

Social Capital: Presentation of the major German statistics and the topics they cover

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This report was drawn up in preparation for the International Conference on Social Capital Measurement which will take place in London in September 2002. It gives an overview of the most important statistical information that are collected in Germany in relation to "social capital". There are various theoretical approaches and perspectives of social capital which use a more or less narrow concept. All concepts of social capital remain somewhat fluid. In this report the definition of the concept of social capital follows that of the OECD: „Networks together with shared norms, values and understanding that facilitate cooperation within or among groups.“ (The Well-Being of nations, OECD 2001)

In the guidance note for preparation of country papers written by the conference organisers the following targets of measurement are mentioned

- measures of voluntary and community participation and formal networks - for example the percentage of persons who are members of groups;
- measures of political participation, for example the proportionate turn-out in elections;
- measures of trust - sometimes measured directly in questionnaire surveys by asking people whether they “generally trust” others;
- measures of informal networks and social contacts - such as frequency of seeing friends, and time spent with friends.

Furthermore the guidance note encouraged the participants to discuss among others issues which are related to the prospects for international comparability of social capital.

This report relates to sub-areas of the official statistics and to other areas where social data are produced. It always presents the most recent available data source, focuses on publicly funded surveys and lists only surveys which provide statistical information on the total (adult) population. Surveys from which information on sub-populations (senior citizens, young persons etc) could also be described later on when required.

The structure of this report follows closely the guidance note and the example report from the UK. It begins with a section that describes administrative data which can be used to measure the following (broader) aspects of social capital:

- the percentage of people in Germany who are members of (formalised) groups such as political parties, trade unions, churches;
- the proportionate turn-out in elections.

The second section focuses on surveys which allow to measure social capital in a rather narrow way by giving a brief presentation of a selection of relevant surveys. The available data sets and their topic slant are described in a matrix with a view to specific relevant variables. Finally there is a description of further projects which have a slant towards social capital and a comment on the international comparability of social capital from the German point of view.

Administrative Data on Social Capital

The voter turnout at the federal elections, at the elections for the European Parliament and the elections for the state (Bundesland) are reported by the Federal Statistical Office and can be defined as the percentage of those eligible to vote who voted in the elections. The voter turnout can be broken down by region (Kreisergebnisse) and partly by gender and age groups.

The voter turnout at local elections is difficult to measure because of the different political systems at local level in the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition to that the local elections are held in each state at different times. The data is collected separately in each state of Germany and is not reported by the Federal Statistical Office. But an average turnout of the latest local elections in every state could be calculated.

Information about the number of members of political parties is given by the political parties themselves.

Information about the number of members of trade unions and similar organisations (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund, Deutscher Beamtenbund, Deutsche Angestelltengewerkschaft) is provided by the organisations themselves.

The percentage of people with religious affiliation is reported by the Federal Statistical Office. It is defined as percentage of the resident population that has affiliations with a specific religious denomination. It can be broken down by Catholics, Protestants and others. "Others" also include people without any religious affiliation. Furthermore there is information about the percentage of all church members (only Catholics and Protestants) who attend Sunday service.

The German civil law gives a legal definition of what is called "eingetragener Verein, e.V.", which is the German word for a broad range of associations. These associations have to be registered with their home or main office court. They have to hand in their statutes in order to give prove that these comply with the criteria for being granted tax exemption or concession. The dossiers are held in about 600 home or main office courts. In the spring of 2001 the first count of the total of these associations took place. The number of the associations is structured in several fields of interest as sports, charity, environment, culture, politics and so on.

Survey Data on Social Capital

Survey Data makes it possible to link social capital with many other social variables of interest on the micro level (gender, ethnicity, well-being, health status and so on).

A selection of German surveys that provide Information about social capital:

The 1999 Survey on Volunteering (SoV)

Freiwilligensurvey 1999

The German Time Use Survey (TUS)

Zeitbudgeterhebung

The German General Social Survey (ALLBUS)

Allgemeine Bevölkerungsumfrage der Sozialwissenschaften

Welfare Survey (WS)

Wohlfahrtssurvey

The German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP)

Das Sozio-ökonomische Panel

European Values Surveys (EVS), German Subsample

Eurobarometer (EB), German Subsample

The 1999 Survey on Volunteering (SoV)

This survey provides scientifically researched figures on the willingness to volunteer in Germany. This first nation-wide survey provides a sound foundation for the necessary debate on the further development of volunteering and its political and societal framework. The objective was to provide an in-depth survey of the entire range of volunteering in Germany. The results cover the entire range of volunteering and shows the variety and differentiation within the field.

