

## Annual Report Indices of Social Development 2014

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### The database

The Indices of Social Development (ISD) database hosted by ISS brings together 200 indicators, synthesizing them into a usable set of 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](http://www.IndSocDev.org)

The ISD database is led by Irene van Staveren and managed by database manager Ekaterina Evdokimova, PhD researcher. Furthermore, ISS has provided ICT support and project support. In 2014 we have obtained a license from the national science archive DANS for our archiving of the full database. This license ensures that the data is archived and it also gives the ISD team access to other data stored in the national science archive, for research purposes.

### Prizes for work with the database

In December, the ISS MA thesis '*The impact of democracy on inequality, poverty and development*' by Paolo Roberto Gitirana de Araujo Guerra, was awarded the Prize for the Best Master Thesis 2014 Using ISS ISD Database. The prize included a certificate and 250 euro.

In January 2015, the authors of the article about the database, Roberto Foa, Arjan de Haan, Irene van Staveren and Ellen Webbink, were awarded the Patrick Welch Award of Special Recognition for the best article published in the *Forum for Social Economics* in 2014. The article is titled: 'The Last Mile in Analyzing Wellbeing and Poverty: Indices of Social Development'.

### ISD Publications

- Two ISD newsletters (July and December)
- 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*, 43 (1) 2014, pp. 8-26.
- Report for HIVOS on the role of media and civic activism for government accountability
- Working Paper 'The production and use of independent media: road to government accountability?'  
[http://www.indsocdev.org/resources/Working\\_Paper\\_2014-1\\_Production\\_and\\_Use\\_of\\_Independent\\_Media.pdf](http://www.indsocdev.org/resources/Working_Paper_2014-1_Production_and_Use_of_Independent_Media.pdf)

### Promotion activities

1. Presentations by Irene van Staveren of work done with the ISD to the Task Team Civil Society Organizations, HIVOS, and the CIRI research programme at ISS
2. The database has an entry on Wikiprogress:  
[http://www.wikiprogress.org/index.php/Indices\\_of\\_Social\\_Development](http://www.wikiprogress.org/index.php/Indices_of_Social_Development)
3. The database has been provided a platform in the UN-WIDER Working paper series with an application to Africa:  
[http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2014/en\\_GB/wp2014-132/](http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2014/en_GB/wp2014-132/)
4. News through the website, newsletter, Facebook and Twitter.

5. Answering emails that come in through the ISD email box (approx. 20 information requests per year).
6. The MA thesis prize for the best thesis using ISD indices.
7. Providing links to our database on websites of partners.

### External use of the ISD

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 again increased dramatically. In 2014, the ISD website had 22,009 visitors. The previous year, the website had 9,410 visitors. This is an increase in website visits of 134%. The majority of these visits were not by the same persons: 86% of the visits were by new visitors.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of the website visits across the world for 2014. The map shows that most visits are from Asia. A regional break-down of the website visits in numbers and percentages is shown in figure 2. This shows that over 50% of website visits is from the developing world.

Figure 1. Website visits in 2014 on a world map



Figure 2. Website visits in 2014: regional distribution (%)

