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From the **UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America**

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Executive Summary: Operationalizing Social Cohesion in Latin America – Implications for the United States

Within this report, the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America presents findings from its research to identify informative approaches and strategies that use social cohesion principles to promote development, health and wellbeing in Latin American communities. We assess how policies to foster social cohesion have evolved in Latin America to better understand cultural, social and political factors that contribute to the prioritization of social cohesion strategies in policy. Based on our findings, we identify implications for promoting social cohesion in the United States. To conduct this research funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), we used a case study research design coupled with a review of the literature related to social cohesion.

Aims

The specific aims of our research were:

1. To describe how social cohesion policies and interventions in Latin America have evolved, and to identify cultural, social, and political factors that contribute to prioritization of social cohesion strategies in policy;
2. To identify social cohesion interventions that have taken place or are currently taking place in Latin America;
3. To understand the components (policies, etc.) and processes (actors, etc.) of social cohesion interventions;
4. To provide recommendations on operationalizing social cohesion programs in the United States.

Where relevant, we describe how the operationalization of social cohesion can be expressed within the four Action Areas of the RWJF Culture of Health initiative: Shared Value; Cross-Sector Collaboration; Healthy, Equitable Communities; and Integrated Health Services and Systems.

Methods

For the case study research, we reviewed programs in various social cohesion initiatives and selected three programs to study. These programs met three criteria: 1) had a focus on social cohesion; 2) were ongoing or recent (ended in last 3-5 years); and 3) had key stakeholders who could be

contacted and interviewed. The three programs studied were: Social Cohesion Laboratory I (Mexico); Social Cohesion Laboratory II (Mexico); and Integration (Germany, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador). Beyond these programs, interviews were also conducted with other stakeholders from groups working in the realm of social cohesion, including the

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), URB-AL, and EUROsocial. In all, we conducted 17 interviews with key stakeholders who were program team members, government officials, researchers, policy makers, planners and non-governmental organizations (NGO) representatives in Mexico, France, Belgium, Spain, Germany and the United States. In addition, supplemental materials from the three programs provided additional insights and program examples for consideration. Of the initiatives we studied, most included an evaluation component of varying scientific rigor.

In addition, we conducted a literature search for social cohesion principles and programming. Although we reviewed many articles to inform our conceptualization of social cohesion, the number of articles focused on the evaluation of implemented social cohesion programs was limited. Nevertheless, over the past decade, European and Latin America organizations have supported the implementation of wide-reaching social cohesion initiatives. Our literature review supported a need for more evaluation studies of social cohesion interventions to capture short- and long-term impacts.

Summary of Findings

The analysis and interpretation of our case study and literature review was structured around eight domains related to programming built on social cohesion principles: definitions, context, development, implementation, outcomes, evaluation, sustainability and interviewee recommendations. Brief highlights follow.

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

Members of an Expert Advisory Panel supported the work of the research team; membership included:

Nancy Adler, PhD, director, Center for Health and Community; vice-chair, Department of Psychiatry; and the Lisa and John Pritzker professor of Psychology, Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at UCSF.

Margarita Alegria, PhD, director, Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research, Cambridge Health Alliance and Harvard Medical School; professor of Psychology, Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

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Definitions of Social Cohesion

The interviewed stakeholders defined social cohesion in a range of ways; yet, an underlying theme was that social cohesion is linked to the government's obligation to all people living within their territory, which contrasts from many definitions found in our review of the literature, as summarized in the full report and detailed in Appendix 6. Of note, scholarly definitions of social cohesion by Kawachi and Berkman and Berger-Schmidt are some of the most frequently cited in the literature: 1) Social cohesion is the extent of connectedness and solidarity among groups in our society (Kawachi and Berkman, 2000); and 2) Social cohesion involves two analytically distinct societal goal dimensions: a) reduction of inequalities and strengthening of social relations; and b) embracing all aspects that are considered social capital of a society. (Berger-Schmitt R, 2000)

IMPLICATIONS

Our findings describe how, in practice, the definition of social cohesion is informed by the literature and tailored by program stakeholders to address the issues, dimensions and strategies appropriate for achieving social cohesion under local or regional circumstances. Some definitions have social cohesion operating as both a driver or predictor factor as well as an outcome, i.e., programs hoped to strengthen social cohesion in the community while leveraging social cohesion to achieve improved social and health outcomes. In some cases, social cohesion can be used in negative circumstances (e.g., gangs) and may have unintended consequences. For example, in the United States, the concept of citizenship is often used as a way to exclude those who are not citizens. The government obligation to protect its people should be considered to encompass all of those who live in the nation, whether or not they are citizens.

Environmental Context of Social Cohesion

Major themes related to environmental context manifested from case studies and the literature as the cultural, social and political characteristics of an environment. They included: distribution of resources (how resources were provided and to whom); the justice system; inequalities; poverty; decentralization of governments; distrust; violence; corruption; and lack of transparency. Inequality and structural factors were among the most frequently cited.