This is the most extensive study on the subject of Volunteering in Germany to date. Interviews were conducted in summer 1999 by Infratest Burke Sozialforschung, which together with a group of other institutes was also responsible for the design of the survey and reporting on its results.

Population: representative sample of the population aged 14 and above in Germany

Sample size: almost 15.000 Persons

Sample method: random selection

Lead Organisations: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth/
Robert Bosch Stiftung

Next Survey: -

For further Information: <http://www.freiwillig.de/left/kampagne/iyvgermany/volunteering.html>

TUS 1991/92

Time use surveys record the amount and distribution of time people spend on particular activities. The core is a self-completion diary.

The daily time use is coded on the basis of a list comprising more than 200 different activities. There are variables including the daily amount of time spent for each activity and variables for the time units reflecting the course of the day in five-minute sequences. The information recorded by the latter refers to primary and secondary activities, the persons engaged or present, the place of the primary activity and information about whom the primary activity is carried out for.

Population: Persons living in private households who are at least 12 years old

Sample size: about 7.200 Households

Lead organisation: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth/ Federal Statistical Office

Status: TUS 2001/2002 (first results will be published in Mai 2003)

ALLBUS 2000

This is a multi-topic survey which provides information on opinions, attitudes and behaviour of the population, social structures and periodically replicated priority topics (such as social networks and subjective perceptions). Since 1980 the survey has been conducted on a biennial basis. Hence ALLBUS was carried out for the 12th time in the year 2000.

Population: Persons living in private households who are at least 18 years old

Sample size: approximately 3500 Persons

Sample method: random sample

Lead organisation: ALLBUS Department, ZUMA. (ZUMA part of GESIS. GESIS is financed by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research.)

Status: next survey in 2002

Further Information http://www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/allbus/index.htm

WS 1998

The welfare survey investigates conditions and quality of life in various areas. The survey is conducted in multi-annual intervals (1978, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1990 [only East Germany], 1993 and 1998). It consist of one part with a constant structure which comprises questions relating to subjective and objective indicators for individual areas of life (such as housing, social networks, participation), to the subjective well-being (such as satisfaction with life, anomie), the welfare-relevant attitudes and values (such as significance of various areas of life, perception of conflict) and to the standard demography. In addition the variable part of the 1998 survey includes further questions i.a. on perceived risks of exclusion and opportunities of access to the labour market.

Population: Persons living in private households who are at least 18 years old

Sample size: about 3.000 persons

Sample method: multi-step random sampling process

Lead Organisations: WS is part of a project that was funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and was jointly realised by the Social Structure and Social Reporting Unit of the WZ and ZUMA's Social Indicators Department.

For further information:

<http://www.gesis.org/sozialindikatoren/daten/wohlfahrtssurvey/wseinf.htm>

GSOEP 2000

In the Federal Republic of Germany the socio-economic panel is conducted since 1984 as a longitudinal social survey to monitor conditions of life and work. Since 1990 the survey has been supplemented by a corresponding survey in the new Federal States. It consists of a survey systems with several partial samples which were integrated into the household panel at different times. The survey is conducted on an annual basis.

Population: The GSOEP contains data on six different subsamples (West-Germans, East-Germans, Foreigners, Immigrants, Refreshment sample, SOEPII)

Sample size: 24.597 Persons

Sample method: Each subsample was drawn in a different multi-step random sampling process.

Lead Organisations: DIW / funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

Next Survey: 2001

For further information: <http://www.DIW.de>

European Values Surveys 1999/2000 (EVS)

The European Values Survey began in 1981 as a set of surveys conducted in ten West European societies by the European Value Systems Study Group. Its aim is to enable a crossnational comparison of values and norms on a wide variety of topics and to monitor changes in values and attitudes across nations. The survey was replicated in 14 additional countries between 1981 and 1984, including countries outside Europe referred to as the World Values Survey by R. Inglehart and the World Values Survey Group. The second wave of the World Values Survey was carried out between 1990 and 1993 including 43 nations. The European Values Survey is also included in the data of the 1981-1984 study, but only to the extent to which the variables were used also in the World Values Survey. In order to investigate further the dynamics of value changes the survey in Europe is repeated in 1999/2000.

