

13th Conference „Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe“

*Inequalities, Fairness and Solidarity Across Generations – Measurement and Analysis*

Villa Vigoni, Lovenno di Mennagio, October 15-17, 2018

Call for Papers

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The relations between younger and older generations have become a hot topic in many European societies in recent years, not only due to the well known and far reaching demographic changes, but also as a result of general social change and technological advancements. Demographic changes in terms of decreasing birth rates and an up to now continuously increasing life expectancy have resulted in diminishing proportions of the younger population groups and an increase of the older ones. Apparently, these major demographic shifts are going along with multiple implications, such as an increasing financial burden for younger people in the pension systems and at the same time growing risks and uncertainties around the prospects for their own pension benefits and material well-being in retirement. Also labour market opportunities and career prospects of younger and older age groups are changing differently due to various reasons, e.g. globalization, digitalization of production processes, changes in required competences etc. In many European societies, young people are currently facing considerable difficulties to enter the labour market and finding a stable career path. More generally, there seems to be growing scepticism in European societies that younger cohorts will be able to sustain the living standards of their parent generations. On the other hand, not only child poverty, but also poverty in old age is growing in numerous European societies, and increasing percentages of the elderly are concerned whether the level of their pensions will allow them to afford and enjoy the additional life years resulting from increasing longevity. All of these tendencies raise the question whether or not institutional arrangements, e.g. labor market regulations, distribution and re-distribution policies, union policies, the accessibility of public services as well as the governance of social security systems, assure fairness across generations or if these arrangements eventually may erode intergenerational solidarity, a principal of crucial importance for the balance of interests and social cohesion. If intergenerational relations should no longer be perceived as reciprocal and fair, ultimately also intergenerational conflicts may arise.

In sum, the conference – organized by the European Social Reporting Network – aims to discuss how pronounced intergenerational inequalities of different kinds are in European societies, to which degrees benefits, risks and opportunities are fairly distributed across generations and to which extent the relations between generations are characterized by solidarity. We are thus inviting submissions addressing one or several of the following issues:

- Intergenerational distribution of income and wealth; intergenerational inequalities in material hardship or deprivation;
- Intergenerational inequalities in well-being, including inequalities in health, labour market opportunities, career and social mobility prospects;
- Intergenerational justice / fairness and solidarity – objective conditions and perceptions;
- Intergenerational private support networks;

- Intergenerational relations: reciprocity and conflict;
- Sustainability of pension and health systems.

We are inviting presentations looking at intergenerational relations from different angles and perspectives, including cross-sectional, longitudinal, national and cross-national analyses. Comparative views across European societies as well as papers addressing issues of measurement and monitoring in the field of intergenerational relations will be particularly welcomed.

While the conference will be focussed mainly on issues of intergenerational inequality, fairness and solidarity, there will also sessions be arranged to discuss „recent developments in European social monitoring and reporting“. Contributions presenting initiatives and projects on social monitoring and reporting in Europe are thus very much welcome as well.

Please submit your abstract (no more than 300 words) to Dr. Heinz-Herbert Noll (hh.noll@t-online.de). **The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2018.**

Decisions about the acceptance of submissions will be made by the conference committee: Rob Bijl (SCP, The Hague), Carla Collicelli (CNR, Rome), Peter Farago (formerly FORS, Lausanne), Tadas Leončikas (Eurofound, Dublin), Heinz-Herbert Noll (formerly GESIS, Mannheim), Christian Suter (University Neuchatel), István György Tóth (TARKI, Budapest)

The conference is kindly supported by:

