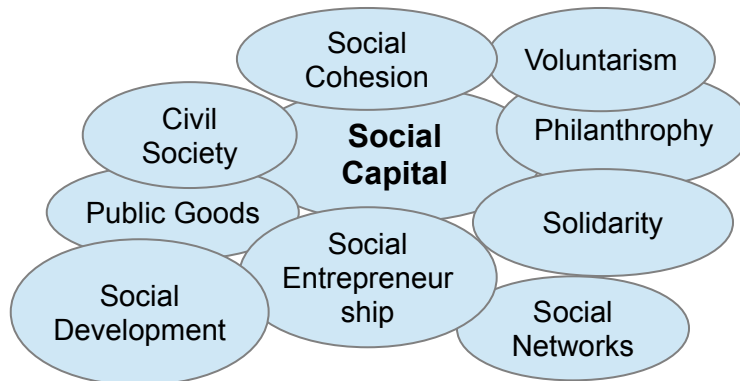


Measuring and Analyzing Social Capital – a short introduction in three steps by Alexander Dill

I Synonymous issues

Social Capital achieved the first statistical awareness around the year 2000 when the Worldbank established a working group on Social Capital and tried out a Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT). In general Social Capital is to be distinguished from Financial Capital and Human Capital. Today Social Capital is used synonymous with a couple of issues:



This indifference makes it hard to meet the framework and tasks on existing research programmes as well as to defining Social Capital as an measurable indicator.

II Clear definition required

Although Social Capital is part of a complex and dynamic framework of societal issues, it's definition has never been precise. If we want to measure Social Capital in order to allow to use it as an indicator, we have to give a clear definition:

Social Capital is the amount of non-material assets within a community.

Among these assets only few are open for empirical studies and surveys in order to be quantified. After four years of research and tests the Basel Institute of Commons and Economics identified six issues that faced a high acceptance in questionnaires:

- **the social climate** (scale between 1 very good and 10 poor)
- **gifts outside the family** (qualitative)
- **trust among the people** (scale between 1 high and 10 low)
- **friendliness** (scale between 1 high and 10 low)
- **helpfulness** (scale between 1 high and 10 low)
- **hospitality** (scale between 1 high and 10 low)

The impact of Social Capital on finance:

- **willingness to accept austerity measures** (scale between 1 high and 10 low)
- **willingness to accept an asset levy** (scale between 1 high and 10 low)
- **willingness to invest in local and regional assets** (scale between 1 high and 10 low)

III Social Capital becomes an indicator

The clear definition and the identification of issues of Social Capital allows to quantify elements of Social Capital with a response rate up to 99 per cent (gifts) on different levels:

Level 1: National Social Capital Assessment of experts in today 90 countries (see list)

Level 2: Social Capital Assessment of communities:

- Online Assessment for communities with web access
- Offline Assessment for communities in developing countries

List of countries where the Social Capital Assessment takes place today:

Red: temporarily unavailable

Albania	Equador	Laos	Philippines	Ukraine
Angola	Egypt	Latvia	Poland	United Kingdom
Argentina	Estonia	Lebanon	Portugal	United States
Australia	Finland	Lithuania	Romania	Uruguay
Austria	France	Luxembourg	Russia	Venezuela
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Macedonia	Senegal	Vietnam
Belarus	Germany	Malaysia	Serbia	West Bank
Belgium	Greece	Malta	Singapore	
Bolivia	Hong Kong	Mexico	Slovakia	
Bosnia	Hungary	Morocco	Slovenia	
Brazil	India	Mozambique	South Africa	
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Namibia	Spain	
Canada	Iran	Nepal	Sri Lanka	
Chile	Ireland	Netherlands	Sweden	
China	Israel	New Zealand	Switzerland	
Colombia	Italy	Nicaragua	Taiwan	
Congo	Japan	Nigeria	Tanzania	
Croatia	Jordan	Norway	Thailand	
Cyprus	Kazakhstan	Pakistan	Tunisia	
Czech Rep	Kenya	Paraguay	Turkey	
Denmark	Korea South	Peru	Uganda	

To apply for your participation on behalf of a country please go to:

<http://commons.ch/english/assessing-social-capital/assessment-developing> for developing countries

<http://commons.ch/english/assessing-social-capital> for the EU-28, further Europe and developed countries

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