Population: citizens aged 18 and older

Sample size: about 2.000 interviews (German Sample: 1.000 in East Germany and 1.000 in West Germany)

Sample method: random sample

Lead Organisations: The 1999/2000 European Values Study is co-ordinated from Tilburg University.

For further information: http://cwis.kub.nl/~fsw_2/evs/

Eurobarometer 55 .1 (EB)

The standard Eurobarometer was established in 1973. Each survey consists in approximately 1000 face-to-face interviews per Member State (except Germany: 2000, Luxembourg: 600, United Kingdom 1300 including 300 in Northern Ireland). Standard Eurobarometer surveys are conducted twice a year. The aim is to give an overview of how European citizens feel about the European Union, its policies and its institutions, although a number of other, related, issues are also presented. Key indicators arising out of each wave are published soon after the completion

of the fieldwork, followed within a view months by the complete set of results. There are findings on Trust in The European Union, its institutions and bodies and on Life satisfaction levels.

Special Eurobarometer reports are based on in-depth thematical studies carried out for various services of the European Commission or other EU Institutions and integrated in Standard Eurobarometer's polling waves.

Population: Population aged fifteen years and over

Sample size: about 2.000 interviews (German Sample: 1.000 in East Germany and 1.000 in West Germany)

Sample method: Multi-stage, random (probability). In each EU country, a number of sampling points is drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

Lead Organisation: The European Commission

Next Survey: autumn 2002

For further information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/

DISI

Although the Digital Information System based on the German system of social indicators (DISI) is no survey it should be mentioned here. The aim of the German System of Social Indicators is to provide an observational grid and suitable data that allow to monitor the status quo as well as the development of the citizens' objective living conditions and their subjective quality of life. In order to attain this objective the time series data of the indicator system describe the welfare development and social change in 14 life- and political domains. Some indicators are gathered in the surveys which were discussed before. But there also single other indicators listed in DISI which are taken out of several other surveys.

DISI is offered by the Centre for Survey Research and Methodology (ZUMA), Social Indicators Department, which also offers consultation services on the setting up, conducting and analyzing of social science studies for those working in social research.

For further Information: http://www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/social_indicators/index.htm

The following matrix shows how the presented surveys (and DISI) cover specific themes which are connected to social capital. The typology is adopted from the example report presented by the UK Office of National Statistics. However there may be doubts about some topics and their slant to social capital (for example: control, self-efficacy, Satisfaction of living in local area, rating of local noise).

The digits in the cells inform about the number of the question in the questionnaire or the indicator description in the case of DISI. "H" in the matrix stands for Household-Questionnaire, "P" for Personal-questionnaire, "D" for Diary in the case of TUS.

To view the questionnaires or variable lists see following web-pages

- SoV <http://www.freiwillig.de/left/kampagne/iyvgermany/volunteering.html>
(open ZIP-file, unpack Document and view Annex 2: Catalogue of questions)
- TUS The questionnaire for TUS 2001/2002 not in English available yet
- ALLB <http://www.gesis.org/Dauerbeobachtung/Allbus/Inhalte/Fragenprogramm/fraprog.htm>
(only in German)
- WS http://www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/social_indicators/data/ws/ws_question.htm
- GSOEP <http://www.diw.de/deutsch/sop/service/fragen/index.html>
- EVS http://cwis.kub.nl/~fsw_2/evs/data.htm
- EB http://www.gesis.org/en/data_service/eurobarometer/search/index.htm
(select eurobarometer-questionnaires, search for „euro“)
- DISI An English documentation of the DISI-indicators is available through the page:
http://www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/social_indicators/data/system/index.htm

