

ISD ANNUAL REPORT 2022

NEWS

The database has been found and used by many researchers and students, all over the world. The set of 6 indices of social development include 275 indicators from 30 resources, for a total of 222 countries. It is thereby one of the most extensive cross-country social databases in the world, comparable with social data of the World Bank.

On April 13, 2022 we organized a data launch event at ISS to present the 2020 data, new trends and our [Working Paper on the spread and mortality of Covid-19 and social cohesion](#). We also published a short online article on the same topic in the December issue of *The Mint Magazine*: 'Did social closeness beat covid?': <https://www.themintmagazine.com/did-social-closeness-beat-covid/>

Below you can view and download all the information from the data launch event:

- Video of the data launch event <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofkl48AcAm8>
- All information of the event, including power point slides: <https://isd.iss.nl/resources/presentations/>

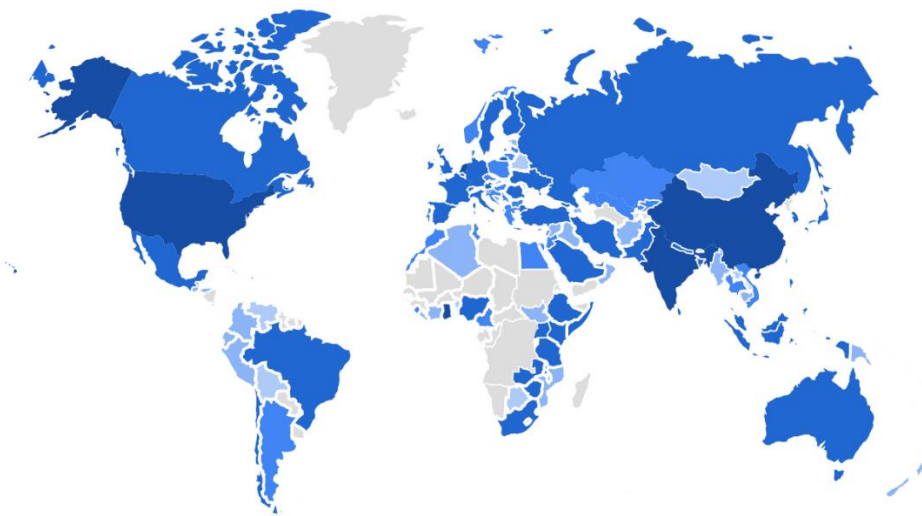
USE OF THE DATABASE

In 2022, the database website had over 4,600 visitors. Information was downloaded more than a thousand times in 2022 (1061 times) from the website, including data, working papers and background information about the methodology. The use and downloads went up from previous year, indicating that the newly constructed data for the year 2020 may have increased interest in the database.

The regional spread of users is very wide. The map (on the next page) shows that most users are from the United States, Netherlands, India and Ghana, each with over 300 individual visitors.

We can also track which pages are most visited. This shows that of the six indices, those on Inclusion of Minorities and Gender Equality draw the most attention.

Map: spread of the website visits in 2022 (source: Google Analytics)



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS WITH THE INDICES IN 2022

Sanchita Bakshi, Jimena Pacheco Miranda and Irene van Staveren (2022) 'Surviving Together – social cohesion and Covid-19 across the world' ISD Working Paper 2022-01, The Hague, ISS. URL: <https://isd.iss.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ISD-WP-2022-1-final.pdf>

Yabubal Walle (2022) 'Determinants of Social Cohesion: Cross-Country Evidence', IDOS Discussion Paper 18/2022. Bonn: German Institute of Development and Sustainability: <https://www.econstor.eu/handle/10419/267727>

Assim Iqbal, Shafiqul Hassan, Haider Mahmood, and Muhammad Tanveer (2022) 'Gender Equality, Education, Economic Growth and Religious Tensions nexus in developing Countries: a Spatial Analysis Approach', *Heliyon* 8: e11394
<https://reader.elsevier.com/reader/sd/pii/S2405844022026822?token=44880100ABCC0B12BCCB3C31AC363E13C108C99E6C05032A68809C17A85F9E1A00C8639AC8B83B1253E2AA94275DB563&originRegion=eu-west-1&originCreation=20230221110450>

SNEAK PREVIEW FOR 2023

In the Spring of 2023, we will organize a methodology workshop with experts. The purpose is to reflect on the matching percentiles method and its trade-offs as compared to other methods (such as calculating arithmetic or geometric means) and to discuss possible additional indices. A report will be posted on the website before the end of April.

COMMISSIONED RESEARCH

The ISD team is open to do commissioned research with the database. We have done studies for external organizations in the past, such as the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and HIVOS, a Dutch development NGO. Given our wide access to other databases, we can provide quantitative studies on the role of country-level social factors for a wide variety of research questions, at the global or regional level, with the latest available data or for the time period 1990 – 2020.

DATABASE SUMMARY INFORMATION

The Indices of Social Development (ISD) database is hosted by the International Institute of Social Studies and brings together 275 indicators, synthesizing them into a usable set of six composite measures to track how different societies perform along six dimensions of social development:

- *Civic Activism*, measuring use of media and protest behaviour
- *Clubs and Associations*, defined as membership in local voluntary associations
- *Intergroup Cohesion*, which measures sectarian tensions between social groups
- *Interpersonal Safety and Trust*, focusing on perceptions and incidences of crime and personal transgressions
- *Gender Equality*, reflecting gender discrimination in home, work and public life.
- *Inclusion of Minorities*, measures levels of discrimination against vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, or lower caste groups.

For our Working Paper on Covid-19 we also constructed the *Social Cohesion Index* as a combination of the Intergroup Cohesion Index and the Interpersonal Safety and Trust Index, using the same methodology of matching percentiles ranking. If you are interested in this combined index, do not hesitate to contact us at isd@iss.nl.

The database is freely available online and part of the Creative Commons and can be accessed through the following link: <https://isd.iss.nl> The data are also safely stored in the Dutch Academic data repository [DANS](https://dans.nl). In addition, the database makes part of the Erasmus University library collection of databases, which includes several other datasets on social measures you might be interested in: <https://libguides.eur.nl/az.php?s=124889&p=1>

The ISD database director is Prof. dr. Irene van Staveren. The database receives support from the

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