IMPLICATION

Many social cohesion efforts conducted through these case studies were driven by growing inequalities; the inequalities that persist in the United States may also be leveraged as drivers to promote social cohesion programs and policies in the United States.

Development: Dimensions, Frameworks and Issues Addressed

The literature and case study data identified eight dimensions that contribute to a socially cohesive society including: belonging; inclusion; participation; recognition; legitimacy; trust; collectivism; and public provision of services. The most frequently cited framework came from the EUROsociAL initiative, which focused on 10 thematic areas that would improve social cohesion and mitigate inequality while creating rights and providing goods and services to citizens. Issues addressed by both the initiatives studied and published articles analyzed fell under one or more of the eight dimensions and included: citizens' rights; inequality; corruption; transparency; human rights; youth issues; social protection; formality (i.e., formal economy); structural factors; lack of trust in government; productivity and occupations; territory; civic institutions; health; and social protection.

IMPLICATIONS

Understanding the underpinnings of social cohesion and related frameworks that address community issues can help identify potential issues to incorporate when developing and implementing social cohesion programs. In the United States, communities may want to tailor their approaches to address issues at either the micro or macro level, while allowing social cohesion itself to become a driver of action.

Implementation of Social Cohesion Programming

Strategies and programming for each social cohesion initiative were as unique as the dimensions pursued and the issues addressed. Much of the programming analyzed was guided by a logic model that illustrated the operationalization of the strategies and programs used to reach short-, intermediate-, or long-term outcomes. Strategies most frequently cited included: cross-sector collaboration; cooperation in policy development; promotion of peer-learning environments; utilizing media (traditional and social); and engaging the community. Programming and actions often cited included: passing new public policy (e.g., conditional cash transfer programs); providing technical assistance; conducting surveys on social cohesion to assess community weaknesses, strengths; and creating spaces where leaders can be trained. In cases studied, programming efforts were driven by adverse situations (e.g., decaying community structures, inequality, etc). When asked about barriers to program implementation, several interviewees mentioned that multi-sector collaborations often proved difficult because of conflicting goals; others found challenges in collaboration between academics and policy makers; and several felt that distrust in government or other institutions created a significant barrier for engaging community individuals and organizations.

IMPLICATIONS

Logic models can guide programming and provide a useful roadmap to reaching desired outcomes; both the URB-AL III and EUROsocial II programs used comprehensive logic models after receiving feedback and agreement from stakeholders on inputs, outputs and desired outcomes. Strategies and programming studied (e.g., cross-sector collaboration, individual engagement, participatory policy development) provide rich data and operational steps that may have potential for replication in other settings.

Outcomes of Social Cohesion Programming

The social cohesion initiatives and literature studied had well-defined intermediate and long-term outcomes, with the intermediate outcomes more easily measured and reported. For example, the Integration, URB-AL III Program reached short- and intermediate-term goals of creating city parks, public spaces and a city network, adopting interdisciplinary cooperation between public entities, and adopting a citizen participation model to generate social inclusion. The long-term goals of increased citizen engagement, greater inclusion of marginalized populations, more equitable and sustainable development in the territories, and increased sense of belonging were “hoped for” and, while some short-term proxies were achieved, more study is needed to assess sustainable success and long-term outcomes.

IMPLICATIONS

Social cohesion programming can achieve tangible intermediate outcomes; yet, there is a need for longer-term studies using specific methodologies to assess outcomes to prove sustainability of the outcome over time.

Evaluation, Sustainability of Social Cohesion-Driven Programming

Most programs measured the impact of factors that affect social cohesion (e.g., social participation, nutrition, inclusion, health, social security, development, education, culture, income, employment, habitat, security, violence, etc.). Others analyzed success by the core items that steered programming within the actors of social cohesion (government, civil society, community and education). Most programs sought to both strengthen social cohesion and utilize social cohesion to improve various social outcomes.

From the case study interviewees, contributing factors for sustainability were cited as: 1) a leader who understands the issues areas, process and goals of a project; 2) capability of project sites to implement projects over the long-term; 3) strengthening existing efforts vs introducing new projects; 4) building capacity through technical assistance; and 5) engaging community individuals. Factors thought to be barriers to successfully reaching sustainability were most frequently related to government leadership, lack of leadership, or changing leadership.

IMPLICATIONS

Most stakeholders who were interviewed agreed on the importance of evaluation, although long-term evaluation had not yet been conducted on any of the programs studied. Nevertheless, the stakeholders and literature provided good input on factors believed to contribute to the success and sustainability of social cohesion-driven programs. These factors expressed by the interviewees could be considered in programming within the United States: a) having an informed leadership with an understanding of the issues to be addressed, goals of a project and processes for implementation; b) building capacity in civilian, government and professional groups to lead to the effective implementation of programs and public policies for long-term sustainability.