Theme	Measurement	SoV	TU S	ALLB	WS	G- SOEP
Participation, social engagement, commitment	Participation or involvement in local groups	(A1) ^F	(9 ^P) D	(111, 112)	(37)	3 ¹
	Perceived barriers to involvement in local groups	(C10,C11, C13) ^F				
	Level/intensity of involvement in local groups		(9 ^P)			3 ¹
	Participation in voluntary schemes connected with work					
	Political activity or voting			10-12, 60		3 ¹
	Membership of clubs/groups					
	Taking positive action about a local issue					
	Religious activity		(9 ^P)	105-109	100-103	3 ¹
	Completed or received a practical favour	E13-E14				
	Provide regular service, help or care for others		8 ^H , 7 ^P , 8 ^P			
Familiarity with neighbourhood			28			
Control, self-efficacy	Perceived control over community affairs					
	Perceived control over own health					(95, 96) ^P
	Perceived control which organisations have					
	Satisfaction with amount of control over life				23,1	
	Perceived rights and responsibilities of citizens					
	Perceived influence over political decisions			7	104, 108	
	Perceived satisfaction with life			37	121	
	Measures of psychological control or empowerment				23	(1), 143 ^P
Perception of community level structures or characteristics	Satisfaction/enjoyment of living in local area	E6			9	
	Degree to which societal-level variables are seen as relevant to health					
	Rating of local noise problems				14	
	Rating of cleanliness, graffiti, vandalism				14	
	Rating of area resources and services (leisure activities, rubbish collection)		(11 ^H)			
	Rating of health services					
	Rating of socio-economic inequality			45	115	
	Rating of education services					
	Perceptions of crime, safety, victimisation				11	118 ^P
	Availability of good local transport		(11 ^H)			X
	Feeling of safety in the neighbourhood				10	X
Rating of facilities for children					1 ^P	
Social interaction, social networks, social support	Proximity of friends/relatives	E7		49-56		
	Contact with friends/family/neighbours: quality or frequency		D		52-55	
	Perceived barriers to contact with friends/relatives					
	Has someone to rely upon outside of household	E11-E12				67 ^H
	Received practical help/advice for bringing up children	E13	8 ^H			64 ^H
	Depth of socialisation networks			49-56		
	Depth of socialisation networks, specifically leisure					
	Perceived norms of social support					
Social relations at work						
Trust, reciprocity, social cohesion	Satisfaction with level of information about local area issues					
	Length of residence in area/neighbourhood	E5				
	Confidence in institutions and public services			24-27	84-86	
	Trust in other people			8	114	
	Perceived fairness of life, including discrimination			38, 44		
	Confidence in political structures			61	(109, 113)	
	Social trust			36		
	Perception of shared values, reliability	D23				

Theme	Measurement	EVS	EB	DISI
Participation, social engagement, commitment	Participation or involvement in local groups	5b		(F004)
	Perceived barriers to involvement in local groups			
	Level/intensity of involvement in local groups			
	Participation in voluntary schemes connected with work			
	Political activity or voting	2,51, 72		
	Membership of clubs/groups	5a		F006
	Taking positive action about a local issue	81		
	Religious activity	25		
	Completed or received a practical favour			
	Provide regular service, help or care for others			
	Familiarity with neighbourhood			
Control, self-efficacy	Perceived control over community affairs	(57)		
	Perceived control over own health			
	Perceived control which organisations have			
	Satisfaction with amount of control over life			
	Perceived rights and responsibilities of citizens			
	Perceived influence over political decisions	55		
	Perceived satisfaction with life	(4), 10	7	M006
Measures of psychological control or empowerment	9		M005	
Perception of community level structures or characteristics	Satisfaction/enjoyment of living in local area			
	Degree to which societal-level variables are seen as relevant to health			
	Rating of local noise problems			V022
	Rating of cleanliness, graffiti, vandalism			
	Rating of area resources and services (leisure activities, rubbish collection)			
	Rating of health services			
	Rating of socio-economic inequality	76, 54		
	Rating of education services	58		
	Perceptions of crime, safety, victimisation			K019-K022
	Availability of good local transport			V012
	Feeling of safety in the neighbourhood			K017, K018
Rating of facilities for children				
Social interaction, social networks, social support	Proximity of friends/relatives			
	Contact with friends/family/neighbours: quality or frequency	6	5	
	Perceived barriers to contact with friends/relatives			
	Has someone to rely upon outside of household			
	Received practical help/advice for bringing up children			
	Depth of socialisation networks			
	Depth of socialisation networks, specifically leisure			
	Perceived norms of social support			
Social relations at work				
Trust, reciprocity, social cohesion	Satisfaction with level of information about local area issues			
	Length of residence in area/neighbourhood			
	Confidence in institutions and public services	58	10, 24	
	Trust in other people	8,65, 71		
	Perceived fairness of life, including discrimination	11		
	Confidence in political structures			
	Social trust			(M005)
Perception of shared values, reliability				

¹⁾ GSOEP-Question No.3 asked every two years and not part of the questionnaire in 2000 but ...1997,1999 and 2001.

