The European Quality in Social Services (EQUASS) is an integrated sector-specific quality certification system that certifies compliance of social services with European quality principles and criteria. EQUASS aims to enhance the social sector by engaging service providers in quality and continuous improvement and by guaranteeing service users quality of services throughout Europe. One of the original aims of the European Social Survey – and restated in the Scientific and Technical Description of the ESS ERIC in 2013 – was 'to introduce soundly-based indicators of national progress, based on citizens' perceptions and judgements of key aspects of their societies' (Scientific Case and Technical Description, p. 1). This has been supported by two research projects funded through the European Union's Sixth and Seventh Framework Programmes. Phase 1. Between 2006 and 2011 Professor Roger Jowell led a work package on 'Developing Attitudinal Indicators of Well-being'. The measurement of well-being and quality of life links the work of sociologists, psychologists and political scientists to that of economists, epidemiologists, demographers and others. In October 2001, the Network Indicators of Social Quality started the process of creating social quality indicators. This project of the European Foundation on Social Quality was supported by the European Commission (DG Research) under Framework Programme 5 (van der Maesen et al. 2000). The Network consisted of representatives of universities from 14 partner countries and two European NGOs. Over its forty-two-month life the Network held four meetings. Three plenary meetings were organised with all assistants thanks to the financial support by the Dutch Scientific Foundation (NWO). Also through the creation of unique national reference groups on social quality, the Network has engaged more than a hundred scientists and policy makers in its work. The project was completed in April 2005. The intriguing question was how to theoretically legitimise the choice of social quality indicators compared to the indicators constructed in the context of 'quality of life' approaches, as developed for example by ZUMA of the University of Mannheim (Noll 2000; Berger-Schmit et al. 2000) and the European Foundation on the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions in Dublin (Fahey et al. 2002).
and policy makers in its work. The project was completed in April 2005. Since its foundation in 1974, Social Indicators Research has become the leading journal on problems related to the measurement of all aspects of the quality of life. The journal continues to publish results that reflect developments in the field.