**EUROPEAN CONFERENCE**

**"Strengthening the European Social Model.
The contribution of the Social Quality Approach to strengthen social justice, human dignity and solidarity of the EU in a changing world"**

**Rome – Italy, Oct. 31, 2014**

***With the patronage of the Department for European Policies – European Semester
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Prefazione

Nuovi Orientamenti Teorici e Pratici sull'Innovazione Sociale

**Premessa**

Fin dal 1997, in occasione della presidenza olandese del Semestre Europeo, la prestigiosa *Fondazione Europea sulla Qualità Sociale* (EFSQ – European Foundation on Social Quality, l'Aja - Amsterdam – Olanda) ha avviato un percorso di definizione ed approfondimento di un nuovo approccio allo sviluppo, basato sul valore della Qualità Sociale e sull’attuazione di una sostenibilità globale dello stesso.

Questo lavoro, avviato in Olanda in un periodo di grandi trasformazioni e difficoltà, è stato inteso come un contributo originale ed innovativo sia alla riqualificazione del Modello Sociale Europeo e dei sistemi di welfare nazionali, sia anche come un modo di andare oltre lo stesso modello europeo, aprendo nuovi scenario di studi e di interventi applicativi di tipo sistemico.

L'idea di fondo è quella di sviluppare un pensiero forte, organico, originale, che consenta di promuovere sia una nuova cultura dello sviluppo, sia politiche pratiche innovative ed efficaci, sulla linea della sostenibilità e della solidarietà, della giustizia sociale, della dignità umana. Con gli anni, si è sviluppato un approccio teorico decisamente innovativo che sta suscitando molto interesse tanto nel mondo scientifico, che tra i decisori politici, in Europa e al di fuori di essa.

**Le Reti**

La Fondazione Europea sulla Qualità Sociale, diretta dal *Prof. Laurent van der Maesen,* ha promosso negli anni una vasta rete europea di istituti e di esperti, impegnati a dare il proprio contributo a questo nuovo approccio teorico. Un fatto decisamente importante è che questa iniziativa ha trovato un grande interesse nell'area del Sud Est Asiatico e in Cina, dove si è formata una rete parallela impegnata sulla stessa area tematica. Conferenze congiunte, scambi di documenti e pubblicazioni comuni testimoniano la grande partecipazione di questa parte del mondo alle iniziative europee.

In conseguenza di queste iniziative la Fondazione si è trasformata in *IASQ – Associazione Internazionale sulla Qualità Sociale* ed ha promosso finora la costituzione di due strutture permanenti di raccordo: *l’EOSQ – Osservatorio Europeo sulla Qualità Sociale* con sede a Roma, presso Eurispes e l’*AOSQ* – *Osservatorio Asiatico sulla Qualità Sociale* con sede ad Hangzhou, nella Repubblica cinese-

**La proposta teorica**

La sostenibilità dello sviluppo richiede una valutazione integrata e sistemica di quattro dimensioni: economica, socio-politica, socio-culturale, ambientale e, ancora, la definizione di indicatori di misurazione e di percorso. Ma per essere valido e credibile nel tempo, un progetto definito sostenibile richiede anche l'integrazione dei paradigmi economici con nuovi paradigmi che riguardano la vita delle persone, le loro effettive capacità di operare, di produrre e riprodurre rapporti sociali, i loro riferimenti culturali ed etici, la coesione delle comunità in cui vivono. Che cosa è il sociale? Come può funzionare l'innovazione sociale? Quale sostenibilità per il progresso dei nostri sistemi? Queste sono le domande a cui cerca di rispondere il nuovo pensiero orientato a valorizzare, appunto, la qualità sociale.

**Italia: il Semestre europeo e a conferenza di Roma**

Promossa da Eurispes, Fondazione F. Ebert e UILPA la conferenza di Roma 2014 intende offrire un contributo alla *Presidenza Italiana del Semestre europeo*. Essa si pone l’obbiettivo di aprire nuovi scenari sia teorici che pratici e di indicare una via di uscita alle grandi incertezze del pensiero scientifico e politico attuale, indirizzando lo sviluppo italiano ed europeo su percorsi innovativi più rispondenti ad una visione equilibrata del progresso umano e del rapporto tra l’uomo ed il suo ambiente.

 Gian Maria Fara Michael Braun Benedetto Attili

1 - PRESENTAZIONE

Contributo della Associazione Internazionale sulla Qualità Sociale – IASQ

L’Aja, Amsterdam (Olanda)
Direttore: Laurent van der Maesen

1. **Introduzione**

Nel Trattato di Lisbona del 2007 l’Unione Europea ha sancito solennemente che gli obiettivi di tutti gli Stati Membri sono la sostenibilità generale dello sviluppo e la coesione effettiva del sistema dell’UE e, quindi, l’impegno a rafforzare la condizione sociale dei cittadini europei, il sistema democratico e il dialogo sociale. Legata a questi obiettivi è l’idea di un comune ‘Modello Sociale Europeo’. Quali sono, a questo riguardo, I principali problemi e le sfide per l’Unione Europea ed I suoi Stati Membri? Questo riferimento è ancora valido? Per risolvere questi problemi ed affrontare queste sfide, stanno emergendo negli Stati Membri dei nuovi modelli di riferimento, orientamenti e pratiche? Queste tre domande sono importanti anche in relazione a problemi analoghi presenti in altri continenti.

In questo breve contributo, preparato per la Conferenza di Roma, la IASQ presenta gli elementi di alcune risposte a queste domande sulla base del lavoro svolto fin dal 1997, fin dalla presidenza olandese della UE. È a quella data che risale la costituzione della Fondazione Europea sulla Qualità Sociale – EFSQ. Da allora, queste problematiche sono state affrontate con il sostegno di diverse direzioni generali della Commissione Europea, del Governo olandese del tempo, con lo sviluppo di circa cinquanta progetti finanziati su fondi di diversa natura, con il contributo d’idee di diverse università europee e, dal 2007, di università dell’Asia e dell’Australia. Un ulteriore contributo è venuto dalla collaborazione ufficiale avviata con l’Istituto Internazionale di Studi Sociali – **ISS** dell’Aja e con l’**Eurispes** di Roma (vedi i riferimenti nel “Documento storico sull’approccio alla Qualità Sociale”, Ottobre 2014). Le riflessioni sul tema sono state anche pubblicate in tre libri principali, circa venti edizioni del *Giornale Europeo sulla Qualità Sociale* – successivamente diventato *Giornale Internazionale sulla Qualità Sociale* – e in tredici quaderni di lavoro.

