

Annual Report Indices of Social Development 1 July 2012 – 31 December 2012

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.

The reporting period from 1 July begins when the World Bank funded ISD project was ended. It covers the half year for which the ISS ISD project was supported by the ISS Innovation Fund (12,500 euro). The actual work was done with an extension period until 31 March 2013.

The Indices of Social Development (ISD) 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 ISD database has been led by Irene van Staveren since 2012. She has been appointed as Director of ISD by the ISS Institute Board. The database received external technical support by Ellen Webbink, and was managed by database manager Ekaterina Evdokimova (TRA) in the second half of 2012. Furthermore, ILIAD has provided ICT support for uploading revised data and solving website problems.

During the reporting period, the following publications have been realized:

- Two ISD newsletters (July and November)
- The ISD methodology (revision)
- The ISD handbook (revision)
- Report using ISD data for UNDP: 'Global Trends in Labour Market Inequalities, Exclusion, Insecurity and Civic Activism', Background paper for the Democratic

Governance Report of UNDP, 2012, by Irene van Staveren and Rolph van der Hoeven.

- ISD Working Paper 2012-02: 'The Role of Social Institutions in Determining Aid Effectiveness' by Roberto Foa.
- ISD Working Paper 2012-03: 'Social Development and Happiness in Nations' by Ruut Veenhoven.
- ISD Working Paper 2012-04: 'Methodology of the Indices of Social Development' by Roberto Foa and Jeffrey Tanner.

The database has been promoted through the following activities:

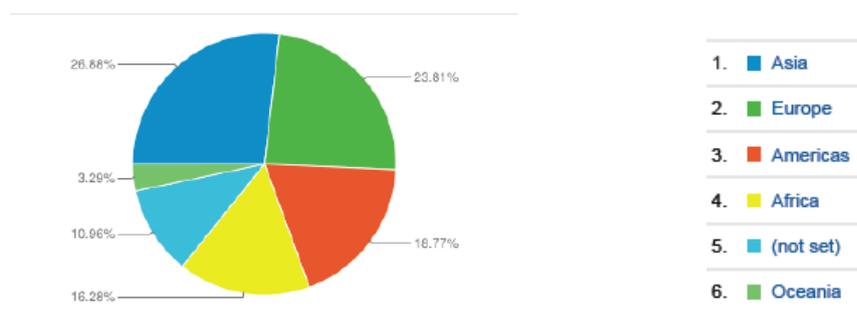
1. News through the website, newsletter, Facebook and Twitter.
2. Answering emails that come in through the ISD email box.
3. Presentation of the database on the 4th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy in Delhi, India, under the theme "Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making" in October 2012. This has resulted in a notable increase of visitors to the website and a clear increase in data downloads (see below).
4. Presentation of a paper for UNDP at ISS, 15 November 2012, showing regional trends in various ISD indices.
5. Presentation of a report for IOB, in December 2012, the evaluation department of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, using several ISD indices to help explain the effectiveness of development aid in a cross-country study.
6. Recognition of the ISD Working Paper series through its own ISSN number.
7. Announcement of an MA thesis prize (250 euro) for 2013, for the best thesis using ISD indices.
8. Requesting links to our database from websites of partners and data sources.

Use made of the website and database:

The ISD website has been visited 4,405 times in the reporting period (1 July 2012 – 31 December 2012). This is an increase of 48% compared with the first half year of 2012. When we compare 2012 with 2011, we see an increase from 2,296 website visits in 2011 to 7,376 visits in 2012, which is an increase of 220%.

What is equally important is that the origin of website visits has shifted from the developed world to the developing world. Whereas in 2011, the majority of website visits came from the developed world (mainly USA and Europe), in the reporting period (1 July 2012 – 31 December 2012), the majority of website visits comes from Asia (27%). Next comes Europe (24%), then the Americas (19%), followed by Africa (16%), and the rest of the world (13%).

Website visit regional distribution 1 July 2012 – 31 December 2012



In total, visitors came from 140 different countries in the world in the reporting period. 83% of all visits were new visits. For the whole year 2012, the website had 80% of new visits, as compared to 56% new visits in the year before. These data indicate that the ISD website is able to attract increasingly new visitors, from an increasing number of countries.

Data downloads:

In the second half of 2012, there were 683 data downloads. The table shows downloads per month, indicating a clear increase after the presentation of the database at the OECD conference in October.

Data downloads second half 2012

| Month in 2012 | Data downloads |
|---------------|----------------|
| July | 92 |
| August | 93 |
| September | 92 |
| October | 114 |
| November | 214 |
| December | 77 |
| TOTAL | 683 |

Staff involved:

The director of the ISD database is prof. dr. Irene van Staveren. Daily database management is in the hands of a research assistant, mrs. Ekaterina Evdokimova. Additional expertise was added from the ISS ICT staff and the external technical advisor, Dr. Ellen Webbink.

Financial report summary:

In the second half of 2012, the ISD received a budget of 12,500 euro from the ISS. The budget was extended till March 2013. The budget was spent as follows:

- 10,352 euro on staff costs (database manager, external technical advisor, and database director)
- 1,717 euro on presentation of the database on an OECD statistics and development conference in India
- 83 euro on material expenditures
- 348 overhead costs