Working-Paper nr.4:

An Overview of strategies to develop the social quality approach in Europe and Asia during 2007 and 2008

European Foundation on Social Quality

Laurent J.G. van der Maesen
*Helma Verkleij*

28th November 2009

1. Introduction

This working-paper concerns the applied strategies in 2007 and 2008 for developing and applying the social quality approach, based on the work done in the recent past as explained in the Foundation's Annual Reports thus far. Following previous annual reports we make a distinction between different pillars of the Foundation's work:

- theoretical elaboration of its conceptual framework,
- the elaboration and testing of its methodologies,
- the application of the outcomes to scientific fields,
- the application of the results to some policy areas and urban categories,
- the endeavours for the dissemination of the theoretical and practical outcomes,
- concerning the management and finances.

The crucial point is of course in which way the new conceptual framework of the social quality approach may contribute to an adequate exploration of essential societal trends, contradictions and challenges, as well as to the contribution of adequate approaches to address related questions. In the beginning of 2008 the European Commission explained that we should address these questions in a new way. In other words, it suggests that the huge amount of research and hereupon based policy making until now is not really adequate. In fact it suggests as well that the enormous investments in the European Union to develop and apply the quality of life approaches do not really address these problems either. There is also another argument for developing the social quality approach as something new for Europe and also for Asia. The current financial and economic crisis demonstrates the failure of neo-liberal propositions concerning the unconditional regulatory power of the market On the contrary, it is argued that it enables outrageous behaviour, a fundamental disdain for human dignity and the denying of the public good by the commodification also of immaterial aspects of live. Will the conceptual framework of social quality present new starting points? In order to understand the relationship of the different work carried out in 2007 and 2008 we present the following figure. It has especially been explained in the previous Annual Reports that the work started at the end of the 1990s in Europe and that – as a result of the collaboration with Asian scholars since 2005 – it is now in its third stage of development.

Figure-1: *the different aspects and their connections of the social quality's third stage*
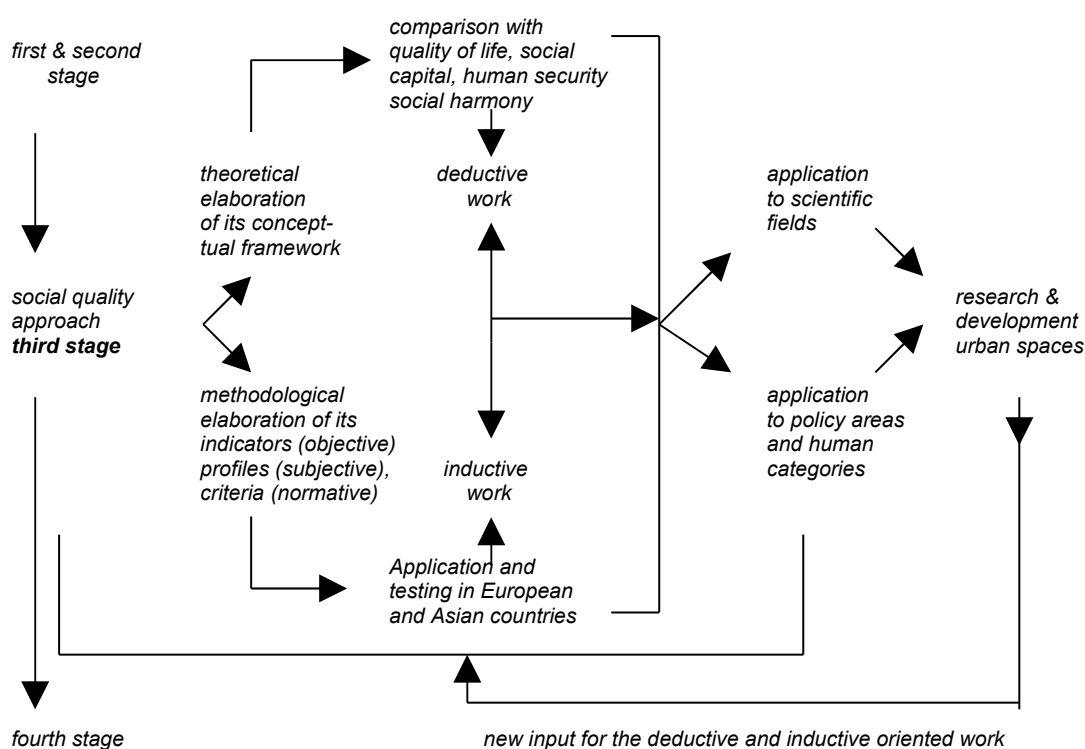
As a result of the first Asian conference on social quality – organised by Chiba University in Japan in collaboration with the Foundation in March 2006 and a manifold of Japanese and international organisations (see previous Annual Report[1]) – the Foundation became confronted with new questions. First, in which way the social quality approach may contribute to the Asian understanding and practices of 'sustainable welfare societies'. As a consequence the second question is, if this approach may deliver new perspectives to underpin strategies by the United Nations to continue its human development policies and to strengthen the related human security all over the world. It is important to realise that this UN's concept differs from the European concept of social security as an aspect of social protection policies. These strategies have been stimulated especially by Asian scholars and policy makers and are therefore implicitly related to ideas about sustainable welfare societies. Third, which role may the social quality approach play to deepen our understanding of sustainability and the necessity to integrate scientific based ideas about economic, socio-political and environmental sustainability and hereupon based strategies (policies). Fourth, how to develop scientific tools to compare societal processes in Asian and European countries (and countries elsewhere) with the three other questions in mind?

Answering these questions implies a thorough change with the Foundation's original orientation of its first and second stage (see previous Annual Reports). This concerned the elaboration of a new theory as an alternative of neo-liberal practices and related scientific approaches especially in the European Union, resulting into the dominance of economic policies and, as a consequence, into the EC's doubtful adagium of social protection and social security as productive factors for economic processes and policies. The Foundation's original motive was to explain in which way these ideas and practices influence daily realities of the European 'welfare states' and European discourses on the so-called European Social Model. As a result of the collaboration with Asian scholars this original orientation has been made part of the four questions or challenges (see above) in order to connect the social quality approach with global based discourses on economic, socio-political, cultural and environmental processes in a comparable way.

With this in mind, the Foundation's endeavour to confront aspects of its theory and methodologies to the urban practice of the city of The Hague since 2005 seems to be very functional for this challenging change (see section-5.1).[2] Usually **policy areas** (housing, public health, education, employment, financial security, physical infrastructure, etc) and human or **urban categories** (youth, adults, women, migrants, handicapped, poor people, elderly etc) are approached in a fragmented way due to a division of labour and policy making. For the European Union this also results into fragmented approaches of social security, social protection, social cohesion, social inclusion etc. But all these aspects are 'realised' and 'integrated' in the urban space. The logic of fragmentation prevents an integrated exploration to fully understand what is important in daily circumstances from the perspective of citizens. We need to complement with a comprehensive approach of the urban space for going beyond the fragmentation of aspects of daily realities. This supposition is expressed in Figure-1. Most people live in an urban habitat. Societal processes (and related problems) are demonstrated or expressed in the urban space. In order to understand societal problems (or 'problematique') we should explore processes in the urban space. Therefore, not so much fragmented policy areas and urban categories but especially the urban space as a 'comprehensive totality' of these areas and categories concerns the challenge of the social quality approach. This was the main argument to present a project proposal to the European Commission at the end of 2008 (in the context of its Framework Programme 7) – in collaboration with university institutes from fourteen global cities all over the world – for exploring processes in the urban space contributing to the sustainable development of these global cities (see section-5.2). Figure-1 expresses the rationality of this endeavour. The work carried out in The Hague since 2005 delivered the arguments.

In July 2007 the Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Social Studies for starting a project-collaboration to realise the work on behalf of the different pillars. As a

---

[1] Research Center on Public Affairs for Sustainable Welfare Societies (ReCPP), *First Asian Conference on Social Quality: Human Welfare and Public Policy under Social Justice, Equity and Democratic based Relationships*, Chiba: Chiba University, March 2006.

[2] This work resulted into the decision by the Municipality of The Hague in January 2009 to accept one of its quarters – namely Laak (see section-5) – as an experimental urban space. The social quality approach delivered the argument for this decision and may present a perspective for its development.

result the ISS also presents facilities for the Foundation as an office room, technical facilities and meeting-places (see section-4.1.2). This was the reason the Foundation changed from its location in Amsterdam (the Felix Meritis Centre) to The Hague (the ISS). In this working-paper we will refer to different aspects of the project-collaboration and in the final section we will summarise the outcomes until now (see section-7.1). Since 2007 the Foundation also contributed to activities for starting an Asian office for developing social quality. This resulted into an agreement with three institutes in Thailand (Bangkok) for delivering the primary facilities and manpower, namely the NIDA and the Chulalongkorn University and the King Prajadhipok Institute. This will be established during the fourth Asian conference on social quality in December 2009.

The essence of the actual Foundation's role is to connect representatives of universities in Europe and East and South East Asia and Australia to contribute to the development and application of the social quality approach. In other words, with the help of a very small infrastructure it allocates manpower and institutional facilities in these parts of the world. As a stimulus for theoretical work functions the organisation or contribution to conferences, expert-meetings and seminars. They deliver the arguments for papers and the dissemination based upon them of outcomes (articles, magazines, pamphlets, and books). In this working-paper we refer to the Foundation's role in the organisation of the Asian conferences on social quality, in respectively Taipei (2007), Bangkok (2007) and Nanjing (2008) and its work on behalf of the coming conference in Bangkok (2009). Furthermore we will refer to its active participation in conferences in Berlin (2007), Brussels (2007), Rome (2008), three conferences in The Hague organised respectively by the ISS, IIAS and Eurocities (2007/2008), to expert-meetings in Europe and Asia and to its specific orientation on meetings about the complementarity of the social quality approach and respectively human security and social harmony. Outcomes are used in the current theoretical studies which will be published in the Foundation's third main book.

2.   Theoretical work in 2007 and 2008

Since the heart of the matter concerns the development of a new theory to address societal trends, contradictions and challenges in such a way that human dignity and social justice will be increased all over the world, this section concerns the heart of the matter of the Foundation's existence.

2.1   The second Asian conference on social quality in Taipei, March 2007.

In this sub-section we discuss some theoretical questions which have been discussed at the second Asian conference on social quality. In the following section we refer to some related methodological questions. The rationale and nature of this conference is based on the outcomes of the first conference, organised by Chiba University in Japan *(document nr. 1)*.

2.1.1   The rationale of the second conference

In March 2007, the second Asian Conference on Social Quality took place, organised by the National Taiwan University (NTU) in Taipei in collaboration with the Chiba University in Japan and the Foundation, supported by a manifold of Taiwanese organisations.[3] The purpose was, first, to explore the concept of sustainable welfare societies for Asian countries, compared to the traditional welfare state approaches in Europe. This theme was prepared at the first Asian conference on social quality in Japan (see document nr.1). The focus should be on the reciprocity between state interventions and the role of a manifold of civil organisations as well as the possibilities for sustainable well-being development to fully understand the current Asian transformations. A second main purpose concerned a preliminary application of the recent indicators of social quality in China, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, India and Indonesia. These themes have been prepared in the conference's background-paper *(document nr. 2)*.

---

[3] Social Policy Research Center, *The Second Asian Conference on Social Quality and Sustainable Welfare Societies: Towards a new partnership between Asian Universities and Universities of the European Union*, Taipei City: National Taiwan University, March 2007.

2.1.2 Intellectual contribution from the Foundation's side and perspective

The Foundation's chair, Alan Walker, presented a keynote lecture which aims to set the scene for the conference by explaining the potential of social quality to contribute to an understanding of the transformation in the politics of welfare sustainability both east and west. This took place by comparing the welfare regimes of Europe with that of East Asia. Then by examining the present global discourse on sustainability and the narrow economic perspective that drives it. Finally it considered the potential of the social quality paradigm to create a fresh approach to sustainability based on a holistic conception of human welfare or well-being *(document nr.3)*. The Foundation's director, Laurent van der Maesen, introduced some results of the theoretical work to establish social quality indicators, their testing in fourteen European countries and the new theoretical questions raised as a result of this inductive work (see Figure-3). For the conference the question is what we can learn from this search for East and South East Asia? Finally, he made a start with addressing the Asian questions as referred to in the introduction for paving the way for comparative research in Asia and Europe *(document. nr. 4).* A first step is made by Harry Nijhuis to introduce the theme of urban space as a crucial point of departure for the social quality approach. This took place by referring to the first outcomes of the theory's confrontation to practices in the City of The Hague. Explained is that for example the policy area of public health (health and social care) can not be developed as an area 'sui generis', separated from other policy areas and urban categories *(document-5)*.This theme will be discussed further in the working-paper's section-5. From the European side the themes of socio-economic security (Dave Gordon), social cohesion (David Phillips), employment and flexicurity (Ton Korver) and empowerment (Peter Herrmann) are introduced.[4] Furthermore, attention was dedicated to the elaboration of the theme of 'sustainable welfare societies' by the Chiba University.[5] Thanks to the preparatory work carried out by Tetsuo Ogawa from the Chiba University a start was made with exploring the social quality indicators in East and South East Asia and Australia: China, Japan, Singapore, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, India, Indonesia and Australia. It concerned the conference's main part, see the program. This part of the conference will be discussed in setion-3.

2.1.3 The conference's program

- Prof. dr. Tzong-Ho Bao (vice president National Taiwan University): Introduction Conference.
- Prof. dr Alan Walker (University of Sheffield): Social Quality and Sustainable Welfare Regimes.
- Dr Laurent J.G. van der Maesen (European Foundation on Social Quality): Strategies to develop a connected social quality approach in Europe, Asia and the Pacific.
- Prof. dr Harry G.J. Nijhuis (Municipality of The Hague): Applying the Social Quality Theory in Processes of Urban Development and Local Governance: the Casus of The Hague in The Netherlands.
- Dr Hiroi Yoshinori (Chiba University): Possibilities of Sustainable Welfare Societies in Asia.
- Prof. dr David Gordon (University of Bristol): Measuring Social Quality in Asia and Europe with particular reference to Socio-economic Security.
- Dr. Akiko Oishi (Chiba University): Indicators Social Quality in Japan.
- Prof. dr Moneer Alan (Delhi University): Ageing, Socio-Economic Disparities and Health Outcomes: Some Evidence on Quality of Life of Rural Aged in India.
- Prof. dr M. Ramesh (National Singapore University): Social Quality Indicators in Singapore.
- Dr Deborah Mitchell (Australian National University): Indicators of Social Quality in Australia.
- dr. Huck-Ju Kwon(Sung Kyun Kwan University, South Korea): Regional Perspective: Social Protection in East Asia.
- dr Hou-Sheng Chan(National Policy Foundation and NTU): Applying the Social Quality Theory in processes of Urban and Local Development.
- Dr Ton Korver (University of Tilburg): Sustainable Welfare Societies, Socio-economic Security and the Covenant.

---

[4] This will be discussed respectively in sections 4.3 and 5.3.

[5] Yoshinori Hiroi, *Possibilities of Sustainable Welfare Societies in Asia*, Chiba: Chiba University, March 2007. Especially this contribution was connected with the first Asian conference on Social Quality in Japan.

- Dr. Kate Yeong-Tsyr Wang (National Taiwan University): Economic Conditions of Female-headed Households in Taiwan in Comparison to the USA and Sweden; Some Reflections on the Measurement of Social Quality,
- Dr David Phillips (University of Sheffield): Social Quality, Social Cohesion and the Sustainable Welfare Society.
- Dr Raymond Kwok-Hoing Chan (City University of Hong Kong): Social Quality in Hong Kong: Who cares? Which quality?
- Dr. Nugroho Abikusno (Trisakti University in Indonesia): Assessing Social Quality in Indonesia.
- Dr Rashid Sharifah Norazizan(University Putra Malaysia): The Potential Role of Social Quality in an Ageing Malaysian Society,
- Prof. dr Ka Lin, dr Karen Gabe (Nanjing University): Social Quality in China. A Reflection to the Social Change and Development in the Process of Economic Reconstruction.
- Dr. Keong-Suk Park (Seoul National University): Family, Labor and Social Policy in Later Life of Contemporary Korean Society; Social Quality and Inequality visited through the Elderly Life.
- Prof. Dr. Natalia Grigorieva (Moscow State University): Social Situation in Russia: The Social Quality Approach.
- Dr. Chin-Fen Chang (Soochow University, Taiwan):The Social Exclusion/Inclusion of Immigrant Group in Taiwan: an Analysis.
- Prof. dr Peter Herrmann (University of Cork): Empowerment: A Key Concept Redefining Citizenship on the Way to Sustainable Welfare Society

2.1.4. *Some theoretical and practical conclusions and the start of the Asian Steering Committee*

At least seven important conclusions were drawn up during the conference. First, that it is important to know if the conceptual framework of the social quality approach will be functional for the elaboration of the theme of sustainable welfare societies and related ideas (and theoretical questions) of the human security approach by the UN and especially Asian countries. Second, that it is highly urgent to start developing social quality indicators which are adequate for Asian daily circumstances in an orchestrated way. The NTU will take the initiative (section-3). Third, that for the introduction and application of the social quality approach in Asia we need an Asian Steering Committee in order to organise scholars and to allocate facilities for this application (section-4). Fourth, that it is highly attractive to change the European Journal of Social Quality into an International Journal, based on European and Asian direction in the first stage of this journal. The NTU will also invest in the start of this International Journal (section-6). Fifth, the journal should function as a vehicle to develop ideas about sustainable welfare societies, explaining the fundamental role of the complex of societal organisations on all levels determining the nature of daily circumstances. Therefore, sixth, we need a new and operational understanding of the concept of the overall sustainability. This implies, seventh a conceptual framework for integrating economic, socio-political and environmental sustainability. This framework is lacking today. The social quality approach may play a potential role for this integration. The main hypothesis is that the European welfare state approaches are not really suitable for global comparative research. The idea of sustainable welfare societies includes the exploration of the whole complex of actors including the State and its systems which are responsible for human welfare and well-being and it implies the understanding of the overall sustainability of human existence as well. It goes beyond the one-sided and restricted analyses of the European welfare states.