A seguito delle nuove sfide legate alla diffusione di questo approccio scientifico alla realtà asiatica, la EFSQ è stata trasformata in IASQ con sede ad Amsterdam/L’Aja. Nello stesso periodo è stata promossa a Roma la costituzione dell’Osservatorio Europeo sulla Qualità Sociale – EOSQ, mentre in Asia è stato costituito l’Osservatorio Asiatico sulla Qualità Sociale – AOSQ, con sede di Hangzhou (Cina). La Conferenza di Roma del 31 ottobre 2014 è intesa come l’avvio formale dell’Osservatorio Europeo.

* 1. **Problemi e sfide attuali (prima questione)**

‘Il mondo accademico’ registra una grave frammentazione tra e all’interno delle discipline scientifiche. Manca una teoria ‘generale’ che possa contribuire a una visione dell’Europa come parte molto importante e ispiratrice nel mondo. Come rafforzare al livello europeo gli strumenti politici di intervento e nello stesso tempo migliorare le condizioni sociali delle persone nelle città e nelle loro comunità? In effetti la frammentazione del mondo scientifico è in un certo senso sostenuta dalle stesse procedure della Commissione Europea (DG Ricerca) a causa degli orientamenti seguiti nei progetti europei di ricerca. Tali orientamenti non affrontano una simile frammentazione, al contrario. Di fatto anche un ‘orientamento interdisciplinare’ che non faccia riferimento ad una teoria generale resta una parola vuota. Nello stesso tempo la Commissione Europea ritiene che “operare come di consueto” non sia sufficiente; che “cambiamenti progressivi e piccoli aggiustamenti, all’attuale quadro delle politiche, non sono sufficienti” (2011). Abbiamo bisogno di nuovi approcci per poter capire il mondo in cui stiamo vivendo. Ciononostante la Commissione stessa fa continuamente riferimento alla ‘Qualità della Vita’ o al ‘Capitale Sociale’ con un tipo di approccio orientato agli stili di vita di tipo individuale; inoltre manca di elaborazione teorica in grado di affrontare i cambiamenti strutturali del nostro tempo.

I problemi e le sfide dell’Unione Europea riguardano almeno **tre ambiti diversi** che richiedono una interrelazione necessaria per dare un contributo costruttivo al progresso della Politica e delle Politiche:

* Lo sviluppo di una **sostenibilità** generale (a livello continentale e globale)
* Un adeguamento delle **complessità sociali** degli Stati Membri (con riferimento alle diverse aree politiche di intervento) in grado di rispettare comunque le compatibilità ambientali
* Un forte sostegno ad uno **sviluppo urbano sostenibile** delle metropoli e città europee

I problemi e/o le sfide? Una rassegna provvisoria fa riferimento a **quattro dimensioni**:

* Le radicali trasformazioni nel settore della conoscenza e delle informazioni, per impulso della rivoluzione informatica ICT e, di conseguenza, gli effetti politici che esse producono nella produzione e riproduzione dei rapporti sociali delle persone. Ciò richiede una ridefinizione dei rapporti tra governati e governanti. I primi sempre meno sono disposti a dar valore alle affermazioni dei secondi (**dimensione socio-politica/legale**)
* L’invecchiamento della popolazione e le questioni collegate alla salute, i problemi attuali legati alla parità di genere, i flussi migratori, la multiculturalità crescente delle città e delle metropoli, l’aumento di efficienza della criminalità internazionale organizzata (**dimensione** **socio-culturale/welfare**)
* La predominanza dell’attuale paradigma economico, che è staccato dai valori umani e naturali, impedisce la costruzione di un positivo rapporto fra questi tre ambiti. Incorporando gli elementi della rivoluzione informatica per costruire specifiche forme di rapporti produttivi, l’attuale paradigma economico finisce per causare milioni di disoccupati, aumentare le diseguaglianze nelle disponibilità finanziarie, causare forme di precarietà e contribuire a un’eccessiva mercificazione (**dimensione** **socio-economica/finanziaria**)
* Le attuali difficoltà a limitare una sovrabbondanza di beni e prodotti legati allo spreco, di rafforzare la giustizia sociale e la solidarietà, sia a livello europeo che globale, come pure difendere la dignità umana e ad aumentare le capacità umane di sapersi orientare per un tipo di sviluppo orientato ad una sostenibilità generale (**dimensione socio-ambientale**)
	1. **Il pensiero della Qualità Sociale e le connesse attività di ricerca**

Nel ‘pensiero’ tradizionale europeo come pure nel suo ‘sistema decisionale’, le questioni, i problemi, i fatti negativi e le sfide sono connesse ad una supposta dualità non risolvibile tra ‘l’economico’ e un non ben definito ‘sociale’. Ciò provoca enormi ostacoli ad un diverso modo di pensare in grado di affermarsi al di fuori di questa dualità. Il pensiero relativo alla Qualità Sociale è emerso col tempo da una più ampia tradizione umanistica. Esso può essere inteso come un’alternativa ai prevalenti orientamenti individualistici e utilitaristici. Il punto di partenza è stata la riflessione teorica sulla parola ‘sociale’. L’obbiettivo era quello di superare le maggiori incertezze su questo punto delle scienze sociali (e di quelle economiche), per il paradosso che il termine stesso ‘sociale’ ancora oggi non risulta ben definito. Secondo la Teoria della Qualità Sociale ‘il sociale’ è il risultato della dialettica tra i processi di autorealizzazione delle persone, come esseri sociali, e la formazione delle identità collettive. Ciò porta come risultato a porre l’attenzione sulla valutazione della produzione, la riproduzione delle relazioni sociali. In base a quest’idea, la stessa economia non è che un aspetto del sociale. I continui cambiamenti che risultano da questa dialettica possono essere distinti analiticamente e analizzati in base a tre serie di fattori e con i loro relativi strumenti: questa è **l’architettura della Qualità Sociale**.

