

In-depth Review - Social Cohesion

Conference of European Statisticians Plenary
23 June 2023



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Social cohesion – A latent, multi-dimensional concept

- Social cohesion commonly refers to connectedness, trust and solidarity among individuals, across groups and communities, and within society at large
- Social cohesion varies across countries, reflecting unique histories, characteristics and circumstances
- Social cohesion is a latent concept and can only be indirectly measured through constituent dimensions

Some commonly cited dimensions of social cohesion

Trust in institutions	Shared values
Inter-personal trust	Inclusion and integration
Sense of belonging	Social connections/networks
Socio-economic mobility and inequality	Participation

Social cohesion – Continued relevance in a changing context

- The concept of social cohesion included in some national frameworks and initiatives
- Concerns about the strength of social cohesion and threats to it
- The concept of social cohesion ...
 - ... has been criticized for being overly broad
 - ... overlaps with other concepts, such as social inclusion
- *Between-group distance* seems especially relevant today

Questions for participants

Do you think that social cohesion in your country is becoming weaker, becoming stronger or remaining about the same?

If social cohesion is changing, how is this evident? What aspects or dimensions of social cohesion are of concern?

What is driving these changes?

Do statistical systems need to be adapted to better measure social cohesion in the 2020s?