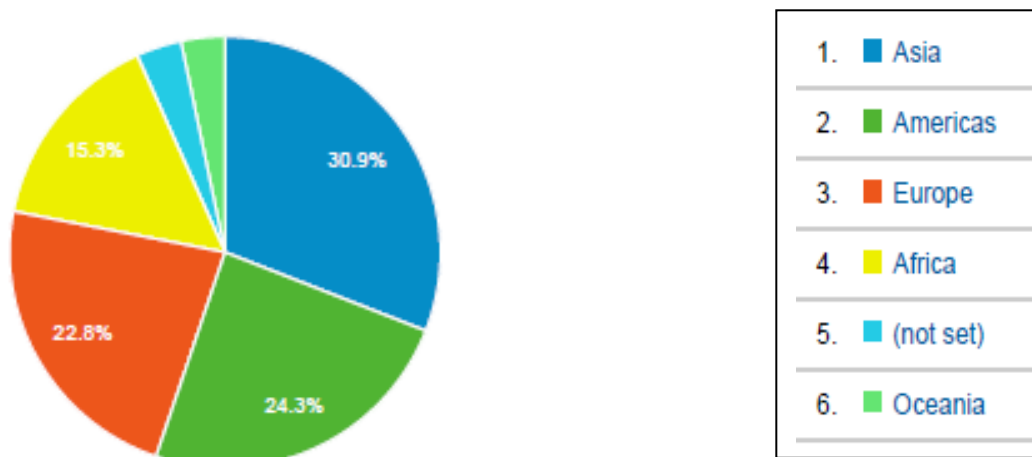
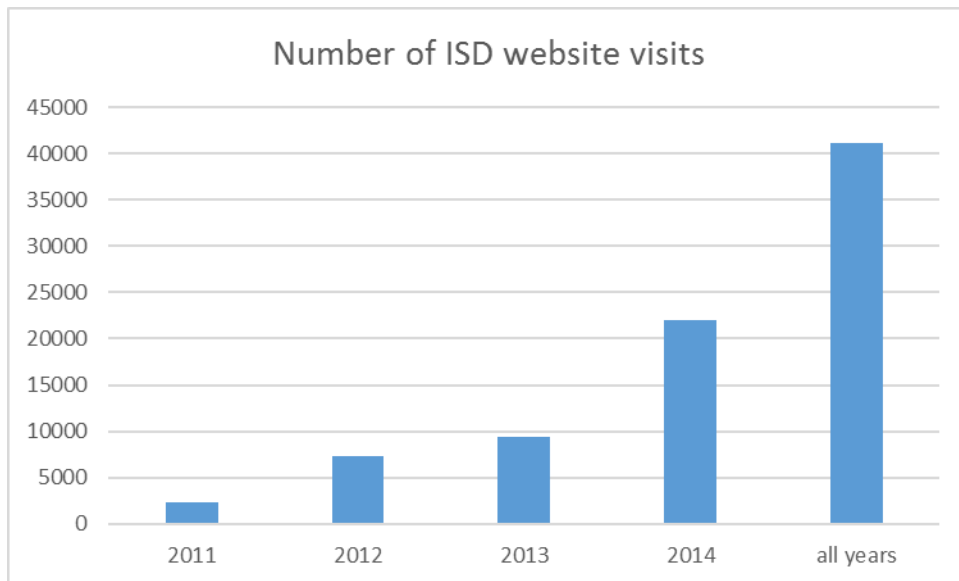


Table 1. Website visits in 2014: regional distribution in numbers and percentages

Region	Number of visits	Percentage of visits
Asia	6809	31
Americas	5338	24
Europe	5029	23
Africa	3359	15
Oceanea	724	3
Unknown	750	3
Total	22009	100

When we compare the website visits with previous years, we see a dramatic increase in website visits since the database was launched in 2011. Figure 3 shows the annual number of visits to the ISD website. The last bar shows the total for the four years together. The numbers indicate that an increasing number of researchers and policy makers worldwide become familiar with the database. In fact, in the year 2014, website visits came from 187 countries. This varies for example from 2128 visits from India, the country with the second highest number of visits next to USA, to 172 visits from Uganda and 10 visits from Venezuela.

**Figure 3. ISD website visits per year and total**



The data downloads are more difficult to track than the website visits. The ICT has been able to track down the data downloads for the second half year of 2014 – see table 2 below. The total of data downloads in the second half year of 2014 was 786. Assuming a similar number of downloads in the first half year would bring the total estimated number of data downloads to approximately 1,500.

**Table 2. Data downloads second half year 2014**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of downloads</b>
July	124
August	65
September	100
October	180
November	178
December	139
<b>TOTAL second half year 2014</b>	<b>786</b>

## Financial report summary

The database receives an annual budget from the ISS general research budget up to 25,000 euro. Any money earned with the database, in terms of commissioned research or research subsidies, will be included as income in the budget and hence will lower the ISS funding necessary to ensure a balanced budget. Table 3 shows the financial report. The time-use of the director is two days per month, and the time-use of the database manager is one day per week. The income earned with the database was 8,800 euro. There were no material and travel costs in 2014 due to the fact that no data updates were necessary and all presentations of the database were held in the Netherlands.

Table 3. Financial report ISD 2014

<b>Income</b>	<b>euro</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>euro</b>
Hivos project time Director	4,000	Time Director	12,142.24
RGHI project time Director	4,800	Time Manager	5,172.10
Material costs/travel	0	MA RP prize	250,00
ISS research funding	8,764.34		
Total	17,564.34	Total	17,564.34

**Contact details ISD:**

**Website:** [www.IndSocDev.org](http://www.IndSocDev.org)

**Email:** [ISD@ISS.nl](mailto: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