

# Looking Back and Moving Forward in Challenging Times Trends in Well-being, Quality of Life, and Social Monitoring and Reporting

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference on Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe

Villa Vigoni  
05–07/10/2026



## PROGRAMME

### Monday, October 5, 2026

19:00 Reception

19:30 Dinner

### Tuesday, October 6, 2026

08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast

09:00 – 11:00 **Session 1: Looking Back: Stocktaking of Social Monitoring and Reporting Activities**

**Chair: Peter Farago (formerly FORS, Lausanne)**

Heinz-Herbert Noll (formerly GESIS, Mannheim)

*The Conference Series "Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe" – A Short History*

Jeroen Boelhouwer (The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, The Hague)

*Social Monitoring and Reporting in the Netherlands Since 1973*

Monica Budowski (University of Fribourg) and Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel)

*Observing Swiss Society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Social Monitoring and Reporting Activities in Switzerland, 2000–2025*

Rudi Van Dam (Ministry for Social Security, Belgium)

*From the Margins to the Center? 25 Years of Social Indicators in EU Governance*

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| 11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11:30 – 12:45 | <p><b>Session 2: Long-term Trends of Well-being and Quality of Life</b><br/> <b>Chair: Tadas Leončikas (Eurofound, Dublin)</b></p> <p>Marc Callens (Ghent University, Belgium) and Dries Verlet (Statistics Flanders/Ghent University, Belgium)<br/> <i>Life Satisfaction: Historical Trends (1973–2024) and Generational Shifts (1895–2005) Across Europe</i></p> <p>Crétien van Campe and Jeroen Boelhouwer (The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, The Hague)<br/> <i>Trends in Objective and Subjective Quality of Life in the Netherlands Since 1976: Lessons for Policy-makers</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 14:30 – 15:15 | Guided tour of the Villa Vigoni and its garden by the staff of Villa Vigoni                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 15:30 – 17:30 | <p><b>Session 3: Determinants of Well-being and Quality of Life</b><br/> <b>Chair: Laura Kestilä (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Helsinki)</b></p> <p>Ghazaleh Pakdel, Aleid Brouwer, and A. (Thanasis) Ziogas (University of Groningen, Netherlands)<br/> <i>Has Institutional Trust Become More Important for Well-Being in Times of Crisis? Evidence from European Regions</i></p> <p>Cosimo Frontera (Eurofound, Dublin)<br/> <i>Digital Technologies, Generative AI and Worker Well-being in Europe: Evidence from the European Working Conditions Surveys</i></p> <p>Marije Kooistra (University of Groningen, Netherlands)<br/> <i>Spatial Spillovers in Well-being Domains and Regional Complementarity</i></p> <p>Jennifer van Beek (University of Amsterdam) and Keara Dennehy (Massachusetts Institute of Technology/University of Amsterdam)<br/> <i>A Spatial Examination of the Urban Wellbeing Paradox in Europe</i></p> |
| 17:30 – 17:45 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 17:45 – 18:45 | <p><b>Session 4: Family, Child and Youth Well-being and its Monitoring</b><br/> <b>Chair: István György Tóth (Tárki Social Research Institute, Budapest)</b></p> <p>Merita Mesäisleshto and Sakari Karvonen (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Helsinki, Finland)<br/> <i>Trajectories of Economic Vulnerability Among Families with Children in Europe in 2004–2023</i></p> <p>Nina Vos (Research and Statistics, City of Amsterdam), Marileen Wiegiersma (Public Health Service, Amsterdam), Claudia Verhagen (Public Health Service, Amsterdam), Lotje Cohen (Research and Statistics, City of Amsterdam), and Ellen Lindeman (Research and Statistics, City of Amsterdam)<br/> <i>Declining Happiness and Optimism for the Future Among Young Adults in Amsterdam: Risks, Protective Factors, and Vulnerable Subgroups</i></p>                                                                                                         |

19:30

Dinner

## Wednesday, October 7, 2026

08:00 – 09:00

Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30

### **Session 5: Moving Forward: New Approaches to Well-being Analysis, Social Monitoring and Reporting**

**Chair: Heinz-Herbert Noll (formerly GESIS, Mannheim)**

Filomena Maggino and Roberta Padul (Sapienza University, Rome)

*Analyzing BES Indicators in Systemic Terms: A Proposal for Applying Graph Theory*

Hassan Bashiri (Hamedan University of Technology, Iran), Petra Ahrweiler (Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz), and Massimo Rusconi (University of Insubria, Varese)

*From Numbers to Narratives: LLM-Assisted Narrative Auditing in European Social Monitoring*

Paulina Pankowska (Utrecht University), Ruben Bach (Mannheim University), and Andreas Haupt (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) (online presentation)

*The Gendered Division of Cognitive Household Labour and Mental Load in the Digital Space: Using Web Tracking Data to Estimate Cognitive Household Labour*

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30

### **Session 6: Panel Discussion: Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe: Past, Present, and Possible Futures**

**Chair: Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel)**

#### **Panelists:**

Jeroen Boelhouwer (The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, The Hague)

Filomena Maggino (Sapienza University, Rome)

István György Tóth (Tárki Social Research Institute, Budapest)

12:30 – 12:45

Future Plans (Business Meeting)

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch and Departure

Supporting institutions:



Centro italo-tedesco per il dialogo europeo

Deutsch-Italienisches Zentrum für den Europäischen Dialog

