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Overview

- **Introduction:**
  - Research project ‘Social Cohesion’ at Statistics Netherlands

- Framework Social Cohesion

- Data sources

- Results:
  - Trends in participation and trust
  - Regional differences
  - Differences between subpopulations

- Conclusions
Social cohesion/social capital at Statistics Netherlands (SN)

- No tradition in statistics on ‘social cohesion’ or ‘social capital’ (as opposed to other statistical institutes)

However:
- Concerns about social cohesion in the Netherlands
- Social cohesion important for welfare and well-being

Therefore:
- Spearhead at SN: statistics on aspects of social cohesion.
### 1.1 Framework social cohesion

Participation, trust and integration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTEGRATION</th>
<th>PARTICIPATION</th>
<th>TRUST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social (social networks)</td>
<td>Social (in others)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisations</td>
<td>Organisations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td>Political</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Surveys used for social cohesion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Data collection</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Interview-mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Survey on Living Conditions</td>
<td>POLS</td>
<td>1997 – 2009</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>face-to-face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force Survey</td>
<td>LFS</td>
<td>2001 – 2009</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>face-to-face telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch Parliamentary Election Study</td>
<td>DPES</td>
<td>2006; 2010</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>face-to-face telephone paper &amp; pencil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Social Survey</td>
<td>ESS</td>
<td>2002; 2004; 2006; 2008</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>face-to-face</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Register Data (population)

- Gender, age, country of origin
- Income
- Municipality
- Degree of urbanization
- Unemployed
- Social benefits
- Neighborhood characteristic
  - Composition, e.g. % ethnic minorities
  - Real Estate Value of houses
  - % unemployed
  - % social benefits
  - Etc, etc.,
1. Decline in social cohesion?

Aspects of social cohesion stable or even increasing:

- Contacts with friends and family: increased
- Contacts with neighbours: stable
- Informal help: stable
- Volunteering work: stable/increasing
- Political actions: stable
- Social trust: increase
- Institutional and political trust: increase
### Social contacts: weekly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relatives</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbours</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Informal help: past month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informal help (general)</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sick people</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Volunteering, 1997-2009

- Past 12 months
- 'at present'

Data points for years 1997 to 2009.
## Political participation, 2006-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turnout Parliamentary Elections</strong></td>
<td>80.4%</td>
<td>75.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proxy voting</strong></td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Political actions</strong></td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social and institutional trust

- Parliament
- Politicians
- Judges
- Police
- Social trust

Graph showing trends from 2002 to 2008.
2. Regional differences

→ 12 provinces
→ 443 municipalities
→ 8,830 neighborhoods
Turnout Parliamentary Elections, 9 June 2010

10.4 Turnout Parliamentary Elections by province, 2010

Source: Election Council.
Turnout by % social benefits (R-square= 0.50)

10.5 Turnout Parliamentary Elections 2010 and percentage people aged 15-65 with a social benefit per municipality
% muslims by % volunteers

13.4 Proportion of volunteers and of muslims in 430 municipalities, 2000/2009

% muslims in municipalities

% volunteers in municipalities

R² = 0.22

R² = 0.20

Source: CBS, EBB/POLS.
% protestants by % volunteers

13.5 Proportions of volunteers and of protestants in 430 municipalities, 2000/2009

Source: CBS, EBB/POLS.
3. Differences between subpopulations

- Large differences between groups:

- Religion:
  - Higher scores among protestants, lower among Muslims

- Education:
  - Higher scores among higher educated

- Country of origin
  - Native population higher, non-western immigrants lower

→ examples
Aspects of social cohesion by education

The chart illustrates the percentage of individuals involved in various activities and their trust levels by education level. The categories include:
- Contact family
- Volunteering
- Voter turnout
- Social trust
- Trust parliament

The education levels are classified as:
- primary school
- lower vocational
- medium secondary
- higher secondary
- university

The chart uses colors to represent each category:
- primary school: yellow
- lower vocational: orange
- medium secondary: cyan
- higher secondary: green
- university: purple

From the chart, it can be observed that:
- Contact family shows a consistent trend across all education levels, with university having the highest percentage.
- Volunteering shows a decrease trend as education level increases, with primary school having the highest percentage.
- Voter turnout shows a higher trend for lower vocational compared to the other education levels.
- Social trust shows a decrease trend as education level increases, with primary school having the highest percentage.
- Trust parliament shows a decrease trend as education level increases, with primary school having the highest percentage.
Aspects of social cohesion by religion

- Contact
- Family
- Volunteering
- Voter turnout
- Social Trust

None, Catholic, Protestant, Islam

- None
- Catholic
- Protestant
- Islam
Institutional trust by church attendance

13.3 Institutional trust of religious people by church attendance, 2010

- NATO
- Judges
- Government
- Police
- Army
- Churches
- Press
- Big Companies
- European Union
- Political Parties
- Civil Servants
- Parliament

Source: CBS/SKON, NKO.
Aspects of social cohesion by country of origin

Contact, Family, Volunteering, Voter turnout, Social Trust

native, western immigrant, non-western immigrants
Conclusions

– No indications of an overall decline of social cohesion in terms of participation and trust

– However:
  – Regional differences
  – Large differences between subpopulations
    – Religion
    – Natives and ethnic minorities
    – Education
• Thank You!