***Fattori costitutivi fattori condizionanti fattori normativi***

*(processi) (opportunità + contingenze) (orientamenti)*

*sicurezza personal (umana) sicurezza socio-economica giustizia sociale (eguaglianza)*

*riconoscimento sociale coesione sociale solidarità*

*responsabilità sociale inclusione sociale valori di eguaglianza*

*capacità personale (umana) rafforzamento sociale dignità umana*

*strumenti di interventp (****profili)*** *strumenti di* ***indicatori*** *per strumenti di* ***criteri*** *per valutare*

*per qualificare i cambiamenti comprendere i cambiamenti gli effetti delle interrelazioni*

 *dei fattori costituzionali dei fattori condizionanti nei cambiamenti dei fattori*

 *condizionali e costituzionali*

Questo approccio – la sua teoria, metodologia e applicazione pratica – va oltre il tradizionale modo di pensare occidentale (riguardo, ad esempio, lo stato sociale e il ‘Modello Sociale Europeo’) e ciò per tre motivi:

* Perché tutti e dodici i concetti di questa architettura della Qualità Sociale sono collegati alla definizione di ‘sociale’. Per questa ragione i suddetti concetti sono intrinsecamente collegati fra loro, diversamente da quanto avviene con altri tipi di approccio. Per la realtà europea non è importante solo la coesione, ma sono importanti tutti gli ambiti delle tre serie di fattori sopra descritte
* Perché questo approccio distingue con chiarezza gli aspetti individuali, sociali ed etici. Una tale distinzione è unica nel suo genere e serve a collegare e valutare la posizione delle persone nella vita sociale in rapporto a quanto emerge dall’esame dei fattori normativi
* Perché gli strumenti di queste tre serie di fattori possono essere applicati nell’analisi degli effetti delle interrelazioni che emergono dalla suddetta dialettica tra le **due dimensioni di base**:
a) orizzontale (fra sistemi e comunità) e b) verticale (tra le complessità sociali e gli sviluppi delle singole biografie degli individui). Questo è un punto di partenza sconosciuto che serve a collegare le analisi delle quattro dimensioni e dei tre ambiti principali.

In questo modo noi disponiamo di un tipo di approccio che può analizzare e collegare i cambiamenti nelle quattro dimensioni, svolgere un ruolo costruttivo nei tre ambiti principali; un approccio con il quale comprendere in modo generale le trasformazioni strutturali che avvengono negli ambiti sopra descritti.

* 1. **Collegare le analisi della Qualità Sociale (ad-3) e i cambiamenti sociali (ad-2)**

La figura seguente illustra la posizione dei tre ambiti da analizzare e collegare con l’aiuto dell’architettura della Qualità Sociale: ciò per comprendere, in modo interconnesso, i cambiamenti che avvengono al loro interno. Come risultato di questa impostazione concettuale, lo stesso concetto di ‘indicatore’ ne esce rafforzato. Generalmente questo termine si riferisce – vedi la misura del PIL o l’indice sullo Sviluppo Umano – agli strumenti di monitoraggio. Gli **indicatori della Qualità Sociale** (insieme ai profili e ai criteri) si riferiscono, in termini teorici, a tutti gli aspetti dell’architettura sopra descritta, basata su un concetto onnicomprensivo di ‘sociale’. Tali indicatori sono al momento applicati in quattordici Stati Membri dell’UE, in Asia e in Australia. Essi vanno oltre gli strumenti specifici e settoriali di monitoraggio e, di conseguenza, rendono possibile un confronto dei risultati fra aree di intervento politico del tutto diverse fra loro, come dei processi che si sviluppano all’interno dei tre diversi ambiti sopra descritti. Ciò non è possibile con uno strumento specifico di monitoraggio che in realtà non è un vero e proprio indicatore.

Come risultato di questa capacità di analisi, possiamo comprendere il cambiamento della ‘coesione sociale’, della ‘inclusione sociale’ o della ‘sicurezza socio-economica’ in un modo interconnesso e in relazione, ad esempio, al deterioramento o al miglioramento delle condizioni sociali o della dignità umana. Dal momento che le complessità sociali si realizzano nel contesto urbano (come lo spazio destinato ad accogliere nel prossimo futuro l’80 per cento dell’umanità), comprendere i processi che si svolgono in entrambi gli ambiti diventa una condizione per sapere se si stanno facendo progressi in termini di sostenibilità generale. La connessione fra i tre diversi ambiti manca, in effetti, nel dibattito sulla sostenibilità globale. Questo tema sta guadagnando tuttavia nuovi significati dal momento che si riconosce sempre di più che questo principio orientativo – la sostenibilità – non riguarda in via principale solo l’ambiente. Siamo cioè di fronte all’ovvia necessità di comprendere la sostenibilità in termini molto più ampi. Ciò riguarda, in particolare, la natura e quantità della produzione e riproduzione dei rapporti sociali tra le persone come parte di un più ampio ecosistema.

***Sviluppo/cambiamento sostenibilità generale***

 ***delle complessità sociali*** *(trends & contraddizioni) (ii)*

 *(trends & contraddizioni) (i)*

***innovazione sociale***

***(ICT) e strategie***

***relative alle quattro Qualità Sociale***

***dimensioni:*** *(teoria, metodologia*

***socio-politica/legale*** *applicazione politica)* ***confronto***

***socio-culturale/welfare, con altri***

***socio-economica/finanziaria, approcci****(iv)*

***socio-ambientale****(iii)*

 *qualità della vita*

 *capitale sociale*

  ***Sviluppo Urbano Sostenibile*** *(v)**sicurezza umana*

 *(trends & contraddizioni) capability*

 *armonia sociale*

 ***diffusione***

 ***architettura Qualità Sociale***

* 1. **Per una nuova politica e nuove politiche (seconda e terza questione)**

Su eventuale incarico di strutture europee nazionali e regionali potremmo riorganizzare le ipotesi che sono collegate all’idea di ‘Modello Sociale Europeo’. Utilizzando il pensiero (teorico e pratico) della Qualità Sociale, potremmo approfondire la nostra comprensione di quanto accade nelle quattro dimensioni e nei tre ambiti sopra descritti, con riferimento alle loro interrelazioni. Ciò differisce dall’idea della Banca Mondiale relativa alla divisione tra ‘Stato, Mercato e Società Civile’ che confonde i meccanismi e i processi importanti che si svolgono nelle quattro dimensioni. La Banca Mondiale respinge anche il riferimento alla ‘produzione e riproduzione dei rapporti delle persone’, come presentata dall’approccio della Qualità Sociale. Un’analoga confusione emerge nel tradizione dibattito sulla sostenibilità, in relazione al richiamo alle sue tre dimensioni: economica, sociale, ambientale (vedi Brundtland, Sen etc.). Questa ‘dimensione sociale’ risulta essere come qualcosa di residuo, di tutto ciò che non è economico, né ambientale. L’approccio della Qualità Sociale presenta un’alternativa legata alle dimensioni socio-politica/legale e socio-culturale/welfare.

