

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference: Taking Stock: Measuring Social Development

Key note speaker: Stephan Klasen, Professor of Development Economics, University of Goettingen.

The International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam will organize an international conference on measures and measurement of social development. The conference will be held **December 14-15, 2011** in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Social development is about putting people at the centre of development. Since the 1990s there has been a growing recognition that social development is critical for broader development outcomes, including inclusive social and economic growth. But until now, data limitations have hindered international comparative research capable of showing weaknesses and strengths across countries, as well as the links between social development and other development outcomes.

While there have been many country- or region-specific studies that explore relationships between social development indicators and other development variables, there has been less empirical analysis that tests these relationships at the international level. This is largely due to the lack of reliable, harmonized data that can provide a basis for cross-country comparisons of for instance social norms and practice, social trust and community engagement. The Indices of Social Development (ISD) database is unique in overcoming this data constraint. ISD brings together 200 indicators, synthesising them into five dimensions of social development: Civic Activism, Clubs and Associations, Intergroup Cohesion, Interpersonal Safety and Trust, and Gender Equality. The indices are based on 25 reputable data sources covering 193 countries, over the period from 1990 to 2010. The data base is continuously updated as new data becomes available.

We invite international scholars to reflect on social development, the diversities and trends across regions and countries over the world, and to elaborate theories, derive hypotheses from them and to empirically test these theories in a

- cross country comparative framework,
- using the data from the Indices of Social Development, which may, of course, be combined with other data sets.

Deadline for submitting abstracts of papers is **30 September 2011**. Abstracts should be not longer than 500 and be submitted to isd@iss.nl. Please clearly indicate your name, affiliation and position within your institution. The conference team is headed by Prof. Dr. Irene van Staveren and Dr. Arjan de Haan. We will notify you on acceptance or rejection before 15 October 2011. Acceptance will be on the basis of the quality and interest of the abstracts and may be work in progress.

The Hague and ISS

The Hague is the third largest city in the Netherlands and part of "Randstad Holland", capital of the province of Zuid- Holland, and the seat of the Dutch government. With its beautiful old city, vivid nightlife and the beach nearby, it is no surprise that The Hague is a popular convention centre. The Hague is also a city of the arts. Many Dutch artist live here and there are numerous museums, galleries and exhibitions. ISS is an institutionally-independent, research-led graduate school in the social sciences, contributing to public debate, influencing public opinion and policy-making on issues of development, equity and human rights worldwide. The academic staff focus their research on various aspects and causes of the striking differences in access to power and wellbeing.

Conference fee

Participants can attend the conference free of charge (including lunch and coffee).

More information and Newsletter

More information on the conference and the data base can be found at the Indices of Social Development website: www.IndSocDev.org and will be communicated through our newsletter (to which you can subscribe through isd@iss.nl). Please forward this call to your colleagues and students.