

20th Anniversary Conference

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

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

Heinz-Herbert Noll

Villa Vigoni, Lovenno di Menaggio, October 5-7, 2026

How it all began:

- At June 6, 2005, I received an email by the former (2000-2007) Secretary General of the Villa Vigoni, Professor Aldo Venturelli.



- Thanking me for sending him a copy of the German social report „Datenreport 2004“, he wrote the following:

„During the most recent meeting of the board of the Villa Vigoni, we have discussed a proposal to dedicate one of our conferences in 2006 to a comparison of the German „Datenreport“ and the Italian „Censis-Report“. This proposal received a lot of interest and support. Thus we would be very pleased if such a conference could be organized in collaboration with Censis, ZUMA and the WZB eventually in spring 2006“.

- Among the supporters was also Carla Collicelli, vice director of Censis and by then board member of Villa Vigoni!

From our German perspective – ZUMA (now Gesis) and WZB – the proposal to hold such a conference was very much welcomed and thus we happily accepted of course!

Next Steps:

- Agreement on date (March 26-28, 2006)
- Exchange and agreement concerning structure and content of the conference
- Discussion on financing and funding
- Proposals Italian and German invitees
- Discussion and agreement concerning the programme

Censis-Report und Datenreport - Soziales Reporting in Europa

Villa Vigoni, March 26-28, 2006

Programme

Sunday, March 26, Afternoon: Arrival Participants

19:30 Aperitif and Dinner

Monday, March 27, 9:30 1st Section

The Datareport: History, Structure, Methodology and Impact
(Heinz-Herbert Noll, ZUMA, Mannheim)

The Censis-Report: History, Structure, Methodology and Impact
(Raffaele Pastore, Censis, Roma)

The Italian Society reflected in the Censis-Report: Current Situation and Trends of Development
(Carla Collicelli, Censis, Roma)

The German Society reflected in the Datareport: Current Situation and Trends of Development
(Roland Habich, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin / Heinz-Herbert Noll, ZUMA, Mannheim)

The Italian Society reflected in the Censis-Reports – A Comment from German Perspective
(Stefan Hradil, Universität Mainz)

The German Society reflected in the Data Reports – A Comment from Italian Perspective
(Gian Enrico Rusconi, Università di Torino / Aldo Venturelli, Villa Vigoni)

13:00 Lunch

15:00 2nd Section: Selected Societal Problems in Comparison

The Italian North-South-Problem and Some Tendencies of Growth
(Aldo Bonomi, AASTER, Milano)

The German East-West-Problem
(Roland Habich, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin)

The Economy and the Problems of Development and Cohesion
(Andrea Toma, Censis, Roma)

Selected Aspects of the Social Situation in Germany and Italy - short interventions by German and Italian participants:

- *Unemployment* (Doris Stärk, Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden)
- *Poverty* (Peter Krause, DIW Berlin)
- *Social Mobility* (Reinhard Pollak, Universität Mannheim)
- *Welfare State and Social Security* (Jürgen Kohl, Universität Heidelberg)
- *Local Welfare and Governance bottom up* (Domenico Dosa, Centro Studi Alpes, San Donato Milanese)
- *Identities, Generations and the Role of the Family* (Francesco Belletti, CISF – Centro Studi Famiglia, Milano)

19:30 Dinner

Tuesday, March 28

9:00 3rd Section:

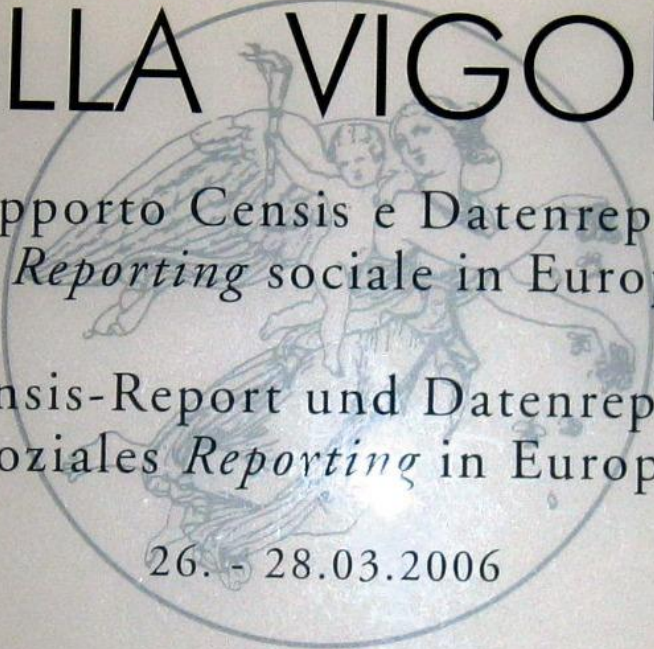
Perspectives of Further Development of the two Reports –

Final discussion led by Heinz-Herbert Noll and Carla Collicelli

⇒ Agreement to organize follow up conference in 2007!