**Noi vorremmo**: fare nuovi progressi riguardo l’idea del ‘Modello Sociale Europeo’. È riconosciuto, sia nel mondo occidentale che orientale, che i cittadini e le comunità locali potrebbero svolgere un ruolo essenziale nel realizzare le condizioni per uno sviluppo urbano sostenibile. A questo riguardo, non solo dovremmo rafforzare la *governance*,che è una **questione politica** relativa ad una crescente accessibilità ai meccanismi istituzionali di governo, ma anche dovremmo organizzare nuovi meccanismi in grado di andare oltre le stesse strutture istituzionali democratiche per promuovere un ruolo sociale molto più attivo e responsabile da parte dei cittadini nell’affrontare i problemi quotidiani. A questo scopo sono necessari anche nuovi strumenti per la comunicazione. La tecnologia ICT può essere molto utile per lo sviluppo di nuove forme di comunicazione.

**Noi vorremmo**: promuovere una nuova visione sugli aspetti che riguardano il **rapporto tra cultura e welfare**. La tendenza generale nel mondo occidentale, a riorganizzare i sistemi di sicurezza e gli interventi in materia di welfare, sotto l’egida di una mercificazione e, nel mondo orientale, a collegare strettamente tali interventi all’acquisizione di vantaggi nella competizione globale, tende a rafforzare in entrambi i casi la prospettiva individualistica e utilitaristica della vita. Quando noi parliamo di investimenti sociali dovremmo farlo solo in termini di investimenti in qualità sociale, il cui valore richiede qualcosa di ben diverso dell’analisi costi-benefici utilizzati dai tradizionali sistemi sociali e dagli interventi per il welfare.

**Noi vorremmo**: una nuova visione (cambio di parametri di riferimento) e una nuova organizzazione dei **processi economici** per assicurare agli individui nuove forme di occupazione, combattendo il fenomeno crescente non solo delle persone che sono senza una casa ma anche delle persone che rischiano di entrare in questa situazione (poveri, nuovi poveri, persone a rischio di povertà). Questo implica anche un nuovo modo di fare sindacalismo – ad esempio attraverso un’analisi dei punti critici del funzionamento del mercato del lavoro e dello sviluppo della società – ponendo maggiore enfasi sulle criticità legate al fatto che un numero sempre maggiore di uomini e donne è presente nelle occupazioni atipiche e che è spinto a costruirsi delle protezioni sociali al di fuori del mercato del lavoro. Questi processi richiedono interventi non solo nell’ambito economico, ma anche in altri ambiti collegati – con riferimento ad esempio ai valori umani e naturali.

**Noi vorremmo**: nuovi orientamenti al livello di politiche nazioni, regionali e locali, in grado di promuovere strategie capaci di stimolare **processi ambientali** costruiti sulla connessione tra i tre ambiti (sostenibilità generale, cambiamenti delle complessità sociali, sviluppo urbano sostenibile), sostenuti dai decisori politici.

**L’Unione Europea potrebbe invitare il nuovo Osservatorio Europeo sulla Qualità Sociale a intraprendere – in collaborazione con le diverse università europee – un’azione finalizzata a modernizzare l’idea originale del ‘Modello Sociale Europeo’ secondo i nuovi approcci e strategie che riguardano i quattro temi principali sopra descritti, incorporando le nuove idee – che stanno già emergendo da tempo – nell’ambito europeo e tra i suoi Stati Membri.**

1 - PRESENTATION

A European conference enhancing the idea of the ’European Social Model’ with support by the new ‘social quality approach:
The start of the European Observatory on Social Quality (EOSQ)
Rome, 31st October 2014

***A Background Paper by the International Association on Social Quality (IASQ)***

1. **Introduction**

In the Lisbon Treaty of 2007 the European Union solemnly declared the aim of all Member States on the development of overall sustainability, the effective consistency of the European system and thus a contribution to the social empowerment of EU-citizens strengthening democracy and social dialogue. Referred is also to the idea of a common ‘European Social Model’. What are the main problems and challenges of the EU and its Member States? In line with this, is this reference still valid? Are models, approaches and guidelines emerging within the EU Member States to deal with these problems and challenges? These three questions are also relevant for other continents.

In this short conference’s Background Paper the IASQ presents the contours of some answers to these questions based on its work since the Dutch Presidency of the EU in 1997. At that time it started as the European Foundation on Social Quality (EFSQ). With support by different DG’s of the European Commission, the Dutch Government (at that time), a manifold of funds for financing its more or less fifty projects, the inspiring support by European (and since 2007) Asian and Australian universities and the official collaboration with the International Institute of Social Studies **(ISS)** in The Hague and **Eurispes** in Rome, addresses these issues (see the ‘History Document’ about the social quality approach’, October 2014). Reflections on this are published in three main books and about twenty issues of the European Journal of Social Quality and its successor the International Journal of Social Quality as well as thirteen working papers.

Due to the new challenges and the extension of this approach to the Asia-Pacific the EFSQ was transformed in the IASQ, located in Amsterdam/The Hague. Europe initiated the European Observatory on Social Quality (EOSQ), located in Rome. For Asia a start is made with the Asian Observatory on Social Quality (AOSQ), located in Hangzhou. The Rome conference of 31st October may be appreciated as the formal start of the European Observatory.

* 1. **Current problems and/or challenges (first question)**

The ‘academic world’ notices a strong fragmentation between and also within the scientific disciplines. Lacking is a ‘encompassing’ theory contributing to a vision for the EU as a highly important and inspirational part of the world. How to strengthen the political instruments on European level as well as the social empowerment of people in cities and their communities? The academic fragmentation is in fact supported by the procedures of the European Commission (DG Research) with regard to European oriented research projects. It does not address this fragmentation, on the contrary. Also ‘interdisciplinary orientation’ without an encompassing theory remains a catchword. At the same time the European Commission argues, that ‘business as usual’ is not enough: incremental changes, small adjustments to the current policy framework will not do the job” (2011). We need new approaches in order to understand the world we are living in. Notwithstanding this, the Commission itself incessantly refers to ‘quality of life’ or ‘social capital’ which as approaches are oriented on individual lifestyles and lack the theoretical capacities to address transformative structural changes.

The EU’s problems and/or challenges regard at least **three different fields** which demand for an interrelation in order to contribute constructively to politics and policies to make progress:

* The development toward overall (continental and global) **sustainability,**
* The adjustment of **societal complexities** (and the manifold of policy areas) of the Member States, also to remain within the natural resilient boundaries.
* A strong support **to sustainable urban development** of metropolis and cities in Europe.

