

Annual Report Indices of Social Development 2017

News

- Data update: in 2018, the data for 2010 will be updated with newly available data for that year. Next to this, the 2015 indices will be constructed. Each index year covers a five-year period. So, the 2010 indices contain data for 2010 but where data for the underlying indicators is not available for 2010, we use data for 2009 or 2011 and when these are unavailable too, we use data for the years 2008 or 2012. Similarly, the 2015 index is constructed with 2015 data but when data for some underlying indicators is not available for that year but for one of two years earlier or later than 2015, then the data for one of these years (the closest to 2015) will be used.
- We plan the online availability of the 2015 data for the summer of 2018 and a launch seminar at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in September 2018.
- PhD research: a new PhD researcher at ISS from China is working on a PhD project using the indices from the database in various papers. His name is Li Yanbai and he is funded by a fellowship from the Chinese Scholarship Council.
- Prize: An ISS MA thesis won the 2017 thesis prize for best ISS MA thesis using data from the ISD database. The prize was awarded to Tung Dao from Vietnam. The title of her thesis is: [*Government Expenditure and Happiness: Direct and Indirect Effects*](#).

Global database use in 2017

The visits to the ISD website have stabilized in 2016, after an enormous year-to-year increase since the start in 2011. In 2017, the ISD website had 32,820 visitors, compared to 33,993 visitors in 2016. Over 90% of website visits is from new visitors. Breaking down the website visits, we see that in 2017 the most visited index page is that of Civic Activism, with over 1,000 page visits. The data access page was visited over 2,300 times.

Over time, the database has been accessed more and more from developing countries. In 2017, most visits were from India (18%), followed by the Philippines (15%) and the US (11%) and the UK (10%) and Nigeria (7%). In total, global website visits came from 187 countries in total.

