



CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL COHESION AND DEVELOPMENT

20-21 January 2011, Paris, France

organised by the **OECD Development Centre**, with the financial support of *Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIIAPP)*

A cohesive society works towards the well-being of all its members, minimising disparities and avoiding marginalisation. It entails three major dimensions: fostering cohesion by building networks of relationships, trust and identity between different groups; fighting discrimination, exclusion and excessive inequalities; and enabling upward social mobility. While rapid growth in emerging economies has lifted millions of people out of poverty, it also has led to a growing divide between rich and poor. Many groups in society such as minorities, migrants and the elderly have been largely excluded from the benefits of growth, leaving them more vulnerable to the shocks that come with the opening up of economies. At the same time, for people living in poor and fragile states – the ‘bottom billion’ – the frustration of persisting poverty and destitution is a recipe for conflict and social unrest.

The current economic crisis has shown that it is the poor and vulnerable groups in society who are disproportionately affected by such shocks. Employment trends are particularly alarming for the youth, women and the elderly threatened by unemployment or the need to take up precarious jobs. Recent survey data also indicates that there has been a general global decline in life satisfaction and historical data show that this decline is unprecedented. These perceptions are as important for social cohesion as traditional, quantified measures such as income, poverty and inequality levels.

Keynote speakers

Richard Freeman (Harvard University)

Rebeca Grynsan (UNDP)*

Michael Woolcock (World Bank)

*to be confirmed

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Contributions from economics and the social sciences are invited. Possible fields of enquiry include:

- Social cohesion and growth
- Social cohesion and inequality
- Governance, institutions and social cohesion
- Social cohesion and (global) public goods
- Education policies and social cohesion
- Social protection in developing countries

Submissions should be made in the form of extended abstracts (max. 1000 words) including the aim of the paper, the proposed methodology and the expected results, by email to **SocialCohesion.Conference@oecd.org**. Final acceptance is conditional on receipt of a full contribution by the relevant deadline.

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline	15 October 2010
Decisions will be communicated by	30 October 2010
Deadline for final papers	20 December 2010

A small number of travel grants will be available for presenters with contributions of exceptional quality. Submissions should indicate whether they would like to apply for a travel grant. Priority will be given to presenters from developing countries.