

How big is your social capital?

Social capital is what people provide for others outside their family without expecting anything in return. Everyday kindness, volunteering, advice and practical help, gifts offered to neighbours and friends, civic engagement, in short: active involvement in a community.

In a community where the social capital is large, people feel safe and at ease with one another. You trust your neighbour; you know where to turn for help. In the ideal case, existing social capital promotes further creativity, individual initiative, active citizenship and – of course – economic growth.

All these factors contribute strongly to individual satisfaction and collective well-being. Yet they are too often overlooked. Because none of them involve any direct economic activity, they are not included in the GDP of any city or country. Usually, rather than being measured, social capital is just assumed to exist – or not.

What we offer

At the *Basel Institute of Commons and Economics*, we focuss on activating and encouraging social capital globally as well as locally. One of our key activities is the measuring of social capital in order to give it the value it deserves.

We conduct simple surveys in collaboration with local partners in order to find out what the people in a community provide for one another free of charge. One such study was done in our home town, Basel, others in remote communities as the Chapang people in Nepal. Our goal is to establish a World Social Capital Monitor indicating changes in social capital in different regions of the world.

We offer you two tools to improve your local social capital:

- A tool to generate a local commons report by a short survey.
- A survey for multipliers in order to track the social capital.

We assist you in creating social capital reports, to compare them with other indicators and use them for fundraising and project presentation and evaluation.

Of course you can mail and call us directly:

Yours sincerely

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