2.2   *Human security, an excursion*

2.2.1   *The rationale for comparing human security discourses and the social quality approach*

The Institute of Social Studies (ISS) may also be appreciated as an expert-institute concerning the international questions on human security, which may be defined as \ top protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfilment'. The elaboration of the

concept of 'human security' is necessary to deliver a juridical background for arguments to intervene in human catastrophes.[6] One of the topics of the project-collaboration of the ISS with the Foundation

became the exploration of the similarities and differences of human security discourses until now and the social quality approach. In this way the advocates of the social quality approach are enabled to elaborate the conclusions drawn up at the first and second Asian conference on this topic. The intriguing point is that in the theory of social quality an accent is laid on theorising 'the social' as an essential aspect of human existence. It concerns the most crucial difference with neo-liberal propositions. This point is missing in the human security discourses.

2.2.2.   The first expert-meeting on human security and social quality

The ISS and the Foundation organised in September 2007 the first expert-meeting with scholars from Europe and Asia to start with the exploration of the potential complementarity of the human security discourses and the social quality approach. Two results are important. First, representatives of both institutes will think about a theoretical oriented document. This resulted in the February meeting 2008 into the idea to prepare a working-paper which concludes that the human security emphasises on the human species as a whole. It grounds human rights language in a way that helps to counter dangers that can arise otherwise through the selfish or myopic use of rights language. Notwithstanding this, in the conception of 'human' we recognize a gap in respect of 'the social' what is usual in much humanitarian and developmental actions. The human security approach seems to be between the more individualist human rights thinking and the social quality theory focuses on relationships and processes *(document nr.6)*. Second, all participants will contribute to the development of a strategy to present this theme to an international audience (see below).[7]

2.2.3   development of a strategy for 2007 and 2008

The strategy (see above) concerned three steps*(document nr.7)*. First the plan was made to use the coming Annual conference of the Human Development and Capability Association in New Delhi which took place in September 2008. Scholars were invited by the ISS to participate in a panel session about the complementarity of the social security discourses and the social quality approach. The contributions were from:
- Des Gasper (ISS, The Hague): Human Development, Human Security and Social Quality,
- David Phillips (University of Sheffield): a Comparative Study of the Social Quality and Human Development Approaches,
- Ananta Giri (University of Madras): Rethinking the Human and the Social: Towards a Multiverse of Transformations,
- Angela Collet (FDAWNE, Brazil): Human and Social Bodies,
- Tetsuo Ogawa (Chiba University): A New Perspective on Social Development: Social Quality and its Potential Role for Public Policy Making in Asia and the Pacific,
- Raymond Apthorpe (Australian National University): Security for whom and in what? Bringing the Social to the Human,
- Yochi Mine (Osaka University): The Multiple Interfaces of Human Security.

Second, on the basis of this panel session, an overall presentation will be given by the ISS on this theme at the third Asian conference on social quality in Nanjing (section-2.5). In this presentation by Des Gasper a comparison is also made with quality of life approaches (European Union), social capital (World Bank) and the human development approaches (United Nations). As frame of reference functioned the study by David Phillips about these approaches and the social quality approach.[8] Third, the ISS and the Foundation started a discussion with the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) in order to organise one of the main round table debates and two panel sessions of the coming Sixth International Convention of Asian Scholars, to take place in Korea, August 2009 *(document nr.8)*. For the realisation of this part of the strategy the ISS and the Foundation presented an application to the IIAS *(document nr.9).* The work carried out until then would function as important brickstones. The

---

[6] Important is the work carried out by Des Gasper and ThanhDam Truong (www.ISS.nl).

[7] The first participants of the project 'human security/social quality' are: Des Gasper, Thanh-Dam Truong, Rachel Kurian, Tetsuo Ogawa, Alan Walker, Jan Berting, Laurent van der Maesen, Jaap Westbroek, Harry Nijhuis.

[8] David Phillips, *Quality of Life: Concept, Policy and Practice*, London/New York: Routledge, 2006

idea was that the Foundation's chair (Alan Walker) should debate with one of the human security experts. Since Amartya Sen was unable to participate the proposal was to invite Richard Jolly, an expert from the UNICEF and UNDP side. This was not acceptable for the IIAS and it cancelled the plan. Fourth, on the basis of the Delhi and the Nanjing conference the plan was made to organise a

second expert-meeting for preparing a book on some essential questions related with the theme of the potential complementarity of both approaches. At the end of 2008 the first steps have been made to prepare this meeting in 2009. Decided was also to use the fourth Asian conference on social quality in December 2009 for deepening the theoretical aspects of this theme.

2.3 Social harmony and social quality, a specific Chinese contribution

2.3.1 The rationale and the expert-meeting in May 2008

Stimulated by the social quality approach and the endeavours to compare it with the human security discourses (connected with the human development strategies) it seems highly important to elaborate the understanding of the social harmony approach in a comparable way as well. In another way around, the Chinese question will be what the social quality approach has to offer for deepening the idea and related policies of social harmony, referring to very old Chinese traditions. In a restricted expert-meeting took place in Sheffield, May 2008, the plans were developed to start this comparison to contribute to the third Asian conference on social quality in Nanjing.

2.3.2 A first contribution to the Nanjing conference

This plan resulted in a working-paper about social harmony and social quality, presented by Chack-kie Wong to the Nanjing conference. One of the arguments is that social harmony particularly emerges in the Chinese context and is essential for coping with conflicts and contradictions between people and government, classes, ethnic groups, cultural and other difference in the Chinese society in a peaceful way. Discussing these principles is rather urgent, since the Chinese government is worried about the increasing income gap, the enormous migration to Chinese metropoles, the uneven development between rural and urban, between social classes, between adults and elderly, the impressive environmental questions, and growing tensions between people and government due to the rampant corruptions of its lower-level cadres. In other words, these conflicts concern life-threatening issues and the basic operations of this society. But this topic is important for other countries as well, for example India, Indonesia, Thailand, Turkey etc. Also the cultural issues should be taken into account, which are inevitably integrated into the state's policy-making activities. By evaluating the significance of the social harmony, the working-paper demonstrates how useful the social quality notion is for building up the linkage between the cultural context (see constitutional factors) and real politics (see conditional factors) *(document nr. 10).*

2.4 Preparations for the third book during 2007 and 2008

The authors of the proposed Foundation's third main book had to change their ideas about the content of the third book. Originally, it should present the elaboration of the theory and the methodologies, based on the work carried out by the European Network Social Quality Indicators, produced between 2001 and 2006. This Network of scholars from universities of fourteen Member States of the EU contributed to the theoretical elaboration by constructing and applying nearly hundred social quality indicators of the four conditional factors (socio-economic security, social cohesion, social inclusion and social empowerment).[9] But new challenges – see the Introduction (section-1) – should be addressed as well. This implied a change from a European perspective into a global perspective. This also implied a serious new theoretical reflection and methodological work as a result of the recent application of these indicators in seven Asian countries. With this in mind the book should address at least five new theses and four hypotheses and related questions concerning the social quality approach. During the past two years investments have been made to address these points. Therefore

---

[9] The first outcomes of the Network are presented in fourteen national reports by university institutes from Belgium, The Netherlands, France, Germany, Hungary, Finland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy, United Kingdom, Slovenia, Sweden published in 2005 as well by two European Institutes for Anti Poverty Strategies and the European Department of the International Council of Welfare Development (www.socialquality.org). Furthermore all participants published an article about their national reports in a double issue of The European Journal of Social Quality, Vol. 5, Issues 1&2, 2005 (300 pages).

the character of mostly all chapters changed essentially. They will be made functional for the coming fourth Asian conference on social quality, as well as for deepening the relation between human security discourses and social quality approach.

First thesis: social quality *indicators* are necessary to monitor the objective based changes of conditional factors in daily circumstances by societal processes but they are not sufficient. To understand these processes we should also explore cognitive-emotional and ethical-normative aspects for finally determining the nature of the social quality of the outcomes of these processes. Does the social quality approach deliver an answer by elaborating its *profiles* for the registration of the cognitive and emotional aspects of people as social actors (see constitutional factors) and *criteria* for judging the quality (see normative factors) of these circumstances as a compilation of objective and subjective elements of societal processes?

Second thesis: in the dominant Western economic and social sciences today research is too much determined by epistemological questions. This resulted into new accents on ontological points of departure for delivering a context for adequate methodologies is more and more lacking. Does the social quality approach deliver a realistic endeavour to integrate ontological and epistemological questions and themes?

Third thesis: it is highly important for global debates about societal processes and their outcomes to compare the nature of the quality of life, the social capital, the human security, the social harmony, the human development approaches to understand their adequacy or inadequacy to cope with the exploration of these processes. Does the social quality approach, by accentuating the reciprocity between deductive (ontological) and inductive (epistemological) approaches deliver real points of departure for such a comparison?

Fourth thesis: in order to fully understand the neo-liberal orientation (philosophical, scientific and concerning policy making) a condition is to theorise 'the social' and people as 'social beings' for creating points of departure for analysing economic, financial, juridical, cultural, demographic, environmental and political processes in a contradistinctive way in order to understand the consequences of neo-liberal approaches (a fish does not know it is swimming in the water). Does the social quality approach deliver the points of departure for something new?

Fifth thesis: lacking is a conceptual framework to integrate economic, socio-political, and environmental sustainability in order to underpin the overall sustainability of human existence in the near future. Does the social quality approach dispose of the potential to deliver essential elements for this framework?

As explained in the working-paper on human security and social quality (document nr. 6) the recent theorising of social quality resulted into the construction of its 'architecture', see Figure-2. A distinction is made between the three factors of social quality and their methods for valuation (profiles), measuring (indicators), and judging (criteria) with which to analyse societal trends. This architecture is based on the theoretical outcomes of the deepening of the concept of 'the social'.

Figure-2   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 valuation*
personal (human) capacity	*social empowerment*	*human dignity*
[profiles for the valuation of the nature of these factors]	*[indicators for measuring the nature of these factors]*	*[criteria for judging the outcomes of the linking of both other factors]*

This is a new theoretical endeavour in social and economic sciences of to-day in West and East. In for example the European discourse most of the twelve concepts of this architecture are used but without a clear definition and without explaining their interrelationships in a theoretical sense. In our case, social cohesion or social empowerment are theoretically related with socio-economic security or social

inclusion as well with the different constitutional and normative factors. Therefore social cohesion as well as social empowerment may be understood as aspects of a theoretically well-grounded context. This delivers the arguments for the five theses and it delivers the arguments for four hypotheses.

First hypothesis: societal trends and their contradictions are 'realised' in the urban space of metropoles, big cities and their suburbs. It is there where most people on earth are coping with their daily circumstances.
Second hypothesis: thanks to the social quality architecture its new theory and methodologies dispose of a heuristic meaning for understanding the comprehensive totality of the urban space (global cities or metropoles and large cities) as the context for daily circumstances.
Third hypothesis: therefore its conceptual framework will have a heuristic function for integrating the three main pillars - namely the economic, socio-political and environmental pillars – as aspects of and realised in the urban space.
Fourth hypothesis: as a consequence this conceptual framework will deliver the real points of departure for theorising and for the operationalisation of the idea (and vision) of sustainable welfare societies.

2.5   The third Asian conference on social quality in Nanjing, October 2008

In this subsection we present the theoretical questions of the conference. In the following section we refer to the methodological questions.

2.5.1   The rationale of the third conference

The third Asian conference took place in China, October 2008, following the conferences in Japan and Taiwan and was prepared and organised by Nanjing University and other Chinese organisations in collaboration with the Foundation.[10] In the conference's background-paper it is argued that the second conference already demonstrates a strong intent of Asian scholars to study the social quality theory and that in their turn the European scholars are eager to study Asian experiences. The third conference will make a move further towards comparative studies of social quality between European and Asian societies. The need to develop the analytic techniques to facilitate these analyses is obvious. The paper explains that a junction of information about individual countries without a theoretical grounded framework to deliver a context for data and indicators does not really enhance our understanding of the diversity of societies in Europe, Asia or Australia and their dynamics seen in the context of the global discourse on sustainable development. A second main point is to present to an international audience recent Chinese experiments and outcomes with economic, cultural and political processes to address China's main challenges. For China it is highly interesting to stimulate international scientific based reflections of these experiments and their significance for Chinese citizens *(document nr.11).*

2.5.2   Intellectual contribution from the Foundation's side and perspective

The Foundation's chair, Alan Walker presented – as a result of the recent work on behalf of the Foundation's third book (section-2.4) and the working-paper on human security and social quality (section-2.2) – the significance and function of the social quality architecture for international comparative research. With this in mind he made a step further compared to the second conference in Taipei. He indicated several points of difference between European and Asian strategies by examining some misconceptions about European and East Asian welfare models or approaches for shaping a sense of cross-model comparison. He discussed the validity of the social quality approach and its accent on analyses of processes concerning social relations to explain Asian circumstances and thus its potential to bridge Asian and European research *(document nr. 12).* The Foundation's director, Laurent van der Maesen, made a following step compared to the conference in Taipei for presenting the rationale of approaching the urban space as a comprehensive totality in order to explore in a new way the different fragments of urban development from the perspective of social quality: (i) scientific aspects, (ii) aspects of urban policy areas, (iii) the conditions for urban categories. This theme was already introduced and illustrated in the background paper (document nr.10). The lecture connected questions about the role of the social quality approach for exploring social cohesion, social inclusion

---

[10] Social Policy Research Center of Nanjing University, *International Nanjing Conference of Social Quality and Social Welfare: Social Quality in Asia and Europe, searching for the ways to promote social cohesion and social empowerment*, Nanjing: Nanjing University, October 2008.

and social empowerment in daily circumstances of citizens in the urban space or context. In section-5.1.4 we will present some recent outcomes of this presentation *(document nr.13*). Both topics are

highly functional for underpinning the recent Chinese interest in the role of NGOs (non-governmental organisations) in the socio-political contexts of the urban space. This theme was introduced by Ka Lin, the main organiser of the conference.[11] Already mentioned is the introduction of the study on human security and social quality by Des Gasper (ISS) to debate and understand the UN's Human Development strategies and the related Millennium Development Goals as well as indicators to monitor the policy results of these goals ()see section-2.2).[12] Finally the introduction of the Chinese approach of social harmony in comparison to the social quality approach functions as a start for connecting Chinese endeavours with comparable approaches in other Asian countries, Europe and America (section-2.3). These themes will play an important role in the Foundation's third book. Finally, important are the contributions concerning the application of social quality indicators as an outcome of the Asian research-group on social quality indicators, which will be discussed below (section-3).

