

d·i·e

Deutsches Institut für  
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development  
Institute

## Social Cohesion Week

Online, 9-12 November 2020



## Social Cohesion Week

#SoCoWeek

9-12 November, Online Event Series

In recent years, social cohesion has been receiving increasing attention not only in policy circles but also in academic discussions. The COVID- 19 pandemic has made the relevance of social cohesion tangible in new ways. Governments, civil society and international organizations underline the importance of social cohesion to tackle the crises. Public appeals to „stand together“ and “help each other“ are constant. Still, many of questions remain open: What do we mean precisely when talking about social cohesion? How do we measure it? What drives social cohesion? What leverage does development cooperation have in this area?

The goal of this [series of online events](#) is to bring together different perspectives and insights on this expanding research and policy agenda.

The workshop is organized on behalf of DIE’s research project “Social cohesion in Africa”, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Over the last three years, its team of eight researchers has been working extensively on conceptualizing, operationalizing and measuring social cohesion as well as on identifying driving factors of social cohesion and leverage points for global and international cooperation.

In order to register, please send a mail stating your name and organization to [social\\_cohesion@die-gdi.de](mailto:social_cohesion@die-gdi.de) until Friday November 6, 11:30 (UTC+1). Registered participants will receive a personalized web link with which they can enter the virtual conference.

For further information please contact [daniel.nowack@die-gdi.de](mailto:daniel.nowack@die-gdi.de) or [gisela.kuhlmann@die-gdi.de](mailto:gisela.kuhlmann@die-gdi.de)

funded by



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

## Programme

Please note, that all time references are UTC+1.

Monday 09.11.2020:

Panel: "Social Cohesion: An Expanding Research Agenda"	
<b>Guiding questions:</b> How is the topic of social cohesion placed in the academic discussion? What questions are gaining attention? What makes social cohesion especially appealing from an academic perspective? What makes studying it especially difficult? Do we see a common interdisciplinary agenda evolving or are we working at the same with uncoordinated fashion? Risks and benefits of expanding the agenda – are we aiming too high?	
14:30 – 14:40	Welcome and introductory remarks by Imme Scholz (DIE)
14:40-16:30	<b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frances Stewart (Oxford University)</li><li>• Nicole Deitelhoff (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt – HSFK/PRIF)</li><li>• Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi (Afrobarometer)</li><li>• Aurel Croissant (Heidelberg University)</li><li>• Julia Leininger (DIE)</li></ul>

Tuesday, 10.11.2020:

Parallel Sessions on Drivers of Social Cohesion	
Thematic Track 1:	The Concept of Social Cohesion
Thematic Track 2:	SME and Financial System Development
Thematic Track 3:	Taxation and Social Protection Systems
Thematic Track 4:	Values, Inclusive Governance and Democracy
Thematic Track 5:	Conflict and Societal Peace
Thematic Track 6:	Forced Displacement

Thematic Track & Session	Time slot									
	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	
6 Social Cohesion in Forced Displacement Contexts		9:30 – 11:00			Lunch-break					
3 Social Protection for Social Cohesion? Assessing the Potential and Actual Impacts			11:00 – 12:30							
4 Values: Foundation, Fault line, or Fabric of Social Cohesion?			11:00 – 12:30							
2 Economic Development and Social Cohesion: How Economic Factors Contribute to Cohesive Societies							13:45 – 15:00			
1 Social Cohesion: Concept and Measurement								15:00 – 16:30		
3 The Impact of COVID-19 on the Informal Sector: How Dangerous is it for Social Cohesion?								15:00 – 16:30		
5 Post-Conflict Transitional Justice & Societal Peace							14:00 – 15:30			
5 The Role of Social Cohesion in Peace-building										16:30 – 18:00

Please find the programme of the individual sessions for each Thematic Track on p. 5

Wednesday 11.11.2020:

<b>Panel: "Living Up to a New Challenge: How Can Development Cooperation Improve Social Cohesion?"</b>	
14:30 – 14:40	Welcome and introductory remarks by Julia Leininger (DIE)
14:40-16:30	<b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MinDir Stefan Oswald (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development - BMZ)</li><li>• Thokozile Ruzvidzo (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa - UNECA)</li><li>• Anda David (Agence Française de Développement - AFD),</li><li>• George Khechinashvili (United States Agency for International Development - USAID)</li></ul>

Thursday, 12.11.2020:

<b>"Launch of the Social Cohesion Hub" &amp; Panel on "Networking for Social Cohesion: How to Become a Community of Action?"</b>	
14:30 – 14:45	Welcome and introductory remarks by Anna-Katharina Hornidge (DIE)
14:45-15:10	<b>Presentation of the Social Cohesion Hub (#SoCoHub)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charlotte Fiedler (DIE)</li><li>• Karina Mross (DIE)</li></ul>
15:10-16:30	<b>Panel discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Samuel Rizk (United Nations Development Program – UNDP)</li><li>• Nikolas Myint (World Bank)</li><li>• Michaela Baur (German Corporation for International Cooperation - GIZ)</li><li>• Yonas Adaye Adeto (Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University)</li></ul>

