



International Association on Social Quality
Bredeweg 20-1
1098 BR Amsterdam
Ph:+ 31.20. 6654923
Email: info@socialquality.org
IBAN NL 47 RABO 0142767107
KvK 41216943
www.socialquality.org

Working Paper nr. 17

Preliminary ideas about the application and elaboration of the 'social quality approach'(SQA) in Eastern Europe: the case of Ukraine

***Starting points for a proposed
'international joint-research project Ukraine',
namely the INRU-project?***

***International Association on Social Quality
in connection with twelve European University Institutes***

Amsterdam, 25 September 2018

***Laurent J.G. Van der Maesen, IASQ,
Supported by Zuzana Novakova, ISS, the Hague, and
Steven Corbett, Liverpool Hope University***

1. Summary of Working-paper nr. 17

1.1 Invitation for the application of the 'social quality approach' in Ukraine

In November 2015, the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (**IEF/NASU**) invited the International Association on Social Quality (**IASQ**) to apply the 'social quality approach' (**SQA**) for stimulating new politics and policies on local/urban, sub-regional and national levels of Ukraine.¹ The objective of the SQA is to contribute to daily circumstances of people in such a way that its normative factors (see section-1.4) will be strengthened. Therefore the invitation concerns in general sense politics and policies oriented on - tentatively speaking - the socio-economic/financial, socio-political/legal socio-cultural/welfare and socio-environmental dimensions and their interrelations, which concern the heart of the matter of the nature of daily circumstances of people. The distinction between these four dimensions are discussed shortly in this Working-Paper and elaborated further in the study by Zuzana Novakova. She argues that four years after the Revolution of Dignity the Ukrainian society passes through multiple parallel transitions, but we are confronted with a rather fragmented reforms discussion. It is important to embed this discussion in a broader socio-spatial context of societal life in post-revolution Ukraine.² It should be remarked that this fourfold distinction differs essentially from the traditional and non-elaborated distinction between the economic, the social and the environmental dimensions, as happens in the current debate on sustainability.

Over the past two years, investments are made from the side of the European Commission (**EC**) to operationalize the 'European Support Group for Ukraine'. This group of EU-experts assists the elaboration and modernization of the institutional settings of these four dimensions, e.g. respectively: modernization of the financial sector, strengthening the rule of law reform, development of welfare provisions and public health, and addressing traditional forms of severe pollution.³ A new review document was published recently.⁴ Because of the lack of the application of a crystal clear encompassing theoretical framework, a question should be raised

¹ V. Heyets (2015), 'Letter to Laurent J.G. van der Maesen, director IASQ', (Kiev: IEF/NASU, 11 November, 135/10/693)

² Z. Novakova (2017), 'Four Dimensions of Societal Transformation: an Introduction to the Problematique of Ukraine', *The International Journal of Social Quality*, Vol. 8 (1), pp.1-30.

³ European Commission (2016), 'Support Group for Ukraine: Activity Report The first 18 months', (<https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/ukraine/sgua.en>.)

⁴ European Commission (2017), 'Joint Staff Working Document: Association Implementation Report on Ukraine', (Brussels: EC SWD (2017) 376 final, 14 November).

if these types of investments are really sufficient for addressing the extremely difficult daily circumstances of Ukraine, as e.g presented by Gianfranco Tamburelli⁵?

1.2 **A preliminary and a preparatory project-group'**

In consultation with the IEF/NASU, the board of the IASQ constituted a network of scholars from different Member States of the EU, collaborating online in order to explore the possibilities for the application of the SQA in Ukraine. In 2017 this **preliminary project-group** discussed aspects of the drafts of the IASQ's Working Paper nr.16 (WP16) as the basis to start a second stage, namely to start a **preparatory project-group** in 2018. The objective of WP16 (as well as the new study about the interrelationships of the four dimensions in Ukraine (see note-2) is to explain tentatively the rationale of the SQA as a starting point of the preparatory project-group. Herewith this preparatory group should obtain a consensus about the meaning of the SQA for addressing problems and challenges of Ukraine, seen in a broader European context. Furthermore it should be confronted with the outcomes of a manifold of research by partners of the preliminary and the preparatory project-group. Finally, this second group should pave the way as soon as possible the proposed '**international joint-research project Ukraine**' (INRU-project). The challenge for the INRU-project is to operationalize the application of the SQA, above all, on behalf of inhabitants of Ukraine. The First Vice-Prime Minister of Ukraine wrote to the First Vice-President of the European Commission in January 2017, stating that it is "*very important to support [such final] international research project[s] of applied character in order to the implementation of European approaches in the Ukrainian state regulation system to also accelerate its socio-economic development.*"⁶

1.3 **Going beyond the reproduction of examples from the EU**

To support the preparation of the WP16, the IEF/NASU published its **Analytical Review**⁷ and its related preliminary **Research Proposals**.⁸ EU- experts of the above mentioned 'European Support Group Ukraine' are informed about institutional arrangements in the four dimensions

⁵ G. Tamburelli (2016), 'The Crisis in Ukraine', *La Comunita Internazionale Fasc.* 3/2016, pp. 359-376.

⁶ S. Kubiv (2017), '*Letter to the European Commission, mr. Frans Timmermans*', (Kiev: Government of Ukraine, 16 January).

⁷ V. Heyets (2016), '*Letter to Laurent J.G. van der Maesen concerning studies on behalf of the international joint-research project*', (Kiev: IEF/NASU, 13 May). Furthermore: IEF/NASU of Ukraine (2016), '**Analytical Review: the Socio-Economic Situation in Ukraine**', (Kiev: Institute for Economics and Forecasting/NASU, August).

⁸ V. Heyets (2016), '*Letter to Laurent J.G. van der Maesen concerning studies on behalf of the international joint-research project*', (Kiev: IEF/NASU, 14 July). And further: IEF/NASU of Ukraine (2016), '**Research Proposals for the preparation of joint research project between the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of NAS of Ukraine and IASQ and other academic structures**', (Kiev: IEF/NASU, 4 August).

of Member States respectively. The question is if the following five essential challenges can be addressed with the reproduction of existing arrangements in EU Member states, namely that:

- At this stage of the EU's history, new main challenges arise due to a rather fundamental upheaval of communication-, production-, distribution-, and reproduction systems and conditions, which foster demand for fundamental changes in all four dimensions in Ukraine and far beyond. **New points of departure** to adjust institutional arrangements are needed.
- The increasing opinion in nearly all Member States is that citizens/inhabitants lack sufficient possibilities to play an effective and responsible role in the construction their own daily circumstances. As the President of the EC highlighted in May 2017, this has to be seriously considered.⁹ This implies an adequate change of the **content** of herewith related institutional arrangements in all four dimensions as well. The recent demonstrations in Slovakia (end 2017) and Rumania (beginning of 2018) speak volumes.
- It is argued that it is very urgent to restore relationships between Ukraine and Russia and more broadly between Russia, Ukraine and the European Union. This implies also a new consensus about **the rationale** of the institutional arrangements in the future (see note-4).
- The conceptual framework used by the European Commission and the European Union needs a stronger theoretical foundation to reduce ambiguity in applied concepts for improving changes. This refers to the need for a rigor **conceptualization** of aspects of the new arrangements (see note-2 and especially note-64).
- By focusing on societal circumstances in Ukraine – with the above four issues in mind – the outcomes may be useful for this country and far beyond. The reason is that the interaction of the outcomes of new politics and policies in Ukraine and the surrounding countries may be of great significance for addressing the **increasing international interdependencies**.

