

Annual Report Indices of Social Development 2016

The Indices of Social Development (ISD) database is hosted by the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) and brings together 200 indicators, synthesizing them into a usable set of six 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 ethnic and sectarian tensions, and discrimination
- *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 can be accessed through the following link:

www.IndSocDev.org

The ISD database director is Prof. Irene van Staveren and receives generous support from the [International Institute of Social Studies](#) of Erasmus University Rotterdam. The database has a license from the national science archive DANS for archiving of the full database, which makes the database accessible according to the standard CC0 Waiver for Creative Commons.

ISD Publications

A [book chapter](#) was published in 2016 on how ISD data and quantitative analysis can be useful as a complement to qualitative research. The example used the ISD-index for Civic Activism as the complement to external data on Press Freedom. The reason for this selection is that press freedom measures the supply of media while civic activism measures the demand of it, through the use that civic actors make of the media and expressing their voice based on the media. The chapter demonstrated the added value of the index for civic activism in analyses of press

freedom by showing that democracy benefits more from press freedom in some context but more from civic activism in other contexts. You can download the authors' version of the chapter [here](#).
Reference:

Anderson Macedo de Jesus and Irene van Staveren, 'Civic Activism and Social Accountability: a Quantitative Approach', in Kees Biekart, Wendy Harcourt and Peter Knorringa (eds.) *Exploring Civic Innovation for Social and Economic Transformation*. London : Routledge, 2016, pp. 215-232.

A [Working Paper](#) was published:

Shahnewaz Khan, Revisiting the Role of Social Capital for Development. The Hague: ISD Working paper, 2016 (WP 2016-01)

A paper was presented at the annual [WINIR Conference](#), held in Boston, September 2016: 'I just ran growth regressions with social cohesion and they matter importantly, by Zahid Pervaiz and Irene van Staveren.

The database on the internet:

The database has an entry on Wikiprogress:

http://www.wikiprogress.org/index.php/Indices_of_Social_Development

Twitter account: [@IndSocDev](#)

External use of the ISD

The IMF has used data from the database Indices of Social Development in their Working Paper 16/21 titled 'Trends in Gender Equality and Women's Advancement' by J. Stotsky, DS. Shibuya, L. Kolovich, and S. Kebhaj. The index used is the Gender Equality Index.

You can find the IMF Working Paper [here](#)

Database use

The database is registered with Google Analytics in order to track the number of website visits per year, month and week, and per country. The visits to the ISD website have stabilized after an enormous year-to-year increase since 2011. In 2016, the ISD website had 33,993 visitors, compared to 39,764 visitors in 2015 and 22,009 visitors in 2014. An important point worth

mentioning is that the majority of these visits were not by the same persons: 84% of the visits were by new visitors.

The largest share of visitors (13%) came from the US, followed by India (10%), the UK (9%), Kenya (7%) and the Philippines (6%). The website was accessed from nearly all countries in the world: the website visits in 2016 came from 194 countries.

The map shows website visits from cities around the world with the most website sessions:

Figure 1: world map with website visits by city

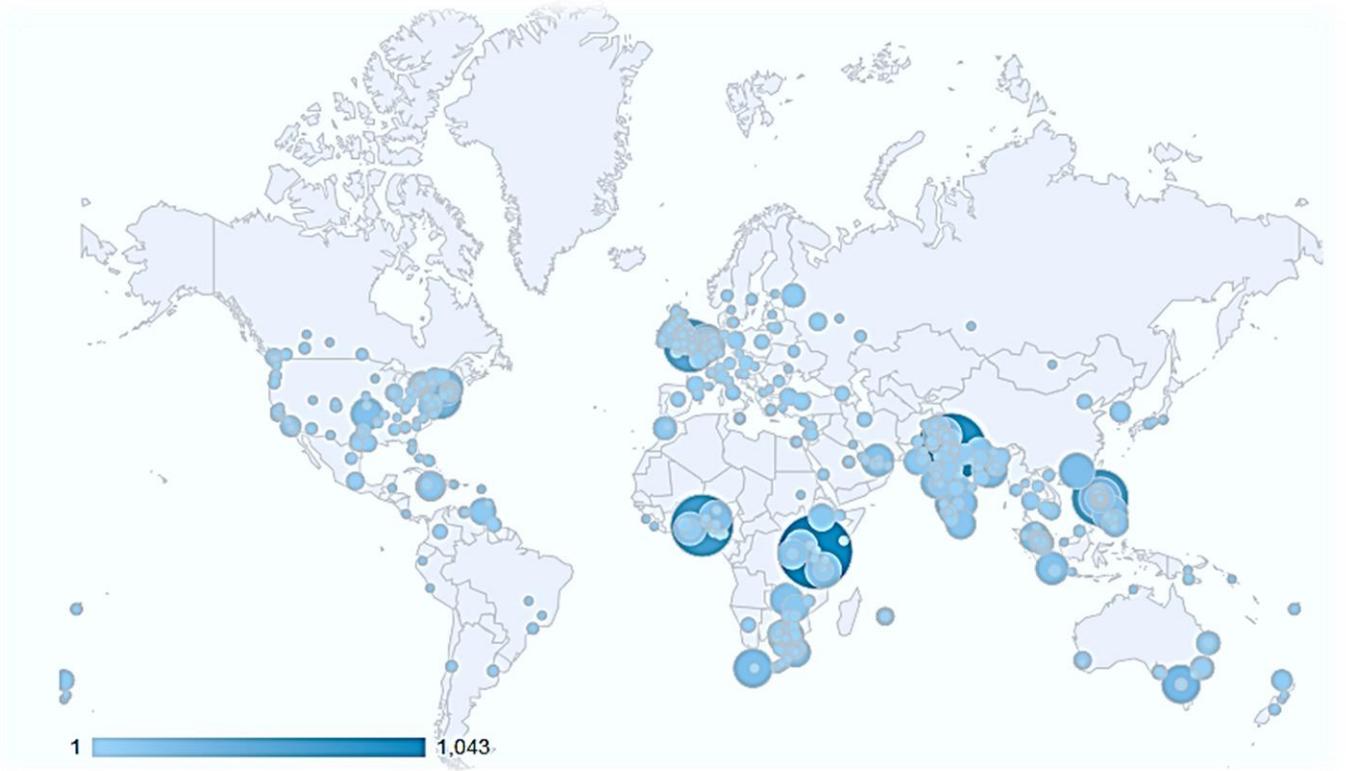


Figure 2. ISD website visits

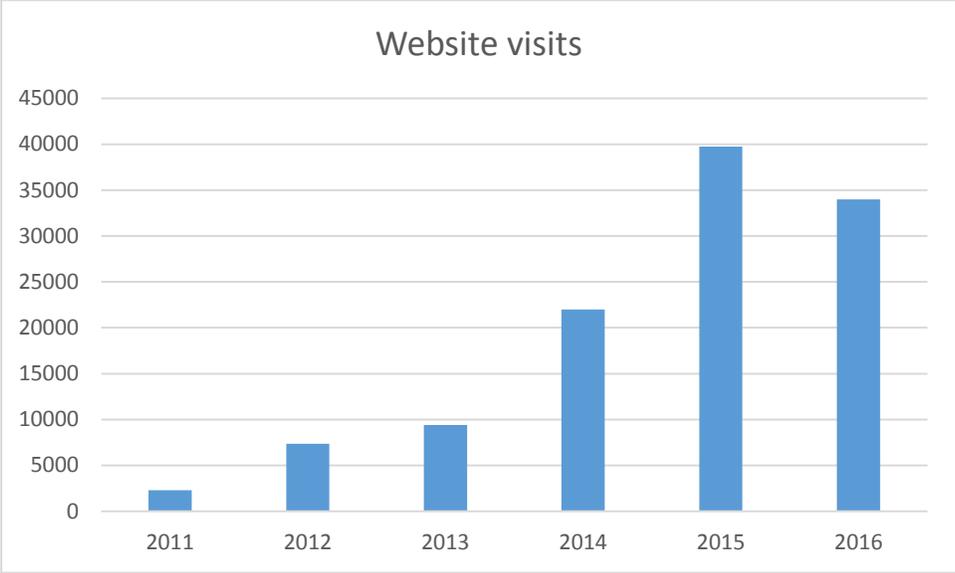


Table 1. Data downloads per month in 2016

January	135
February	140
March	177
April	191
May	166
June	132
July	85
August	117
September	164
October	166
November	157
December	137
TOTAL	1767

Finally, we show the statistics for the actual data downloads of the indices of social development. Table 2 shows that data have been downloaded 1767 times in 2016. This varies from 85 in July to 177 in March. This is a decline from 2015 where the total was just over 2,000.

Data update

The last available year is 2010. During 2017, we plan to construct the indices for the year 2015 and publish them online in the autumn. That would then be the sixth year available for the indices, running from 1990 onwards with data for every five years.

Financial report

The database is financially supported by the International Institute of Social Studies. Expenditures are for the coordination and maintenance of the database as well as for presenting the database at seminars and other events outside ISS.

Table 2. Financial report ISD 2016

Income	euro	Expenditures	euro
External teaching and advisory work	5,450	Time Director	7,816
Contribution by ISS	2,434	Hosting website	68
<u>Total</u>	<u>7,884</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>7,884</u>

Contact details ISD:

Website: www.IndSocDev.org

Email: ISD@ISS.nl

Twitter: @IndSocDev

Address:

ISD – Director Irene van Staveren

PO Box 29776

2502 LT The Hague

THE NETHERLANDS

Phone: +31 (0) 70 4260 602