2.5.3   The conference's program

- prof. dr Alan Walker (University of Sheffield): The Social Quality Approach: Bridging Asia and Europe?
- Dr Laurent van der Maesen (European Foundation on SQ): Social Cohesion, Social Empowerment and their Social Quality Indicators,
- Prof. dr Tetsuo Ogawa (Chiba University): The Concept of Social Quality and its Potential Role for Public Policy-making in Asia and the Pacific.
- Prof. dr Robert Gunn (University of York), Social Entrepreneurship in the Social Sciences,
- Prof. dr Lin Ka (Nanjing University): Comparing the Contexts of SQ Researches made in Europe and Asia.
- Prof. dr Lih-Rong Wang (National Taiwan University): Social Quality Indicators: What is Specific for Asia?
- Prof. dr Chen Youhua (Nanjing University): The Social Indicator System of Community Development in China.
- Dr Des Gasper (ISS): Human Development, Human Security and Social Quality .
- Prof. dr Guan Xinping (Nankai University): The Development of Social Re-Construction Theories since the Economic Reform and the Experience.
- Prof. dr Gao Hong (Quingdao University), the Implications of SQ theory for the Chinese Policy Development
- Dr Zhang Liwei (Nanjing University): Emerging Civil Society in the Wake of the Sichuan Earthquake: a Case of NGO Participation.
- Prof. dr Sadahisa Noguchi (Nihon Fukushi University): The Formation of Inclusive Welfare Society and Social Indicators: Three elements and their performance.
- Shen Limin,(Social Service Management Center of Shanghai HuaAi Community):the Social Responsibilities and the Social Foundations of the Civil Organisations.
- Prof. dr Chen Yi (Jiangsu Academy): Social Welfare and People's Livelihood Improvement.
- Prof. dr Zhu Li (Nanjing University): A Study of the Events of Serious Social Risks.
- Prof. dr Zhang Yulin (Nanjing University): China's Environmental War and Rural Society: A Shanxi Case Study.
- Wu Jianrong (Shanghai Christian Youth League): Researches on the Roles of Civil organisations that involve into the Society-building Process.
- Dr. Hyung-Myun KOH (Seoul National University): New Trends of Social Cohesion in Korea.
- Prof. dr Thawilwadee Bureekul (King Prjadhipok Institute): Social Quality in Thailand.

---

[11] Ka Lin and Karen K. Gabe, *The Power of NGOs in An Authoritarian Regime: A Study on the Types and Functions of NGOs in Contemporary China*, Nanjing: Nanjing University, October 2008.
[12] Des Gasper, *The Human and the Social: a Comparative framework and an initial systematised comparison of the discourses of Human Development, Human Security and Social Quality*, The Hague: ISS, October 2008.

- Dr. Ruby Chau (University of Sheffield): Social Quality and Social Harmony: Comparison and Implications.
- Prof. dr Gao Jianguo (Shandong University): Mechanism of Charitable Donations in the Western Countries.
- Dr Li Juan (Nanjing University): Life Style and a Feeling of Happiness in the Chinese Surveys
- Dr Wang Lanfang (Nanjing University): The Development of China's Rural Medical Security.
- Dr Tang Kwong-Leung (Nanjing University): East Asian Perspective on Globalization: Implications for Social Policy Analysis.

- Prof. dr Guo Hong (Sichuang Academy of Social Science): The Traits and Social Space for Civil Organisations on Relief Activities against Earthquakes.
- Li Huiping (The Amity Foundation): With Compassion and Morality: A Report of Relief Activities of the Amity Foundation in the Sichuan Earthquake.
- Tian Meimei (The Amity Foundation): Thinking on the Activities of the Amity Foundation in the Sichuan Earthquake.
- Dr Zou Chongming (Peking University): Community Economic Development and Rebuilding of Si Chuang Disaster Area.
- Huang Haoming (NGO cooperation): Development of International Exchange and Collaboration in the Disaster Relief and the Reconstruction of the Devastated Areas.
- Prof. dr Gu Donghui (Fudan University):The indigenous Social Work in the Reconstruction of Communal Life after the Earthquake: a Case of Dujiangyan City.
- Dr Zhang Shu (Nanjing University): Caring for the Survived Children after the Earthquake.
- Fang Jiake (Tianjin HeTong welfare association for elders): Societal Organisations and Building up an Ageing Society with Social Cohesion.
- Dr Wang Shijun (TongJi University): Civil Organizations and their Efforts for the Construction of a System of Residential Care for Elderly: a Case Study of Communal Services in the Gulou District of Nanjing
- Dr Ding Hong (Jiangsu Academy): The Role, Mobility and Management of Voluntary Teams.
- Bu Lin & Cao MingLe (Nanjing University): A Policy Analysis about the Skill Training for the Original Residents in the Marginal Areas of Cities.
- Dr Li Ping (Nanjing University): A Qualitative Study on the Religious and Social Lives of the Minority Groups in Local Communities.
- Dr Paul Ward (Flinders University) :The Importance of 'Trust' for the Theory of Social Quality: a Sociological Exegesis,
- Prof. dr Jaeyeol Yee and prof. dr. Dukjin Chang (Seoul National University):Transparency: Key to Improving Social Cohesion in Korean Context: a Social Quality Approach.
- Prof. dr Tang Jun (Social Policy Research Centre of CASS): In the field of Social Policy: The Chinese Policy Practices and its Experiences
- Prof. dr Wong Chack-kie (Chinese University of Hong Kong): Social Quality and Social Harmony: How are they Complementary?

2.5.4   Some conclusions

From the Foundation's perspective different conclusions may be articulated. First, the preliminary exercises concerning the social quality approach in Asia demonstrates large differences between suppositions and practice in, for example, Japan, China, India etc. In order to compare policies and to contribute to the common future an unequivocal conceptual framework is an utmost condition. If the social quality approach will function as such, we need demonstrations of its functionality to explore daily circumstances in all Asian countries in a comparative way in order to contribute to their sustainable development. Second, a methodology for testing this functionality is to continue exercises for applying social quality indicators (inductive work) and to stimulate the evolution of the theory (deductive work) of the cognitive-emotional and the ethical-normative dimensions as presented in the architecture. Third, the urban space indeed delivers the context, where economic, political, cultural, demographical and environmental processes are 'realised'. It is in this context we can theorise the possibilities for a responsible role of citizens and to compare the outcomes globally. Important is to be

able to compare these processes in different Asian, European and American countries and between these continents. Lacking are the tools for such a comparison on international level. This refers to a main challenge. Fourth, the advocates of social quality start a systematic dissemination of aspects of the social quality approach for preparing collaboration with international organisations (ESCAP etc) and for creating collaboration with scientific institutes and centres of policy-makers in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippine etc. Fifth, in particular for Chinese circumstances the potential complementarity between the social harmony and social quality approach should be placed on the agenda and the related possibilities for the current Chinese debate on policies for social constructions and development to address its current challenges.

3. Methodological work

The methodological exercises in 2007 and 2008 refer to different aspects:

- the elaboration of social quality indicators to cope with Asian circumstances,
- the creation of points of departure for a theoretical reflection of the first set of indicators (auto criticism),
- development and deepening of the comparison of the social quality approach with human security, human development, quality of life, social capital, social harmony,
- the application of the so-called social quality architecture for unravelling processes in the urban space.
- to prepare for the reciprocity between deductive and inductive approaches,
- the start of the elaboration of profiles (subjective dimension) and criteria (normative dimension).

3.1. The start of the Asian research-group social quality indicators.

The program of the second Asian conference on social quality in Taipei shows that different presentations were made about the application of the social quality indicators in Asian countries, including Australia (section-2.1.3). This work resulted into the decision to start a Asian research group social quality indicators under the lead of the National Taiwan University (NTU) represented by Lillian Wang (section-2.1.4). The NTU decided to invest in manpower, facilities and financially in this Asian research group. On request by the NTU the Foundation produced a paper about the rationale and purpose of the Asian research-group in order to pave the way for the first meeting in October 2007. One of the points are (i) to reach consensus about the meaning of social quality indicators as developed by European colleagues and their significance for Taiwan, Japan, China, Korea, Hong Kong etc, (ii) to reach consensus about the possibility and problems of the application of these indicators in these Asian regions, (iii) to pave the way for surveys for applying these indicators *(document nr. 14)*. A methodological reflection is important for judging the nature and applicability of these indicators and their connection and if these indicators are really adequate for South-East Asian circumstances. After the conference some presentations were elaborated for a publication in the proposed International Journal of Social Quality, about social quality indicators in Japan *(documents nr. 15),* in Taiwan *(document nr. 16),* and in Australia *(document nr. 17)*.

3.2 The first meeting of the Asian research-group in Taipei, October 2007

As a result of the collaboration with the Foundation, assistance was given from the side of the University of Cork (Peter Herrmann) and the University of Sheffield (David Phillips). Both universities contributed already to the European exercises to develop a set of social quality indicators.[13] They were and are enabled to bridge the European and Asian exercises. The first meeting was organised in Taipei, October 2007. General information about the European exercises as well as the outcomes of this meeting have been produced with support by Peter Herrmann. Important was the exploration of

---

[13] See note-9.

the difference between Asian and European circumstances. Mentioned was first, the prominent meaning of the communal level. It seems to play a role that goes far beyond the significance as it is known in the European context. Second, the huge role of homogeneity and a particularly high meaning of cohesion over inclusion and supply over social empowerment. Third, the European Network of Social Quality Indicators presumed an uniform capitalist welfare regime and did not debate the European economically understanding of capitalism which is questionable. From the Asian side we need an understanding of the overall integrity of structural complexities of given societies and to underpin the idea of welfare societies and related adequate social quality indicators *(document nr. 18).* On behalf of the second meeting of the Steering committee in Bangkok, December 2007 (see section-4.2.2) Lillian Wang presented the first overview of the work carried out by the Asian research-group to adjust social quality indicators for Asian circumstances *(document nr. 19).*

3.3   *Working-paper social quality indicators as constructed for Europe*

Stimulated by the recent Asian empirical work and debates in Europe and in order to prepare parts of the Foundation's third book a working-paper is produced for reflecting the outcomes of the European Network as referred to in section-2.4. The purpose is to start a theoretical well-grounded reflection of the first set of social quality indicators. The theory enables an auto criticism by questioning the adequacy, coherency and appropriateness of the first set of indicators. This differs from the question if these indicators are suitable for Asian circumstances *(document nr. 20).* In this working-paper these three themes have been discussed as well as the data availability of the proposed 95 social quality indicators for Europe:

Figure 3:   *Adequacy, coherency, appropriateness and data availability*
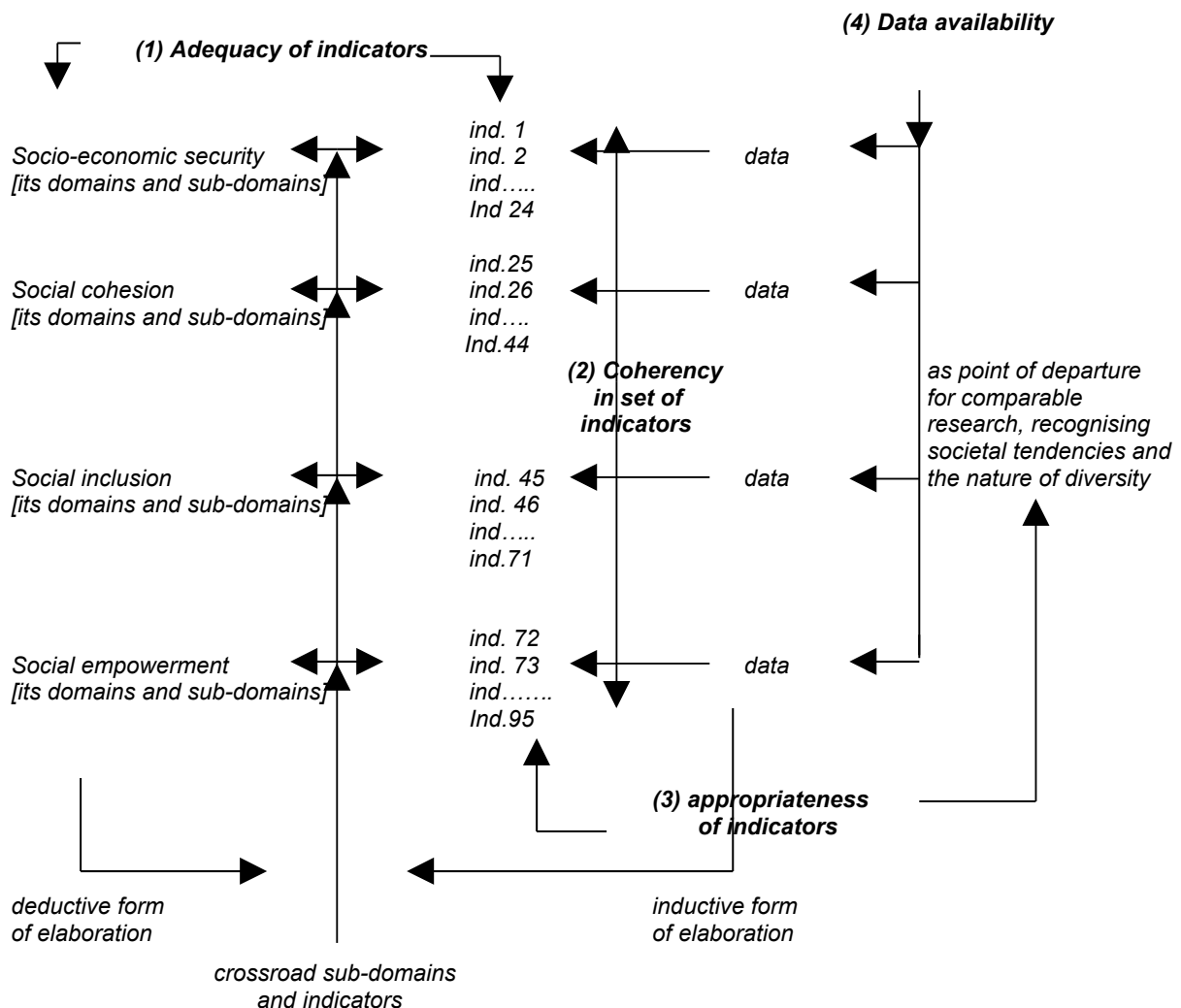
Inb other words, the working-paper discussed, first, if the chosen indicators are really adequate for monitoring essential outcomes in the sub-domains of the four conditional factors. Second, if we may recognise a theoretical acceptable coherence, preventing overlap between the indicators. Third, if the application of these indicators result into an understanding of societal tendencies related with the manifold of sub-domains. Fourth, whether we dispose of adequate data to operationalise these indicators. Especially the first three questions are derived from the social quality theory. And this paves the way for autocriticism which expresses the dynamic character of the whole approach. The working-paper is based on analyses of the documents published by the European Network of social quality indicators.

After the first meeting of the Asian research-group in October 2007, David Phillips published a theoretical oriented exploration for underpinning the comparison of European and Asian circumstances to develop a set of indicators, applicable for Europe and Asia alike. He also discusses the four items of the figure, based on the outcomes of the first meeting of the research-group **(document nr. 21).**

The four questions mentioned above played a role in the study by Menachem Monnickendam and Yitzhak Berman. On the basis of data from the Israel Social Survey 2003 six indicators of socio-economic security were analysed. They tested the relationship with social cohesion and social inclusion. According to both the theory hypothesized a strong connection between these conditional factors. But they did not find a positive and significant relation between socio-economic security and social cohesion and a small relation between socio-economic security and social inclusion. For example greater altruism in a society should stimulate social cohesion. The regressions equation showed that the greater the altruism in a family there is lower socio-economic security in that family. In their opinion, these findings tend to undermine those aspects of the social quality theory which posit close connections between these factors on a conceptual level.[14] Of interest is the start of a debate in the scientific world. In this case, notwithstanding the supposed evidence of their empirical findings, the theory does not hypothesize a strong relation between both conditional factors, on the contrary. The nature of the relation is an object for conclusions about the state of affairs of the factors at a specific space and a specific time.

3.4 *Methodological aspects discussed at the Nanjing conference in October 2008*

The third Asian conference on Social Quality in Nanjing, October 2008 (see section 2.5), implied three new steps with regard to the methodological questions of the social quality approach, namely: (i) the progress of the indicators' research, (ii) the progress of the methodological based comparison of different approaches, (iii) the application of the social quality architecture to the urban space.

3.4.1 *the progress of the indicators' research*

During the conference the current outcomes of the empirical research concerning the social quality indicators and the related methodological questions by the Asian research-group were presented to the audience, see the program (section-2.5.3). Especially the new and impressive investments by the National University of Seoul in Korea to develop social quality indicators and its appropriateness for Korean daily circumstances delivered an extra point of departure. The focus was on exploring the social cohesion indicators of the set of social quality indicators. Their application concludes by saying that trust declined in public institutes in Korea over the last decades. The lack of transparency caused a decline in interpersonal trust. This decline of an aspect of the social quality of Korea's circumstances will result into unsustainable social relations. This exploration was also based on a higher level of applied research methodologies and methods.[15] The Korea investment will strongly stimulate the methodological aspects of this research in Asia an Europe alike. Furthermore, it is of interest to compare this research with the recent research outcomes in Thailand as presented to the Nanjing conference as well.[16]

---

[14] Menachem Monnickendam, Yitzhak Berman, An Empirical Analysis of the Interrelationship between Components of the Social Quality theoretical Construct, *Social Indicators Research* (2008), 86: 525-538.

[15] KOH, Hyung-Myun, *A new dimension and Possibility of Social Cohesion Discovered from Korea's Candlelight Protests in 2008'*, Seoul: Seoul National University, October 2008.

