

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the July 2013 issue of the “Indices of Social Development” (ISD) newsletter. This newsletter informs you about activities, events and data updates. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

- **Six Indices of ISD data base have been updated!**

These indices are: Civic Activism (5 indicators are updated), Clubs and Associations (7 indicators), Intergroup Cohesion (4 indicators), Interpersonal Safety and Trust (5 indicators), Gender Equality (8 indicators) and Inclusion of Minorities (4 indicators). The updated data are for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 and can be found at the [data access page](#) of the website.

- The ISD data base now makes part of the [Civic Innovation Research Initiative](#), one of ISS’s four newly structured research programs. This strengthens research cooperation at ISS between quantitative and qualitative researchers on social cohesion, civil society and social inequality.
- One of the **ISD Working Papers** has been published as a journal article in Forum for Social Economics: Roberto Foa, Arjan de Haan, Irene van Staveren and Ellen Webbink, [‘The Last Mile in Analyzing Wellbeing and Poverty: Indices of Social Development’](#), *Forum for Social Economics*, 2013, 19 pages. This paper presents the database, highlights the differences, similarities, and complementarities with other measures of well-being, including those around income poverty, multi-dimensional poverty, and human development.
- **One of the papers presented at ISD conference in December 2011 has been published as a Policy Research Working Paper by World Bank (May 2013).** [“Jobs, Wellbeing, and Social Cohesion: Evidence from Value and Perception Surveys”](#) by Frank-Borge Wietzke and Catriona McLeod, a background report for the World Development Report 2013 on Jobs, presents descriptive evidence that illustrates possible linkages between labor market outcomes and social cohesion. The findings suggest that, once one passes the threshold from low to lower middle income countries, formal employment emerges as a determinant of a range of outcomes relating to social cohesion, such as membership in social associations or levels of political activism.

- [The Annual Report of Indices of Social Development for the period 1 July 2012 – 31 December 2012](#) was published on our website on 21st May 2013. The report of the database ISD covers mainly the second half of the year 2012. The website data includes the whole year 2012 and adds data for the first quarter of 2013 for comparison.

- **ISS ISD team is happy to announce the *Prize for the Best Master Thesis 2013 Using ISS ISD Database!***

The winner will receive € 250 and the Master thesis will be published as an ISS ISD working paper at our website! In the successful paper ISD database should have sufficient space, at least with one index used in the analysis. The deadline for submission is 30th of November 2013. Please, send your paper to isd@iss.nl with note “Prize for the Best Master Thesis” as a subject . Only theses written in 2013 can take part in the competition.

- ISD would like to know your opinion about the Indices. Please send your comments or (working) papers to isd@iss.nl.

Best wishes,
The Indices of Social Development Team.

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