
Social Capital Measurement: National Experiences and International Harmonization - A Beginning

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Douglas Norris
Statistics Canada

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Outline

- National experiences in social capital measurement
- Components of social capital
- International harmonization – a beginning



National experiences

- Importance of cultural context
- Systematic analysis of social capital – AUS, CAN, NZ, UK
- General acceptance of OECD definition
- Analytical frameworks focused on networks
- Social capital surveys and harmonized modules



Components of social capital

- Social participation
- Social networks and support
- Civic participation
- Trust and reciprocity



International harmonization – a beginning

- Issues of translation (both linguistic and cultural)
- Survey context/motivation/order of questions
- Mode of the survey collection
- Reference periods
- Minimum set of context and outcome variables



Sources of proposed international questions

- UK Harmonized Question Set
www.statistics.gov.uk/socialcapital/downloads/harmonisation_steve_5.pdf
- The Home Office Citizenship Survey
www.statistics.gov.uk/socialcapital
- The European Social Survey
www.europeansocialsurvey.org



Social participation

- Type of group
- Type of involvement
- Frequency of involvement



Social support

- Provision of unpaid help by type of help
- Receipt of unpaid help by type of help
- Frequency of provision/receipt of help



Social networks

- Frequency of contacts
- Type of contact



Civic participation

- Engagement in civic action
- Voted in most recent national election
- Voted in most recent election by level of gov't



Conclusion

- Range of national approaches but similar focus - networks
- Benefits of international harmonization and cooperation
- Work in progress



Next Steps

- Access interest by countries
- If sufficient interest – develop a module
- Ongoing testing and revising
- Implementation in country surveys