3.4.2   the progress of the methodological based comparison of different approaches
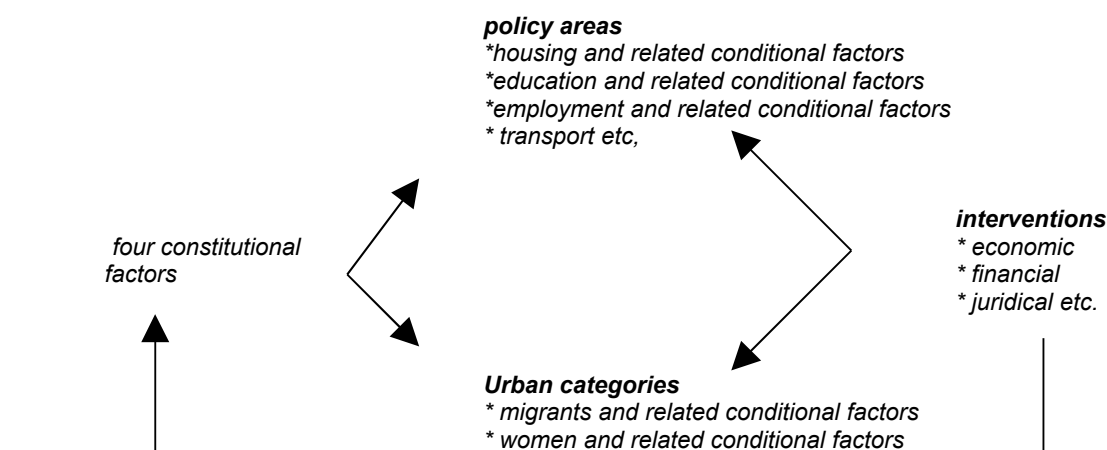
More than in past European conferences and expert-meetings and more than in the first and second Asian conferences, this Nanjing conference stimulated endeavours to compare especially the methodological similarities and differences of the approaches referred to in this working-paper[17]. Thanks to this we may conclude that European and Asian scholars, engaged with the social quality approach, are looking for real indicators rather than dealing with meaningful clusters of data. The latter is by no means meant to be pejorative. It is only meant to underline the difference between the two

forms of indicators. The mainstream indicators - quality of life, social capital, social indicators, environmental indicators - are mono-levelled and linear. There we find the reality of an existing society, built on certain standards which are not fundamentally defined nor questioned. With this in mind the exploration of indicators used in national and sub-national level work on human development and human security – which are not standardised buy situation-specific – is important for making progress. On the other hand, an entirely different understanding is underlying social quality indicators. The aim is to develop an understanding of a genuine value of the social. This includes the possibility of a permanent change of values. More importantly, the data collected are not static in terms of a supply level which ought to be reached and improved. Instead, it is about the interaction of the different factors (see the social quality architecture) and different levels of development.[18]

3.4.3   the application of the social quality architecture to the urban space.

Not only indicators are of a methodological interest. Especially the application of the social quality architecture to unravel processes in the urban space will deliver a new perspective for international comparative research. As explained, based on the current practice in the city of The Hague (see section-5) a first presentation was given at the conference in Taipei (Harry Nijhuis) and the second presentation in Nanjing (Laurent van der Maesen). The thesis is, that thanks to the application of this architecture we will be enabled to understand the outcomes of different forms of interventions (economic, juridical etc) in policy areas (health care, education, etc.) and urban categories (migrants, elderly, etc) by exploring the change of the nature of the conditions by these interventions in these areas and categories. We are also enabled to explore the change of the nature of the constitutional factors by these interventions. These constitutional factors are essential for the nature and the role of social actors (citizens, policy makers, executives etc). For this reason we may reflect the twofold change in these policy areas and categories in an interconnected way. In other words, this application is a condition for a real comprehensive understanding of the urban space. As a result of the Nanjing contributions Figure 4 may clarify this thesis:

Figure 4:   To a comprehensive approach of the urban space

policy areas
*housing and related conditional factors
*education and related conditional factors
*employment and related conditional factors
* transport etc,

four constitutional factors

interventions
* economic
* financial
* juridical etc.

Urban categories
* migrants and related conditional factors
* women and related conditional factors

---

[16] Thawilwadee Bureekul, Surasit Vajirakachorn, '*Social quality in Thailand: the State of Affairs of the four Conditional Factors of Social Quality*', Bangkok: King Prajadhipok Institute/NIDA, October 2008.

[17] See especially note-12.

[18] This refers to the preparatory work at the end of 2008 for the Foundation's third book, namely the part on methodologies and indicators by Peter Herrmann and Laurent van der Maesen It may also be appreciated as an outcome of the Nanjing conference.

* elderly, etc.

_____

We may explore how for example general economic interventions influence socio-economic security related with the policy areas of housing or health care, which implies the possibility for understanding this influence in both areas from the same perspective. This is also the case with the economic interventions concerning the socio-economic security of migrants or women. This can be repeated for all conditional factors . But in the same way we may explore the influence of economic interventions (or juridical interventions etc) on one of the constitutional factors and the change of the role of these

factors in the policy areas or urban categories as well. Therefore, the conceptual framework of the social quality approach paves the way for an interconnected understanding of changes in education or health care, or changes concerning migrants or elderly. This methodological aspect of this approach differs from the attention on the elaboration of indicators. Of course, they are related to each other but they play a totally different role in comparative research and their function for policies with regard to all policy areas and urban categories of the urban space differs. In section-5 on the urban space this will be further discussed.

3.5 The Foundation's third book and a common misunderstanding

This part of the past work has been discussed in section-2.4. Added to the theoretical work may be the methodological work. It covers the elaboration of indicators, the autocriticism of these indicators, the deepening of comparison of other approaches and the role of the social quality architecture to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the urban space (see above). At this place two extra methodological questions, elaborated in the past two years, may be mentioned as well. On behalf of the third book attention was dedicated to the meaning of the reciprocity between deductive and inductive explorations. Second the contours of the profiles and criteria (see architecture) are articulated. This will be important for the fourth stage of the social quality's development. This point is important for preventing a common misunderstanding. The elaboration and application of social quality indicators (connected with conditional factors) are a condition for determining the social quality of daily circumstances but they are not sufficient. We have to explore the state of affairs of the constitutional factors as well. By linking the outcomes between the conditional and constitutional factors we will be enable to judge the outcomes with help of criteria.

4. Application to scientific fields

In this section we present the work carried out to create an adequate scientific infrastructure in Europe as well in Asia. Furthermore we will refer to the application of the theoretical and methodological aspects of the social quality approach to some scientific themes as the conditional factors of socio-economic security, social cohesion and social empowerment, labour relations (employment), and the development of the European Social Model.

4.1. Scientific infrastructure in Europe

4.1.1. Collaboration University of Leiden

During this period an accent is laid on the development of an infrastructure for the scientific development and practical application of the social quality approach, in Europe and in Asia For Europe, in 2006 discussions took place with representatives of the University of Leiden. This did not result into a project-collaboration with the Faculty of Social Sciences of this university. Notwithstanding this, the negotiations paved the way for another initiative. Thanks to the collaboration between the municipality and the Foundation these negotiations resulted at the end of 2006 into the start of the Centre of Modern Urban Studies (MUS) as a part of the Campus The Hague of this university (see document nr.1). The purpose of this Centre is to contribute to analyses of new forms of the urban space of The Hague and especially its quarter Laak (North). This theme will be discussed later (section-5.1.1).

4.1.2 Collaboration with the international Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

At the end of 2006 and in the beginning of 2007 meetings took place with the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) to explore the possibilities of a project-collaboration. In April the ISS and the Foundation organised a seminar to present some principles of the social quality approach for staff members of the ISS. It was discussed whether especially its theoretical attention for theorising 'the social' could be of interest for different aspects of the educational work and research of the ISS as a prestigious international institute for human development. A practical argument for the collaboration was and are the Foundation's connections with the municipality and a manifold of organisations (health care,

education, housing, social care, etc) in the City of The Hague. Possibly, the Foundation may function as a vehicle for relating the ISS's international oriented work for processes in the city of The Hague. This is finally expressed in the Memorandum of Understanding, signed in July 2007 **(document nr. 22).** Since that time staff members of the ISS and members of the Foundation's board discuss the operationalisation of the Memorandum on a monthly basis.[19] This resulted first into a proposal for developing some projects together, financed by the ISS and the Foundation. The plans are presented to the ISS's Innovation Fund **(document nr. 23).** A first overview of the outcomes was presented in 2008 **(document nr. 24).** We will summarise these projects which have been discussed separate in this report*,* namely:

- to theorise the question what the human security discourses and the social quality approach can offer each other (section-2.2),
- to develop the collaboration with the municipality of The Hague and different organisations for creating an experimental status of the quarter of Laak Noord as well as the involvement of students of the ISS in related processes (section-5.1),
- to start - in the context of the second project – attention for the societal consequences and possibilities of recent immigration in the City of The Hague, as well as to pave the way for a collaboration with the international oriented network 'The Hague Process of Migration' (section-5.6),
- to develop initiatives for creating a coalition of (academic) institute in The Hague, namely the Hacu, to stimulate research projects for contributing to the quarter of Laak (North) and for orchestrating this research (section-5.2.3),
- to explore possibilities for financing aspects of these main projects (see above) and to pave the way for collaboration with for example the International Institute for Asian Studies (section-2.2.3) and the National Dutch Scientific Fund etc. (section-7)

4.1.3 exploring financial support for the scientific infrastructure in Europe

As a result of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the ISS (see document nr. 22) the Foundation took a first initiative to contact a Dutch Fund, oriented on renewing 'social security systems' in The Netherlands, the Stichting GAK. Its director was highly interested to approach social security from modern urban perspectives, different from actual approaches (to explore social security as a distinguished societal phenomenon, related with industrial an labour questions). In his opinion the past urban revolts in for example the suburbs of Paris demonstrate the necessity of such a new approach. This is in line with the plans for the ISS's Innovation Fund for starting urban explorations as a point of view for recognising the nature and consequences of societal processes. Different meetings took place and the Foundation sent a proposal **(document nr. 25).** Finally the director of the GAK

---

[19] Participants are from the ISS: Rachel Kurian (chair), Des Gasper, Thandam Truong. From the Foundation: Laurent van der Maesen, Harry Nijhuis, Jaap Westbroek and Helma Verkleij. After each meeting the notes were published and disseminated by the Foundation.

could not convince the board for starting this approach in the context of the project collaboration of the ISS and the Foundation.

The Foundation took a second initiative as well, namely to prepare an expert-meeting with representatives of the ISS, the Foundation and the municipality of The Hague. The purpose was to explore possibilities to finance facilities for strengthening the role of the ISS on behalf of the City of The Hague, based on the work carried out in the past by the Foundation and other academic institutes as well. Its educational work, its research and the general question by the Government to play a public role for debating essential Dutch societal processes are arguments for this initiative *(document nr. 26).* The meeting took place in September 2008. Decided was that the ISS would present an

operational plan to the municipality to realise these ideas as aspects of the plan on behalf of the ISS's Innovation Fund.

The Foundation's third initiative was to look for financial support by the International Institute for Asian Studies for supporting the work carried out in the context of the project-group human security and social quality as discussed in section-2.2.3. This was not successful, but the way is open for financial support in 2010.

The Foundation's fourth endeavour was to prepare, in collaboration with the main actors related with the plan for the urban development of Laak (North) (section-5) to present a paper for financing this development *(document nr.27).*

In collaboration with the ISS the Foundation's fifth initiative was the application to the municipality of The Hague to finance a project on the position of migrants in this city in comparison to other cities in Europe. It concerned a project-proposal based on the social quality approach *(document nr.28).* This was more or less successful (see section-5.6).

The Foundation's sixth initiative was to prepare a project-proposal for the European Commission for starting analyses about the sustainable development of global cities as discussed in section-5.

The Foundation's seventh initiative was to approach the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support an international meeting for discussing the outcomes of its third book in the context of the European policy to renew the Lisbon Agenda from 2000. After some meetings the Foundation sent a proposal *(document nr.29)*. This document will be discussed further in 2009.

4.2   *Scientific infrastructure in Asia*

4.2.1   *Asian infrastructure: start of the Steering Committee in Taipei, March 2007*

As already mentioned from the side of the Foundation the initiative is made to stimulate Asian scholars dedicated to the social quality approach to start a 'Steering Committee Social Quality' in order to pave the way for a Asian Foundation on Social Quality. The Foundation proposed to give as much as possible assistance for underpinning the work by the Steering Committee. The work done from the side of the University of Sheffield concerning lectures on public policies in Hong Kong during the past decades delivered unforeseen possibilities for this potential role of the Foundation.

After the second Asian conference on social quality, March 2007, the first meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Taipei. As chair functioned Tetsuo Ogawa from Japan, assisted by the Foundation's director. Different decisions were made: (i) to start with the Steering Committee with representatives from all East and South East Asian countries, (ii) to start discussions with universities for looking for a infrastructure for an Asian office for social quality, (iii) to contribute to the new Asian research-group for developing social quality indicators under the lead of the National Taiwan University, (iv) to prepare plans for other research-groups (public health, urban development, ageing), (v) to prepare the creation of a International Journal of Social Quality with specific financial support by the National Taiwan University, (vi) to start with a daily board, responsibly for the preparation of the third Asian conference on social quality. The outcomes are published for a broader audience in the first information paper*(document nr. 30).*

4.2.2   Second meeting Steering Committee in Bangkok, December 2007

As a result of the work carried out by members of the Steering Committee and the assistance by the Foundation three institutes in Thailand explained their willingness to look for facilities on behalf of the Asian office of social quality, namely (i) the King Prajadhipok Institute, (ii) NIDA and (iii) the Chulalongkorn University. These three institutes created the possibility for organising the second meeting of the Steering Committee in Bangkok, December 2007 in order to make new steps for the operation of the Committee's strategies. The Foundation published a background-paper for preparing this meeting which functioned at the same time as agenda for this meeting *(document nr. 31).* At this

meeting the decision by the three Thais institutes was presented to start negotiations with Thais authorities for delivering facilities (manpower, office etc) for the start of an Asian office of social quality. Apart from this the composition of the Steering Committee changed as well as the regulations for appointing members. Furthermore, plans were made for the elaboration of the social quality theory and its methodologies. In this context the first outcomes of the Asian research-group of social indicators was presented by Lillian Wang *(document nr. 14).* Preparations were made for the next Asian conference in China and the first preparations were made for paving the way for a collaboration with the ESCAP of the United Nations by Tetsuo Ogawa. The challenge is to discuss with ESCAP-representatives the possibilities for taking on board the social quality indicators. Highly stimulating were the endeavours to start a global debate about the complementarity of the human security discourses and the social quality approach and the first principles were discussed about the proposed International Journal of Social Quality. These outcomes were published in the second information paper *(document nr.32).* Three months later all members of the Steering Committee received the third information paper to connect the strategies of the Steering Committee with the Foundation's strategies in Europe *(document nr. 33).*

4.2.3.   Third meeting Steering Committee in Nanjing, October 2008.

The third meeting took place following the third conference on social quality in Nanjing. The preparatory work was carried out by the University of Nanjing and the Foundation. Again (i) the procedure for appointing members of the Committee and (ii) the outcomes of the third conference were discussed. The point is how to disseminate these outcomes. A plan was made (iii) for the production of a thematic issue of the new International Journal of Development and Society (under the lead of the Seoul National University), for a thematic issue of the proposed International Journal of Social Quality, and articles in a Chinese journal under the lead of the Nanjing University. Explained was (iv) by the members from Thailand that NIDA in Bangkok will function as host of the Asian office for Social Quality. The President of NIDA agrees with delivering a budget for this office. Therefore (v) an extensive plan was made how to start the work of this office. With regard to the International Journal its editorial board presented (vi) the plan to the members of the Steering Committee for the first and the second issue. The question is, both issues can be produced in 2009 and the proposed finances by the National Taiwan University (NTU) concerned 2008. Decided is that members of the Steering Committee will discuss with authorities of the NTU. An important part of the meeting was dedicated to the work carried out by the Asian research-group social quality indicators (vii) The initiative is taken by the Seoul National University to elaborate the methodological questions as well. This university will invest in this work. The idea is to organise an expert-meeting in Seoul in 2009 in order to discuss and to develop cross-national survey questionnaires and further data collection and analysis, as well as theoretical elaboration of the Social Quality concept for the Asian context. The members were very happy (viii) with the start to compare the social quality approach with the quality of life, social capital, human security and social harmony approaches. Important is to develop the initiatives by Tetsuo Ogawa (ix) to connect the MDGs Indicators (by the United Nations) with social quality indicators. Negotiations will start soon. Finally the ideas (x) for the fourth conference on social quality in Bangkok were discussed *(document nr. 34).*

4.3   Scientific elaboration of the conditional factors

In 2007 three papers were published on behalf of the second Asian conference on social quality with which to elaborate the analyses of three conditional factors. Dave Gordon discussed the conditional

factor of socio-economic security. He examined a range of potential measures and indicators of socio-economic security in different Asian contexts and compared these results with current European research *(document nr.35).* David Phillips discussed social cohesion. In fact he started the comparison of the different meanings and of its relationship with other constructs such as social capital and social integration. After reflecting the interpretation of social cohesion in the context of the theory of social quality he related the concept to the notion of a sustainable welfare society and to sustainability more widely, in terms of social, economic and environmental sustainability. These different facets of sustainability are first defined and then their potential relationship with social cohesion, both holistic and in terms of its domains and sub-domains is explored *(document nr. 36*) Peter Herrmann discussed social empowerment. He argued that empowerment is frequently on the

agenda in several political and scientific discourses. However, it is usually taken with a rather individualistic slant, as empowering individuals. Social empowerment is different insofar we are her dealing with the simultaneous and mutual processes of empowering individuals and communities and societies. Its central focus is on processes and relations, necessary for people to be capable of actively participating in social relations and actively influencing the immediate and more distant social and physical environment. This approach paves the way for a friendly critic on the capability theory by Amatyra Sen and Marta Nussbaum and delivers the point of departure for theorising the role of 'responsible citizens' *(document nr. 37).* These studies will be used for the development of the Foundation's third book.