The problems and/or challenges? A provisional overview refers to **four dimensions:**

* The radical transformation of the generation of knowledge and information, also by the ICT-revolution and, thus, the political based productive and reproductive relationships of people. It is therefore redefining the relationship between governed and the governing. The former no longer going to be willing to take at face value the presumptions of the latter **(socio-political/legal)**.
* The increase of ageing and related health questions, modern gender questions, the waves of migrants, the growing multiculturality of cities and metropolis, the increase of efficient forms of international organized criminality **(socio-cultural/welfare)**.
* The dominance of the current economic paradigm, which is declutched from human and natural values, and therefore preventing a positive interrelationship of these three fields. It incorporates the ICT-revolution for constructing a specific form of production relations, causing millions unemployed people, increasing financial based inequalities, causing forms of precarity and contributing to an accent on marketization **(socio-economic/financial)**.
* The current difficulties to prevent an abundance of productive resources that is wasted and to enhance social justice, and solidarity on European and global level as well as to strengthen human dignity and increasing human capabilities as orientation for the development toward overall sustainability **(socio-environmental).**
	1. **The social quality thinking and its research activities**

In traditional European ‘thinking’ and ‘policy-making’ the questions, problems, negative facts and challenges are related with a non-defendable supposed duality between the ‘economic’ and the non-defined ‘social’. This causes an immense barrier for thinking out of the box. Social quality thinking emerged from a wider humanist tradition. It may be appreciated as an alternative of the individualist and utilitarian orientation. It started to theorise the noun of ‘the social’. This is geared to overcome a major weakness of social (including economic) science, namely the paradox that the term social itself is actually not defined. According this theory, ‘the social’ is the outcome of the **dialectic** between the processes of self-realisation of people (as social beings) and the formation of collective identities. This will result into the productive and reproductive relationships of people. With this in mind economics is an aspect of ‘the social’. The endless changing outcomes of this dialectic can be analytical distinguished and analysed by three set of factors and their instruments, **the social quality architecture.**

***constitutional factors conditional factors normative factors***

*(processes) (opportunities + contingencies) (orientation)*

*personal (human) security socio-economic security social justice (equity)*

*social recognition social cohesion solidarity*

*social responsiveness social inclusion equal value*

*personal (human) capacity social empowerment human dignity*

*instruments of* ***profiles*** *for the instruments of* ***indicators*** *for instruments of* ***criteria*** *to judge*

*qualification of the changes understanding the changes the outcomes of the linking of*

 *of the constitutional factors of the conditional factors the changes of the conditional*

 *and the constitutional factors*

This approach (its theory, methodology and policy application) transcends the traditional Western discourses (concerning for example the welfare state and the European Social Model) in three ways:

* Since all twelve concepts of this **social quality architecture** are related to the definition of ‘the social’. Therefore all these concepts are intrinsically related, unlike in other approaches. For Europe, not only ‘cohesion’ is important but all domains of the three sets of factors are equally crucial,
* Since this approach clearly distinguishes an individual, a societal and an ethical aspect. Such a distinction is unique and connects the position of people in societal circumstances which can be judged with the normative factors.
* Since the instruments of these three sets of factors may be applied for analysing the results of the interference of the above mentioned dialectic and the interplay between **two basic tensions:** (i) the horizontal (between systems and communities) and (i) the vertical (between societal complexities and biographical developments). This is an unknown point of departure to connect analyses of the four dimensions and the three main fields.

In this way we dispose of an approach which may analyse and connect the changes in the four dimensions, playing a constitutive role in the three main fields, with which to understand the transformative structural changes of these fields in a comprehensive way.

* 1. **Connecting social quality analyses (ad-3) and societal challenges (ad-2)**

The following figure illustrates the position of the three fields, to be analysed and connected with the help of the social quality architecture for understanding the changes in these fields in an interconnected way. As a result of its conceptual framework the concept of ‘indicator’ is enhanced. Usually it refers to - and see the measurements of GDP or the Human Index - ‘monitoring devices’. The **social quality indicators** (and profiles and criteria) are theoretically related with all aspects of the architecture, based on the concept of ‘the social’. They are applied in fourteen Member States, and in Asia and Australia. They go beyond ‘sectoral specific monitoring devices’ and therefore enable a comparison of outcomes of totally different policy areas, as well as processes in the three different fields. This is not possible with specific monitoring devices which therefore are not really ‘indicators’.

As a result of this capacity we can understand the change of ‘social cohesion’ and ‘social inclusion’ or ‘socio-economic security’ in a connected way in relation with e.g. the decrease or increase of social empowerment or human dignity. Since societal complexities are realised in the urban context (as the space of 80 per cent of mankind in the near future) understanding processes in both fields are a condition to know whether we are make progress with overall sustainability. The connection of these three fields is missing in the global sustainability debate. This issue gains therefore a new significance as it is increasingly recognised as matter that does not primarily concern the environment. Instead we are obviously facing the need to understand sustainability in a much wider sense. It is being concerned with the entity of people’s production and reproduction as part of an overall eco-system.

***Development/change overall sustainability***

 ***of societal complexities*** *(trends & contradictions) (ii)*

 *(trends & contradictions) (i)*

***societal innovation***

***(ICT) and strategies***

***concerning four Social quality***

***dimensions:*** *(theory, methodology*

***socio-political/legal*** *policy-application)* ***comparison***

***socio-cultural/welfare, with other***

***socio-economic/financial, approaches****(iv)*

***socio-environmental*** *(iii)*

 *quality of life*

 *social capital*

  ***sustainable urban development*** *(v)**human security*

 *(trends & contradictions) capability*

 *Social harmony*

 ***dissemination***

 ***social quality architecture***

* 1. **For new politics and policies (the second and third question)**

On behalf of the European, national and local level we should rearticulate the assumptions, underlying the idea of the ‘European Social Model’. With support of social quality thinking (theoretical and practical) we may deepen our understanding of the four dimensions and the three fields and their interconnectedness. This differs from the World Bank’s idea of the division between ‘state, market and civil society’ which confuses mechanisms and processes relevant in the four dimensions. The World Bank also rejects the meaning of the ‘productive and reproductive relationships of people’, as presented in the social quality approach. A comparable confusion takes place in the traditional debate on sustainability with its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental (Brundtland, Sen cs). The ‘social dimension’ is a rag back of everything non-economic and non-environmental. The social quality approach presents an alternative, namely the socio-political/legal and the socio-cultural/welfare dimensions.

