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Author: [Laurent J.G. van der Maesen¹](#) and [Alan C. Walker²](#)

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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).

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The European Quality in Social Services (EQUASS) is an integrated sector-specific quality certification quality principles and criteria. EQUASS aims to enhance the social sector by engaging service providers and service users quality of services throughout Europe. One of the original aims of the European Social Survey (ESS) in 2013 – was 'to introduce soundly-based indicators of national progress, based on citizens' views' (Scientific Case and Technical Description, p. 1). This has been supported by two research projects funded by the European Commission (DG Research) under Framework Programme 5 (van der Maesen et al. 2000). Phase 1. Between 2006 and 2011 Professor Roger Jowell led a work package on 'Developing indicators of well-being and quality of life links the work of sociologists, psychologists and political scientists to the work of the European Foundation on Social Quality'. In October 2001, the Network Indicators of Social Quality started the process of creating social quality indicators. This project 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. 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).

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