

Multidimensional measure of social cohesion A benchmarking analysis on a panel of countries

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ABSTRACT

This paper tries to operationalize a multidimensional measure of social cohesion. The background of the matter has initially allowed to identify a factors pedestal which may identify different dimensions of social cohesion. The principal components factor analysis allowed to extract 15 input indicators and outcome. They were used in the design of a composite index of social cohesion (**CISC**), the measurement refers to the empirical approach of fuzzy sets. Having the virtue of organizing into a hierarchy the contribution of explanatory factors in the composite index of social cohesion, this measure approach has allowed to inform on the tracks to take in order to strengthen social cohesion.

In summary, the level of social cohesion remains disparate according to the country's level of development. The highest average score of social cohesion results from brewing economic, political and institutional factors related to employability, fight against poverty, degree of happiness of population, strengthening of democracy, freedom of the press and fight against corruption. In developed countries, two factors are added, namely gender equity and good governance.

In contrast, social cohesion ferments are irreducible to income inequality. They are due to a combination of various factors, including the narrowness of investment in human capital by means of health and education policies, low confidence in economic and social security system and gender inequality. To these threats common to all countries join specific factors to their levels of development. it concerns limited participation of women in the labor market and the lack of happiness, for developed countries, the low education of women and poor governance, for their counterparts in the developing word.

The articulation of social cohesion and human development have highlighted the deficiencies of the HDI as an indicator of social progress. The focus of the debate on the only indicators of the HDI is not able to reflect the dimensions that constituting the foundation of human progress. The social cohesion should be replaced in the development model through specific policies to strengthen social equity, equal opportunities, sense of belonging, participation and good practices of governance.

Keywords : social cohesion, multidimensional measure, fuzzy logic, CISC vs HDI