4.4   Labour relations, social precarity and social quality: the conference in Berlin

The Foundation was invited to participate in the conference by the Free University in Berlin in collaboration with the German Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs in January 2007. This happened under the lead of Rolf-Pieter Hepp. This conference was highly stimulated by EURISPES, the Italian national institute for political, economic, and social studies. This institute stimulates analyses on the nature and meaning of the European Social Model (section-4.4).[20] The question raised during this conference was if the economic problems (at the moment defined as a crisis) and recent labour reforms in many member states of the European Union cause new and far-reaching forms of precarity and if we need a modernisation of the European Social Model with which to elaborate individual rights and collective conditions for coping effectively with new forms of precarity. Peter Herrmann and Laurent van der Maesen contributed to the conference by reflecting the meaning and consequences of precarity from the theoretical perspective of social quality.

In their lectures they argued, that the understanding of the praxis the concept precarity is referring to, is – even in the recognition by institutional politics – a central challenge for policy makers. However, the danger is to introduce a new term, yet maintaining a discussion on traditional problems as poverty, marginalisation and exclusion. Although these problems are not problems of individuals and expressions of their personal failure, precarity - seen in the context of the theory of social quality – should mean an expression of a further erosion of society. On request by the European Commission, indeed Galie and Paugam are dealing with precarity and claiming for the first time to provide an analysis going beyond a limited income and poverty study. [21] Most notable at the outset is that the authors do not provide a definition of what precarity actually is.[22] The main problem with this – and subsequent – studies is that they are strictly positivist, starting with a conventional understanding of what social problems are about. This means as well, that precarity appears very much as an issue of an eclectically assembled patchwork of what a good society is about. Their lectures have been elaborated in a working-paper about precarity and social quality *(document nr.38).*[23] The paper

[20] D. Albers, S. Haseler, G.M. Fara, *Reforming the European Social Model: Platform Proposal'*, Eurispes: Rome, December 2007.

[21] D. Galie, S. Paugam, Social Precarity and Socal Integration: Report for the European Commission Based on Eurobarometer 56.1, Brussels: Directorate General Press and Communication, October 2002.

[22] As argued, in the European discourse we miss theoretically grounded definitions of socio-economic security, social cohesion, social inclusions and social empowerment as well.

[23] This working-paper is published on the Foundation's website (www.socialquality.org) and recently in a German book: P. Herrmann, L.J.G. van der Maesen, Social Quality and Precarity: Approaching New Patterns of Societal (Dis-) Integration, in:Rolf-Pieter Hepp (Hg), *The Fragilisation of Socio-structural Components*, Bremen: Europaischer Hochschul-verlag GmbH & Co, 2009, pp. 60-76. In a following chapter Peter Herrmann discussed the theme of 'Gemeinschaft der Gesellschaft: die Suche nach einem Definitionsrahmen für Prekarität', pp. 76-108. It concerns the new recognition of human actions in the context of 'the social', a central theme of the theory of social quality.

hypothesises, that by redefining precarity in the context of the theory of social quality we will be able to develop an activation strategy concerned with citizens rather than with employees or consumers. Implicitly this stresses the endeavour to analyse the urban space as a comprehensive totality, including the position of responsible citizens as actors in the urban space.

4.5   Theorising the European Social Model: the conference in Rome

The Foundation was invited by Eurispes in Rome, the German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the London Metropolitan University to actively participle in the third conference in Rome on the European Social Model, November 2008. Peter Herrmann and Laurent van der Maesen presented their contribution. The conference's explicit objective was to contribute to ideas to address global processes with this

European heritage in mind. From the Foundation's side related themes were already presented earlier in a thematic issue of the European Journal on social Quality, Volume 6, issue 1 in 2006 (www.Berghahnbooks.com). Argued is first, that the focus on 'social model' leads into a reification of the interpretation of highly different processes in the member states of the EU. The alternative may be to explore these processes and related governmental strategies with help of   new analytical instruments instead of comparing member states on the basis of suppositions based on reificated thinking. And in the European discourse, a theoretically grounded interpretation of the concept of 'European Social Model' is missing. Hypothesized is, that the social quality architecture presents a possibility for these explorations. Second, for many advocates of the European Social Model (see contributions to the conference) the current financial crisis demonstrates the failure of neo-liberal suppositions concerning the regulatory power of the market. However the question remains if this disaster – more or less legitimized by the dominant Western political culture – can be addressed by the conventional wisdom on the 'European Social Model' or suppositions related with the idiom of the Western welfare states.

From the Foundation's side the question was raised if it makes sense to reduce the financial downturn to the duality of mechanistic interpretations of neo-liberalism and the mechanistic interpretation of social democratic convictions. In other words is the financial mess with subprime mortgages wrapped in complex bonds and derivatives' a logical result of the role of the perfect market? Supposed by experts is that first the modern theory of finance applies false assumptions. Second, the neo-liberal (utilitarian) assumption that human beings are rational and able to maximise their gains on the basis of logical choices produces the theoretical conditions for the current crises. Of course, the Foundation's challenge is to theorise further in order to contribute constructively to the intensions by Eurispes and other European institutes to look for acceptable alternatives for the neo-liberal assumptions in order to cope adequately with recent global challenges and problems. Therefore, to participate in debates on the European Social Model is highly functional and may pave the way for a change into the debate on new European strategies *(document nr. 39).* One of the outcomes of the conference is to extend the related theoretical work with help of Asian scholars in order to understand the nature of current global processes from scientific Asian perspectives as well. This indeed implies on meta level a common theoretical based point of departure. From the side of the Foundation this extension is highly stimulated. The recent isolated interpretation of economic sustainability – strongly stimulated by neo-liberal assumptions – has contradictory consequences for the overall sustainability.[24] The concept of

European Social Model is, according to the European Commission – worthwhile to export to Russia and China. However, it remains a political concept, unable to contribute to a new understanding of this contradiction. And intrinsically the question what is meant with the 'social' of 'social model' remains unanswered. And how to address complex societal dynamics with a 'model'? As a result of the recent results on the collaboration with Asian scholars (see above) the Foundation has something to offer to this debate.

5.   The Urban Space and its policy areas and categories: the change of perspective

---

[24] In the second chapter of the Foundation's third book , to be published by MacMillan, the theme of the European Social Model is discussed extensively, stimulated by the outcomes of this conference in Rome.

This section concerns the endeavours to confront aspects of the theory, its methodologies and methods and the outcomes of the reflection of scientific themes to policy areas and categories of the urban space. As explained above, in 2007 and 2008 – based on the work done in previous years – the Foundation changed its course essentially. From approaches to policy areas as public health (health and social care) or employment as 'phenomena sui generis' it prioritises the understanding of the urban space as a comprehensive totality and in its context the nature and changes of these policy areas and urban categories. For this reason we start with activities in 2007 and 2008 with regard to the theme of the urban space and after that with the work done for specific policy areas (employment, public health, ageing) and urban categories (migrants).

5.1 The urban space of the City of The Hague as an example

In this sub-section we present the work done and the outcomes concerning the urban quarter Laak (North) as a part of the city of The Hague. It is written from the perspective of the Foundation. The current purpose is to develop this quarter as an urban experimental field.[25] Due to the complexity there are of course other perspectives to present the work done and its outcomes. The rationale of the Foundation's preparatory work and the current activities is to confront the social quality approach with this example of daily circumstances in cities.[26]

5.1.1. Summarizing the outcomes of past years

In document nr.1 the start and rationale of the Foundation's contributions are explained with which to pave the way for the quarter Laak (North) as an experimental urban field. For understanding activities and outcomes in 2007 and 2008 the following outcomes of the past work are worthwhile to summarize:
- a manifold of non-for-profit organisations (education, housing, health care, social care, well-being) started the **Forum** for orchestrating their activities on behalf of the city The Hague,
- a 'change agent', namely the **DISQ** (Design Innovation Social Quality) is constructed to elaborate proposed processes by relating organisations from the Forum, departments of the Municipality, scientific institutes and community groups,
- a start is made with a **think-tank** Laak(North) as a platform for realising the orchestrating of all partners,
- a new Centre of Modern Urban Studies **(MUS)** as a part of the Campus of The Hague (department of the University of Leiden) is constructed to analyse governmental processes, connected with processes of orchestration.

Arguments for the construction of this infrastructure is delivered by the outcomes of two series of interviews with (i) executives of important organisations in The Hague and with (ii) managers working in Laak (North), as referred to in document nr.1. These interviews are held on request by the municipality of The Hague.

5.1.2 Elaboration of the infrastructure in 2007

Also on request by the municipality the Foundation published in the beginning of 2007 a paper for explaining the work done in 2005 and 2006 *(document nr. 40).* Explained is as well, why the work on behalf of Laak (North) can be made useful for the quarter Mariahoeve an other quarters in The Hague. In other words, this work disposes of a potentiality to function as a frame of reference for this city and other cities in The Netherlands. And as we will see, at the end of 2008 it is used as frame of reference for international comparative work (section-5.2). Important is the presentation of the extension of the infrastructure (see above) for developing this urban space:
- the project collaboration with the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) for presenting international information which may be useful for processes in The Hague (Laak),

---

[25] See note-2.

[26] Since the beginning of 2006 Laurent van der Maesen, Harry Nijhuis and Jaap Westbroek were steering the Foundation's work in The Hague daily.

- the start of a collaboration with the Haagse Hogeschool (Polytechnique) for allocating its resources and students to contribute to processes in Laak (North),
- the start of the collaboration with the project-organisation 'The Hague Process', oriented on global debates on the nature and consequences of migration processes.
- The start of the collaboration with community groups in Laak (North).

In January the second meeting of the think-tank Laak (North) was held. The Foundation's director functioned as its secretary, Jaap Westbroek (DISQ) as its chair. In the paper on this meeting the historical and actual relations and circumstances of Laak (North) were discussed, the new initiatives concerning education and social care, and time is spent to start with a vision for steering all coming

activities *(document nr.41).* For assisting all members of the think-tank a working-paper was published about the daily circumstances of this quarter.[27]

The appointments made during the second meeting of the think-tank are to retake the original plans for Laak (North), articulated in 2004 and 2005, namely to build a 'Heart of Provisions' as an urban point of crystallisation in the context of an overall vision.[28] Based on this past preparatory work and the outcomes of the think-tank up till now the Foundation presented a paper for starting the project-group 'Heart of Laak (North)' in March 2007 *(document nr. 42).* The Foundation also published a paper for starting a project-group for elaborating an overall vision on this urban space in order to pave the way for a comprehensive approach. In this paper some outcomes of the application of the social quality's architecture are applied *(document nr. 43).* This is illustrated in the following figure (see below). The intermediate is the social quality approach with its architecture, applicable on all three dimensions:

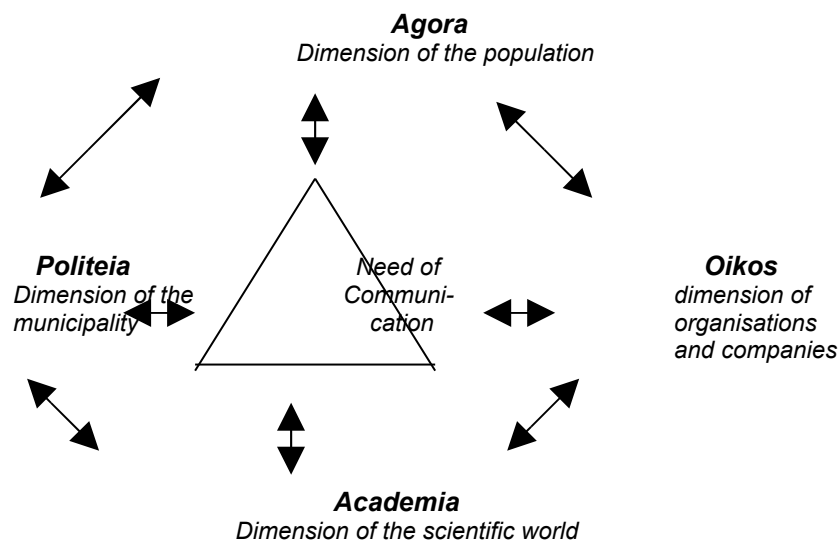**Figure 5:**   ***The triangle of the urban space***
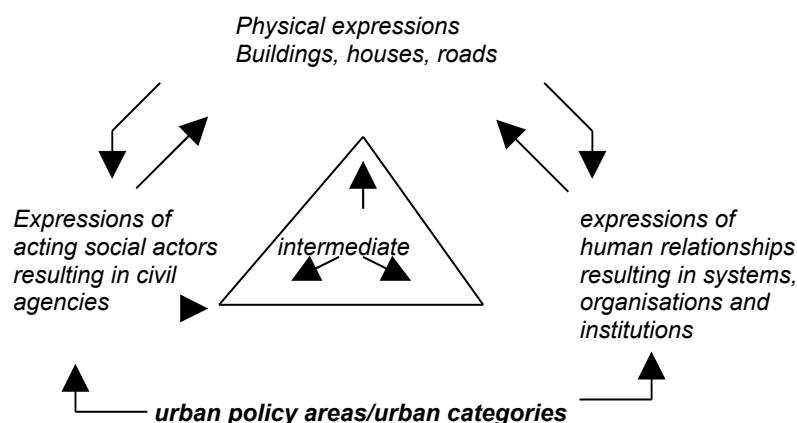
For orchestrating different project-groups a paper was published by the DISQ for the nature, role en functions of a steering-group Laak (North) (***document nr. 44***). In this document aspects of the practical work done in the recent past and the theoretical work thus far functioned as background information for articulating the role and position of the proposed steering-group. These three documents (nr. 42, 43 and 44) were discussed during the third meeting of the think-tank. They delivered the points op departure for the steering-group *(document nr. 45).* Since then the DISQ and the Foundation organised different meetings based on the appointments made during this third meeting, for example about the possibilities of the planned new school in Laak (North) for practical education with which to deliver points of contact for the proposed 'Heart of Provisions'. The new philosophy of this school was to open its walls for the environment and to stimulate new relations between education, micro-economic enterprises, health care, etc, on other words to start a movement back to the quarter of Laak (North) *(document nr. 46).* [29]

---

[27] G.Evers, [in Dutch] , *Integral description of daily circumstances and relations in Laak (North),*The Hague: STIOM, January 2007

[28] Consultants M3V, [in Dutch], *The Heart of Provisions Laak (North): Education (Esloo-Group), health and social care (Florence), Well-being (Stichting Welzijn Laak*), Amersfoort: M3V, July 2004.

