

Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe – State of the Art and Future Perspectives

➤ Introduction to the Workshop

Heinz-Herbert Noll

GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
Social Indicators Research Centre (ZSi)

Mannheim

www.gesis.org/social-indicators

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Social Monitoring and Social Reporting

...provides information and answers to questions like:

- How well are citizens doing in terms of well-being and quality of life – also compared to other societies?
- Is life getting better or worse (on average and for specific parts of the population)?
- What about the "Quality of Society ", e.g. in terms of governance, social cohesion, sustainability, performance of and trust in institutions?
- Where is the society moving to and what are significant trends of social change?
- What are pressing societal problems to be addressed by politics and policy making?

Overall ⇒ Continuous monitoring of and reporting on „well-being“ and „societal progress“.

Social Reporting – Some Definitions

- “Presentation of data allowing to assess the living conditions of the general population and their evolution across time” (Duff 1989)
- “effort to systematically describe the level of welfare in a population” (Uusitalo 1994)
- “the description and analysis of the living conditions of the population seen in relationship to the objectives and measures of an ensemble of social policy fields” (Gilomen 1995).
- “The fundamental aim of social reporting is to measure what is important - what a society cares about. In order to do this, agreement is needed about what to measure. This involves making some explicit value judgements about what quality of life means, and about the characteristics of society considered desirable“ (Social Report New Zealand 2001).

Early Important Documents on Social Reporting

- Otis D. Duncan: Toward Social Reporting: Next Steps. (Memorandum prepared for Russell Sage Foundation 1969)
- Mancur Olson: Toward a Social Report. U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare 1969 (prototype of a social report)
- Sten Johansson: A Theory of Social Reporting. Institute of Social Research, Stockholm 1976
- David Brusegard: National Social Reporting: The Elements and the Activity. OECD Working Document. Paris 1977

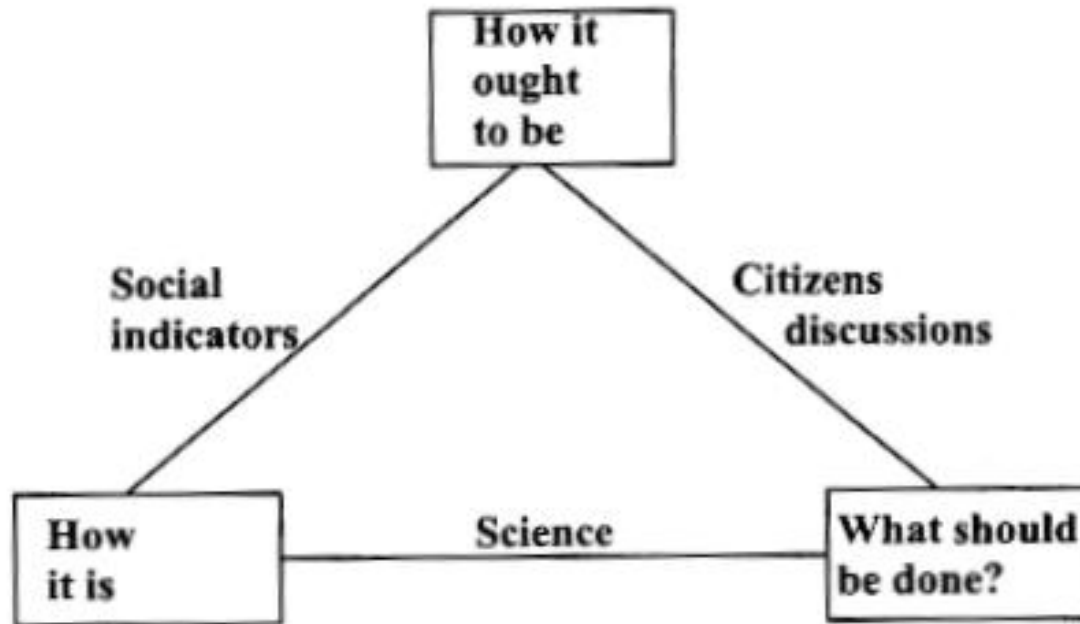
Keywords from letter of the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to the President of the United States

Toward a Social Report, ed. by M. Olson, 1969

- search for **ways to improve the Nation's ability to chart its social progress**
- develop... **indicators to supplement those prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Council of Economic Advisers"**,
- better measure the distance we have come and plan for the way ahead
- **quality of American life**
- comprehensive .. report which will **measure social change** and be useful in establishing social goals
- **examine the qualitative condition of society regularly and comprehensively**
- **assessment of our social well-being**

⇒ Amazingly, many of the keywords of the current beyond GDP and measuring well-being debate appear already in this document from 1969!