**We need**: to make a new step concerning the idea of the European Social Model. Politically it is recognized that as well in the West as in the East citizens of local communities should play an essential role for realizing sustainable urban conditions. Not only do we need a strengthening of ‘governance’ as a **political** **matter** of increasing accessibility of institutional mechanisms of government. We also need new mechanisms that allows bypassing democratic structures for really stimulating the social empowerment of citizens in order to play their responsible role in daily circumstances. Therefore new instruments for communication are a condition. The ICT may be very useful for its development of communication.

**We need**: a new vision for the **cultural/welfare** **aspects**. The overall trend of reorganizing security systems and welfare provisions in the Western World under the aegis of marketization and in the Eastern World, strongly linked to the push towards gaining advantage in global competition, in both cases are in effect increasing the individualist and utilitarian perspective on life. If we talk about societal investments at all we should only do so as matter of investing in social quality, not as matter of cost-benefit analysis of security systems and welfare provisions.

**We need**: a new vision (paradigm shift) and application of **economic aspects** securing a living with the help of new forms of employment and combatting that an increasing number of people is not just homeless but ‘settled into homelessness’. This also implies a new understanding of syndicalism, thoroughly analysing the critical developments on labour markets and in society, putting more emphasis on the representation of men and women in atypical employment and the societal contributions made outside of labour markets. These should be supportive economics for also the three interrelated fields, addressing human and natural values.

**We need**: a new orientation on local, regional and national politics on strategies for stimulating **environmental processes** that constructively connect all three fields (overall sustainability, change of societal complexities and sustainable urban development), which politics should be strongly supported by processes, mentioned in the above three issues.

**The European Union may invite the new European Observatory on Social Quality to start – in connection with a manifold of universities in Europe – to modernise the original idea of a European Social Model in new approaches and strategies addressing these four issues, also incorporating already emerging good ideas in Europe and its Member States.**

2 - THE HISTORY OF SOCIAL QUALITY APPROACH

From the European Foundation to the International Association on Social Quality

This working paper distinguishes **four stages** of the social quality approach (SQA) with regard to the (i) social quality theory (SQT), (ii) the social quality methodology (SQM) and (iii) the social quality policy application (SQAP). The results may be appreciated as a collective endeavour by a large number of scientists in Europe, Asia and Australia, inspired to give new answers to current and upcoming societal questions and aiming to contribute from the ‘academic world’ to the development toward overall sustainability. This also implies new politics and policies to realize adequate societal circumstances (complexities) in a sustainable urban context.

* 1. **The pre- and the first stage leading to the idea of social quality (1995-2001)**

In the 1990s many European scientists (economists, political scientists, sociologists, social-policy and public health scientists) criticized the ‘one-sidedness’ of the European unification and the lack of an adequate theory to fill this gap. The **first book** on social quality, published in 1997 by the new European Foundation on Social Quality (EFSQ) addresses this[[1]](#footnote-1). The authors argued that due to the exclusive focus on economic and monetary issues of the European Union it was moving towards a policy deadlock. The call for a creative dialogue between policy-makers oriented on economic policies and those of all other policies to enable acceptable societal circumstances – the sine qua non of a citizen’s Europe – demands a clear focus and a realistic vision which sets aside the traditional duality between economic and all other policies. Based on empirical explorations in Europe, the first book presented **preliminary ideas** to change this narrow focus, which is based on the dominant utilitarian neo-liberal orientation. The plea for new policies is summarized in the **Amsterdam Declaration on Social Quality**, discussed during the Dutch Presidency of the EU in June 1997. It was presented to the President of the European parliament in October 1997 and supported by more than 1000 scientists from all over Europe. To transcend this non-defendable duality implies a new understanding of ‘the social’, which encompasses socio-economic/financial, socio-political/legal, socio-cultural/welfare and socio-environmental aspects (or dimensions) of societal circumstances (and their complexities). A start was made to theorize ‘the social’ and to compare this with other approaches as: quality of life, social capital, human development, capability, human security and (later) social harmony. Social quality scholars were raising unprecedented questions on the significance on the adjective ‘’social” used by policy-makers advocating ‘social progress’. They claim that ‘the social’ as noun does not describe an independent identity nor an aggregate of individuals. It is a result of the never ending dialectic between processes of self-realization of people (as social beings) and the formation of collective identities, resulting into the ‘productive and reproductive interrelationships of people in everyday life’. This assumption rejects the utilitarian points of departure. These scholars and a number of EU civil servants contributed to the ‘social quality conference’ of the Social Democratic Party of the European Parliament. This marked the launch of the European Journal of Social Quality and a manifold of European workshops and projects.

* 1. **The second stage resulting into the first design of the social quality approach (2001-2006)**

The kick-off was the presentation of the second **book** enhancing the social quality theory, oriented on the nature and change of many policy areas in the EU: public health, employment, income, aging, urban context, housing, welfare provisions etc.[[2]](#footnote-2) One of the main objectives here was to enhance the ‘social empowerment’ of people to play a responsible role in the constitution of their daily circumstances in the manifold of policy areas in an urban context. The realisation of ‘the social’ takes place in the interplay of two basic tensions: between political systems, institutions, companies etc and the circumstances of families, communities etc (horizontal) on the one side and the development of societal complexities and biographical developments on the other (vertical). The book seemed to inspire the European Commission to adopt the social quality approach in their ‘social agenda for Europe’. However, in the end the EC failed to grasp the essence of the new interpretation of ‘the social’ and maintained the duality of ‘the economic’ and ‘the social’. Furthermore two projects financed by the EC and participating universities were based on the book: the application of this first design on the policy area of **employment** in nine Member-States as well as the construction and application of **social quality indicators** in fourteen Member States to understand the changes of policy areas in these States. Finally empirical oriented projects started concerning urban strategies, public health, aging and the role of citizens. This work and all related expert-meetings and workshops all over Europe enabled collaboration with the Italian Institute for Economic, Political and Social Research, **Eurispes.** Especially this institute organized various European conferences on the ‘European Social Model’ and the relation with the social quality approach.