The Foundation published an information-paper for presenting an overview of these activities, meetings, discussions which are important for the start of the process in this quarter of The Hague *(document nr. 47).* According to the central actors of the think-tank at that time, the essence of the strategy should be to connect different actors with each others, which implied the translation of different spoken 'languages' by these actors: from the side of organisations and management, from the side of the municipality, from the side of the scientific world, from the side of the population, see following figure:

Figure 6:   *Communication between different groups of actors[30]*

Agora
Dimension of the population

Politeia
Dimension of the municipality

Need of Communi-cation

Oikos
dimension of organisations and companies

Academia
Dimension of the scientific world

All these dimensions are inclined to oriented themselves to the 'inner circles' and not to really communicate with each other which implies a common language and understanding. Especially with help of the social quality approach, all actors engaged with Laak (north) may be stimulated to go beyond this fragmentation. This is implicitly expressed in a second paper on behalf of the fourth meeting, namely a draft about a contract or memorandum of understanding between the relevant organisations in Laak (North) and the municipality. In other words, discussions, meetings and other happenings paved the way for a positive climate to start with Laak (North) as an experimental urban quarter *(document nr. 48).* The fourth meeting of the think-tank functioned as a begin of negotiations between relevant parties to start with this quarter and how to finance the costs of these processes and by whom? Furthermore, questions are raised what should be the role of community groups (population), of organisations and companies, of departments of the municipality and how to connect the highly fragmented scientific world for contributing to develop a comprehensive approach *(document nr. 49).* The fourth meeting of the think-tank increased the possibilities for these negotiations and also for paving the way for approaching community-groups as centrepiece of the whole exercise.[31]

During the following months the Foundation assisted the DISQ daily as change agent. And with the DISQ and the municipality it paved the way for the project-collaboration with the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) as explained above (section-4.1.2). Suggested is that this international institute will be enabled to support urban processes from a global perspective. Further, the Foundation started in

---

[29]J. Westbroek, R. Gordijn, [in Dutch] *Building on Lifelong Learning. Esloo-Design: a Design for the digital multisectoral VMBO school,* Voorburg: Scholengroep Esloo, 1997.

[30] The distinction between Agora, Oikos, Politeia and Academia is used and elaborated by Laurent van der Maesen, Harry Nijhuis and Jaap Westbroek since 2006, see document nr.1. It is discussed during the second Asian conference by Harry Nijhuis in Taiwan, March 2007.

[31] This resulted in the first proposal by: S. van Schuppen, [in Dutch and English], *The History and the future of your street and community. Explanations by inhabitants of Laak (North),* The Hague: Stichting Lopende Zaken, May 2008.

collaboration with the ISS the exploration of one aspect of the urban context, namely the position of migrants (see section-5.6).The DISQ accentuated the development of conditions for Laak (North), resulting into the positive outcomes of the negotiations with relevant organisations and the municipality *(document nr. 50).* This resulted into the presentation of the work done by these organisations in the recent past and their ambitions for going beyond traditional path roots. How to prevent a reproduction of the past work causing a strengthening of the existing fragmentation? And as argued, the ambition of Esloo-group of schools to open its walls for the surrounding community and to operate as a creative element in the community functioned as a stimulus. This ambition is accepted by other organisations as well *(document nr. 51).*

5.1.3   Elaboration of the infrastructure in 2008

In the beginning of 2008 the negotiations were continued for reaching a strong orchestration between departments of the municipality and all relevant actors in Laak (North) for outlining the different responsibilities and for delivering financial facilities. The DISQ and the Foundation published a paper with which to summarize and to interpret the activities and outcomes of all those engage with the think-tank, as well as the consensus of the common new ambitions of all relevant organisations to create a multisectoral interrelationship of systems (responsibly for housing, education, sport, health care, social care, well-being, as well as some companies). This paper also presented outcomes of discussions with a manifold of community groups in 2007. On the basis of this work six themes are articulated, with which to operationalise the social ambitions and ideas about sustainable development in this part of The Hague. Herewith an endeavour is made to connect the strategies for Laak (North) with the recent policies by the municipality, expressed in its report on 'Social ambitions and sustainable development' from January 2008.[32] Reflecting the renewal of these systems and their interrelationship will stimulate the reflection of the reciprocity between physical and non-physical aspects (see figure-5) of this urban development. In this paper the necessity for a systemic collaboration with scientific institutes and research departments for realising the ambitions in Laak (North) is formulated for the first time *(document nr. 52)*.

Since February 2008 the steering-group took the lead and the activities by other project-groups was delayed. On the basis of previous papers – the documents nr. 50, 51, and 52 – the steering-group published an extensive report how to proceed, namely by formulating for the first time for this part of The Hague a mission for all actors together (sustainable development), a related vision (on the Heart of Provisions as a multifunctional point of crystallisation in this community) and the central goal (the operationalisation of the social ambitions in this part of The Hague). Notwithstanding this, at this stage the report presents a compilation of interventions and investments by these central actors. This is a necessary first step *(document nr. 53).* This report delivered the points of departure for a paper about the long term plans for Laak (North) and the nature, function and costs of the infrastructure for realising this long term plan *(see document nr.27).*

This report has been used until October 2008 for different meetings with groups of people from respectively the Agora, the Oikos and the Politeia (see figure-5). For realising as well support by the Dutch Government for the orchestrated approach in Laak (North) especially representatives of the Politeia should be informed. The Government invests in quarters of big cities with essential problems. Laak (North) with one of the highest multicultural composition of Dutch quarters should be placed on the Governmental agenda as well. In that case it should be easy for the municipality to invest in this part. Thanks to the outcomes of the debates the steering-group and the municipality were able to publish an authoritative report on Laak (North) and how to start with five so-called 'business-cases' for realising the mission, vision and goals and to relate this work with the strategies of the Government to enhance daily circumstances of quarters with problems.[33] These outcomes are explained in the first newsletter *(document nr. 54).*

---

[32] In this report and other reports as well, the municipality makes a distinction between the social dimension and the physical dimension of the city. According to the social quality approach, all types of 'expressions' (see figure 5) are aspects of 'the social'. The municipality's distinction refers to an traditional paradigm, preventing a comprehensive understanding of processes in the city and their reciprocity.

[33] The municipality published in the beginning of 2009 this report, explaining its intentions to start with Laak (North) as an experimental urban space. It also started formally the discussions about financial facilities for creating an infrastructure for the urban development: Municipality [in Dutch*], Laak (North) as relevant urban space: an application for governmental support for the development of Laak (North) in the context of the policies for development of specific quarters of Dutch cities by the Ministry of Urban Quarters and Integration,* The Hague: Department of Education, Culture and Health Care, March 2009.

5.1.4   exploration of the problematique

Since the beginning of 2008 the DISQ and the Foundation – in collaboration with the ISS – started reflections on the real nature of the problematique of urban spaces in big cities in The Netherlands. This resulted into two endeavours. The first was done by the DISQ with its extensive paper on the traditional urban development in The Netherlands, based on the traditional paradigm leading to: (i) a distinction of social and physical dimensions of the city, (ii) strengthening fragmentation and segregation of systems, (iii) and the orientation on inhabitants as consumers. This paradigm prevents a sustainable development, because it can not cope with dynamic emergent processes in daily circumstances. Argued is, that the conceptual framework of the social quality approach will deliver a new and constructive perspective *(document nr. 55)*. The second endeavour was provided by the

Foundation for exploring a new way to engage scientific institutes for developing a new paradigm on behalf of processes in The Hague. Hypothesised is, that the conceptual framework of social quality may pave the way for a new urban methodological framework. As an outcome of the traditional urban paradigm this methodological framework is missing in The Netherlands as well in all other member states of the European Union. [34] On request by staff-members of the ISS a first analysis of processes concerning the urban space of Laak (North) are made with which to explore the nature of the real problematique and how to approach by scientific research this problematique *(document nr. 56).* The documents nr. 55 and 56 are discussed during a seminar at the ISS in February 2008. They paved the way for the Foundation's third working-paper, to be published in 2009.

Thanks to the project-collaboration with the ISS, the DISQ and the Foundation, assisted by civil-servants of the municipality, explored the quintessence of the problematique. Missing is a conceptual framework for understanding the urban space as a comprehensive totality of policy areas and urban categories. Missing is also an adequate conceptualisation of sustainability and therefore the sustainable development of the urban space.[35] Therefore, missing is an urban methodological framework for realising the sustainable development of the urban space (cities, global cities). The answer may be as follows:

Figure 7:   *The social quality approach for coping with two challenges*
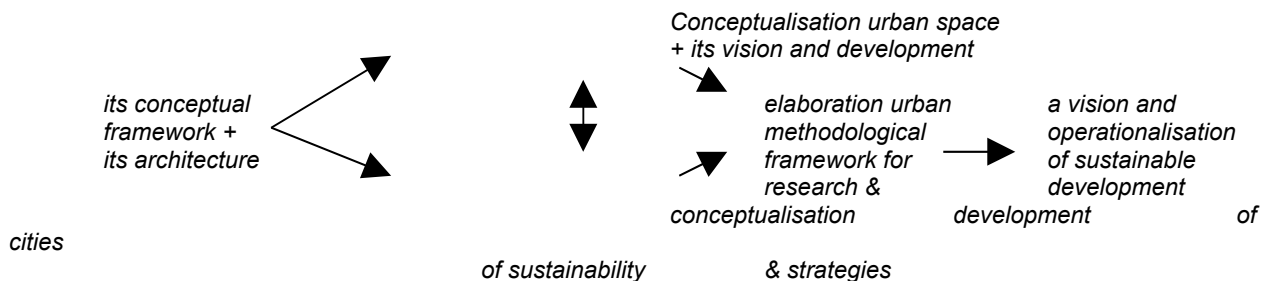
The studies made in 2008, resulted in the following addition. Based on an unequivocal conceptual framework we may derive a urban methodological framework, in order to address from the perspective of the Agora, the Oikos and the Politeia the interrelated development of different policy areas and the nature and position of urban categories, see figure-8. The sq-architecture delivers a starting point for a common, interdisciplinary approach (namely the urban methodology of science) of interventions in urban policy areas and urban categories (as a consequence of the urban methodological practice) and a manifold of steering processes concerning both fields (as a consequence of the urban methodology of governance). From a practical/managerial point of view, professionals who are responsible for education, for health care, for constructing streets, houses or developing transport systems (the Oikos) can reflect on how their interventions affect the conditional factors and the nature of the constitutional factors. In other words, for the different types of professionals, this sq-architecture delivers a common

---

[34] This conclusion is derived from the European wide analysis by NICIS on request of the French Government : K. van Dijken, M. Grisel, W. Hafkamp, *Levers of public action for the development of sustainable cities: A European study on request by the French Government*, The Hague: NICIS, November 2008.

[35] This is also concluded by the NICIS study. Everywhere in Europe cities are oriented on sustainable development without explaining what it really means, note-34.

tool to go beyond the classical fragmentation. As a result of the social quality architecture, we also dispose of new tools to change the traditional forms of governance, since we are enabled to apply measurement instruments which may be used in the new urban methodology of govern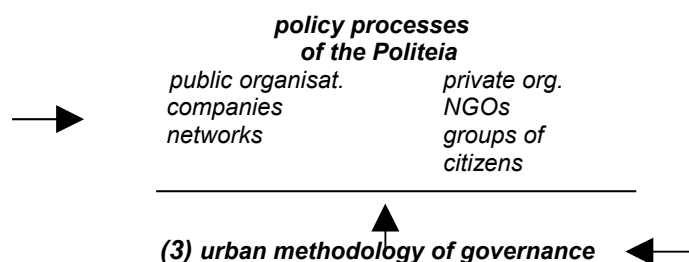ance, as well as in both other urban methodologies. Therefore these tools deliver the starting points to create the interrelation of these three methodological layers also as a condition for the innovation of forms of governance by local authorities, companies, private institutions and citizens, which and who are responsible for practical interventions in policy areas and urban categories as an aspect of the comprehensive totality of the urban space. It refers to a recent plea in the 'The Hague Declaration of Eurocities'.[36] For example, as a consequence of the interrelatedness, people from different worlds (Agora, Oikos, Politeia, and Academia) could use the same indicators to determine

(changing) conditional factors in the context of policy areas and urban categories. As a result of the application of the preliminary set of social quality indicators we may analyse the policy areas and urban categories from one logical perspective, as a result of the interrelatedness of the three layers of the urban methodological framework

Figure 8 :   ***The thesis of the 'urban methodological framework'[37].***

---

[36] Eurocities, *Building Active Cities: Modern Citizenship and Integrated Governance: Conference Book*, The Hague: Eurocities AGM/Municipality of The Hague, November 2008.

[37] This theme is presented for the first time in the Nanjing lecture by Laurent van der Maesen, document nr. 13 and used as frame of reference in the application concerning the project sustainable development of global cities, document nr.57.

policy processes
of the Politeia

public organisat.   private org.
companies   NGOs
networks   groups of
                           citizens

(3) urban methodology of governance

5.2 The preparation of the project sustainable development of global cities

5.2.1 The object of the project-proposal

Inspired by the work carried out in the city of The Hague as part of the Dutch Delta Metropole (The Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam) and a growing collaboration with academic institutes in Europe, Asia, South Africa and Latin America, the Foundation prepared a project proposal on the sustainable development of global cities, to be presented to the European Commission (Framework Program 7) in the begin of January 2009. The objective is first to start empirical oriented comparative research to understand existing processes in fourteen global cities. Second, to use the comparable information to develop a preliminary urban methodological framework, applicable to all engaged global cities. Third, to interrelate different policy areas (health care, social housing, education, sport, social protection, employment etc) and different urban categories (position of children, youth, migrants, women, elderly, handicapped people, low-income groups) in an urban context (and processes) with the help of the preliminary framework, to prepare a comprehensive understanding of the nature and dynamics of the fourteen global cities. Fourth, to develop measurement instruments to monitor the results of the complex dynamics and public policies oriented upon them in these global cities. Then, to relate these instruments with the current results of the social quality indicators (in comparison to social indicators, social capital indicators, Millennium Development Goal indicators and quality of life indicators). This will result into the further elaboration of the **urban methodological framework** as well. Fifth, to apply the results to strongly contribute to public policies in these global cities to enhance the sustainability of their societies, as well as to address the four normative factors of social quality, namely: social justice, solidarity, equal value and human dignity. As argued, the question of sustainable cities should be connected with the overall theme of sustainability. As proposed, the actual results of the urban methodology for Laak North (see above) will be used as preliminary frame of reference for this global project. This plan was completed at the end of 2008 **(document nr. 57).**

5.2.2 The proposed Steering-group and the city participants

Most academic institutes from the fourteen global cities (see below) produced new papers to assist the development of a project proposal on behalf of the European Commission **(documents nr. 58-68).** This work inspired many expert-institutes to participate together in the project's Steering Group, namely: the University of Sheffield in the UK (chairing the project), IBC/Movilization in The Netherlands, the Italian Institute of Political, Economic and Social Studies (Eurispes), the Chiba University in Japan, the University of Bristol (Townsend Centre) in UK, the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand, the Institute of Economic Growth in India, the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Social Sciences, the University of Cork. A specific objective is to develop ideas about the renewal of transport-systems in four of the global cities (Johannesburg, Porte Alegre, Delhi and Nanjing) in strong collaboration with IBC/Movilization. The academic institutes in the global cities (see below) will create a working-group of other academic institutes in these global cities. These working-groups will function as a point of crystallisation for the communication and dialogue in these cities with governmental bodies, companies, non-for-profit organisations, NGOs, groups of citizens etc.

The participating central city institutes are:

- Centre d'Etudes sur Les Réseaux, les Transports, l'Urbanisme et Les Constructions Publiques (CERTU), France, on the **Lyon Metropole** (dr Nicolas Gillio cs)**,**

- Centre of Town Planning Studies, FADR, Italy, on the **Naples Metropole** (dr Gabriella Esposito De Vita cs),
- Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social (CESIS), Portugal, on the **Lisbon Metropole** (dr Ana Cardoso cs),
- Nanjing University, China, on **Nanjing** (prof. dr Lin Ka, cs),
- Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University, India, on **Delhi,** (prof. dr Arup Mitra),
- The Pontifical Catholic University of Rio rande do Sul (PUCRS), Brazil, on **Porto Alegre**, (prof. dr Beatriz Gershenson Aguinsky) cs).
- Witwatersrand University, South Africa, on **Johannesburg** (prof. dr Loren Landau),

- National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) and the King Prajadhipok Institute, Thailand, on **Bangkok** (prof. dr Surisat Vajirakachorn and prof. dr Thawilwadee Bureekul)**,**
- Lomonosow Moscow State University, Russia, on **Moscow** (prof. dr Natalia Grigorieva cs)**,**
- Middle East Technical University, Turkey, on the **Antalya Metropole** (prof dr Sibel Kalaycıoğlu cs),
- Chinese University of Hong Kong, China, on **Hong Kong** (prof. dr Chack Kie Wong)
- the Institute for Social Development and Policy Research of the Seoul National University, Korea, on **Seoul** (prof. dr Jaeyeol Yee cs),
- National Taiwan University, Social Policy research, Taiwan, on the **Taipei Metropole** (prof. dr. Lihrong Wang cs).

5.2.3   The academic coalition in The Hague: the start of the HACUS

The application on behalf of the European Commission (document nr.57) was prepared with help of the collaboration between different institutes in The Hague, namely the Foundation, the ISS, NICIS, the Campus of the University of Leiden etc. This collaboration was also an outcome of their interest in the new approach of the urban space of Laak North. It should pave the way in 2009 for the start of the 'Hague Academic Coalition Sustainable Urban Development (HACUS), chaired by the Foundation.

