

Annual Report Indices of Social Development 2018

Data update

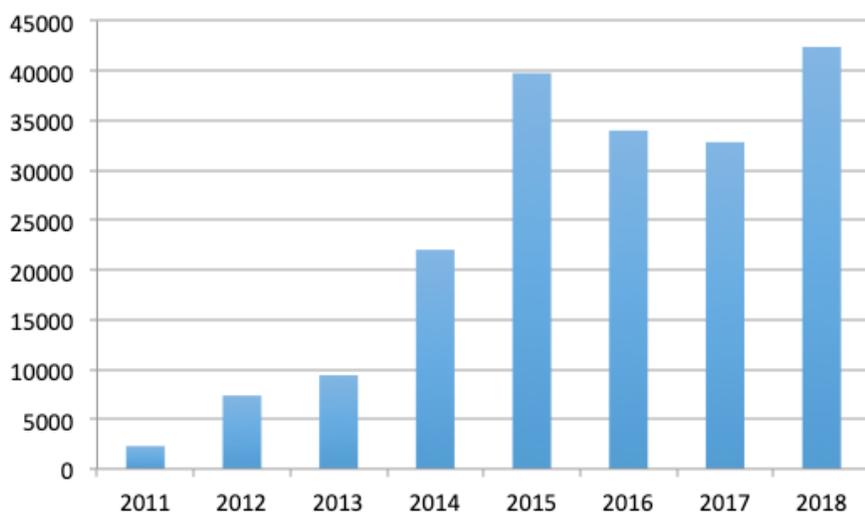
The data for the year 2015 will be available in June 2019.

Global database use in 2018

The visits to the ISD website have increased to 42,000. This is an increase of 27% compared to 2017. It indicates that the database is popular when people look for cross-country data on social inequality, social exclusion or social cohesion. 90% of website visits is from new visitors. This is an indication that the database reaches out to new audiences. The number of page views on the website in 2018 was 64,000.

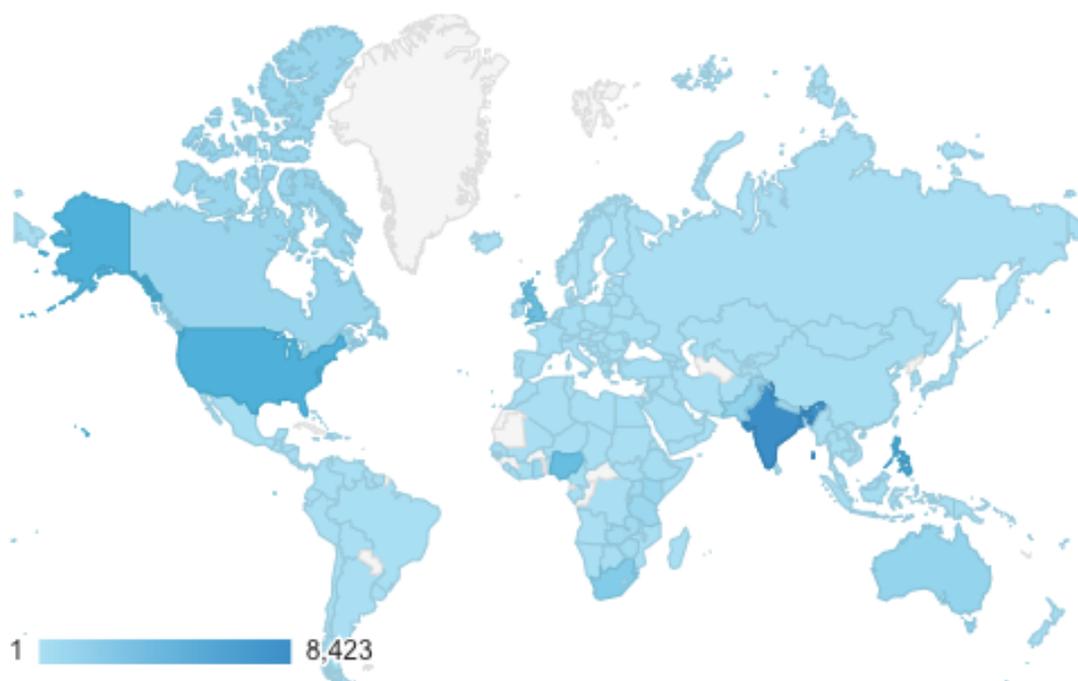
Figure 1. ISD website visits 2011-2018

Website visits over time



Over time, the database has been accessed more and more from developing countries and less from the developed world. This is exactly what we hoped to achieve, as we like to provide researchers in particular from developing countries free access to the data. In 2018, most visits were from India (20%), followed by the Philippines (14%), the US (11%). Nigeria (8%) and the UK (8%). Also the next five countries in the ranking were mainly developing countries: South Africa (5%), Pakistan (3%), Australia (3%), Canada (2%) and Kenya (2%). In total, global website visits came from 194 countries in total - virtually every country in the world. This is probably also thanks to the fact that the database covers almost every country in the world, including many small island states.

Figure 2: World map with website visits by country in 2018



We have also information about data downloads in 2018. Downloading can be done in various formats, including Excel and CSV. Over the past year, individual indices have been downloaded 900 times, which is on average 75 times per month. In the previous year, the data was downloaded 1314 times, so we see a decline in the download of data. This may be due to the fact that some researchers find the latest available year (2010) too long ago, and they wait for the 2015 data to become available. As indicated above, the 2015 update will become available in June this year.

Data-use in external publications

Indicators of Gender Equality were used in: Senthil Arasu Balasubramanian, Thenmozhi Kuppusamy and Tharamaiselvan Natarajan. 'Financial inclusion and landownership status of women', *International Journal of Development Issues* 18(1) 2019: 51-69. Online first: doi:

The index of Intergroup Cohesion was used in: Kendrick Morales, Prosper Raynold and Jing Li, 'The empirical relationship between commitment enhancement devices and terrorism', *Applied Economics* 50(50) 2018: 5366-5380.

The index of Intergroup Cohesion was also used in: Kalsoom Zulfiqar, Mugammad Nadeem, and Zahid Pervaiz, 'An empirical analysis of globalization, diversity and social cohesion', *Journal of Political Studies* 25(1) 2018: 181-198.

Financial support

The database is financially supported by the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam. In particular, support is received from the Research Group Development Economics. Use of the database and data downloads is free. We consider the database as a public good for the global development research community, in particular for researchers from developing countries.

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 Irene van Staveren and the 2015 data update is carried out by Sanchita Bakshi and Christopher Knowles.

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