* 1. **The third stage and extension to Asian and Australian universities (2006-2011)**

The third stage is marked by the start of a ‘permanent European expert-group’ to operationalize the design of the social quality approach. This was complemented by the work of an ‘International expert-group’ oriented on comparative research with the ‘human security approach‘, stimulated by a new project-collaboration between the EFSQ and the international **Institute of Social Studies** (ISS) in The Hague, formally

agreed at the end of 2007. Extra attention was dedicated to the approach of public health in the UK and The Netherlands and the analysis and contribution to urban strategies of the Dutch city of The Hague. Essential for this work was the extension of the collaboration with Asian and Australian universities resulting in a number of international conferences on social quality in Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea, Hong Kong and mainland China and the launch of the **Asian Consortium for Social Quality** (ACSQ). This enabled explorations between Dutch urban strategies and the strategies of the Chinese metropolis Hangzhou, in the framework of a collaboration with **Zhejiang University**. Especially the Asian-Australian universities started to adjust the social quality indicators to societal circumstances (complexities) of their regions and they organized two series of surveys in seven Asian-Australian regions, under the methodological lead of National Seoul University. This extension of the social quality work stimulated four new types of activities. First to connect the social quality approach with the urgent issue of overall sustainability, followed by the establishment of a Dutch ‘think-tank sustainability’, preparing a working paper to be sent to participants of the UN-conference on sustainability in Rio de Janeiro, June 2012. In this paper the IASQ criticized the traditional distinction in the global debate on sustainability between the ‘economic, social and environmental dimension’. From a social quality perspective the ‘social dimension’ is a rag bag of everything non- economic or environmental. In the working paper this non-existent dimension is changed in two other dimensions: the socio-political/legal and the socio-cultural/welfare dimensions. Second, the increase of the attention for ‘sustainable urban development’, also thanks to the work carried out in The Hague and Hangzhou and following the UN-Habitat. In the Hague this resulted in participation to a ‘demonstration project sustainable urban development’ supported by the European Commission and the Municipality. In China this was followed by participation in a Chinese-European project on environmental protection: the Jiaxing model. Third, the transformation of the European Journal into the **International Journal of Social Quality** supported by Zhejiang University, followed by comparative work on policy areas in European countries and beyond (urban strategies, migration, public health, ageing, income and employment) with the social quality approach.

* 1. **The fourth stage (2011 and further)**

The results of this empirical work (see third stage) were theorized again to deliver new input for policy-makers. The results were published in 2012 in the main **third book** on social quality[[3]](#footnote-3). It implied an important and serious turnover of the approach. First, the social quality approach should be oriented on main challenges seen in a global perspective with regard to: (i) the development and change of societal complexities, (ii) the overall sustainability and (iii) sustainable urban development, as well as their interrelationships. Second, to change the original focus on affairs of the European Union into European, Asian, and Australian affairs (and potentially to other continental processes as well) from this global perspective. Third, to analyse changes of policy areas in societies on local level from this perspective and not ‘as such’. The underlying argument is to really understand daily circumstances as a

consequence of encompassing trends and contradictions. Furthermore, the urgency for this turnover is strengthened by the ICT-revolution which will radically transform the generation of knowledge and information and, thus, the productive and reproductive relationships of people. For example the internet is changing the production and distribution of goods and services (and therefore the nature and organization of employment, see the project precarity) but also redefining the relationship between governed and the governing. The former are no longer going to be willing to take at face value the presumptions of the latter. With this in mind, the main theme of social quality – strengthening ‘social empowerment’ of people in order to create a sustainable world stimulating social justice, solidarity, human dignity and human capacities (the four normative factors of social quality) – will get new significance. The current projects are redefined in this context and the European Foundation was therefore altered in the **International Association on Social Quality** (IASQ). It initiated the start of a European Observatory on Social Quality (located in Rome) and an Asian Observatory on Social Quality (located in Hangzhou) as successor of the Asian Consortium. The aim is that both are especially supported by respectively the La Sapienza University and the Zhejiang University and their ‘interdisciplinary social quality teams’. Schematically this is represented as follows:

***General Agreement (2007)***

***+ General Protocol (2014)***

***+ business-plan (2014)***

IASQ ISS

ISS

 ***Interdisciplinary Interdisciplinary***

 ***team team***

 ***Zhejiang Univ. La Sapienza***

***international***

 ***journal of SQ***

EOSQ of European universities (Eurispes)

AOSQ of Asian universities

***AOSQ-projects IASQ-global EOSQ-projects***

***projects***

* 1. **Social Quality – Major Steps in the Development: synthetic framework**

**1992**

*Projects*

6 Dutch symposia on the future of the WU welfare state

3 expert workshops on the socio-economic transformation of Europe

*Meetings - Events*

Gathering of Critical Voices in the frame work of the European Observatory on Social Exclusion and on Older People

**1997**

*Organisation*

Public Launch of the European Foundation on Social Quality in Amsterdam, financed by SISWO and with support of numerous universities

*Major Publications and public events*

Amsterdam Declaration

Book on “The Social Quality of Europe”

from **1999**

The Voice of Civil Europe – a dialogue of Dutch NGOs, coordinated by the EFSQ

*Major Publication*

“European Journal of Social Quality”

**2000**

*Organisation*

Collaboration with the Felix Meritis Foundation, Amsterdam

Contacts with representatives of the European Commission

From 2000: Comparison with approaches as quality of life etc.

## *Projects*

Research projects in the areas of public health, aging, employment, urban contexts, role of citizens

*Mayor events*

Workshops on theorising social quality

*Publications*

Contribution during a conference at the European Parliament on “the Social Quality of Europe”, organised by the Socialist Group

**2001**

*Projects*

Research on the Policy Area of Employment – A Project concerning 9 member states

ENIQ – European Network Indicators of Social Quality

*Publication*

Book on “A New Vision for Europe”

**2005**

*Publication*

From 2005 “European Journal of Social Quality” becomes the “International Journal of Social Quality”

**2006**

*Organisation*

Cooperation with Asia, initiated by the Chiba University, Japan

Founding the Asian Consortium for Social Quality (ACSQ)

**2007**

*Organisation*

EFSQ signs a Memorandum of Understanding to start project collaboration with the Institute for

Social Studies in The Hague, NL

*Projects*

Studies and policy intervention in The Laak, a quarter of Den Haag NL

*Debates and Topics*

Enhancing the debate on the global dimension of Social Quality

Strengthening the comparative perspective, relating to Human Development, Human Security

Starting investigating the meaning of social quality on the local level

**2011**

*Organisation*

Dutch think-tank on sustainability

*Publication*

Shared newsletter of the ACSQ (Asia) and the EFSQ (Europe)

**2013**

*Organisation*

Restructuration by founding an International Association of Social Quality (IASQ), Maintaining the

Asian Consortium as Observatory (ACSQ) of the region and establishing the European

Observatory of Social Quality (EOSQ), based in Rome and hosted by EURISPES

*Publications*

Book publication: “Social Quality: From Theory to Indicators”

**2014**

*Major events*

AOSQ - International Conference of “Sustainable Development and Environment Participation”, June 20-22, 2014, Hangzhou, P. R. China

EOSQ - "Strengthening the European Social Model. The contribution of the Social Quality Approach to strengthen social justice, human dignity and solidarity of the EU in a changing world"

October 31 2014, Rome, Italy

**3 - THE EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON SOCIAL QUALITY
A SHORT PRESENTATION**

**(Rome – Italy)**

* 1. **About – The European Observatory on Social Quality: history and outline for a political paradigm shift**

The work of the EOSQ had been brought to the public fore in the Amsterdam Declaration on the Social Quality of Europe that had been presented in 1997 and gained wide support by more than 1,000 social scientists from various EU member states. This had been the start for a lively debate across Europe, and later also in Asia. The EOSQ is part of the global network, headed by the IASQ (International Association of Social Quality). The European Observatory takes up the role of supporting the further development of the Social Quality Approach and applying it in the framework of projects and policy processes.

