



## International Sociological Association RC33 Eleventh International Conference on Social Science Methodology

Track 45 - Social Impacts evaluation measurement:  
what opportunities for data aggregation and knowledge of the social economy and  
communities

### CO-CORDINATORS

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**The session aims to explore the opportunities and challenges related to the measurement and evaluation of social impacts, with particular attention to data aggregation processes and the production of knowledge on the social economy and local communities.**

In a context where public policies and Third Sector initiatives are increasingly required to account for their social effects, there is an urgent need to:

define shared indicators and comparable methodologies;

enhance existing data sources, including through the integration of administrative, participatory, and qualitative data;

promote knowledge infrastructures that support the evaluation and continuous improvement of social practices.

**The contributions presented in this session offer theoretical, methodological, and practical perspectives on:**

- tools and approaches for social impact assessment;
- experiences of multi-level data aggregation and analysis;
- the role of digital technologies and collaborative networks in building shared knowledge;
- implications for governance and policymaking in the field of the social economy.



*Paper: Non-Take-Up of Anti-Poverty Policies in Italy:  
An Ethnographic Perspective*

*Author: Jole Decorte – University of Milan*

*Summary:* Qualitative study on the non-take-up of ADI and SFL measures in Milan. Uses field observation, interviews, and thematic coding to analyze cultural, relational, and institutional barriers. Builds interpretative typologies and offers a situated reading of policy access.

*Session relevance:* reveals hidden dynamics that hinder policy effectiveness, useful for developing sensitive indicators.



*Paper: The Impact of the Third Sector on Gender-Related Indexes:  
Time, Power and Empowerment*

*Authors: Annalinda Monticelli – University of L'Aquila,  
Laura Falci – University of L'Aquila*

*Summary:* Analysis of key gender-related indexes (GEI, GEM, GDI, WEI) and their evolution. Focuses on time and power as critical dimensions of inequality. Uses the Delphi Technique with experts to explore the Third Sector's role in female empowerment and the construction of sustainable imaginaries.

*Session relevance:* the contribution explores social impact assessment as a transformative device, analyzing the methodological and institutional conditions that affect its quality and generative function.

It contributes to the debate on building evaluation systems capable of fostering learning, transparency, and aggregated knowledge.



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*Session relevance: offers thematic indicators and comparative insights for gender-sensitive social impact evaluation.*



*Paper: Public Administrations and the Third Sector  
Facing the Challenge of Social Impact Assessment*

*Author: Marco Marucci – CNR-IRCrES*

*Summary:* Analysis of national and regional guidelines on social impact assessment, focusing on Lazio, Puglia, and Umbria. Explores methodological principles, minimum content, and local experimentation. Highlights the role of Volunteer Service Centres and associative networks as support infrastructures.

*Session relevance: provides a regulatory and territorial framework  
for building shared evaluation systems.*



*Paper: Social Impact Assessment in National MLPS Projects:  
Between Formalism and Transformative Learning*

*Authors:* Sabina Polidori – INAPP, Struttura Economia Civile  
Ksenija Fonović – Charles University, Faculty of Humanities

*Summary:* this contribution presents ongoing research on the implementation of SIA as a transformative device. The study explores methodological, cultural, and institutional conditions affecting its effectiveness, with reference to MLPS Call 1/2018 and the shift introduced by Call 2/2025. A critical reading of SIA is proposed, framing it as a lever for learning and change, and introducing the hypothesis of a “civic route” to evaluation. This contribution is part of Track 45 – *Social Impacts Evaluation Measurement: What Opportunities for Data Aggregation and Knowledge of the Social Economy and Communities*, offering a methodological and institutional reflection on a policy evaluation experiment and the conditions for making it transformative.



## Concluding reflections 1/2

### **Decorte (non take-up of ADI/SFL policies)**

The ethnographic approach reveals invisible barriers to policy access, raising questions about the ability of evaluation tools to capture relational and cultural dimensions.

#### **Open questions:**

- How can qualitative evidence be integrated into the construction of sensitive indicators?
- What forms of evaluation can give voice to excluded subjects?

### **Monticelli & Falci (gender indexes and empowerment)**

The analysis of gender-related indexes and the use of the Delphi Technique show how the Third Sector can act on structural dimensions of power and time.

#### **Open questions:**

- How can impact evaluation contribute to the construction of sustainable imaginaries?
- Is it possible to develop metrics that account for symbolic and narrative transformation?



### **Marucci (regional guidelines and role of CSVs)**

The contribution highlights regulatory fragmentation and the role of associative networks as evaluation infrastructures.

#### **Open questions:**

- How can evaluation practices be harmonized across institutional levels?
- What is the role of territorial networks in building shared evaluation systems?

### **Polidori & Fonović (SIA in MLPS projects)**

The ongoing research shows the risk of formalism and proposes a “civic route” to evaluation, based on learning and co-production.

#### **Open questions:**

- What enabling conditions make SIA a generative tool?
- How can evaluation avoid becoming a mere technical requirement?







# Thanks for sharing!

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