

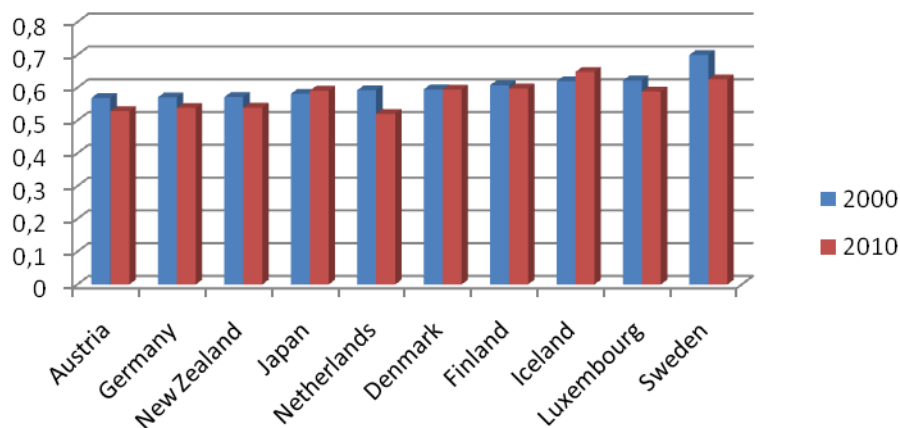
Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the July 2012 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.

- **Taking Stock: Measuring Social Development.** The ISD research conference took place on December 14 and 15, 2011. Fifteen presenters from Canada, the USA, Germany, the UK and the Netherlands discussed their experience in using social development indices in their research. These presentations can be found at the [resource page](#) of the ISD website. Seventeen non-presenting participants also attended this event.
  
- **ISD Working Paper Series:**
  1. Two working papers presented at the conference are available on the ISD website:
    - “[Granger inspired testing the ISDs for Possible Causal Relationships](#)” by Yih Lerh Huang and John Cameron. This paper explores how the ISS ISDs might be used to stimulate thinking about causal relationships by linking the ISDs to each other and to conventional measures of country-level development status.
  
    - “[The Role of Social Institutions in Determining Aid Effectiveness](#)” by Roberto Foa. Using the latest cross-country indicators series on aid effectiveness from the OECD and the Indices of Social Development, this paper examines the determinants of effective aid spending, and finds a significant effect linking the quality of aid assistance to social institutions relating to public order and trust.
  
- **A sixth index of social development** has been launched, called ‘[Inclusion of Minorities](#)’. It measures levels of discrimination against vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, or lower caste groups.

The diagram below shows the ten top countries in 2010 in terms of the inclusion of minorities. The graph illustrates how the index can be used to see how the inclusion of minorities has changed in these countries since 2000.

## Inclusion of Minorities



- Where possible, data for 2010, 2011 and 2012 have been updated. In various indices for 2012 there were minor changes.
- Social cohesion measurement has been changed, five indicators having been moved to the Inclusion of Minorities index. More information can be found at the [data access page](#) of the website.
- ISD would like to know your opinion about the Indices. Please send your comments or (working) papers to [isd@iss.nl](mailto:isd@iss.nl).

Best wishes,  
The Indices of Social Development Team.

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