



**XX National Conference
Italian Evaluation Society - AIV**

April 20, 21, and 22 2017

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND LEGAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF PADUA
Via del Santo 28 - 35123 PADUA**

CALL FOR PAPERS

**PROMOTING AND EVALUATING
THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY:
EMERGENCY, RESILIENCE, AND COMPLEXITY**

Individual and social well-being is a central topic in evaluation and policy-oriented literature, and an increasingly controversial issue within current political debate, calling for decision makers' attention not only on the outputs, but also and more importantly on the outcomes, impacts and externalities of policy decisions.

The notion of community welfare has changed, shifting from the typically objective factors (i.e., health, education, wealth) to such subjective variables, as personal development, trust or happiness. Currently, possible definitions of well-being, its measures, and measurement methods are crucial issues within Italian, European and international evaluation community —think, for example, of the newly developed indicator of fair and sustainable welfare, known with the Italian acronym of BES. Since the late nineties, for assessing welfare and the quality of life, evaluators have sought new approaches and methods to integrate per capita income with further information drawing on social, cultural and environmental systems (such as, transparency, security, human rights). Evaluating both “objective” dimensions of well-being —such as sustainability and resilience— and “subjective” ones —such as happiness or reputation— is a currently new challenge for evaluators, and it involves a wide range of policy areas and methodological approaches.

Beyond the traditional view whereby communities suffering from environmental pressures behave as victims or mere spectators unable to react, more recent ‘resilience-based’ approaches leverage empowerment of citizens, groups and firms to improve living conditions. Top-down strategies propose interventions with redistributive goals for social justice, while paternalistic-libertarian perspectives (that is, “nudging”) adopt policy tools and evaluation designs to gently influence irrational individual choices. In this context, new technologies are fast-changing the policy paradigm by re-defining welfare needs and solutions as well as the assessment of the results and impacts of public and private policies for communities and individuals.

The aim of the XX Conference of the Italian Evaluation Society is to critically examine how to assess social well-being for individuals, social groups, organizations and communities in response to the challenges coming from the environment. The Conference intends to offer an opportunity to explore evaluation approaches, methods and processes for orienting governments' decisions in time of crisis to improve policy results and public services throughout multilevel governance systems in a context of rapid technological change. Thematic sessions will recognize and appreciate the many forms of autonomous decision-making and social responsibility against a mentality of dependence and opportunism.

To celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Association and in view of the election of new representatives, the 2017 Conference will open up a special space for internal debate, to ensure and support a broadly inclusive participation route, with an intermediate meeting to be held on January 17th, 2017.

The scientific committee calls for proposals for sessions and papers addressing a wide selection of topics to be presented in dedicated sessions, round tables, working groups involving experts and stakeholders. Panels and papers may develop theoretical and methodological perspectives to articulate the overarching theme of the Conference with respect to the following sub-themes:

- Environmental disasters and humanitarian crises;
- Security policies against radicalization and terrorism;
- International cooperation, migration and hospitality;
- Local governance and public-private partnerships;
- The evaluation in the schools and of school managers, and the effects of social equity;
- Higher education, training and technological advancement in the territorial diversity;
- Public administration, territory and managerial responsibility;
- Public health in the era of public spending rationing;
- Social innovation, inclusion and reconciliation policies;
- Active and passive employment policies for youth and women;
- Urban regeneration policies and the management of complex programs;
- European policies beyond austerity.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Possible contributions can be presented in the form of abstracts of papers and/or proposals for sessions. All proposals should be submitted no later **than the 15th of February, 2017** at the email address: segreteria@valutazioneitaliana.it, with the following reference: "Contribution to the XX Conference AIV".

Proposals are subject to peer review. Acceptance or refusal will be notified by March 15, 2017. Selection criteria are the following: 1. Relevance of content with respect to the central theme of the conference. 2. Clarity of the objectives and sub-objectives of paper/session. 3. Clarity of methodology. 4. Originality and innovativeness of contribution. Most interesting contributions will be signaled and proposed for peer review for possible publication in the RIV - Rassegna Italiana di Valutazione. All accepted papers will be posted on the Conference website www.valutazioneitaliana.it

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| • Opening of the call for papers/sessions | December 1st 2016 |
| • Deadline for session&paper proposals | February 15th 2017 |
| • Notification of acceptance | March 15th 2017 |
| • Sending of papers to the sessions' coordinators | Marzo 31st 2017 |



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Daniela Congiu (Mixura Srl - AIV)
Ekaterina Domorenok (University of Padua)
Paolo Graziano (University of Padua)
Mita Marra (University of Salerno - AIV)
Francesco Mazzeo Rinaldi (University of Catania - AIV)
Erica Melloni (IRS - AIV)
Giorgio Nesti (University of Padua)
Mauro Palumbo (University of Genoa)
Carlo Pennisi (University of Catania)
Maria Stella Righettini (University of Padua)
Nicoletta Stame (University of Rome)
Gabriele Tomei (University of Pisa - AIV)
Alberto Vergani (Independent Evaluatore - Director of RIV)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Mita Marra
Erica Melloni
Maria Stella Righettini
Stefano Sbalchiero

ORGANIZING SEGRETERIAT

Tel. 081.2452273 - Fax 081.7648924
segreteria@valutazioneitaliana.it
<http://www.valutazioneitaliana.it>

REGISTRATION FEE

-150.00 EUR fellow members of AIV
-100.00 EUR ordinary members of AIV
- 50.00 EUR young members (under 30 years; phd students (regardless of age); enrolled in Master sponsored by AIV.