## Sessions of Thematic Tracks

### Thematic Track 1: Concept of Social Cohesion

#### Session: Social Cohesion: Concept and Measurement

**Description:** Political polarization, nationalist trends and not least the effects of the Covid19 pandemic have recently been threatening the cohesiveness of societies around the world. Viceversa, a lack of social cohesion can cause instability. Although these relationships are plausible, we still lack sound empirical evidence to prove them. There are several reasons for this caveat. First, concepts of social cohesion are contested, and thus, their operationalization lacks a coherent standardization in social sciences. In addition, many concepts include in their measurement elements that social cohesion is expected to influence causally, making the measurement useless for causal analysis. This is particularly relevant for social (in)equality. Second, data generation to build indicators for measuring social cohesion is complex and challenging. Survey and perception data is often not available across countries while expert data rarely address all of the key dimensions of social cohesion. Third, regionally, earlier studies were limited to Europe and Latin America, while the research interest in other world regions has been increasing recently. Forth, understanding social cohesion requires a multi-disciplinary perspective because it comprises political as well as social and psychological elements. All these factors hamper the comparison between different countries and world regions.

This panel aims at introducing and discussing concepts and measurements of social cohesion. The German Development Institute's research project "Social Cohesion in Africa" developed a concept, measurement and profiles of social cohesion in Africa. Renowned scholars who have studied social cohesion will discuss DIE's concept while bringing in their own views of how to best observe social cohesion in empirical research and practice.

15:00 – 16:30

**Speakers:**

- Georgi Dragolov, Bertelsmann Social Cohesion Radar, Jacobs University Bremen)
- Carolyn Logan, Afrobarometer, Michigan State University
- Richard Wike, Pew Research Center, Washington D.C.
- Jan Hofmeyr, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town
- Erin McCandless, Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg
- Julia Leininger (DIE)

## Thematic Track 2: SME and Financial System Development

Session: Economic Development and Social Cohesion: How Economic Factors Contribute to Cohesive Societies	
<p><b>Description:</b> The concept of social cohesion is still relatively new to the field of economics so that the respective strand of literature is relatively small. While there is some evidence for a positive relationship from social cohesion to sustainable economic growth, less is known about a potential feedback loop running from economic development to societal cohesiveness. Since it cannot be assumed that economic growth mechanically raises social cohesion, this session attempts to identify some channels and economic factors that contribute either to strengthening societal bonds or to undermining societal cohesiveness.</p>	
13:45 – 15:00	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frank Borge Wietzke (Institut Barcelona Estudis Internacionals): <i>New Middle Classes, Jobs and Social Cohesion</i></li> <li>• Romina Boarini (OECD): <i>Inclusive Growth and Social Cohesion</i></li> <li>• Marc Fleurbaey (Paris School of Economics): <i>Economies for Better and More Cohesive Societies</i></li> </ul>

## Thematic Track 3: Taxation and Social Protection Systems

Session I: Social Protection for Social Cohesion? Assessing the Potential and Actual Impacts	
<p><b>Description:</b> It is often argued that social protection can achieve objectives beyond alleviation of poverty and food insecurity. One of them is the promotion of social cohesion. While there is a literature focusing on the theoretical linkages between social protection and social cohesion – though mainly concerned with high-income countries - empirical evidence of this relationship is lacking. This session discusses the effects of social protection on the different attributes of social cohesion in low- and middle-income countries.</p>	
11:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Markus Loewe (DIE) and Tina Zintl (DIE): <i>Donor-sponsored Cash-for-Work Programmes and Social Cohesion in Jordan: Issues of Ownership and Trust</i></li> <li>• Francesca Bastagli (Overseas Development Institute): <i>Cash Transfers to Syrian Refugees in Lebanon: Promoting Social Cohesion?</i></li> <li>• Francesco Burchi (DIE) and Federico Roscioli (Roma Tre University): <i>Can Integrated Social Protection Programmes affect Social Cohesion? Mixed-Methods Evidence from Malawi</i></li> </ul>

**Session II: The Effects of COVID-19 on the Informal Sector:  
How Dangerous is it for Social Cohesion?**

**Description:** It is still tremendously difficult to assess the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on several dimensions also beyond the health and economic one. This is particularly the case for groups, for which we lack proper information. One of this groups is the informal sector in developing countries. Severe lockdowns in many developing countries appear to have had some success in dealing with the pandemic but the economic, social and even political consequences are still very much unknown. Also it is unclear how social cohesion has been affected and whether changes in policies such as taxation and social protection have been effective or can become effective in the medium to long-run to limit to the consequences of the pandemic. In this panel, we try to start answering some of these questions by clarifying conceptually the relationship between the state measures in the context of the pandemic and the informal sector as well as discussing two empirical studies in Uganda and Cote d'Ivoire.

