

ISD ANNUAL REPORT 2023

INTRODUCTION

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.

NEWS

In 2023, we organized a data methodology workshop to reflect on the methodology of the database, which has remained the same since its start in 2011. Issues discussed were, among others:

- Combining indices in order to reduce the number of missing data
- Reducing the number of iterations in the Monte Carlo simulation from 1000 to 1000
- Reducing the number of indicators per index and only keep those for which there is data for all countries, which reduces the number of countries but allows for a more standard averaging methodology
- Adding new indices, f.e. for LGBTQI+ inclusion



Following up on the workshop, we are currently analyzing different options for the construction of the indices, in order to preserve a sufficiently wide spread of the distribution of countries per index. But without losing (too many) countries per index.

We expect to have a report out on the methodology in mid-2024. You can find more on the methodology workshop on the website.

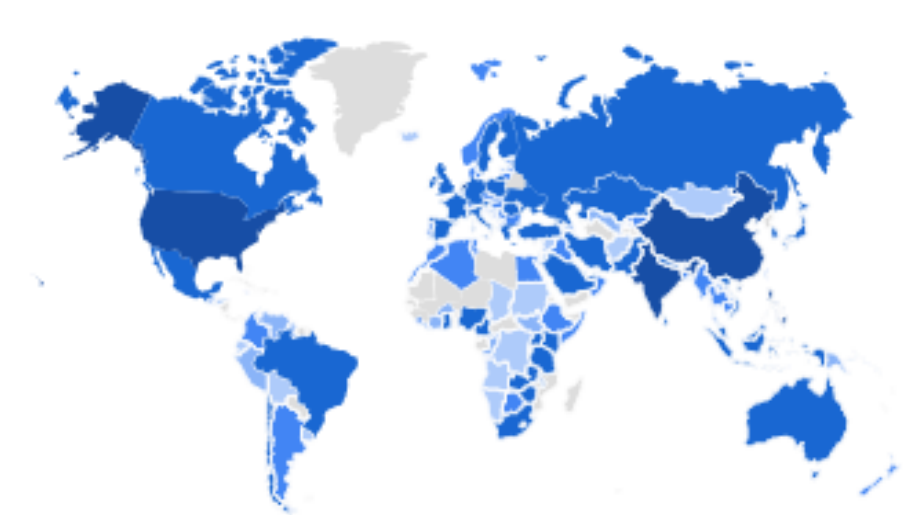
USE OF THE DATABASE

In 2023, the database website had over 4,800 visitors, which is 4% more than last year. As in previous years, information was downloaded more than a thousand times in 2023 from the website, including data, working papers and background information about the methodology.

The regional spread of users is very wide. The map shows that most users are from the Netherlands, US, India, Philippines, China and Ghana, each with over 300 individual visitors. There was a striking increase of users from India of 46% as compared to previous year, resulting in 624 users.

We can also track which pages are most visited. This shows that of the six indices, the Civic Activism Index page drew the most attention with over 1600 visits.

Map: spread of website visits across the world in 2023 (source: Google Analytics)



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS WITH THE INDICES IN 2023

Bakshi, Sanchita, Jimena Pacheco Miranda and Irene van Staveren (2023) 'Surviving Together – social cohesion and Covid-19 across the world' *Critical Public Health* 33(5): 553-565.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09581596.2023.2232526>

The data and metadata for this article are publicly available in a repository:

Pacheco Miranda, Jimena; Bakshi, Sanchita; van Staveren, Irene (2023). *Surviving Together: Social Cohesion and Covid-19 Infections and Mortality Across the World Database*. Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). Dataset. <https://doi.org/10.25397/eur.23523690.v2>

Chung, Kee Hoon, and Daeun Kim (2023) 'Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Infrastructure and Social Trust: Global Evidence', *International Review of Public Administration* 23(1): 64-82.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/12294659.2023.2179719>

Danquah, M., and B. Ouattara (2023) 'Aid and Social Cohesion', *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* 87: 118-131.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.qref.2022.11.008>

Mayarghonj, Khalid, Mohammad Abbaszadeh, Farough Amin Mozaffari and Javad Alipoor (2023) 'Political Culture and Social Development: A Social Approach in the Analysis of Political Culture', *Quarterly Social Studies Research in Iran* 11(4): 1039-1057.
<https://doi.org/10.22059/jisr.2022.326885.1225>

Nadeem, Muhammad, Mumtaz Anwar and Zahid Pervaiz, 'Polarization, Institutional Quality and Social Cohesion: Evidence in Worldwide Scenario', *International Journal of Computational Economics and Econometrics* 13(3): 256-269.

Pervaiz, Zahid, Shahla Akram, Sajjad Ahmad Jan and Amatul Chaudhary, 'Is Gender Equality Conducive to Economic Growth of Developing Countries?', *Cogent Social Sciences* 9(2): 2243713. DOI: 10.1080/23311886.2023.2243713

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 and 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 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. We are also developing more focused indices for both social cohesion and social capital.

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 [International Institute of Social Studies](https://www.iss.nl/) of Erasmus University Rotterdam. The 2023 ISD team consists of Sanchita Bakshi, Jimena Pacheco Miranda, Yuhan Ou, Nicola Mangraviti and Irene van Staveren.

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