* 1. **Aims**

Social Quality is geared to overcome a major weakness of social science, namely the paradox that the term social itself is actually not defined. Keeping this in mind, social quality centres in contrast understand the social as ‘an outcome of the interaction between people (constituted as actors) and their constructed and natural environment. Its subject matter refers to people’s interrelated productive and reproductive relationships. This includes the orientation on the environment, and contributes in a new away to discussing sustainability.

We find two fundamental tensions as they are outlined in the following figure:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Societal Development** |  |  |
|  | Socio-Economic Security | Social Cohesion |  |
| **Systems, Institutions, Organisations** |  | **Social Quality** |  | **Communities, Groups, Families** |
|  | Social Inclusion | Social Empowerment |  |
|  |  | **Biographical Development** |  |  |

In addition to the conditional factors contained in the figure (socio-economic factors etc.) social quality is defined by constitutional factors (i.e. …) and normative factors (…)

* 1. **Application – working for social sustainability**

Working for sustainability can appear in many different ways. A long lasting method is building a complex of education programmes to teach social quality and sustainability. The general aims in terms of research and teaching are

* to assist innovations in the policy areas of health care, housing, micro-economics, sport, education as well as presenting examples from other cities for deepening this form of scientific oriented assistance
* to determine trends and contradictions of Sustainable Urban Development
* to foster ‘the social’ in the globally sustainability debate
* to build up a networks between universities within and beyond the EU

The EOSQ is also taking part in projects concerning the discussed subjects.

The EOSQ organises

* regular meetings by national and/or thematic expert teams
* an Annual conference and regular workshops
* the Dissemination of working papers and topical statements
* training courses and modules for academics, at universities and secondary schools
* a network of academics, activists, economic actors and politicians

4 - THE HANGZHOU DECLARATION ON SOCIAL QUALITY
June 2014

ACSQ - International Conference of “Sustainable Development and Environment Participation”
June 22-24, 2014, Hangzhou, P. R. China

We, participants of the new Observatory on Social Quality among universities in Asia, declare that new forms of collaboration of governments, citizens’ groups and organisations, institutes, companies and international agencies are needed to increase the social quality of daily circumstance of people in Asia in such a way that this will also contribute to the global development towards cohesive and sustainable human societies.

Therefore we declare that the first priority for action should be to enhance the ***objective conditions of daily life***, including the socio-economic conditions people are living in, the social cohesion and social inclusion they experience in their communities, their civil rights, and the extent of their social empowerment to enable them play responsible roles in society and in the processes of societal change.

Following this, the academic world should contribute to ideas about how to ensure, for all citizens, acceptable forms of housing; create modern human oriented employment; achieve sufficient income; ensure access to effective education; design the necessary individual and community health care; strongly stimulate facilities for cultural events and participation to enhance the quality of societal life.

We secondly declare that along with the improvement in the objective life conditions we need to enhance the degrees of personal security and social recognition. This also implies to stimulate people’s feelings of social responsibility and personal (human) capacities. These are the ***subjective conditions of life,*** which are necessary to combat forms of alienation, exploitation, discrimination and degradation.

We declare thirdly, that new forms of collaboration on global, regional, national and local levels are required to assist in the achievement of these objective and subjective conditions in such a way, that they will enable social justice and equity; solidarity at community, national and international levels; to promote the equal value of all people and to defend and enhance their human dignity. These are the ***normative conditions*** which are essential ingredients in the vision for social quality. This implies a fundamental redistribution of resources world-wide and especially between the Western and the Eastern hemispheres.

We declare fourthly that the common main challenge is to enhance and defend these three condition for social quality in such a way that it will underpin the ***development toward overall sustainably*** as a dynamic equilibrium between humans the whole eco-system. This implies that international and national agencies should collaborate to contribute to the transformation of cities and metropolis to create urban centres which function as pillars for both sustainability and social quality. This implies a ‘***sustainable urban development****’* that encompasses all citizens and which tackles the present gross inequality between them.

We declare fifthly that these agencies have the duty to reorient themselves on how to address the main dimensions of societal life and to overcome their present fragmentation, for example in terms of socio-political/legal, the social-cultural/welfare, the socio-economic/financial and the socio-environmental dimensions. The traditional relationships between actors in these different sectors should be transformed to recognise their essential interrelationships in the realisation of everyday social quality.

There is a global absence of a vision for this necessary transformation. Therefore we call upon the academic world in Asia to seek ***new ways*** in which to stimulate national and international agencies and, also at a local level to develop this vision. We also call upon governments to take on board this new thinking and to support the academic world to contribute to the work of citizens’ groups, organisations and institutes aimed at realising both sustainability and social quality.

Approved, June 2014

List of Speakers – Conference, Rome 31th October 2014

**Mario BENOTTI**Prof., Councelor, Dept. European Policies, Presidency Council of Ministers

**Benedetto ATTILI**Secretary General UIL – Public Administration

**Carmelo BARBAGALLO**Deputy Secretary General, UIL

**Antonello Folco BIAGINI**
Deputy Rector, Sapienza University of Rome

**Ferenc BODI**Department of Government and Public PolicyInstitute for Political Science Centre for Social Science MTATK

Budapest, Ungheria

**Michael BRAUN**Director, Italian branch of F. EBERT Foundation, Germany

**Carmelo CEDRONE**Vice President, ECO-Section, EESC, Bruxelles

**Michele DAU**Vice Secretary, CNEL – National Council for Economy and Labour

**Georgios DASSIS**President of the Employees Group Section « Union economique et monétaire, cohésion économique et sociale »
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**Nikolaus DIMMEL**Faculty of lawUniversity of Salzburg, Austria

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**Gian Maria FARA**President, Eurispes, Roma

**Pietro FOLENA**President, MetaMorfosi Association, Roma

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