15:00 – 16:30

**Speakers:**

- Vanessa van Boogaard (International Centre for Tax and Development) & Max Gallien (University of Sussex): *Informal Workers and the State: The Politics of Connection and Disconnection During a Global Pandemic*
- Renate Hartwig (GIGA Institute and University Goettingen): *When the Going gets Tough: Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Informal Entrepreneurs in Uganda*
- Christoph Strupat (DIE): *Be Quick or Be Dead: COVID-19 and the Informal Sector in Cote d'Ivoire*

**Thematic Track 4: Values, Inclusive Governance and Democracy**

**Session: Values: Foundation, Fault line, or Fabric of Social Cohesion?**

**Description:** Sharing similar values is a foundation of communities and societies. It has been an implicit common sense that individuals in socially cohesive societies share the same values or are tolerant enough to respect other values than their own ones. Most concepts and analyses of social cohesion focus on the quality of relations between individuals, social groups and the state while leaving out values. It remains an open question, which and how values hold societies together. How much divergence of values is tolerable for societies and what are the institutions that mediate between social groups with different value orientations in a society? These fundamental questions are not new in social sciences but have been poorly addressed so far. In this workshop, we aim at discussing these fundamental questions and identify avenues for further research on the topic.

11:00 – 12:30

**Speakers:**

- Phillip Öhlmann (Humboldt-University Berlin)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nils Holtug (University of Copenhagen)</li> <li>• Mariko Klasing (University of Groningen)</li> <li>• Daniel Nowack (DIE)</li> </ul>
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## Thematic Track 5: Conflict and Societal Peace

<p><b>Description:</b> How does violent conflict affect social cohesion and which domestic and international efforts can help to restore social cohesion afterwards? Can dealing with a history of violent conflict through transitional justice help to rebuild healthy societal relations after civil war? These questions will be addressed in two panels that bring together recent, policy relevant research and allow us to discuss the findings and their policy implications.</p>	
<p><b>Session I: Post-Conflict Transitional Justice &amp; Societal Peace</b></p>	
<p>14:00 – 15:30</p>	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyanne E. Loyle (Penn State University): <i>Truth and Consequences in Post-Conflict Societies</i></li> <li>• Karina Mross (DIE): <i>Dealing with the Past for a Peaceful Future? Analyzing the Effect of Transitional Justice Instruments on Trust in Post-Conflict Societies.</i></li> <li>• Charles T. Call (American University &amp; Brookings Institution): <i>Hybrid Anti-impunity Commissions: Lessons for External Actors</i></li> </ul> <p>Moderation: Charlotte Fiedler (DIE)</p>
<p><b>Session II: The Role of Social Cohesion in Peacebuilding</b></p>	
<p>16:30 - 18:00</p>	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fletcher Cox (William Jewell College): <i>Social Cohesion in Conflict-Affected Countries: Mapping Challenges, Dilemmas, and Opportunities</i></li> <li>• Charlotte Fiedler (DIE): <i>Social Cohesion After Armed Conflict: A Literature Review</i></li> <li>• Monica Rijal (United Nations Development Program - UNDP): <i>Strengthening Social Cohesion: Conceptual Framing and Programming Implications</i></li> </ul> <p>Moderation: Karina Mross (DIE)</p>

## Thematic Track 6: Forced Displacement

### Session: Social Cohesion in Forced Displacement Contexts

**Description:** The majority of displaced persons are hosted by neighbouring low- and middle-income countries, which themselves tend to be economically and socially unstable. The hosting of displaced populations puts additional strains on already scarce resources and is often associated with social disruptions and tension. It is feared that current flows and levels of displacement, especially under conditions of concurrent economic and social crises in host countries and regions, undermines social cohesion.

What do we know about the impact of forced displacement on social cohesion, what are important factors to be considered, and what can be done to prevent social conflict and promote social cohesion?

9:30 – 11:00

**Speakers:**

- Joanna de Berry & Helida Ogude (London School of Economics & World Bank): *Social Cohesion and Forced Displacement: A Case of South Africa and Global Lessons*
- Saime Özçürümez (Bilkent University): *Thinking Through the Concept of Social Cohesion through Forced Migration Practices in Turkey*
- Miresi Busana & Onur Ariner (GIZ Turkey): *Promoting the Economic Prospects of Refugees and the Host Community in Turkey and Mainstreaming Approaches to Social Cohesion*

## Notes