



ISD ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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 and UN.

NEWS

In 2024, we studied several alternatives to the index methodology. However, none of these appeared to be better in terms of providing a sufficiently large spread over time without losing countries in the rankings. The challenge is, of course, to find a balance between meaningful country rankings per index on the one hand, given the fact of a large share of missing values, and a sufficiently large number of countries in each index for each year. We plan to finalize the methodological analysis in 2025, which will also enable us to recalculate each index for all years and to start building the indices for the year 2025 in the two following years.

USE OF THE DATABASE

In 2024, the database website had over 3,700 visitors, which is less than previous year.

The regional spread of users is very wide. In 2024, the country with the most website visitors was India with 711 website visits. The US followed with 615 visitors, followed by The Netherlands (285), China (220), Philippines (114) and the UK (106).

We can also track which pages are most visited. This shows that of the six indices, the Civic Activism Index page attracted the most attention with over 1000 visits. This was followed by the page of the Gender Equality Index (609 visits). The webpages with information about the other four indices were each visited less than 500 times last year.

Map: spread of website visits across the world in 2024 (source: Google Analytics)



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS WITH THE INDICES IN 2024

The first publication listed is by the ISD-team, providing extensive information about and access to the data on social cohesion compiled from the ISD database. The publications listed below that one were found in two online databases: Scopus and Google Scholar. They all use one or more indices in cross-country analyses.

Van Staveren, Irene, Jimena Pacheco-Miranda, and Sanchita Bakshi, 'Data Note for Cross-Country Data on Social Cohesion and Covid-19' *Journal of Applied Economics* 27(1) 2024, Online: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15140326.2024.2364163>

Akram, Shahla, and Zahid Pervaiz (2024) 'The Role of Institutions and Social Inclusion in Trust Building', *Quality and Quantity* 58: 3887-3903. Online: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11135-024-01851-8>

Chung, Kee Hoon, and Heyok Yong Kwon (2024) 'Trust, Institutional Quality and the Protection of Property Rights: A Cross-Regional Study of East Asia and Western Countries', *Social Science Quarterly* 105: 267-280.

Chung, Kee Hoon, Dong Chul Shim, and Hyun Hee Park (2024) 'Revisiting Theory of Social Capital: Can the Internet Make a Difference?', *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 202: 123282. Online: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0040162524000787?via%3Dihub>

Ha, Jiwoo, and Sun-Young Kim (2024) 'Can Health Promotion Facilitate Development in Fragile States? An Instrumental Variable Estimation with Panel Data', *Global Public Health* 19(1): 23870000. Online: <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/showCitFormats?doi=10.1080/17441692.2024.2387000>

Koos, Agnes, and Kenneth Keulman (2024) 'Governing Communal Diversity as Good Governance', *World Affairs* 187: 248-266. Online: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/waf2.12022>

Tsopmo, Pierre Christian, Salim Ahmed Mbouombouo Vessah, Valentine Soumtang Bime, and Itchoko Motande Mondjeli Mwa Ndjokou (2025) 'Do African Countries Avoid the Curse of Natural Resources on Social Cohesion?', *Resources Policy* 98: 105291. Online: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301420724006585?via%3Dihub>

COMMISSIONED RESEARCH

The ISD team is open to do commissioned research with data from the database. We have done cross-country 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.

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](#). 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](#) of Erasmus University Rotterdam. The 2024 ISD team consisted of Sanchita Bakshi, Jimena Pacheco Miranda, Yuhan Ou, Nicola Mangraviti and Irene van Staveren.

Contact details ISD:

Website: <https://isd.iss.nl/>

Twitter: @IndSocDev

Email: isd@iss.nl

Address:

ISD Director Irene van Staveren

ISS

PO Box 29776

2502 LT The Hague

THE NETHERLANDS

Phone: +31 (0) 70 4260 602