5.3   The policy area of employment

In previous Annual Reports information is given about the question what the social quality approach has to offer to explorations of employment questions in the European Union and if the outcomes may deliver points of departure for contributions to European policies. In this period an analysis is made by Ton Korver about the question if the past work can be used for effecting the change from welfare state to welfare societies as discussed during the second Asian conference in Taipei. In other words he tries to open the horizon of social quality analyses for global questions as explained in this working-paper's Introduction. The idea of sustainable welfare society implies a new configuration of the relations between political society (the state) and society as a whole. Such will also impinge the theme of socio-economic security and related employment questions, expressed in the theme of employability, which may be underpinned by covenants. The shorthand formula of a covenant might read: the state taking the initiative of society seriously. By this token the covenant is something like the mirror-image of corporatism. Instances of covenants (and its functional equivalents; many agreements carry many names and the use of the name of the covenant is mainly restricted to The Netherlands and Flanders) cover lager parts of the field of industrial and employment relations, pivotal in any rendition of what socio-economic security stand for. Illustrations can be found, in particular, in the areas of the quality of work, of working conditions and of labour market issues such as training and education on the one, insides and outsides on the other hand. The social quality approach may deliver an heuristic instrument for assisting this change into sustainable welfare societies **(document nr. 69).**

5.4.   The policy area of public health/health care

5.4.1   The start with analyses in China

In the past a lot of work is also done on behalf of the policy area of public health. During the third Asian conference on Social Quality from the side of Chinese scholars a plea is made to start with comparative studies about different policy areas, also public health. In this period Alan Walker contributed already to an analysis of the health system in China for paving the way for such comparative research concerning public health in general sense. The study explains the paradox of China's recent failure to secure significant improvements in the health of its people despite once being the envy of the developing world for its successful health policies and its huge sustained increases in both economic growth and expenditure on health care. The main discussion consists of an evaluation of health service system performance in China during the reform era and an explanation of its health paradox. The key elements are the waste of resources, the neglect of proven health interventions, and the lack of fairness in allocation of medical resources – all of which are underpinned by the neoliberal orientation of policy in the reform era *(document nr.70).*

5.4.2   An initiative from the Chiba University

Recently an initiative is made by Tetsuo Ogawa in order to start with a research network of modern public health and cities in Asia and Europe. It may be seen as a follow-up of the past work in this field from the social quality side and the recent attention for the urban space and its changes. What are the main societal trends and what are the effects for public health: changes in demographic trends related to population ageing and low fertility rates; in gender roles; in social and family relations.; in the organisation of care for children, the sick or the growing demand for older people in need of care. It should also address the relationships between traditional economic indicators of welfare, such as GDP, the measure of quality lo life indicators by the WHO, the Human Development Index (HDI) and Human Poverty Index (HPI) in comparison with the social quality approach as well. As argued, social inequalities present the major challenges towards many Asian societies and may affect their cohesion as well as their social and economic development. At the moment the possibilities are explored to start with Japanese, Australian and Dutch cities *(document nr.71).*

5.5.   The policy area of ageing

5.5.1   Social Qualtiy and a new perspective on Ageing

Thanks to the three Asian conferences on Social Quality the Chiba University has introduced this approach to circles of the United Nations, namely ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific). In the beginning of 2007 Tetsuo Ogawa presented a paper on the new perspective on ageing with help of the social quality approach. It will not only deliver new analytical tools (and see the social quality architecture) for exploring the position of elderly in countries, it will also deliver new tools for comparative research and contribute to our knowledge about the differences between the various societal and social models in Asian countries. In a specific way this approach can contribute to policies with which to realise the Millennium Development Goals. In this context5 it will be highly relevant to understand the similarities and differences of other approaches as human security , social capital or quality of life *(document nr.72).*

5.5.2   The conference of the IIAS in September 2007

In September 2007 the International Institute for Asian Studies in The Netherlands organised a conference on public and private old-age security arrangements in Asia and Europe. From the side of the Foundation, Alan Walker, a keynote lecture was given. It consist of a summary of the key demographic and old age security features of Western Europe which also includes an assessment, albeit a crude one, of the extent to which Europe's welfare systems have achieve socio-economic security in old age. This is followed, secondly, by an outline of the major global threat to socio-economic security I old age – the neoliberal hegemony that is driving social policies in both Europe and Asia and how this has been interpreted and implemented so far in Europe. Finally this lecture turns to a critique of the European (and global) approach to sustainability and suggests both an alternati8ve perspective and a practical policy strategy to ensure that Europe's pension systems are

sufficient to enable social quality in old age and are sustainable in financial, political and ecological terms. In other words, this lecture embraces the main topics of the new global orientation of the social quality approach, applied to the policy area of ageing. We need a new paradigm for discussions of sustainability. This draw inspiration from the European concept of social quality but suggests that it has global potential *(document nr.73)*. [38]

5.6.   The urban category of migrants

5.6.1   The project on request by the Municipality of The Hague

Since the beginning of 2006 plans have been developed to dedicate special attention to the position of migrants in The Hague concerning the urban space of Laak-Noord. The purpose was to start with the exploration of this urban category for contribution to the urban space of Laak (North) of The Hague as a good example. These ideas could be enhanced as a result of the project-collaboration of the ISS and the Foundation, as decided in a Memorandum of Understanding. In order to prepare the discussions with representatives of the municipality the foundation published a paper for presenting arguments on the basis of the work done since 2005 *(document nr.74).* This paved the way for discussions with civil-servants of the municipality in the summer of 2007 for a preliminary exploration of the position of migrants (as an important aspect of the Agora). This resulted into an expert-meeting with civil-servants, leading to the idea of analyzing the results of current public policies to strengthen the position of migrants in the Hague, namely October 2007. The proposals referred to new policies by the municipality set up in order to strengthen the citizenship position of all residents. Which results could be discerned and what are the benefits of the money spent on migrant community-groups for the social quality of this part of the population? Based on a general understanding of the position of migrants in Dutch and European cities, what could be changed in order to strengthen their position as responsible citizens of The Hague *(document nr. 75)*? Two months later a preliminary exploration about similarities and differences concerning public policies for the urban category of migrants in ten European cities was presented to the municipality by the Foundation *(document nr. 76).* This unexpectedly delivered the argument for the municipality to change the objectives of the project. It was felt that at the moment an exploration of the results of local governments' policies in comparable European cities was not relevant. From now on, the project should identify and examine 'best practices' elsewhere that have proved to be effective in building bridges between ethnic groups in neighbourhoods. In other words, the social capital approach with its implicitly top-down governmental strategies was preferred. A reflection should be made on the relevance and potential for the city of The Hague in line with the new policy. It should also suggest future directions of policies and programmes. The project has been completed by the ISS. [39]

Notwithstanding the municipality's ideological change, the final results deliver interesting starting points for the work for Laak Noord as well. Some recommendations are that it is important (i) to provide 'safe' spaces and opportunities for youth, (ii) to tap the spiritual resources in different religious groups through stimulating interaction and sharing, (iii) to take up the challenge of motivating women from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds to get involved in building bridges across these divides, (iv) to involve elderly in motivating multicultural understanding through volunteer work, sharing of experience, letting their voices be heard in public deliberation, (v) to motivate ethnic based organizations that play a role in providing a better understanding of the new cultural setting for refugees, (vi) to use the power of the media as a means of stimulating intercultural knowledge interaction and understanding, (vii) to further develop the links between multiculturalism and the environment, and see how this can involve different ethnic communities at neighbourhood level in social, cultural and environmental projects, (viii) to prepare for a clear methodology of the work, preferably prior to the implementation of these programmes. The results of this report may be applied to analyze the results of the current citizenship policies of the municipality. It may also be used for the development of the approach of the urban space of Laak-Noord with its high percentage of migrants.

---

[38] This lecture is published in: A. Walker, A Lesson for Asia? Maintaining socio-economic security in old age, *IIAS Newsletter*, nr 49 (2008), p.11.

[39] R. Kurian, *'Building Bridges in Neighbourhoods: Connecting Communities, Celebrating Diversity and Promoting Civic Citizenship at local levels'*, The Hague: ISS, June 2008.

In other words, it is a first step and it should be connected with the new research proposal to explore the position of citizens in Laak-Noord as explained above.

5.6.2   The ISS conference on international migration

At the end of August 2007 the Institute of Social Studies organised a International conference on migration, multilocal livelihoods and human security. From the side of the Foundation Laurent van der Maesen participated and was invited to comment the lecture by Kinhide Mushakoji *(document nr.77).* This was important for the proposed work on behalf of the municipality of The Hague, see section-5.6.1) and in fact it functioned as a preparation of the project human security and social quality (section-2.2).

6.   Dissemination

6.1   Documents publishes in 2007 and 2008

(document nr.1): L.J.G. van der Maesen, H. Verkleij, *Annual Report 2006 of the European Foundation on Social Quality*, Amsterdam: EFSQ, December 2007.

(document nr.2): L.J.G. van der Maesen, T. Ogawa, *A proposal concerning the second Asian conference on 'Sustainable Welfare Societies' and the social quality approach as its conceptual framework. A proposal on behalf of the second Asian conference on Social Quality*, Amsterdam/Chiba, EFSQ/Chiba University, January 2007.

(document nr.3): A.C. Walker, *Social Quality and Sustainable Welfare Regimes*, Sheffield: University of Sheffield, March 2007.

(document nr. 4): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Strategies to develop a connected Social Quality approach in Europe, Asia and the Pacific,* Amsterdam: EFSQ, March 2007.

(document nr.5): H.G.J. Nijhuis, *Applying the Social Quality Theory in processes of Urban Development and Local Governance: the casus of The Hague*, The Hague: Municipality, March 2007.

(document nr.6): D. Gasper, L.J.G. van der Maesen, Th. Truong, A.C. Walker, *Human Security and Social Quality: Contrasts and Complementarities*, The Hague: ISS/EFSQ, November 2008 (Working Paper Series no. 462, ISS).

(document nr.7): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Impressions of the first meeting of the expert-meeting on human security and social quality, held in The Netherlands*, September 2007. The Hague: EFSQ, 2007.

(document nr.8): L.J.G. van der Maesen, D. Gasper, *A strategic plan for developing the ISS/IIAS/EFSQ-project human security and social quality*, The Hague: EFSQ/ISS, March 2008.

(document nr. 9): L.J.G. van der Maesen, D. Gasper, *An application for financial support concerning the preparation and participation of the 6th International Convention Asian Scholars of August 2009*, The Hague: EFSQ/ISS, October 2008.

(document nr.10): Ch. K. Wong, *Comparing Social Quality and Social Harmony by a Governance Perspective: A manuscript on behalf of the Third Asian Conference on Social Quality in Nanjing*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong, October 2008.

(document nr.11): Ka Lin, L.J.G. van der Maesen, *A Background-paper on behalf of the Third Asian Conference on Social Quality and Social Welfare*, Nanjing/The Hague: Nanjing University/EFSQ, October 2008

(document nr.12): A. C. Walker, *The Social Quality Approach: Bridging Asia and Europe: A manuscript on behalf of the Third Asian Conference on Social Quality*, Sheffield: University of Sheffield, October 2008.

(document nr.13): L. J.G. van der Maesen, *The Social Quality Approach, its Indicators and the herewith related themes of Social Cohesion and Social Empowerment: A manuscript on behalf of the Third Asian Conference on Social Quality (draft),* The Hague: EFSQ, October 2008.

(document nr.14): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Ideas about the purpose of the Asian Research-group Social Quality Indicators: a Contribution*, The Hague: EFSQ, September 2007.

(document nr.15): A. Oishi, *Indicators of Social Quality in Japan*, Chiba: Chiba University, 2008.

(document nr.16): D. Mitchell, *Australian Perspectives on Social Quality and Social Quality Indicators*, Canberra: Australian National University, 2008.

(document nr.17): P. Yang, L. Wang, Yung-Tung Wang, *Indicators of Social Quality in Taiwanese Society*, Taipei: National Taiwan University, 2008.

(document nr.18): P. Herrmann, *Social Quality Indicators: a Contribution to the Asian Research-group Social Quality Indicators*, Cork: University of Cork, 2007.

(document nr.19): L. Wang, *Outcomes of the first explorations by the Asian Research-group Social Quality Indicators*, Taipei: National Taiwan University, December 2007.

(document nr.20): L.J.G. van der Maesen, '*Reflections on the first set of Social Quality Indicators from the European Network Social Quality Indicators'*, The Hague: EFSQ, December 2008: **Working-paper nr.2 (www.socialquality.org)**

(document nr.21): D. Phillips, *Social Quality: Indicators from Europe and their Implications for Asia*, Sheffield: University of Sheffield, 2008.

(document nr.22): Board ISS and Foundation*, Memorandum of Understanding: paving the way for a project-collaboration*, The Hague: ISS/EFSQ, July 2007.

(document nr.23): R. Kurian, D. Gasper, Th. Truong, L.J.G. van der Maesen, H.G.J. Nijhuis, J.F. Westbroek, *Proposal for the ISS's Innovation Fund: different projects to be elaborated in the coming years'*, The Hague: ISS/EFSQ, December 2007.

(document nr.24): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Overview of first outcomes of the project-collaboration of the ISS and the EFSQ*, The Hague: EFSQ, July 2008.

(document nr.25): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Application to the Stichting GAK for financing a project new approaches of social security as an aspect of the urban context*, The Hague: EFSQ, January 2008.

(document nr.26): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *(draft) Proposal to the ISS for paving the way for a collaboration with the Municipality of The Hague*, the Hague: EFSQ, August 2008.

(document nr.27): L.J.G. van der Maesen, J.F. Westbroek [in Dutch], *Arguments for financial support for the organisation and/of the contribution to the urban development of the quarter of Laak (North) of the City of The Hague,* The Hague: EFSQ/DISQ, June 2008.

(document nr.28): L.J.G. van der Maesen [in Dutch], *Report of the expert-meeting with civil-servants about the purpose and proposed results of the project migration and citizenship*, The Hague: EFSQ, September 2007.

(document nr.29), L.J.G. van der Maesen, J.F .Westbroek, *Application concerning the project for presenting the EFSQ's Third Book in the context of the Programme for Supporting Foreign Policies of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, The Hague: EFSQ, November 2008.

(document nr.30): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *First Information Paper: impressions of decisions made during the first meeting of the Asian Steering Committee on Social Quality, held in Taipei, March 2007*, The Hague: EFSQ, May 2007.

(document nr.31): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Background-paper on behalf of the second meeting of the Asian Steering Committee on social quality, to be held in Bangkok*, December 2007, The Hague: EFSQ, November 2007.

(document nr.32): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Second Information Paper: impressions of decisions made during the second meeting of the Asian Steering committee on Social Quality, held in Bangkok, December 2007*, The Hague: EFSQ, December 2007.

(document nr.33): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Third Information Paper: about related strategies for developing the social quality approach in Asia and the European Union*, The Hague: EFSQ, March 2008.

(document nr.34): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Fourth Information Paper: impressions of decisions made during the third meeting of the Asian Steering Committee on Social Quality*, held in Nanjing, October 2008, The Hague: EFSQ, November 2008.

(document nr.35): D. Gordon, *Measuring Social Quality in Asia and Europe with particular reference to socio-economic security*, Bristol, University of Bristol/Townsend Centre, March 2007.

(document nr.36): D. Phillips, *Social Cohesion and the Sustainable Welfare Society*, Sheffield: University of Sheffield, March 2007.

(document nr.37): P. Herrmann, *Social Empowerment: A Matter of Enabling Society to Cope with Personalities*, Cork: University of Cork, March 2007.

(document nr.38): P. Herrmann, L.J.G. van der Maesen*, Social Quality and Precarity: Approaching New Patterns of Societal (Dis-) Integration,* Cork/The Hague: University of Cork/EFSQ, January 2008., **Working-paper nr.1** *(www.socialquality.org).*

(document nr.39): P. Herrmann, L.J.G. van der Maesen, *A European Social Model or European strategies? A comment on the recent European discourse on the European Social Model on the basis of some principles of the theory of social quality (draft)*, Cork/The Hague: University of Cork/EFSQ, October 2008.

(document nr.40): L.J.G. van der Maesen [in Dutch], *An overview of the Foundation's activities, outcomes and costs for contributing to the preparation of Laak (North) and other urban quarters of The Hague as fields of experiments*, The Hague: EFSQ, March 2007.

(document nr.41): L.J.G. van der Maesen [in Dutch], *Impressions of the second meeting of the think-tank Laak (North), held in January 2007*, The Hague: EFSQ, January 2007.

(document nr.42): L.J.G. van der Maesen [in Dutch], *Proposals for the project-group Heart of Provisions Laak (North), for the elaboration of the original plans from 2004 and 2005*, The Hague: EFSQ, 17th March 2007.

(document nr.43): L.J.G. van der Maesen [in Dutch], *Proposals for the start of a project-group Vision Laak (North) as urban part of The Hague*, The Hague: EFSQ, April 2007.