Stakeholder Recommendations

When asked what actions might be important for the United States to translate social cohesion principles into action, stakeholders most frequently cited: building networks to generate public opinion and increase capacity through collaborations; identifying stakeholders, partners and leaders to spearhead social cohesion efforts; choosing an “entry point” with a tangible project that reduces social isolation (e.g., developing an urban space to help cities eliminate social and symbolic fragmentation); and building on existing programming that includes dimensions of social cohesion currently embraced throughout the nation.

IMPLICATIONS

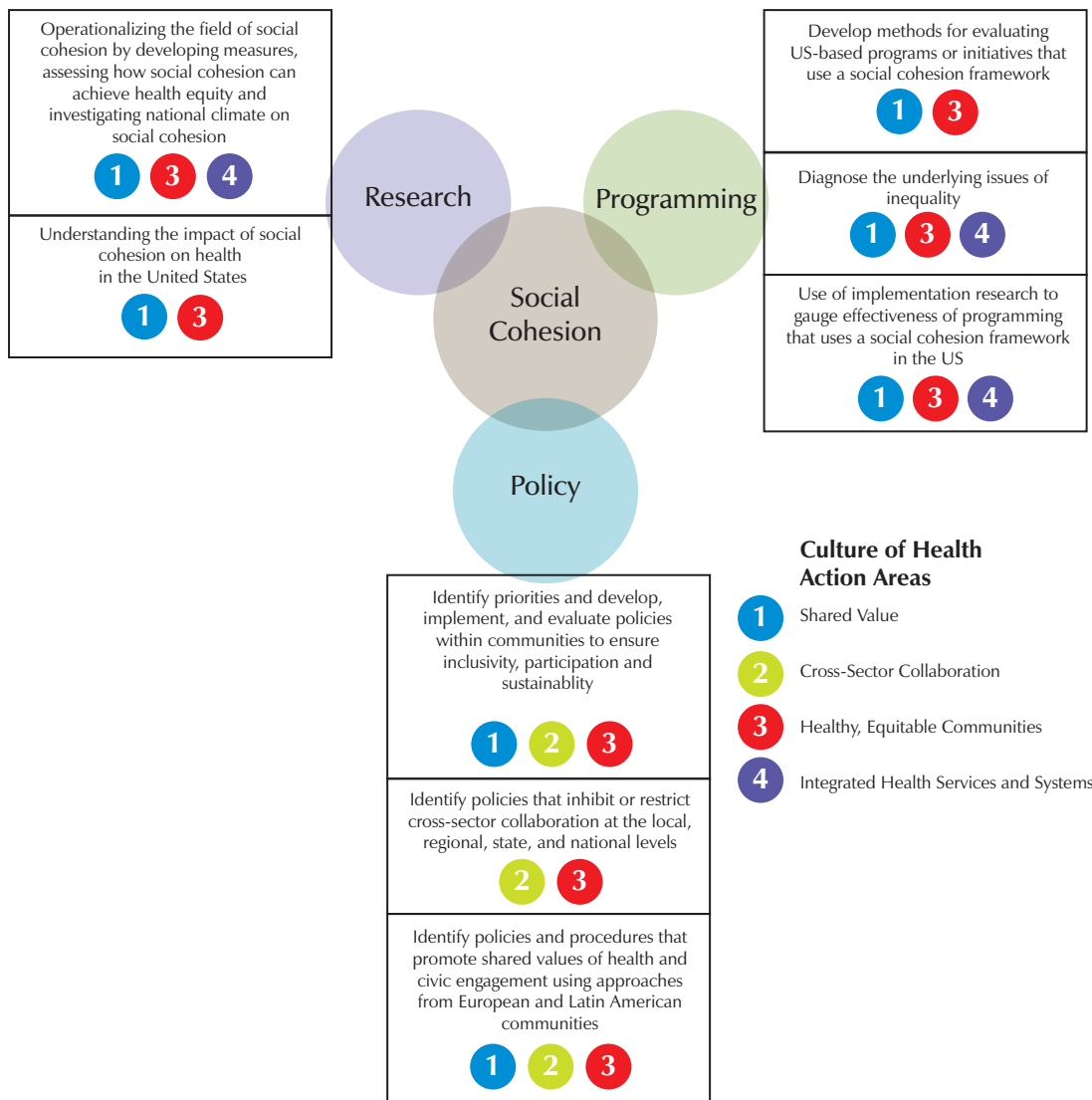
Perhaps summing up the sentiment from stakeholders and the literature, a member of our Expert Advisory panel suggested that an important goal for the United States could be to more effectively communicate to the public the importance of social cohesion and how it was used to create existing successful systems. For example, social cohesion and solidarity have formed the foundation for the US social security and Medicare systems. Likewise, if communicated and used effectively, social cohesion could propel programming to improve health outcomes and wellbeing among Americans.