13:00 Lunch and Departure of Participants

VILLA VIGONI



Rapporto Censis e Datenreport
Il *Reporting* sociale in Europa

Censis-Report und Datenreport
Soziales *Reporting* in Europa

26. - 28.03.2006



2nd Conference 2007

Changes implemented compared to 1st conference:

- Conference language English, no interpreters
- Not only Italian and German participants, but also participants from additional European countries: France, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland
- Plus participation of European Commission as another important step to open the conference series from a bilateral to a European perspective
- In addition to the general topic of „Social Reporting in Europe: National and Supranational Reports” for the first time also a special thematic topic: “Citizens’ Expectations and Attitudes Towards Current Welfare State Reforms”.

Social Reporting in Europe
Citizens' Expectations Towards Welfare State Reforms

Villa Vigoni, March 25-27, 2007

Programme

Sunday, March 25

Arrival of participants and dinner in Villa Vigoni

Monday, March 26

9:00

Aldo Venturelli (Villa Vigoni): *Welcome and introduction*

9:15-12:15

Social Reporting in Europe: National and Supranational Reports

Christine Chambaz (INSEE, Paris): *Données sociales / France Portrait Social*

Jeroen Boelhouwer (SCP, Den Haag): *Social and Cultural Report / De sociale staat van Nederland*

Maciej Zukowski (Poznan University of Economics): *Polish Social Report*

Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel): *Swiss Social Report*

Ralf Jacob (EU-Commission, Brussels): *Social Situation Report (European Commission)*

Carla Collicelli (CENSIS, Rome): *Censis-Report - Italy*

Heinz-Herbert Noll (ZUMA, Mannheim), Roland Habich (WZB, Berlin): *Datenreport – Germany*

12:15 Questions

13:00 Lunch

14:30-15:10

Social Reporting in Europe: Comments and Discussion

Ulrich Bieber (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales, Berlin)

Giuliano Cazzola (University of Bologna)

Jürgen Schupp (DIW Berlin)

Francesco Maietta (CENSIS, Rome)

15:30-18:30

Citizens' Expectations and Attitudes Towards Current Welfare State Reforms (20 min. each)

Wolfgang Glatzer (Goethe University, Frankfurt)

Antonio Golini (University of Rome "La Sapienza")

Jürgen Kohl (University of Heidelberg)

Linda Laura Sabbadini (ISTAT, Rome)

Ketty Vaccaro (CENSIS, Rome)

Short interventions (5-10 min.):

Jeroen Boelhouwer, Christine Chambaz, Maciej Zukowski, Ralf Jacob, Christian Suter

18:30 Discussion

19:30 Dinner

Tuesday, March 27

9:00-10:20

Selected Issues of Societal Development Addressed in Datenreport and Censis-Report

Bernhard Christoph (Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung, Nürnberg)

Gianni Geroldi (University of Parma)

Elke Koch-Weser (University of Rome „La Sapienza“)

Stefan Weick (ZUMA, Mannheim)

Discussion

11:00-12:30

Future periodical exchange and the possibilities to establish a European Social Reporting Network

Open discussion led by Carla Collicelli and Heinz-Herbert Noll

13:00 Lunch and Departure

Aims of the „social (monitoring and) reporting in Europe conferences“

In a proposal for funding the 3rd conference by the German Science Foundation (DFG), the **aims of the „social reporting in Europe conferences“** were pointed out as follows:

- **First, the conferences are expected to further the comparison – conceptually, methodologically, substantially – of different approaches of social reporting in Germany and Italy as well as other European nations and to enhance reciprocal inspiration or mutual learning;**
- **Second, the conferences are supposed to provide opportunities to comparatively discuss trends of societal developments and problems to be addressed by social policies as they are dealt with in the various social reports;**
- **Third, the conferences shall allow a continuous exchange of experiences and further a „Europeanization“ of national social reporting activities.**

3rd Conference 2008

New elements:

- Introduction of session chairs
- Three additional countries represented:
 - United Kingdom (Paul Allin, ONS, London)
 - Hungary (István György Tóth , TARKI, Budapest)
 - Spain (Antonio Jiménez, INE, Madrid)
- Special Theme: „Migration and Integration“
- The European Commission represented by Hakan Nyman

For detailed Programme(s) see: <https://www.tarki.hu/villa-vigoni-conferences>

Basic characteristics of the Conferences:

- All participants stay for the duration of the whole conference from dinner at arrival day until lunch of the day of departure (very few exceptions over the period of twenty years!)
- All participants stay at the Villa Vigoni, a most beautiful conference site, which provides full board for the duration of the conference



- As all participants spend two full days together - from breakfast to dinner, or even drinks in late evenings - a special social climate is created which allows plenty of communication and networking inside and outside the conference room



Participants

- Researchers (Universities, Research Institutes)
- Statisticians (NSIs, Eurostat)
- Policy Makers (National Ministries, European Commission, OECD)