Sten Johansson: Role of Social Indicators & Reporting in Democracy



“Social Reportig should aim to satisfy the needs of citizens for information about the development of welfare” (St. Johansson 1976, p. 62)

Social Reporting

⇒ data + analysis + interpretation

Social Monitoring

- ⇒ focus on indicators and continuous measurement, e.g.
- systems of indicators
 - dashboards
 - composite indices
 - quality of life surveys

Two Basic Functions of Social Monitoring and Social Reporting

- Measurement and Monitoring of Well-Being

⇒ direct normative perspective

Focus: Description and analysis of individual quality of life and the collective societal quality - inclusive temporal change and international comparison

- Monitoring of Social Change

⇒ without direct normative perspective

Focus: continuous empirical observation and analysis of trends of general social change (demography, social structure, patterns of behavior, value orientations etc.)

Social Monitoring and Social Reporting

⇒ Two Basic Aims

- To provide expert knowledge for political elites, administrations and governments

- To inform and enlighten citizens and the general public
 - ⇒ part of ‘democratic infrastructure’

Basic Characteristics of Social Monitoring and Reporting

- ◆ Focus on Well-being / Quality of Life of Citizens
- ◆ Level / Units of Observation: Individuals and Private Households
- ◆ Outcomes Oriented Measurement
- ◆ Normative Perspective
- ◆ Policy Orientation
- ◆ Empirical - Quantitative Approach
- ◆ Representativeness
- ◆ Importance of Specific Kinds of Data, in Particular Survey Data
- ◆ Continuity of Monitoring and Reporting Across Time
- ◆ Intelligibility

New Zealand: Social Report

Published annually by Ministry of Social Development

The Social Report 2010 provides a picture of progress towards better social outcomes for New Zealanders.

It shows how we are faring on a range of important social indicators and allows us to compare ourselves with people in other developed countries.

Key Aims of the Social Report:

- to provide and monitor over time **measures of wellbeing and quality of life** that complement existing economic and environmental indicators
- to **compare New Zealand with other countries on measures of wellbeing**
- to provide greater transparency in government and to **contribute to better informed public debate**
- to **help identify key issues and areas where we need to take action**, which can in turn help with planning and decision making.



Typology of Social Reports

Level	Coverage	Actors
Supranational	Comprehensive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ life-domain structure ▪ list of social concerns ▪ life-cycle concept 	Official <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ statistical offices ▪ ministries ▪ state agencies ▪ local authorities
National		
Regional	Noncomprehensive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ single domains (health, education, work) ▪ subgroups (women, elderly, children) ▪ social problems (poverty, crime, drug abuse) 	Nonofficial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ research institutes ▪ associations (welfare associations, unions, parties)
Local		

e-Frame Project

WP 5 „Social Monitoring and Reporting“

→ Related activities almost completely ignored in Stiglitz et al. Report

⇒ 3 Tasks

Task 1: Stocktaking “Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe”

Task 2: European Social Monitoring and Reporting Web-Platform

Task 3: Workshop “Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe”

Workshop “Social monitoring and Reporting in Europe” - Expectations

- Assembles major actors in the fields of social monitoring and reporting in Europe
- Provides an overview and assessment of already existing activities (state of the art)
- Seeks to identify blind spots at the European map of Social Monitoring and Reporting
- Aims to assess different approaches as well as to flag best practices
- Identifies needs for future improvements in this field as well as themes and issues to be put at policy and research agendas.
- Contributes to establish and enhance a Europe-wide “Social Monitoring and Reporting Network”
- ⇒ **Provides important inputs to the stocktaking report**