(document nr.44): J.F. Westbroek [in Dutch], *Goals and activities of the Steering Group Urban Development Laak (North): a proposal,* The Hague: DISQ, April 2007.

(document nr.45): L.J.G. van der Maesen [in Dutch], *Impressions of the third meeting of the think-tank Laak (North) held in April 2007,* The Hague: EFSQ, April 2007.

(document nr. 46): L.J.G. van der Maesen [in Dutch], *Impressions of the first meeting of the project-group Heart of Provisions Laak (North),* The Hague: EFSQ, May 2007.

(document nr.47): L.J.G. van der Maesen [in Dutch], *Information-paper on behalf of the fourth meeting of the think-tank Laak (North),* The Hague: EFSQ, May 2007.

(document nr.48): J.F. Westbroek [in Dutch], *Draft of a Memorandum of Understanding for developing Laak (North) as an experimental urban space of The Hague'*, The Hague: DISQ, June 2007.

(document nr. 49): L..J.G. van der Maesen [in Dutch], *Impressions of the fourth meeting of the think-tank Laak (North),* The Hague: EFSQ, June 2007.

(document nr.50): J.F. Westbroek [in Dutch]*, Impressions of the state of affairs of Laak (North): a paper on behalf of the think-tank*, The Hague: DISQ, October 2007.

(document nr.51): J.F. Westbroek [in Dutch], *How to develop a collaboration with all relevant parties oriented on education, health care, social housing, wellbeing etc in Laak?,* The Hague: DISQ, November 2007.

(document nr.52): L.J.G. van der Maesen, J.F. Westbroek [in Dutch], *The urban development of Laak North: State of affairs*, The Hague: EFSQ/DISQ, January 2008.

(document nr.53): Steering-group Laak North [in Dutch], *How to Proceed, a new Course for Laak (North)*, The Hague: Staedion, Mooi, Florence, Esloo-group of Schools, March 2008.

(document nr.54): J.F. Westbroek [in Dutch], First *Newsletter Laak and Laak North*, The Hague: DISQ, December 2008.

(document nr.55): J.F. Westbroek [in Dutch], *The traditional policy approach of urban development in The Netherlands*, The Hague: DISQW, February 2008.

(document nr.56): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *First exploration of processes concerning the urban space of The Hague: the casus of Laak (North): how to develop interdisciplinary research for contributing to these processes*, The Hague: EFSQ, January 2008.

(document nr.57): L.J.G. van der Maesen, K. van Dijken. H. Verkleij, *Draft: Global Cities and Sustainable Development: A project-proposal sent to the European Commission (FP7) with support by representatives of fourteen global cities in Europe, Asia, South Africa and South America*, The Hague: EFSQ/NICIS/ISS, December 2008.

(document nr.58): N. Gillio, *Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Lyon*, Lyon: Certu, November 2008.

(document nr.59): G. Espositio De Vita, *Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Naples*, Rome: FADR, November 2008.

(document nr.60): H. Perista, *Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Lisbon*, Lisbon: Cesis, December 2008.

(document nr.61): K. Lin, *Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Nanjing*, Nanjing: Nanjing University, November 2008.

(document nr.62): B.G. Aguinsky, *Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Porto Alegre*, Porto Alegre: PUCRS, Novembers 2008.

(document nr.63): S. Vajirakachom, *Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Bangkok*, Bangkok: NIDA, November 2008.

(document nr.64): N. Grigorieva, Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Moscow, Moscow: MSU, November 2008.

(document nr.65): M. Alam, *Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Delhi,* Delhi: IEG, December 2008.

(document nr.66): S. Kalayciuoglu, *Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Antalya*, Ankara: METU, November 2008.

(document nr.67): Ch-K Wong, *Document for the contribution tot the project sustainable global cities, the case of Hong Kong*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong, November 2008.

(document nr.68): J. Yee, *Document for the contribution to the project sustainable global cities, the case of Seoul*, Seoul: National Seoul University, November 2008.

(document nr.69): T. Korver, *Sustainable Welfare Societies, Socio-economic Security and the Covenant*,: a Social Quality Perspective, Tilburg: University of Tilburg, March 2007.

(document nr.70): S. Gong, A. Walker, G. Shi, *From Chinese Model to U.S. Symptoms: The Paradox of China's Health System,* International Journal of Health Services, Vol. 37, nr. 4 (2007), pp. 651-672.

(document nr.71): T. Ogawa, A Research Network of Modern Public Health and Cities in Asia and Europe: Public Health Actions to address Social Determinants of Health, Chiba: Chiba University, December 2008.

(document nr.72): T. Ogawa, *A New Perspective on Ageing: Social Qualtiy and its Potential Role for Public Policy Making in Asia and the Pacific: a Document on behalf of the ESCAP*, Chiba: Chiba University, March 2007.

(document nr.73): A.C. Walker, *Maintaining Socio-economic Security in Old Age: A European Perspective,* Sheffield: University of Sheffield, September 2007.

(document nr.74): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *A discussion-paper for preparing the discussions with the alderman of the municipality of The Hague and civil servants for preparing a project migration in The Hague*, The Hague: EFSQ, June 2007.

(document nr.75): L.J.G. van der Maesen, Report of the expert-meeting with civil-servants about the purpose and proposed results of the project migration and citizenship, The Hague: EFSQ, September 2007.

(document nr.76): L.J.G. van der Maesen, H. Verkleij, *A preliminary comparison of public policies concerning the urban category of migrants in ten European cities'*, The Hague: EFSQ, January 2008.

(document nr.77): L.J.G. van der Maesen, *Comments or questions concerning the lecture by Kinhide Mushakoji for the ISS Conference on International Migration, Multilocal livelihoods and human security*, The Hague: EFSQ, September 2007.

(document nr.78): L.J.G. van der Maesen, H. Verkleij, *Newsletter nr.8 of the European Foundation of Social Quality,* The Hague: EFSQ, December 2007.

(document nr.79): A.C. Walker, *Social Quality and Sustainable Welfare Societies*; a contribution to the (proposed) International Journal of Social Quality, Sheffield: University of Sheffield, February 2008.

6.2   Strategic meetings in 2007 and 2008

- In *January 2007*, active participation in conference on precarity and the European Social Model in Berlin (Germany): section-4.4.
- In *January 2007*, co-organisation and active participation in the second meeting of the think-tank Laak (North) in The Hague: section-5.1.2.
- In *February 2007*, start of the regular meetings of central actors for developing strategies for the development of the collaboration with the municipality of The Hague, the so-called PAF-group (with monthly meetings in 2007 and 2008.
- In *March 2007*, co-organisation and active participation in the second Asian conference on social quality in Taipei (Taiwan): section-2.1.
- In *March 2007*, co-organisation and active participation in the first meeting of the Asian Steering Committee Social Quality in Taipei: section-4.2.1.
- In *March 2007*, co-organisation and active participation in the third meeting of the think-tank Laak (North) in The Hague: section-5.1.2.
- In *April 2007*, co-organisation and active participation in seminar of the ISS about the social quality approach, in The Hague: section-4.1.2.
- In *April 2007*, organisation and active participation of the meeting of the Board of the European Foundation on Social Quality.
- In *May 2007*, co-organisation and active participation in the fourth meeting of the think-tank Laak (North) in The Hague: section-5.1.2.
- In *June 2007,* official meeting with representatives of the International Institute for Asian Studies, section-2.2.3.
- In *August 2007*, active participation in the ISS conference on international migration in the Hague: section-5.6.2.
- In *August 2007*, meeting with the director of the GAK-Fund for financing the proposed application on social security: section-4.1.3.
- In *September 2007,* active participation in IIAS conference on public and private old-age security arrangements in Asia and Europe in The Hague: section-5.5.2.
- In *September 2007*, co-organisation and active participation in the first expert-meeting human security and social quality: section-2.2.
- In *October 2007*, active participation in the first expert-meeting of the Asian research-group social quality indicators in Taipei (Taiwan),: section-3.3.
- In *October 2007*, co-organisation and active participation in expert-meeting with civil servants about migration processes in The Hague: section-5.6.1.
- In *October 2007*, meeting with Ka Lin and other representatives of the Nanjing University in Shanghai (China) for preparing the third Asian conference on Social Quality, section-2.5.

- In *November 2007*, second expert-meeting with civil servants of the municipality of The Hague about migration processes: section-5.6.1.
- In *November 2007*, meeting with representatives of the Kluwer publishers concerning the production of the Foundation's third book, section-3.5.
- In *November 2007*, participation in the conference about urban development and social cohesion, organised by the Association of Dutch municipalities (VNG) in The Hague.
- In *December 2007*, co-organisation and active participation in the second meeting of the Asian Steering Committee Social Quality in Bangkok (Thailand): section-4.2.2.
- In *January 2008*, co-organisation and active participation in ISS-seminar about the urban development of Laak (North) of the city of The Hague: section-5.1.4.
- In *February 2008*, participation in conference on the European Social Model, organised by Eurispes in the European Parliament in Brussels, section-4.5.
- In *February 2008*, co-organisation and active participation of the ISS seminar on urban development and the case of Laak (North) of the city of The Hague: section-5.1.3, as well as the articulation of new purposes for the project-group 'human security and social qulity', section-2.2.2
- In *March 2008*, participation in meeting organised by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the role of mr. Kohnstamm during the start of the European Union.
- In *April 2008*, second meeting with director of the GAK-Fund for financing the Foundation's project on social security: section-4.1.3.

- In *May 2008*, co-organisation and active participation in expert-meeting about the collaboration with Asian scholars in Sheffield: section-2.3.1.
- In *June 2008*, pre-meeting of the expert-group on human security and social quality at the ISS, The Hague, section-2.2.
- In *September 2008*, co-organisation and active participation in expert-meeting of the ISS and the municipality of The Hague for financing projects (related with the ISS and the Foundation): section-4.1.3.
- In *September 2008*, first meeting at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for financial support concerning the presentation 9ahd debates) about the Foundation's third book.
- In *October 2008*, co-organisation and active participation in the third Asian conference on social quality in Nanjing (China): section-2.5.
- In *October 2008*, co-organisation and active participation in the third meeting of the Asian Steering Committee Social Quality in Nanjing (China): section-4.2.3.
- In *November 2008*, active participation in the conference on the European Social Model in Rome (Italy): section-4.5.
- In *December 2008*, organisation expert-meeting for completing the application on sustainable development of global cities on behalf of the European Commission (DG-Research), section-5.2

6.3   *Journal, working-papers and other initiatives*

In this period the following initiatives are made for the development of instruments for the dissemination of the outcomes of the work carried out:

- the negotiations started with publishers for the production and presentation of the Foundation's *third book* (section-3.5). Discussions are held with representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support a conference for discussing the outcomes of the third book (section-4.1.3). The plans for a following book about the complementarity of the human security discourses and the social quality approach are made at the end of 2008 (section-2.2).
- in this period the Foundation published *Newsletter* nr. 8 *(document nr.78)* and distributed it to relations all over the world.

- The Foundation has invested a lot of time to transform the **European Journal of Social Quality** into an 'International Journal of Social Quality'. Negotiations with representatives of European and Asian universities started at the second Asian conference on Social Quality and were followed up at the third conference on Social Quality. In the meantime the articles for both first issues have been produced and copy-edited concerning results of the second Asian conference on social quality (see documents nr. 15, 16, 17) as well as an article about social quality and sustainable welfare societies (**document nr. 79**). At the end of 2009 the final agreements will hopefully be formalised at the fourth Asian conference on social quality. Furthermore, important parts of the outcomes of the third Asian conference on social quality will be published in an international oriented journal, published by the National Seoul University.

- In this period the Foundation started with the production of **working-papers**, to be published on its website (namely documents nr. 20, 38).

- It produced several **information-papers** for specific groups in Europe and Asia (namely documents nr. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34). This system may deliver points of departure for a modern form of communication between related universities in Asia, Australia, Europe and other continents, as well as relevant NGO's and circles of policy-makers (in the application to the European Commission an extensive plan has been presented for the elaboration of this system).

- In this period it successfully stimulated the production of **scientific articles** by adherents of the social quality approach, as well as contributions to books, in Europe as well in Asia.[40]

7.   Project-collaboration with the ISS, finances and management

7.1   Summarize of activities in collaboration to the ISS

As an outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding with the ISS (document nr. 22) the Foundation was enabled with assistance by three staff-members of the ISS to present proposals for innovative work as an outcome of the project-collaboration (see document nr.23). The first presentation of the outcomes is presented in July 2008 (document nr.24). In this working-paper the outcomes of these proposals are discussed in different chapters. We will give a summarize of related activities:

- The start of a scientific based approach of the urban space of Laak (North) in such a way, it may function as an international frame of reference. This resulted finally into (i) the decision by the municipality of The Hague for this space as an experimental field (section-5.1.3), (ii) into an international application for a project of fourteen global cities (section..), (iii) into the start of the HACUS (section-5.2.3), and into (iv) the first plans for the collaboration with students of the ISS and students of the Haagse Hoge School (section-5.1.2).

- The start of an international project group 'human security/social quality' for exploring what both approaches has to offer each other for analysing of societal processes on global level (section-2.2). This resulted into (i) a working paper, (ii) into a presentation at the Delhi conference, the presentation oat the third Asian conference on social quality, (iv) into the appointment by scholars from Europe and Asia to produce a book about the outcomes of studies thus far, (v) the plan to develop connections with the ESCAP in Bangkok for paving the way for collaboration with institutes of the United Nations.

- The start of analyses of processes of migration in cities. This resulted into a first project financed by the municipality of The Hague (section-5.6).

- The preparation of support by Funds as explained above (section-4.1.3). This resulted into negotiations with (i) the GAK-Fund in The Netherlands, with (ii) the International Institute of

---

[40] An important example at the end of 2006 is the book produced by: D. Phillips, Quality of Life [in comparison to Social Quality as well]: Concept, Policy and Practice, London/New York: Routledge, 2006. Other recent examples are: (i) M. Monnickendam, Y. Berman, An Empirical Analyses of the Interrelationship between Components of the Social Quality Theoretical Construct, *Social Indicators Research* (2008), nr. 86, pp. 525-538, (ii) Sh. Norazizan Syed Abd Rashid, The Potential Role of Social Quality in Malaysia, a thematic issue, *Malaysian Social Trends*, Vol. 09 (2008), Institut Sosial Malaysia, (iii) A.C. Walker, A Lesson for Asia? Maintaining socio-economic security in old age, a European (social quality) perspective, *IIAS Newsletter*, nr. 49 (2008), p.11, (iv) P. Herrmann, *Social Professional Activities and the State*, New York, Nova Science Publishers, 2007.

Asian Studies for supporting the human security project, with (iii) the municipality of The Hague for supporting processes in Laak (North), with (iv) the municipality for financing the project migration, (vi) with the municipality about delivering specific grants to the ISS for research and education connected with processes in the Hague, (vii) with the European Commissions concerning the project global cities (FP7), (viii) with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for an international debate about the outcomes of the proposed Foundation's third book. Not discusses in the working-paper are discussions with (i) The Hague Fund 1818 for contributing to processes in Laak (North), (ii) the National Dutch Fund for Scientific Research (NOW), (iii) the start of contact with the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences.

- In particular an activity concerns the development of the collaboration with 'The Hague Project on Migrants and Refugees', a global network organisation for debating the societal consequences of migration processes. This organisation will participate in HACUS (see above) and explained their interest to play a role in the project group 'human security/social quality'.

7.2   finances

During 2007 and 2008 the Foundation started new projects and applied new strategies as explained in previous chapters. Compared to, for example, university institutes, its structural problem is, that it does not dispose of sources for financing innovative work. Thanks to its networking a huge amount of university institutes are investing in activities, developed by the Foundation. At the moment universities are investing in surveys in Asian countries to elaborate and to apply social quality indicators. Expert-meetings, conferences, seminars are held and publications made outside the direct

financial possibilities of the Foundation. In other words, the Foundation generates an impressive financial support for developing the social quality approach in a global perspective. These are large contributions in kind for which the Foundation is very grateful. However, these contributions cannot be used to support the Foundation's infrastructure. It is rather difficult to generate financial support for the specific infrastructure. Thanks to the ISS, the practical work in the city of The Hague and the willingness of specific Funds and of personal loyalty the Foundation was able to do its work and to maintain its infrastructure. The accountants Spaargaren in Amsterdam will publish a report about the outcomes.

7.3   Management

The Board of the Foundation and its advisors are responsibly for the work to be done. Its secretary is at the same time the director, namely Laurent J.G. van der Maesen. He is assisted by Helma Verkleij, the Foundation's manager. The office is located in the ISS-building in The Hague. Thanks to the ISS the Foundation disposes of facilities for office-work and meetings. Both are connecting participants of the different networks in Europe and Asia, engaged with the development of the social quality approach as explained in previous chapters.