Participation

- 2006 to 2014 Participation by invitation only
- Since 2015 Open call for papers + invited speakers

Coordination & Organization

- H.-H. Noll until 2022, in early years in collaboration with Carla Collicelli
- Christian Suter since 2023

Funding / Financing

- Conferences 2006 – 2010
 - Full funding by Villa Vigoni & the German Science Foundation (DFG) Covering travel costs and accommodation expenses for all participants
 - Proposal to be drafted each year and submitted as part of a bulk request by Villa Vigoni
- Conferences 2011, 2012, 2014: Fully funded by the European Commission
- Conference 2013: Fully financed out of resources of the e-Frame-Project (European Framework for Measuring Progress) funded by the European Commission's FP7
- Conferences 2015 onwards: no central funding, but financial contributions received by FORS, Eurofound, University of Neuchatel and Villa Vigoni (2015-2022).

World Society Foundation new sponsor since 2023

At the end of the generous funding by the European Commission discussion whether and how to proceed:

- Is there sufficient interest among current and potential future participants to continue the series and maintain the network, and if so, how could this eventually be realized without the funding by the Commission?
- If there would be an agreement to continue, what would the options be?
 - o Trying to find a different source of full central funding and continue to have the conferences at the Villa Vigolini?
 - o Stay at Villa Vigoni, but have a different model of financing (full or partial financing by participants)?
 - o Continue the conference series at other, eventually changing locations?

Decisions

- Continuation of the series
- Staying at Villa Vigoni



- New model of financing/funding:
 - Participants basically pay for their own travel and accommodation costs, except few invited speakers
 - Financial contributions by participating institutions
- Introduction of a conference committee (Rob Bijl, Carla Collicelli, Peter Farago, Christian Suter, Tadas Leoncikas, István G. Toth & H.-H. Noll as main coordinator). Guiding idea for selection of committee members: supporting institutes should be represented!

Conference-Website

- ❖ Initially part of the web presence of the Social indicators Research Centre at Gesis
- ❖ After my retirement hosted by FORS for a couple of years,
- ❖ Finally moved to current location at TARKI: <https://www.tarki.hu/villa-vigoni-conferences>

2026	Looking Back and Moving Forward in Challenging Times: Trends in Well-being, Quality of Life, and Social Monitoring and Reporting	2015	Policy Goals, Values, Preferences: How We Live and How We Want to Live in Europe
2025	Demographic Challenges and Opportunities and their Impact on Individual and Societal Well-being	2014	The Quality of Society and Individual Quality of Life – How do they relate?
2024	Fears, Worries, and Anxieties in Contemporary Europe - Is there a societal climate change and what are the consequences for quality of life?	2013	Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe: The State of the Art and Future Perspectives
2023	Rising Conflicts and Polarisation in European Societies? Indicators, Empirical Evidence, and Future Prospects	2012	Subjective Social Indicators: Usefulness and Information Potential for Policy Making
2022	Quality of Life in Europe at Risk? Effects of the Pandemic and Recent Social Change	2011	Measuring and Monitoring Social Progress in European Societies – Is Life Still Getting Better?
2020/ 2021	Increasing Divergence and Changing Social Trends in Europe? Longer-term Developments and Consequences of the Pandemic	2010	Current Trends of Societal Development and Social Implications of the Economic Crisis
2019	Weakening Social Cohesion in Europe? Indicators, Analysis and Policy Implications	2009	Social Reporting in Europe. Different Ways of Adding Meaning to Numbers
2018	Inequalities, Fairness and Solidarity Across Generations – Measurement and Analysis	2008	Migration and Integration
2017	Resilience: An Asset in Difficult Times?	2007	Citizens’ Expectations Towards Welfare State Reforms
2016	Social Change and Continuity - Monitoring and Reporting on Societal Trends in the 21st Century	2006	Social Reports in Germany and Italy Compared: Censis-Report and Daten-report

Topics Addressed:

- **Societal Developments, Trends of Well-being, Progress & Social Change,**

Examples: “Measuring and Monitoring Social Progress in European Societies – Is Life Still Getting Better?” (2011), “Social Change and Continuity - Monitoring and Reporting on Societal Trends in the 21st Century” (2016)

- **Impact of Societal Characteristics and Trends on Well-being / Quality of life**

Examples: “Fears, Worries, and Anxieties in Contemporary Europe - Is there a societal climate change and what are the consequences for quality of life?” (2024), “Quality of Life in Europe at Risk? Effects of the Pandemic and Recent Social Change” (2022)

- **Issues concerning Social Monitoring and Reporting**

Examples: “Social Reporting in Europe. Different Ways of Adding Meaning to Numbers” (2009), “Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe: State of the Art and Future Perspectives” (2013)

⇒ **Generally emphasis on:** quantitative empirical approaches, comparative analysis, policy relevance

Thanks for listening and good luck for the future!

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