Which of the following activities do you take part in during your free time? Please check off how often you do each activity: at least once a week, at least once a month, less often, never.

Going to cultural events (such as concerts, theater, lectures, etc.)

Going to movies, pop music concerts, dancing, disco, sports events

Doing sports yourself

Artistic or musical activities (playing music(singing, dancing, acting, painting, photographie)

Meeting friends, relatives or neighbours

Volunteer work in clubs or social services

Involvement in a citizens group, political party, local government

Attending church, religious events

International comparability: internal variation in the national society of Germany

All concepts of social capital have in common that they regard it as a property of a social entity and not of an individual. When measuring social capital a special difficulty arises from the fact that we have to define a unit which has such capital. Should this be a national society, a region, a city, a generation, a cohort or another entity? It would be naive to assume that the level of the available social capital is evenly spread within national societies and that differences exist only in relation to other societies. In Germany there are pronounced differences between the old and the new Federal States as a result of the historical development. It is also known that social capital differs between groups with different social status (for example level of income or education). Reporting about social capital should therefore include at least some considerations and indicators about internal variations and their backgrounds as context information.

Further Projects of interest

Study Commission on the Future of Civic Activities

The German Bundestag established a Study Commission on the Future of Civic Activities. The Study Commission had the task to design concrete political strategies and measures to encourage voluntary civic activities in Germany, which are for the common good and are not intended to produce material gain. The concept of Social Capital was one of the key issues discussed by the members of the Commission. The Study Commission comprised eleven Members of the Bundestag and eleven experts. The Commission reported to the German Bundestag on its findings and submitted recommendations for political action in June 2002. In its report it demanded extension of the research in the field of Civic Activities and to continue the measurement of Civic Activity with a Survey called "Volunteerssurvey", which was carried out in 1999 for the first time.

The European Community Household Panel (ECHP); German Sample

The ECHP was launched in 1994. It provides comparable statistics on social and economic conditions of persons and households in the European Union Member States. It provides information about income, labour, poverty, social exclusion, housing, health, family, household structures and various other social indicators concerning living conditions of private households and persons. Beside information about transitions (panel-design) ECHP provides cross-sectional information. Since 1997 data from the SOEP-survey is converted into the ECHP-structure.

ECHP will be continued until 2001, beginning with 2005 there will be a German sample for a new EU-wide Survey called EU-SILC.

ISSP

The ISSP is a collaborative programme of social science survey research on five continents. Each year a module on a topic important for social science research is finalised for fielding. It brings together pre-existing social science projects and coordinates research goals, thereby adding a cross-national, cross-cultural perspective to the individual national studies. The data on Germany is gathered together with the ALLBUS-Survey. Thirty-eight countries are members of the ISSP: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Flanders, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA and Venezuela.

The topics since 1995 were National Identity, Role of Government, Work Orientations, Religion, Social Inequality, Environment and in 2001: Social Networks.

Project funded by the Bertelsmann-Foundation

To gain insight into the potential of social motivation in modern Societies the Bertelsmann-Foundation funded an empirical study which looked into the characteristics and capacities of social capital in eight modern nations: USA, Sweden, Germany, Spain, France, Great Britain, Australia and Japan. The results are published in a book with nearly 800 pages.

The European System of Social Indicators (EUSI)

This subproject of EuReporting is developing a theoretically as well as methodologically well-grounded selection of social indicators, which can be used as an instrument to continuously observe and analyse the development of welfare and quality of life as well as changes in the social structure at the European Level. The conceptual framework of the European System of Social Indicators is based on a reflection of the scientific discourse of various welfare concepts and the societal goals stressed by these concepts. The goal dimensions considered as relevant are related to the concepts of *quality of life*, *social cohesion*, and *sustainability*. Social capital is discussed as one dimension of the concept of social cohesion. Based on conceptual considerations Working Paper No. 14 derives measurement dimensions of social capital and defines appropriate indicators.

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