1.4 Why to apply the substance of the SQA?

In answer on the request of the Government of Ukraine to the European Commission to support the preparation of the proposed 'INRU-project', the responsible member of the European Commission wrote, that "*considering the nature [or rationale] of the project you refer in your letter, I would like to take up your suggestions of a working-level meeting (...) as well*

⁹ H. Bubrowki (2017), 'Die Lösung für fast alles: die führenden EU-Vertreter wollen Europa reformieren and näher zu den Menschen bringen', *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, nr. 105, 6 Mai, p.2.

as make a first assessment of the substance of such an initiative".¹⁰ Of course it needs to be clarified what its 'substance' is. Since the formal start of the SQA in 1997 – happening during the Dutch Presidency of the EU – SQA-scholars from nearly all Member States are focused on four **conditional factors** of social quality in all four dimensions of societal complexities, namely: (1) socio-economic security, (2) social cohesion, (3) social inclusion, and (4) social empowerment. Fifteen years later proposed is to add also (5) eco-reality (see note-89). Researchers have been working in all EU Member states to determine the change of the nature of these conditional factors with help of 'social quality indicators'. From 2007 onwards this also happened in seven regions of South-East Asia and Australia as explained in the third social quality book..¹¹ For Europe, the EC and engaged academic institutes financed many projects; in Asia/Australia their governments and academic institutes. The aim was and is to determine if the societal-based causes of the changes in these factors will influence the five **constitutional factors**, which concern processes of people's self-realization as actors in societies and their communities, namely: (1) personal human security and resilience, (2) social recognition and self-worth, (3) social responsiveness, (4) personal human capacity or self-efficacy, and recently also (5) eco-conscience.

The linking of the change of both sets of factors will clarify if the **normative factors** of social quality are strengthened or not, namely (1) social justice, (2) solidarity, (3) equal value, (4) human dignity, and (5) eco-equilibrium. The three sets of factors are the quintessence of the '**social quality architecture**' as an analytical instrument to determine the extent of social quality at a certain space and time (see Figure-3, section-5.3.1). It should be understood as a contributing phenomenon to the overall sustainability of human existence. For an elaboration, please see WP16's 4th and 5th section. For the **first time** all herewith related concepts are tentatively theoretically interconnected as a condition for understanding their interrelationships. This attempt makes the SQA different compared to 'quality of life', 'capability theory', 'social capital', social development', 'human development', or 'human security' approaches and especially the rather estranged 'happiness approach' .

¹⁰ J. Hahn (2017), 'Letter to Deputy Prime Minister Stepan Kubiv of Ukraine', (Brussels: European Commission, 10 March).

¹¹ **The Third SQ Book**: L.J.G. van der Maesen and A.C. Walker, eds (2012), '*Social Quality, from Theory to Indicators*', (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan). This book is also published in the Chinese language, available: <http://ssap.com.on.2016>. Other authors are: Wolfgang Beck, Peter Herrmann, Dave Gordon, Yitzhak Berman, David Phillips, Carol Walker. The WP16's social quality references are based on the content of this book. It is also an outcome of a European wide project, financed by the European Commission and fourteen European academic institutes, oriented on the elaboration and application of social quality indicators: a project between 2002 and 2006. The first outcomes played also an important role in the Asian and Australian social quality research. See also the IASQ's Annual Reports, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 (www.socialquality.org). See furthermore section-5.5.1.

The policy-consequences are that by applying the SQA a manifold of different processes within one of the four dimensions can be understood in an interrelated way and that a manifold of processes in these dimensions can be understood comprehensively. Fragmented approaches will obstruct adequate answers to the five issues, mentioned above. As the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in 2013 concluded, social sciences (including economics and law) all over the world are divided. National challenges as outcomes of global challenges are therefore addressed insufficiently. This has dramatic consequences.¹²

1.5 The content of the Working Paper

Section-2 starts with information about the preliminary project-group, as well as a tentative introduction to the 'problematique' of the Ukraine. Section-3, provides an overview of the state of affairs of Ukraine. Section-4 reflects on the discussion so far in connection with some basic assumptions of the SQA, underpinned by the global debate on sustainability. Section-5 introduces the SQA, explaining its significance for bridging the Analytical Review and Research Proposals by the IEF/NASU. Section-6 explains why the SQA may deliver interesting points of departure on behalf of the preparatory project-group. Section-7 concerns proposals for the objectives of the preparatory project-group as second step. Notices should be that in the meantime the IEF/NASU published a third paper namely about the **Implementation of the SQA**.¹³ It proposes to accentuate in the preparatory project-group especially the problematique of the labor market, the nature of the interwovenness of the formal and informal economy and its consequences. This issue will be addressed in section-7 as well.

1.6 What are the supposed outcomes of the application of the SQA?

The main objective of the final INRU-project is to obtain insights on how to stimulate new societal-based processes for elaborating daily circumstances for residents of Ukraine with support by its residents. This will be compared to circumstances in surrounding countries and far beyond with regard to the four dimensions mentioned above. How are new circumstances demonstrated on local/urban, sub-regional/provincial, and national levels. Furthermore, if the European Commission paves the way for the Ukrainian Government and the Academy of

¹² I. Bokova (2013), 'Preface of World Social Science Report', in: International Social Science Council (ISSC), UNESCO and OECD (2013), 'World Social Science Report 2013: Changing Global Environment', Paris: ISSC/UNESCO/OECD, p. 3.

¹³ IEF/NASU of Ukraine (2017), 'Implementation of the European Social Quality Approaches in the Public Administration System of Ukraine (draft)', (Kiev: Institute for Economics and Forecasting/NASU, October).

Sciences to start the INRU-project, universities in this country might benefit from a systemic collaboration with a number of academic institutions in surrounding countries (for realizing the comparative approach, seen from the social quality's conceptual framework). Ukraine 'as argument' for the application of the SQA means that herewith related developments in Ukraine may be important for the future of other countries. Finally, the outcomes may be of interest for circles in and around the European Commission to open new horizons with help of the INRU-project for presenting new strategies which are more acceptable for also EU populations and may be of interest in China, Japan, India etc. .

Let us evoke the words of the grand old Lady of social policy in Hungary, Zsuzsa Ferge for delivering arguments for this way of reasoning. At the time of accession of Central Eastern European countries to the EU - when the approach applied was in many respects close to the original neo-liberal World Bank agenda - she warned that "*the weakening of the existing approach [in the EU member countries] in the accession countries may antagonize their citizens [of the first countries] who may then use the accession countries as scapegoats. If the EU members do not follow the monetarist recipe [as applied in the accession countries] the gap will grow between Eastern and Western Europe. The accession countries may decrease the level of their public commitments, and they may create new institutions such as two-tier, disintegrative system of health or education, or destroy institutions which might ultimately become conditions of admittance.*"¹⁴ She explained her worry about the possibilities for a genuine welfare benefit system in especially Eastern European countries because the outcomes of ongoing transformations.¹⁵ Some years later the Hungarian scholar Gábor Juhász concluded, that "*the rationalization and simplification of the [applied] open method of co-ordination [by the EU] also has the potential to decrease the importance of particular fields [health, income security, education etc]. This could weaken EU's influence on national social policies of its members states*".¹⁶ With help of the application of social quality indicators, Ferenc Bodi and colleagues demonstrate in their recent study of four Eastern European countries, that especially **employment possibilities** and **fair income** are of a huge concern for those living there. In other words, the gap by which these countries are lacking behind prevents the strengthening of social quality. This main aspect of the socio-economic/financial dimension

¹⁴ Z. Ferge (2001), 'European Integration and the Reform of Social Security in the Accession Countries', *The European Journal of Social Quality*, 3 (1&2), pp. 1-9, p.9. These conclusions were highly prophetic.

¹⁵ Z. Ferge (1992), 'Social Policy Regimes and Social Structure', in: Z. Ferge and J.E. Kolberg (eds), '*Social Policy in a Changing Europe*' (European Center for Social Welfare Policy and Reserach, Volume 10; Frankfurt am Main: Campus Verlag), pp. 201-223.

¹⁶ Gábor Juhász (2006), 'Exporting or Pulling Down? The European Social Model and Eastern Enlargement of the EU', *The European Journal of Social Quality*, 6 (1), pp. 109-127, p.106.

influences in negative sense processes in the three other dimensions.¹⁷ The situation in Ukraine is much more serious (see note-2 and note-5). The suggestion to accentuate this point of departure of '**The Implementation**' is convincing, namely that "according to official statistics, in Ukraine for 2013-2016 real nominal income at the disposal of the population declined by 31%; and real wages respectively by 18.7%, and real gross pensions by 40.3%" (see note-13).

With the application of SQA, Ukraine will be enabled to pave the way for new insights on national level, the EU-level and beyond, on how to address some of the main questions related with the four dimensions of societal complexities, for example:

- The increase of inequalities and questions of employment which follow the current and future changes in economic production and distribution relations,
- Political expressions of populism, undermining democratic based values and practices,
- Increasing forms of migration and how to cope humanely with these flows on national and supra-regional level,
- The challenge of sustainability and herewith related climate change questions.

7. A plan for the second stage

The plan for the second stage - namely the start and the work of the preparatory project-group - may be tentatively speaking summarised in the following way (for more details, please see section-7):

- To finalize WP16 and to gather relevant herewith related documents from the IEF/NASU, other institutes in Ukraine and the EU member States, and articulation of the consensus how to start the first exploration concerning the application of the SQA,
- To organize the first meeting of the preparatory project-group for discussing the outcomes (see first point) for determining the aims, methodologies, facilities, and desirable outcomes of one, two or three explorative research-projects,
- To start of the explorations with regard to these research-projects,
- To organize the second meeting of the preparatory project-group for the determination of the results and to discuss their meaning as point of departure for the final INRU-project.

¹⁷ F. Bodi, J. Z. Farkas, and P. Robert (2017), Multi-Level Approach to Measure Social Capacity in a European Context', *The International Journal of Social Quality*, 7 (2), pp. 30-60.

2. The invitation by the IEF/NASU, the social quality approach and the paper's content

2.1 The invitation by the IEF/NASU

2.1.1 A European and global challenge

In November 2015 the IASQ received a letter from the side of the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (**IEF/NASU**). It invited the International Association on Social Quality (**IASQ**) to assist with the implementation of the theory, methodology and policy application of the 'social quality approach' (**SQA**) in this country. According to the IEF/NASU, the purpose is – with help of this implementation - to contribute to the *“achievement of the objectives of ‘social and economic development’ of Ukrainian society as defined by the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, signed in June 2014”* (see note-1).

The SQA's main purpose is to stimulate politics and policies on local, city, provincial/sub-regional, national and supra-regional levels to strengthen a responsible role of citizens to participate in shaping their fates. Hypothesized is that by enhancing the social quality of their daily circumstances this will be strengthened.¹⁸ This issue refers to the question of 'social empowerment' and concerns a main subject of this WP16 (see especially section-5). The EU-Ukraine Association Agreement points in the same direction. It *“focuses on support to core reforms, economic recovery and growth, and governance and sector cooperation in areas such as energy, transport and environment protection, industrial cooperation, social development and protection, equal rights, consumer protection, education, youth and cultural cooperation”*.¹⁹ This Agreement is based on the Lisbon Treaty of the European Union, signed in March 2000. In its article-2 the emphasis is laid on values as *“respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society*

in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail”. The Agreement also refers to the article-3 of the Lisbon Treaty

¹⁸ In the context of the SQA Goran Therborn explained the difference and relevance of both terms, see; G. Therborn (2001), 'On the Politics and Policy of Social Quality', in: W. A. Beck, L.J.G. van der Maesen, F. Thomése and A.C. Walker, 'Social Quality: A Vision for Europe', (The Hague/London/Boston: Kluwer Law International), pp. 19-29

¹⁹ EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (available: http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/ukraine/eu_ukraine/association_agreement/index_en.htm)

aiming at the establishment of “an internal market. It shall work for the **sustainable development** of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment”.²⁰

For the SQA this invitation may be appreciated as a great challenge because the similarities and differences of the Agreement and the SQA are not immediately clear. Added can be that the current socio-political/legal and socio-cultural/welfare relationships in the European Union are changing seriously, not least with the forthcoming Brexit.²¹ The increasing socio-environmental dangers (see the global dedication to the question of climate change and the recent withdrawal from the Paris Treaty by the USA Trump Administration) and the consequences of differences between Western compared to Eastern lifestyles will also function as potential sources of global tensions. These tensions will be strengthened by the undeniable increase of socio-economic inequality. Their outcomes are consistently legitimated as a result of obsolete 19th and 20th Western juridical interpretations about ownership and property. Furthermore the new communication technologies – paving the way for the digitalisation of economic production, financial and distribution systems - will change values, lifestyles, and open unforeseen new horizons. It will at the same time challenge existing economic productive and reproductive relationships. Also Ukraine is part of herewith related processes

2.1.2 Work done in the recent past resulting into the Working Paper

From December 2015 onwards work has been carried out to address the invitation by the IEF/NASU. This implies also a clear understanding of the meaning of the SQA and the Association Agreement with the EU in the context of the main challenges referred above. With this in mind the IASQ with strong support by Eurispes in Rome²² proposed to explore possibilities to construct a ‘preliminary project-group’ with which to elaborate an ‘international Joint-research project Ukraine’ (INRU-project) . This resulted in:

²⁰ Lisbon-Treaty.org/wcm/the-lisbon-treaty/treaty-on-european-union-ad-comments/title-1-common-provision/2-article-2.html and provision-3_article-3. See for a comment from the perspective of the SQA, note-11.

²¹ S. Corbett (2016), ‘The Social Consequences of Brexit for the UK and Europe: Euroscepticism, Populism, Nationalism and Societal Division’, *The International Journal of Social Quality*, 6 (1), pp. 11-32. See also note-32.

