

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the July 2014 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.

- A report for the Dutch development organization Hivos (Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries) has been published as a working paper on the ISS ISD website: “[Production and Use of Independent Media: Road to Government Accountability?](#)” This study looks at the extent to which independent media contributes to government accountability, in particular in social service delivery. It does so by analyzing the effect of the production and use of independent media on health care, education and democracy in developing countries.
- The ISS ISD working paper “[The Last Mile in Analyzing Well-Being and Poverty: Indices of Social Development](#)” has come out in print! This paper presents the ISD database and highlights the differences, similarities and complementarities with other measures of wellbeing, including around income poverty, multi-dimensional poverty, and human development.
- We would like to congratulate the Director of the ISS ISD database Irene van Staveren who will be awarded the [2014 Thomas Divine Lifetime Achievement Award](#) at the Association for Social Economics meeting in Boston in January 2015!
- We are excited to share the good news that the ISS ISD database is now available on [Data Archiving and Networked Services \(DANS\)](#)! Being a member of DANS has two advantages. First, we have permanent storage for the database where it will always be accessible. Secondly, we can now download data from other databases to enrich the ISS ISD database.

- **Reminder!!!**

The ISS ISD team is happy to announce the *Prize for the Best Master Thesis 2014 Using the ISS ISD Database!*

The winner will receive € 250 and the Master thesis will be published as an ISS ISD working paper on our website. In the successful paper the ISD database should be sufficiently cited, with at least one index used substantively in the analysis. In order to use the ISD database, please go to our website <http://www.indsocdev.org> and use data of at least one of the six indices. The deadline for submission is 30th of November 2014. Please send your paper to isd@iss.nl with “Prize for the Best Master Thesis” as the subject. Only theses written in 2014 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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