregistration of the workshop

Well-being, plausibly

Civil society's initiatives, tools and challenges to improve the quality of life of citizens and territories.
Annex 5. The launch of the workshop on Twitter

Annex 6. The launch of the workshop on Facebook
Annex 7. Workshop's press release

The Association Lunaria, within the “Web-COSI” European project’s initiatives, presents the workshop

Well-being, plausibly
Civil society’s initiatives, tools and challenges
to improve the quality of life of people and territories

Tuesday, April 21st 2015, 9.30-17.00
Porta Futuro, via Galvani 108, Roma (Testaccio district)

The European project “Web-COSI”

In particular, Web-COSI aims to promote the sharing and dissemination of knowledge and experience on the various features related to the production of statistical information on wellbeing and social sustainability carried out by national and international institutions and by civil society organizations (CSOs). Another important topic regards the focus on the role and use of new technologies in order to inform and activate citizenship, promote collective discussion on the definition of statistics related to well-being, improve access, understanding and analysis of statistical data and information.

Among the two-year programme of Web-COSI’s activities: mapping the most relevant and innovative initiatives undertaken at the institutional and civil society level on the field of the measurement of well-being and the promotion of social innovation; identifying best practices of citizens’ involvement in the collection and processing of data and statistical information on well-being and sustainability; activating citizens’ initiatives in the production of statistics on well-being. For more info on Web-COSI, please visit: www.webcosi.eu

Lunaria’s workshop
Lunaria’s workshop stems from the awareness of the multidimensionality of well-being and, at the same time, of the limits of official statistics in covering with adequate and fit-for-purpose statistical information fundamental dimensions and aspects which have to do with the quality of life of citizens or the quality of development in a given territory.

In the present condition of increasing social complexity and environmental interdependence, the role of civil society in monitoring and collecting data and information on the various features of well-being becomes increasingly central. In this context, the use of new technologies (web 2.0, wiki technology, crowdsourcing applications and platforms, new social media…) and the ability in activating and involving citizenship at large reveal to be key tools for CSOs in order to raise public awareness about the collection, dissemination, reuse and visualization of statistical data and information on the issues and different facets of well-being, from sustainable lifestyles to institutional transparency.

Therefore, the workshop’s main aim is to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of experiences and practices carried out by Italian CSOs in the field of the production of statistical information on well-being – through the collection, aggregation and analysis of data, the use of new technologies and/or the direct involvement of citizens and local communities.

The workshop will provide participants with: (i) a simultaneous translation service; (ii) a coffee break; (iii) a buffet lunch. The conference will be entirely live streamed in English onto the Web-COSI portal (www.webcosi.eu).

Free attendance. Info and registration: Sara Nunzi, globi@lunaria.org, +39(0)68841880
Annex 8. The speakers and the participants

The speakers of the morning session: (from the left) Chiara Assunta Ricci, Giulio Marcon, Duccio Zola, Mirko Laurenti, Kate Scrivens
The speakers of the afternoon session: (from the left) Vittorio Alvino, Andrea Borruso, Duccio Zola, Chiara Ciociola, Tina Napoli

The participants (1/2)
The participants (2/2)