²² This institute is in 2016 ranked in the group of the ‘best independent institutes: TTCSP (J.C. McGann) (2017), ‘2016 Global Think Tank Index Report’, (Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania/Penn Libraries), p. 146 (available: http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=think_tanks/)

- Discussions with the first potential academic supporters from twelve European, one Chinese academic institutes and members of the National Academy of Sciences in Ukraine resulting in different drafts of WP16²³.
- The participation of the IEF/NASU and academic relations in Ukraine in the support of the Manifesto on Climate Change, prepared by the IASQ and the ISS²⁴.
- Discussions with civil servants of DG Research and Innovation, Unit C.3 of the European Commission. They proposed to use the Horizon 2020 programme²⁵.
- To take on board the study by the University of Aberdeen about a social quality approach for explaining the economic and social transformations of also Ukraine. The analysts draw upon a sample survey of 8.400 individuals carried out in 2001 together with qualitative interviews with a purposefully selected sample of individuals, health experts and focus groups conducted in 2002²⁶.
- The preparation and presentation by the IEF/NASU of the '**Analytical Review**' concerning the socio-economic and socio-political dimensions of Ukraine (see note-7).
- The preparation and the first '**Research Proposals**' by the IEF/NASU with regard to the objectives of the proposed INRU-project (see note-8).
- The dissemination of the study by the National Italian Research Council about the food aid to conflict-affected populations, namely the in the case of Eastern Ukraine. The purpose is to improve - and render more effective - the efforts of the international community²⁷.
- A correspondence between the IASQ and the IEF/NASU about strategies to engage the European Commission with the proposed 'INRU-project'. This resulted in a letter by the First Vice-Minister of the Government of Ukraine to the Vice-President of the European Commission (note-6) and the answer by a member of the European

²³ With Prof. Alan Walker (UK), Prof. Dr Peter Herrmann (Germany), Prof. Dr Peter Robert (Hungary), Davie Gordon (UK), Prof. Dr Krzysztof Zagorski (Poland), Prof. Dr Gianfranco Tamburelli (Italy), Prof. Dr Marco Ricceri (Italy), Dr Steve Corbett (UK), Prof. Dr Claire Wallace (UK), Dr Zuzana Novakova (Netherlands), Prof. Dr Georg Vobruba (Germany), Prof. Dr Monika Eigmüller (Germany), prof dr Des Gasper (Netherlands), Prof. Dr Ka Lin (China), Prof. Dr Valeriy Heyets cs (Ukraine).

²⁴ L.J.G. van der Maesen, D. Gasper, M. Wewerinke, and T. Cadman (2015), '**Manifesto for Paris Climate Conference**', Amsterdam/The Hague: IASQ/ISS (available: www.socialquality.org). Furthermore, see 'The editorial (2015), *International Journal of Social Quality*, Vol. 5 (2). See for the support from the side of Ukraine: V. Heyets (2015), '**Letter to Laurent J.G. van der Maesen for supporting the Manifesto on climate change and the list of scholars from Ukraine who signed this manifesto**', (Kiev: IEF/NASU, 22 November, 135-7/718).

²⁵ L.J.G. van der Maesen (2016), '**Letter to Prof Valeriy Heyets about the discussion with DG Research**', (Amsterdam/The Hague: IASQ, 16 July), and L.J.G. van der Maesen (2016), '**Letter to Prof. Valeriy Heyets about steps to be made**', Amsterdam/The Hague: IASQ, 3 August 2016. The 'Horizon 2020 program' is not attractive for a comprehensive understanding of the application of the SQA because of its logical based intrinsic fragmented character. See therefore the implicit suppositions of about the support by the European Commission to the academic world of Ukraine, see note-10.

²⁶ P. Abbott and C. Wallace (2014), 'Explaining Economic and Social Transformations in Post-Soviet Russia, Ukraine and Belarus: The Social Quality Approach', *European Societies*, (London: Routledge : online published 2014:available: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/socsci/documents/AW2010.pdf>),

²⁷ G. Tamburelli (2015), '**Food aid to Conflict Affected Populations WFP Emergency Operations: the Case of Eastern Ukraine**', Rome: National Research Council (available: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gianfranco_Tamburelli).

Commission, namely, that the Commission is open for a discussion about a comprehensive approach of the research-proposals in statu nascendi (see note-10).

- The dissemination of the study about the application of social quality indicators for developing international comparative research by the Zhejiang University ²⁸.
- The dissemination of the study by the Kozminski University about indicators and a new 'Balanced Development Index' as an answer to the one-sided application of the GDP measurement systems ²⁹.
- The dissemination of the study by the Sheffield University about social quality indicators for analysing contextual processes of individual health ³⁰.
- The dissemination of the study about 'The Crisis in Ukraine' by the National Research Council of Italy. This refers to "*the complexity of the situation, and the worsening of the political, economic and social difficulties which have followed on the heels of the exceptional events and radical changes in the political direction*" ³¹
- The dissemination of the renewed 'Declaration on Social Quality' by the University of Sheffield and the Hope University of Liverpool as a comment on the Brexit of the United Kingdom, seen in the context of main nationalist and populist tendencies (see above)³².
- To take on board the recent articles about Eastern European countries (see note-17) and Ukraine (see note-2) in The International Journal of Social Quality and the decision by the editors of this journal to dedicate a thematic issue to Eastern European countries in 2019. These articles and all other publications referred to above were inspiring for the nature of the Editorial of the journal with which to explain the new collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) as well to elaborate the SQA globally.³³

2.2 The subject-matter of social quality as point of departure

²⁸ K. Lin and H. Li (2016), 'Mapping Social Quality Clusters and Its Implications', *Social Indicators Research*, (available: DOI : 10.1007/s11205-016-1432-0, Springer), pp. 1-17.

²⁹ A.K. Kozminski, A. Noga, K. Piotrowska, and K. Zagorski (2016), 'The Balanced Development Index: Its Construction and Application in Times of Uncertainty, Poland 1999-2017', *Polish Sociological Review*, 3 (195), pp. 268-290.

³⁰ D. Holman and A.C. Walker (2017), 'Social Quality and health: Examining Individual and Neighborhood Contextual Effects Using a Multilevel Modelling Approach', *Social Indicators Research*, DOI:10.1007/s11205-017-1640-2 (Springer), pp. 1-12..

³¹ G. Tamburelli, see note-5.

³² A.C. Walker, S. Corbett (2017), '*The Post Brexit Declaration on Social Quality in Europe*', (Sheffield/Liverpool: University of Sheffield/Hope University Liverpool: available www.socialquality.org). This recent **Declaration on Social Quality** is a further elaboration of the first Amsterdam Declaration on Social Quality, see the Second Book on Social Quality, note-35, pp. 385-388. This first Amsterdam Declaration is presented solemnly to the President of the European Parliament in October 1979.

³³ L.J.G. van der Maesen (2018), 'Editorial: The Evolution of 20 Years of Social Quality thinking', *The International Journal of Social Quality*, Vol. 8.(1), pp. i-xxii.

2.2.1 Two main points of reference for the INRU-project

There are at least two books which should function as main points of reference for the INRU-project. The **first point of reference** is the so-called 'third social quality book', published in English in 2012 and in Chinese in 2016 (see note-11). It delivers the most current *design* of the theory and its methodology. It is based on the first social quality book, which presented a preliminary idea about social quality, published in English in 1997³⁴, as well as the second social quality book, which presented the first *contours* of its theory and methodology, published in English in 2005 and Chinese in 2016.³⁵ This second book inspired the European Commission for taking on board explicitly some essential arguments of these contours.³⁶ This resulted in different projects, financed by various Directorates of the EC. The outcomes are published in a manifold of Reports and different thematic issues of the European Journal of Social Quality.³⁷

The essence of the theory concerns primarily a socio-philosophical subject-matter. Important is the affinity with the work by the philosopher Roy Bhaskar as explained in the second book (see note-36) and the third book on social quality (see note-11). SQ-scholars try to conceptualize the subject-matter of 'the social' as a point of departure for an encompassing theoretical framework for economics, juridical sciences, sociology, political sciences, cultural and environmental sciences. this issue will be elaborated in section-5. Thanks to this conceptualization the social quality theory and approach go beyond the current supposition of duality between 'the economic' and 'the social' as applied by a lot of mainstream economic

³⁴ **The First SQ Book:** W.A. Beck, L.J.G. van der Maesen, A.C. Walker (eds) (1997), '*Social Quality of Europe*', (The Hague/ London /Boston: Kluwer Law International). Other contributors are: D. Meulders, R. Plasman, D. Bouget, D. Pieters, B. Schulte, I. Gough, A. Bruto da Costa, G. Vobruba, G. Esping-Andersen, P. Abrahamson, Ch. Saraceno, Z. Ferge, J. M. Kovacs, A. Showstack Sassoon, J. Hartl, C. de Neubourg, J. Bergman, J. Pacolet, G. Room, J. Baars, K. Knipscheer, F. Thomese.

³⁵ **The Second SQ Book:** W.A. Beck, L.J.G. van der Maesen, F. Thomése, A.C. Walker (ed) 2001), '*Social Quality a Vision for Europe*', (The Hague/London/Boston: Kluwer Law International). Other contributors are: G. Therborn, A. Ojeda-Aviles, D. Bouget, M. Calloni, K. van Kersbergen, D. Phillips, Y. Berman, J. Berting, Chr. Villain-Gandossi, L. de Leonardis, A. Evers, G. Standing, G. Vobruba, S. Andersen, K. Eliassen, G. Konrad. See for the **Chinese Publication:** available <http://ssap.com.cn>. 2016.

³⁶ Commission of the European Communities (2000), '*Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Social Policy Agenda*', (Brussels: European Communities, COM, 379, final).

³⁷ **Thematic issues** about: (1) '*Social Quality of Europe*' (1999), *European Journal of Social Quality*, 1 (1&2), pp. 3-180; (2) '*Age and Autonomy*' (2000), *The European Journal of Social Quality*, 2 (1&2) , pp. 3-204; (3) '*Social Quality of Employment*' (2000), *European Journal of Social Quality*, 2 (2), pp. 3-120; (4) '*Citizenship and Welfare Protection*' (2001), *The European Journal of Social Quality*, 3 (1&2), pp. 3-115; (5) '*Flexicurity and Security in Employment*' (2003), *The European Journal of Social Quality*, 4 (1&2), pp. 1-256; (6) P. Ward (guest editor) (2006), '*Social Quality and Modern Public Health: Developing a Framework for the 21st Century*' (2006), *The European Journal of Social Quality*, 6 (2), pp. 1-167. Contributors are: P. Ward, P. Redgrave, C. Read, O. de Leonardis, J. van de Kerckhoove, P.R.A. Oeij, St. Dhondt, N. Wiezers, P. Bissell, P. Taylor-Gooby, D. Bouget and P. Tessier; (7). **See for the thematic issue on social quality indicators note-42, note-54 and note- 58.**

and sociological scientists in the Western hemisphere³⁸. As we will discuss in section-4.3, this duality - based on the application of the noun and the adjective 'social' as a black box - causes

also a dysfunctional orientation for the debate about the overall sustainability as main challenge of mankind. This first point of reference explains furthermore the difference of the SQA with comparable approaches such as 'quality of life', 'social capital', 'human development', 'human security', 'capability theory', or 'social harmony'. This difference has an important heuristic meaning, which is sometimes underscored in empirical oriented social quality research.³⁹

A **second point of reference** for the INRU-project is the recently published book by Pamela Abbott, Claire Wallace and R. Sapsford about a new form of planning for social quality in order to realise a decent society.⁴⁰ This book is important for the INRU-project for a number of reasons. First it tries to explain the surplus value of the SQA compared to the 'capability approach' (A. Sen, M. Nussbaum), and the 'quality of life approach' (H. Nol, A. Sen, J. Stiglitz) as explained by Peter Herrmann (see note-39). According to the authors, social quality is a radically different approach because it shows a recognition of the interdependency of human beings and the conditional or foundational components of their experiences in contrast to many of the measures of quality of life, satisfaction and wellbeing: *"in the Social Quality approach the social (collective) quality of a society is seen as more than the accumulation of the experiences and actions of its individual members"* (p. 14). Second, this book elaborates the social quality theory in a specific way, diverging from the presentation in the first main point of reference. Third, the authors attempt to deliver arguments for changes of also methodological aspects of the theory concerning the constitution and application of (social quality) indicators. Fourth, and this is essential for the INRU-project, it presents outcomes of a research in Ukraine and other parts of the former Soviet Union. Finally, it is dedicated to one of the four normative factors of the SQA, namely social justice. This provides a distinctive upgrade from the first point of reference and this study is one of the SQ pioneers in taking on board one of the normative factors. Notwithstanding this new step, this normative factor seems to be disconnected from the interrelationships as explained in the social quality architecture, presented in Figure-3, section-5.2.

³⁸ Z. Novakova, see note-2. She confronted demonstrated the problems of this duality in the case of Ukraine.

³⁹ P. Herrmann (2013), 'Economic Performance, Social Progress and Social Quality', *The International Journal of Social Quality*, 2 (1), pp. 41-56.

⁴⁰ P. Abbott, C. Wallace and R. Sapsford (2016), *The Decent Society: Planning for social quality*, (London/New York: Routledge).

2. **Deepening the two main points of reference: four studies**

a *A study about quality of life, including social quality*

For the INRU-project it is also important to dedicate the attention to four additional studies. The **first study** concerns David Phillips' book about the nature and origins of different streams of the 'quality of life approaches', published in 2006. Especially because from 1990s onward the European Commission invested a huge amount of money in the elaboration and application of this (or these) approach(es). Within his study, Phillips introduces also the SQA and tries to explain the differences.⁴¹ One of his suppositions is that 'quality of life approaches' accentuate in contradiction to the SQA subjective aspects of human life. But this is a misunderstanding. The SQA explicitly differentiates between the subjective, the objective and the normative aspects in a comprehensive way as demonstrated in the 'social quality architecture' (see Figure-3, section-5.2). Notwithstanding this, Phillips' study is important for explaining the rationale of the SQA compared to the quality of life approaches.

Of particular interest is his distinction between the hedonic tradition and the eudaimonic tradition. While the first one stresses the nobility of the individual, with an emphasis on personal freedom, self-preservation and self-enhancement, the second one focuses on meaning, self-realisation and the actualisation of human potential oriented on a state of personal expressiveness (note-41, p.32). As we will see, the SQA's orientation concerns the second tradition, on a personal level as well as societal level. In the first issue of the *International Journal of Social Quality*, Phillips adds in 2011 new considerations about this theme. He discusses the lack of a conception of 'the social' in the quality of life approaches and human development approaches as well. He indicates alternative responses, one of which is to co-operate with the SQA and its far more elaborate engagement with social theory, or in our terms 'societal theory'.⁴²

b. *A study about human security and social quality*

For developing the points of departure of the INRU-project it makes also sense to refer to a **second study** about the differences and complementarity of the SQA and the human

⁴¹ D. Phillips (2006), '*Quality of Life: Concept, Policy and Practice*', (London/New York: Routledge). See about his introduction of 'social quality', pp. 175-189.

⁴² D. Phillips (2011), 'The individual and the Social: A comparative Study of Quality of Life, Social Quality and Human Development Approaches', *International Journal of Social Quality*, 1 (1), pp. 71-91. In this article Phillips refers to his previous social quality thinking and empirical oriented work, namely the application of social quality indicators.....

.....
.....
.....

security approach. This debate is an outcome of the project collaboration between the International

Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague and the IASQ embodied in the ISS's Working Paper about the contrasts and complementarities of the human security approach and the SQA in 2008.⁴³ According to this Working Paper, human security is guided by concerns with critical threats and risks of life destroying crises. The boundaries it crosses are also national and intercontinental. It aims to bring integration within the thinking of international organizations, notably the United Nations. It contains also correspondingly strong attention to themes of human rights and democratisation. In contrast, this Paper argues that most work on social quality has not been directly guided by concerns about threats of war, pandemic, climate change, or massive population movements driven by different forms of human insecurity. Supposed is, that in social quality analyses, citizens it describes are not the people fighting to enter Fortress Europe. Important is to notice, that since 2010 the question of climate change and the challenge of the overall sustainability became more and more important for the SQA.

The question is ex ante raised if the human security approach is really appropriate to address the challenge of climate risks and other serious risks (or the quality of life approach with regard to social progress). According to Richard Jolly and Deepayan Basu Ray, *"Human security does not have any definite boundaries, therefore anything and everything could be considered a risk to security. This makes the task of policy formulation nearly impossible; Human security, when broadened to include issues like climate change and health, complicates the international machinery for reaching decisions or taking action on the threats identified (...) human security under the UN risks raising hopes about the UN's capacity, which it cannot fulfil"*.⁴⁴

In the first social quality analysis of Ukraine it is indeed demonstrated that a massive amount of people in this country has to cope with unbearable and threatening circumstances. With the SQA the consequences could be recognized (note-2). In fact, openness for such tragedies in the SQA is recognised in the ISS's Working Paper (note-43). It stressed the capacity for this openness thanks to its dedication to the richer conception of 'the social'.

⁴³ D. Gasper, L.J.G. van der Maesen, Th-D Truong and A. Walker (2008) , *'Human Security and Social Quality: Contrasts and Complementarities'*, (The Hague: ISS/IASQ, Working Paper Series No. 462: available: www.iss.nl). This Working Paper is recently published in: A.K.Giri (2015), *'New Horizons of Human Development'*, (New Delhi: Madras Institute of Development Studies), pp. 229-257.

⁴⁴ R. Jolly and D.B., Ray (2007), *'Human Security – National Perspectives and Global Agendas: Insights from National Human Development'*, *Journal of International Development* 19, pp. 1-16 (available: DOI: 10.1002/jid.1382).

Humanism must think in terms of humans who are embedded in societies rather than of abstracted individuals. And more importantly, as we will discuss below, with theorising 'the social' the manifold of 'loosely defined' concepts in e.g. the Lisbon Treaty and the Association Agreement (and many UN-reports) can be redefined. This refers to the need of conceptual clarity and consistency. As we

will see in section-4 this point is put into the footlights by the International Social Sciences Council (ISSC) in its 2013 and 2016 Reports (see note-... and note-...). In 2011 Des Gasper includes human security thinking also in the comparison and uses a structured framework to identify how theories about quality of life differ. In his opinion, the human security approach like the social quality theory offers also a way to upgrade the over-individualistic notion of humanity in the UN's human development approach. The comparison suggests that these former two approaches could be mutually supportive rather than competitive.⁴⁵ This paves the way for a theoretical and policy-oriented solution for problems raised by Jolly and Ray. But according to Ananta Giri, we have to go further: the very (dominant) notions of 'social' and 'human' are products in European thought and do not include for example Indian philosophical interpretations of both notions.⁴⁶

c. *A study about social quality and social development*

A **third study** with which to deepen the discussions about the SQA concerns the recent book about new perspectives on social development, based on the social quality theory and SQA by Ka Lin and Peter Herrmann.⁴⁷ They argue that "*Although critical about many aspects of the European tradition, social quality thinking continues to find itself in the footsteps of progressivism and solidaristic thinking, rephrased in modern terms with a focus on socio-economic security, social inclusion, social cohesion and social empowerment. Although the content, orientation and features of this theory come from a European tradition, the theory*

⁴⁵ D. Gasper (2011), 'The Human and the Social: A comparison of the Discourses of Human Development, Human Security and Social Quality', *The International Journal of Social Quality*, 1 (1), pp. 91-109. This is also discussed by T. Sato cs (see note-....) and J. Waldmüller (see note-...).

⁴⁶ A. Giri (2011), 'Rethinking the Human and the Social: Towards a Multiverse of Transformations', *The International Journal of Social Quality*, 1 (1), pp.109-120.

⁴⁷ K. Lin and P. Herrmann (2017), '*Social Quality Theory: A new Perspective on Social Development*', (New York/Oxford: Berghahn Books). Except for the Introduction all chapters were originally published as articles in the *European Journal of Social Quality* and the *International Journal of Social Quality*. Other authors are: A. Fairweather, B. Roncevic, M. Rudbjerg, M. Valentova M. Zajc, L.J.G. van der Maesen, A.C. Walker, D. Gasper, S. Hacking, G. Therborn, S. Therborn, Y. Hiroi, V. Bobkov, O. Veredyuk, U. Alivey, P. Taylor-Goodby, W.A. Beck.

can be used to contribute to wider debates in the international social sciences (including economic and juridical sciences).⁴⁸

d. *A thematic issue about 'the social' and 'social policy'*

With this in mind, the thematic issue about '*In Search of the 'Social': European and Global Perspectives on the idea of the Welfare State*' may be appreciated as a **fourth study**, which

should be taken on board.⁴⁹ According to the guest editor Lutz Leisering, "*Semantics can help*

to trace the essence of social phenomena. This inconspicuous term 'social' is a case in point. In British and French usage, 'social' is mostly used in a descriptive sense according to its Latin origins, referring to a relationship or interaction between at least two persons. In nineteenth-century Germany, the word 'social', besides its descriptive meaning, assumed a strongly normative and critical connotation vis-à-vis living conditions seen to be unacceptable. (...). The precise meaning of the 'social' is difficult to pin down. This hints at problems of identifying the 'social' in 'social policy'."⁵⁰ But this distinction between the three

countries seems more complicated. In the first part of the previous century the topic of the 'social question' ('la question sociale') was highly important in France. In his 1927 study Alberic Belliot noticed already that it concerned the issue how people can live in dignity and the manifold of societally embedded obstacles to it. The point is not the quality of his analysis and research but that also in France for decades there is a strong normative and critical connotation. Of interest is to remark here, that Belliot did not explain in his extensive study what the theoretical meaning is of the noun and adjective 'social'. In other words, what does the 'social question' mean?⁵¹

2.3 **Content of the Working Paper**

Section-3 concerns the start with the presentation of issues and problems of Ukraine as discussed in the IEF/NASU's Analytical Review (note-4) and in Tamburelli's study about the

⁴⁸ In the Introduction (see note-47) - and in many following articles - the accent is mainly dedicated to only the conditional factors: not to the constitutional and the normative factors, as presented in Figure-3 (see section-5.5). This causes a lack of clarity for empirical SQ-research.

⁴⁹ Special Issue (2013), 'In Search of the 'Social': European and Global Perspectives on the Idea of the Welfare State', *The International Journal of Social Quality*, 3 (2), pp. 1-144, with articles by: Lutz Leisering, Franz-Xaver Kaufmann, Ulrike Davy, Martin Seeleib-Kaiser, Philip Manow, Kim Won sub and Shih-Jiunn Shi and Elmar Rieger. This issue is published on the occasion of the eightieth birthday of Franz-Xavier Kaufman, who is considered the doyen of the sociology of social policy in Germany.

⁵⁰ L. Leisering (2013), 'Guest Editorial: The "Social": The Global Career of an Idea', *The International Journal of Social Quality*, 3 (2), pp. 1-16, p. 1.

⁵¹ R.P.A. Belliot (1927), '*Manuel de Sociologie Catholique: la question sociale*', (Paris: P. Lethielleux). In current terms he made a plea for an eudaimonic (charitable oriented) approach instead of the hedonic (selfish) approach.

crisis in Ukraine (note-5). As a suggestion for a reordering of these issues and problems, a **tentative distinction** is applied between four main dimensions, i.e. which interrelationships (reciprocity) are relevant for the way complexities of societal life and nature or natural complexities are interconnected, positively and/or negatively. It concerns: the socio-economic/financial, the socio-political/legal, the socio-cultural/welfare and the socio-environmental dimensions. The rationale of this **four-dimensional distinction** will be discussed further in section-4. This reordering may deliver an instrument for analysing the issues and problems of Ukraine in an interrelated way as a condition for a comprehensive understanding of the 'problematique' of this country (see note-2). This will be functional for a

cross-country exploration and comparison. We will also refer to the recent information by the European Commission about new achievements of Ukraine which underlines the need for the application of this four-dimensional distinction in order to distinguish the manifold of issues in a more systematic way (see note-3), the first outcomes of the EC's Support Group Ukraine⁵² as well as the recent White Paper by the European Commission.⁵³

Section-4 addresses the theoretical issue of 'the social' as essential for the SQA in order to pave the way for section-5 and 6. The traditional careless use of the noun and adjective and the actual necessity to theorise its subject-matter can be illustrated by referring to the global debate about sustainability. Especially the global accepted tripartite distinction between the economic, social and environmental dimensions as evidence sui generis in this debate demonstrates the need of the conceptualization of 'the social'. The argument has been derived from the recognition of the 'root problem' of this tripartite distinction. We propose a four-dimensional distinction (as already applied in the previous section) for a better understanding as well as the question of sustainability, as well as to adequately understanding the nature of societal complexities. The second motive for this attention is to comment on the herewith related supposed heuristic meaning of the duality between 'the economic' and 'the social'. This duality as a following evidence sui generis is also an aspect of the root problem of the sustainability debate. A specific third motive for this attention is that politics and policies to stimulate the social quality of daily circumstances – as requested by the IEF/NASU in Ukraine – cannot neglect anymore the main challenge, namely the overall sustainability. This current theoretical and empirical orientation paved the way for the SQA's **tentative distinction** between **three main fields** and their interrelationships. It concerns the whole of (a) societal complexities, (b) ([un]sustainable) urban context and (c) the overall

⁵² EC Support Group, see note-3.

⁵³ European Commission (2017), 'White Paper on the future of Europe: Reflections and Scenarios for the EU27 by 2025', (Brussels: EC, COM (2017) 2025, 1st March, available: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/commission-presents-white-paper-future-europa_en).

sustainability, illustrated in Figure-1 of section-4.4.⁵⁴ Their manifestations happen on local, city, sub-regional [provincial], national, and supra-regional levels.

Section-5 will discuss what it means to apply the SQA for bridging the IEF/NASU's Analytical Review and its Research Proposals. The arguments may stimulate our attention to five interrelated figures, namely: (a) Figure-1 concerning the interrelation between three fields of

modern societies (see section-4); (b) Figure-2 concerning the ontological based constitution of 'the social' as point of departure of the social quality theory with which to analyse the reciprocity of these three fields; (c) Figure-3 concerning the 'social quality architecture' as outcome of epistemological forms of reasoning based on the ontological considerations. This results in the attention for indicators, profiles and criteria as methodological instruments to analyse the four dimensions of societal phenomena respectively as well as their reciprocity; and (d) Figure-4 illustrating the SQA's suppositions how to analyse and explain the relationships between the previous three figures. Especially this fourth figure may be appreciated as a main endeavour **to bridge the Analytical Review and the Research Proposals** and to elaborate and extend the Research Proposals (see note-6).⁵⁵ Especially the new waves of populism in the Europe and the USA deliver strong arguments to go beyond the one-sided accent on indicators in the SQA: profiles and criteria are even essential to understand the changes of the nature of social quality as is clearly demonstrated by Ian Mahoney and....with their empirical based exploration of daily circumstance of inhabitants of the city Stoke in the UK.⁵⁶

Section-6 will present the IEF/NASU's Research Proposals (see note-8) in the context of the SQA. It concerns especially processes in the field of local, city, sub-regional and national societal complexities (see Figure-1). Thanks to the Dutch pilot project in the city of The Hague a specific interpretation of the connection of the four figures discussed in the previous section resulted in Figure-6 oriented on the local level. Hypothesized is this figure will be

⁵⁴ For the first time this is explicitly elaborated in: L.J.G. van der Maesen (2013), '*Analysing Societal Circumstances, Sustainability and Sustainable Urban Development: New Theoretical and Methodological Challenges for Social Quality Indicators*' (Amsterdam/The Hague: IASQ, Working Paper Series nr. 12. Available: www.socialquality.org). See also: *The International Journal of Social Quality*, Vol 3 (1), pp. 82-105.

⁵⁵ The first three figures are already published in the 2014 Working Paper about the History of Social Quality Work: L.J.G. van der Maesen and A.C. Walker (2014), '*History of Social Quality work: The Start and Development of the Social Quality Approach Between 1994 and 2015*', (Amsterdam/The Hague: IASQ, Working Paper Series nr. 13, available: www.socialquality.org). The fourth figure is designed on behalf of the INRU-project.

⁵⁶ I. Mahoney and....(2018),....., *The International Journal of Social Quality*, Vol. 8 (1),, pp.

useful for Ukraine and other countries.⁵⁷ The focus is how to strengthen the position of citizens in order to play a responsible role in developing their daily circumstances (the theme of 'social empowerment'). For understanding the nature of the change of the conditional factors on a local level a distinction will be made between monitoring devices for measuring changes in policy areas on a local level and social quality indicators.⁵⁸ This pilot project will assist the

endeavour to construct interrelated projects on behalf of Ukraine on local, city, sub-regional (provincial) and national levels. The outcomes should deliver also interesting perspectives for other country contexts in and beyond Europe. Main themes concern policy areas such as public health, economy, public administration, income security, ageing, employment, housing, education, culture, welfare provisions etc. Herewith we will go beyond traditional suppositions of the so-called 'social model of the European Union'.

Section-7 will be dedicated to managerial oriented proposals or the **contours of the** action plan as point of departure for the INRU-project. The invitation by the IEF/NASU is also a challenge for social quality scholars to seriously analyse possibilities for new visions based on promising tendencies in the Western and Eastern hemisphere. The task is also to address current contradictions resulting in climate disasters⁵⁹, increasing flows of migrants, aggravation of socio-economic inequalities, international organized criminality. As already argued, a 'leitmotiv' is to strengthen communities on local and city-level and rural areas to play a responsible role in the transition of their daily circumstances.

2.4 Some considerations as a final agreement

2.4.1 A plea by the Club of Rome in 1968

⁵⁷ It is an outcome of the 'demonstration project' of the the quarter Laak of the city of The Hague, co-financed by the European Commission and the Municipality of The Hague. This issue is presented extensively in the Annual Report 2011/2011. The character of this Report is that of a working paper: L.J.G. van der Maesen (2014), 'Annual Report of the International Association on Social Quality - 2011 and 2012' (Amsterdam/The Hague: IASQ, available: www.socialquality.org).

⁵⁸ The first attention for elaborating the analytical instruments of the SQA is dedicated to social quality indicators. **A first** publication about the proposed nature of social quality indicators is: D. Gordon, L.J.G. van der Maesen (eds), (2005), '**Indicators of Social Quality: Application in fourteen European Countries**', *The European Journal of Social Quality*, 5 (1 & 2), pp. 1-300, with contributions by: A. Walker, V. de Maesschalck, S. Hacking, M. Vuori, M. Gissler, D. Bouget, F. Salladarre, M. Ebert, I. Ostner, U. Brand, S. Kuhnel, M. Petmesidou, P. Polyzoidis,, S. Altorjai, E. Bukodi, S. O Çinneide, J. Cushen, F. O Gablan, C. Saraceno, S. Terracina, P. Steffen, C. de Neubourg, H. Perista, P. Perista, I. Baptista, M. Filipovic, S. Mandi, R. Boskic, J. Monreal, S. Titos, B. Demeyer, SF. Farrel; G. Therborn, S. Therborn, A. Siltaniemi, M-J Kauppinen, P. Herrmann. All these scholars published their empirical sq-research with help of the application of the new social quality indicators. All these reports are available (www.socialquality.org). **A second one** is: L.J.G. van der Maesen, H. Verkleij and R. Duiveman (2009), '**Reflections on the first set of Social quality Indicators from the European Network Social Quality Indicators**', (Amsterdam/The Hague, EFSQ, Working Paper Series 3, available www.socialquality.org).

⁵⁹ The President-elect of the USA – Donald Trump – explained in his campaign for the presidency that climate change is a hoax, in: Th. L. Friedman (2016), 'Donald Trump, Help Heal the Planet's Climate Change Problem', *The New York Times International Edition*, 16 November (available: <http://nyit.ms/2eZhOXL>).

As argued, the EU-Ukraine Agreement (see note-19) stands on the shoulders of the Lisbon Treaty, signed in 2000.⁶⁰ It concerns a compilation of loosely defined objective, subjective and normative aspects. Especially it stresses the need to realise **values** as human dignity, social justice solidarity, equal value etc. With this in mind we have to understand what the differences are between values and norms. We try to demonstrate below, that the social quality approach - and see its 'social quality architecture', illustrated in Figure-3 – may be an instrument to contribute to a reordering and reconceptualization of applied concepts. In this context it is of interest to recall the remarks of the co-founder and first director of 'The Club of Rome, Hazan Özbekhan, namely *"that any change that is not a fundamental change in values merely extends the present rather than creating the future (...) [in other words] only changes in the overall configuration can change the present situation (....) Progress represents such a new value*

configuration".⁶¹ With regard to Özbekhan's plea from some decades ago we have to ask the following. What is the source of values and the cause of their changes in order to really pave the way for an acceptable future. Do we need also a change of a priority of applied norms? And if values and norms change, do they change the outcomes of the multidimensional

interrelationships? The change of values implies a change of material and immaterial power-relationships in all dimensions. The Western socio-political/legal points of departure allow the socio-economic interests and orientations a 'free play'. In terms of orientation, these interests are dis-embedded from all other aspects of societal life. In other words, societal based values are not phenomena sui generis.

2.4.2 A new plea by the EC strengthening the position of citizens

Currently the European Commission added a new element to the list of desiderata for the revitalisation of the European Union. Eo ipso, this element regards also Ukraine. People living in the European Union – on local and city level, sub-regional and national level - should be placed again in the centre of the attention. In May 2017 Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, explained in Florence that a Europe without strong support by its citizens cannot function. This is now understood by the political elite. Juncker argues, that the Commission will again contribute to a Europe of its citizens. The Commission will situate

⁶⁰ EU (2000), 'Lisbon European Council 3 and 24 March 2000: presidency conclusions' (available: europarl.europa.eu/summit/list_1_en.htm).

⁶¹ H. Özbekhan (1968), 'Toward a General theory of Planning', (accessible: panachy.org/ozbekhan/planning.1968.html)

people (citizens) in the centrepiece of their work. According to Juncker, we should strongly support the social dimension of the Union as well (see note-9).

Juncker's plea is based on the perspective of the political elite. But the plea for politics to strengthen the position of citizens in the European Union to play a responsible role is already articulated by the 'Comite des Sages' of the European Commission in 1996. It explained, that *"Europe will be a Europe for everyone, for all its citizens, or it will be nothing. It will not tackle the challenges now facing it – competitiveness, the demographic situation, enlargement and globalization – if it does not strengthen its social dimension and demonstrate its ability to ensure that fundamental social rights are respected and applied"*.⁶² This plea functioned as one of the arguments to start the European Foundation on Social Quality. The work of the Comite des Sages is presented in its first book on social quality (see note-34), and also in the recent Post Brexit Declaration on Social Quality in Europe (see note-32) In other words, the theory, methodology and policy application of the SQA was and is completely oriented on the

plea of the Comite des Sages. But what happened with the plea of the Comite des Sages in the past twenty years? Does Juncker's plea demonstrate ex post that these processes cannot be steered effectively by the political and economic elite? Implicitly the Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, delivers an answer. The position of EU citizens should be understood in a broader perspective: *"Our citizens understand that we need to collectively take responsibility for our role in the world. This is no time for uncertainty: our Union needs a strategy. We need a shared vision, and common action"*.⁶³ It implies a fundamental reversal of socio-economic and socio-political relationships.

2.4.3 Arguments for a paradigm shift

To reflect about a new vision it is necessary to also reflect on societal changes in the European Union in the context of global relations. In the new book of the 'Social Observatory' on social policy in the EU an analysis is made of different so-called actual crises and their potential societal (economic, political institutional) causes and consequences: *"The cooperation between Member States is characterised by increasing mistrust, or even outright conflict (...) [the EU faces] increasing difficulties to broker common solutions between national governments to solve the collective problems of the Union (...) In such a context,*

⁶² Comité des Sages (1996), *'For A Europe of Civic and Social Rights'*, (European Commission, Directorate-V), p.23.

⁶³ F. Mogherini (2017), *'A Global Strategy to promote citizens interests'*, (available: <https://europa.eu/global-strategy/en/global-strategy-promote> -citizens-interests). She explicitly mentions to address threats as terrorism and climate change.

short-term remedies are inadequate to give a new dynamic".⁶⁴ According to Ulrich Beck, an argument for a 'breakthrough' is also the more encompassing problematique of the climate change. He argues, that the "*second modernity [which] arises from the fact that society now finds itself confronted with the unwanted and unintended side-effects of its own modernizing urge (...) breaking with the reproduction of social [read: societal] order and working towards a social [or societal oriented] theory of cosmopolitan transformation implies its own set of epistemological and methodological difficulties (....) With global risks, old monopolies on reality definitions are being dissolved, and expert definitions or reality relying on the metaphysics of reproduction become irrational*".⁶⁵ A final argument is the accelerating effects of the digital revolution which will change relationships, forms of competitions, crime, suppositions, conventions in all countries. With this in mind following sections are developed with the existing problematique of Ukraine as point of departure.

⁶⁴ B. Vanhercke, D. Natali and D. Bouget (eds) (2016), '*Social policy in the European Union: state of play*', (Brussels: Etui). p.9

⁶⁵ U. Beck (2014), 'How Climate change Might Save the World', *Development and Society*, 43 (2) , pp. 169-185, p. 171, p. 173. This article is a rough first draft presented at the workshop held in Potsdam in November 2013.