

Measuring Progress: STATEC Well-being Seminar Series

17:00 CET (11:00 AM Eastern) – 18:00 CET (12:00 PM Eastern)

25 November 2025

The Workplace Wellbeing Paradox and Human-Centric Organisation

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Abstract: Many organisations are investing more than ever in employee wellbeing, often because evidence shows that happier employees are more productive, more creative, and deliver better service. Yet at the same time, stress, burnout, and dissatisfaction continue to rise across workplaces. How is it possible that we're doing more, but seeing so little improvement? In this webinar, we explore why many popular wellbeing initiatives fall short. Too often, they don't match what people actually need at work, they receive low priority, or they're scattered across isolated efforts that never add up to real change. We'll share a different perspective: building workplaces where people genuinely thrive requires long-term, structural choices, not quick fixes. Drawing on data from nearly 30,000 employees across 14 organizations, we identify four essential ingredients of what we call a "human-centric organisation": purpose, safety, equality, and competence. Companies that embed these principles tend to see fitter, happier and more productive employees. If you're curious about what truly drives wellbeing at work and what organizations can do to support it sustainably, this session offers clear insights, practical takeaways, and a fresh way of thinking about the future of work.

Prof. Martijn Burger is Academic Director at the Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organisation (EHERO), Erasmus University Rotterdam, Professor of Happiness Economics in the Faculty of Management Studies at the Open University of the Netherlands, and visiting professor at the School of Economics at the University of Johannesburg. He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the Erasmus University Rotterdam. Most of his current research focuses on wellbeing economics and urban and regional economics, including geography of happiness, worker well-being, and institutional and social conditions for economic development. In addition, he is past president (2023-2024) of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Wellbeing Economics.

The webinar will be held in English via Cisco Webex and recorded.

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