Figure 1: world map with website visits by country in 2017

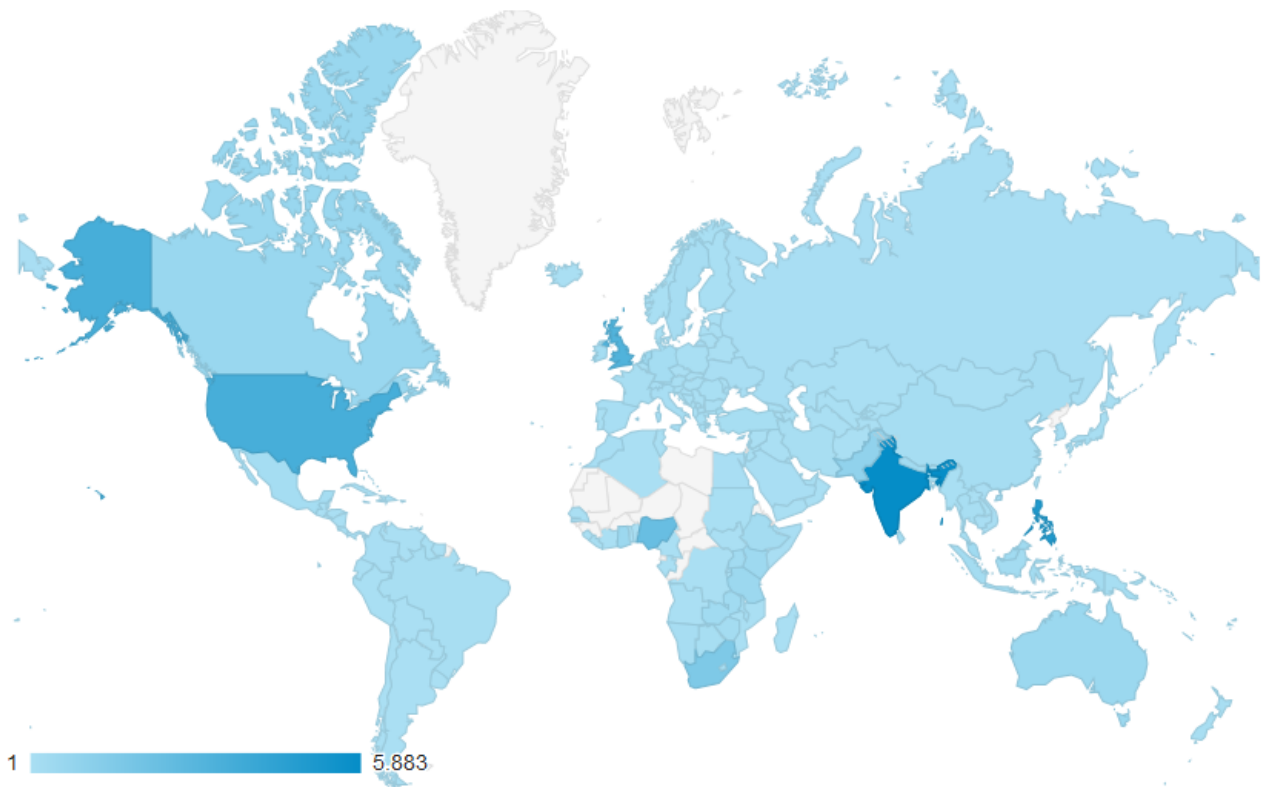
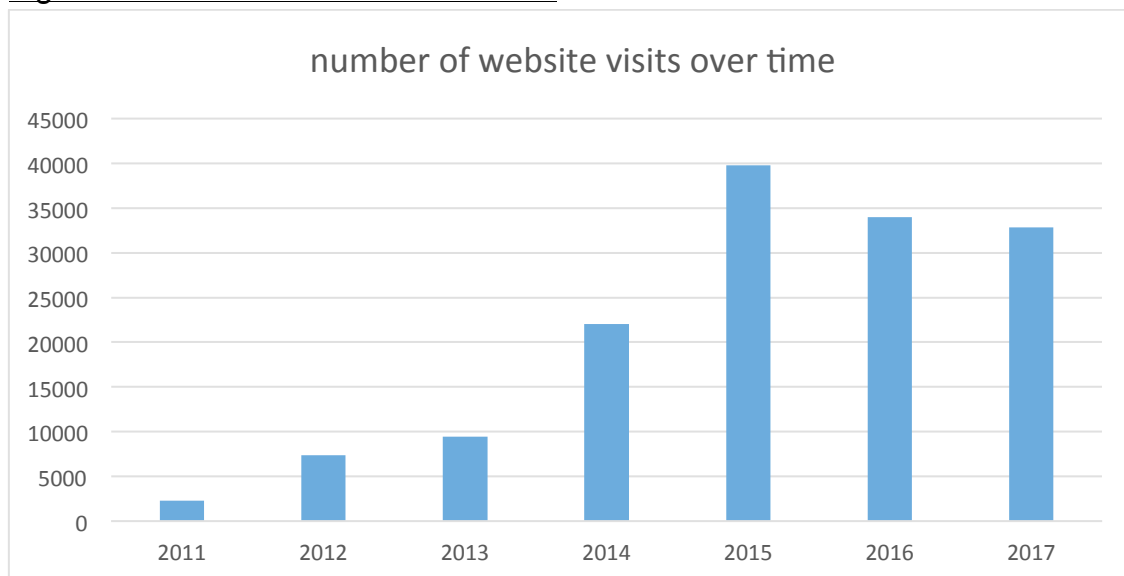


Figure 2. ISD website visits 2011-2017



Data-use in external publications

- The variable Intergroup Cohesion was used as the main explanatory variable analyzing the effect of social cohesion on economic growth in Muslim countries. The study found a positive effect of social cohesion on GDP growth. Publication: Muhammad Tariq Majeed, 'Economic Growth and Social Cohesion: Evidence from the Organization of Islamic Conference Countries', *Social Indicators Research* 132, 2017, pp. 1131-44.
- The variable Clubs & Associations was used (and renamed as voluntary spirit) in an index constructed from two more indices to constitute a variable called Social Progress Orientation. The study found a positive effect of this variable on innovative entrepreneurship in a cross-section of developed and some developing countries. Publication: Urbano, D., Aparicio, S. and Querol, V., 'Social Progress Orientation and Innovative Entrepreneurship: an International Analysis', *Journal of Evolutionary Economics* 26 (5), 2016, pp. 1033-66.

Financial report

The database is financially supported by the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Expenditures are for the coordination, maintenance and presentation of the database. The data purchase and the earmarked item are for the data update in 2018.

Income	euro	Expenditures	euro
External teaching and advisory work	5,963	Time Director	3,939
Contribution by research groups	2,000	Hosting website	68
		Data purchase	426
		Reservation for data update	3,530
Total	7,963	Total	7,963

The database: a summary

The Indices of Social Development (ISD) database is hosted by the International Institute of Social Studies 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 part of the Creative Commons 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](http://www.iss.nl) of Erasmus University Rotterdam. The management team consists of Sanchita Bakshi and Li Yanbai.

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