Recommendations for Additional Research Needed

Our analysis of the body of research and active programming leads us to the understanding that social cohesion is a construct that acknowledges the need for equity and its importance to preserving human rights. Social cohesion involves the inclusion of all people, especially those most vulnerable, so that all individuals believe that there is a certain level of equity in society and can develop a sense of belonging and trust within their communities.

While many programs we analyzed were development projects (i.e., addressed a particular societal issue such as water, education, gender discrimination, etc.), the programs differentiated themselves from general development projects by focusing on the positive externalities, or broader benefits, that can result from the activities of a program, rather than just the expected activity outcomes. According to many of the people we interviewed, the added value of social cohesion projects was that the focus on increasing participation of individuals and increasing interactions between various groups of people achieved an increased sense of belonging and, thus, success in achieving project goals, which could be specifically useful in making health a shared valued to reach improved health outcomes.

Work needed in the areas of research, programming and policy development related to social cohesion



In this section, we present approaches and recommendations for future work in programming, policy and academic research to develop social cohesion principles, strategies and/or interventions (Figure). These recommendations are for consideration by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to weave into its research agenda for the Culture of Health, as well as for other grant makers or research institutions interested in advancing social cohesion. Within the recommendations, we illustrate how the various activities work toward achieving goals related to the four Action Areas of the Culture of Health.

Academic Research to Advance the Field of Social Cohesion

Research efforts in this area will offer evidence to support, inform and operationalize Action Area 1 (Making Health a Shared Value) and Action Area 3 (Healthy, Equitable Communities).

1. Operationalize the field of social cohesion by conducting the following:
 - a. Develop and validate measures of social cohesion and its various dimensions at different societal levels (micro, meso and macro) by establishing shared conceptual and operational definitions to inform the development of the measurement tools;
 - b. Assess how social cohesion programs and policies would contribute to achieving equity in health outcomes and how planning, implementation and evaluation would be affected;
 - c. Investigate “national climate”/status on the dimensions of social cohesion by adding questions to existing surveys that identify gaps in programs or policies that seek to increase social cohesion and new surveys that examine individual perceptions on social cohesion.
2. Understand the impact of social cohesion on health in the United States:
 - a. Examine associations between social cohesion and health outcomes. Does social cohesion directly or indirectly affect health outcomes (e.g. stroke risk, depressive symptoms, participation in physical activity, cigarette smoking, self-rated health, etc.)? If so, what are the pathways through which it does?
 - b. Explore the influence (positive or negative) of social cohesion on health gaps to assess its ability to be a direct driver of health equality and attendant equity considerations.

Programming Research to Advance the Implementation of Social Cohesion Strategies

Programming research efforts in this area will offer evidence to inform, support and operationalize Action Area 1 (Making Health a Shared Value), Action Area 3 (Healthy, Equitable Communities), and Action Area 4 (Integrated Health Services and Systems).

1. Develop valid, systematic methods for evaluating emerging, US-based programs or initiatives that use a social cohesion framework:
 - a. Examine the level of social cohesion in a community and compare to a levels of social cohesion found within a community project that uses a social cohesion framework (including any program that seeks to strengthen social cohesion, seeks to leverage social cohesion to improve other outcomes, or both);
 - b. Assess the development of “positive externalities” (i.e. various dimensions of social cohesion) from a community project or activity focused on improving or promoting health and equity in a community setting. Explore conditions, if any, under which social cohesion engenders harmful external benefits.
2. Diagnose the underlying issues of inequality through diagnostic studies. For example, identify physical spaces that are detrimental to the environment and health of the community and engage stakeholders in development of plans for mitigation.
3. Gauge effectiveness of social cohesion programming in the United States through implementation research
 - a. Conduct demonstration project to:
 - i. Test and measure the benefits, feasibility, process implications, etc. of social cohesion strategies used to promote health and equity in the US community.
 - ii. Evaluate the impact of social cohesion programming on creating healthier and more equitable communities.

Policy Research on Issues Relevant to Social Cohesion

Policy research efforts in this area will offer evidence to inform, support and operationalize Action Area 1 (Making Health a Shared Value), Action Area 2 (Cross-Sector Collaboration), and Action Area 3 (Healthy, Equitable Communities).

1. Identify priorities and develop, implement and evaluate policies within communities to ensure inclusivity, participation and sustainability.
2. Identify policies that inhibit or restrict cross-sector collaboration at the local, regional, state and national levels.

3. Identify policies and procedures to promote shared values of health and civic engagement leveraging approaches from European and Latin American communities, such as:
 - a. Creating peer learning environments where community leaders and community groups can share and learn from their different strategies for civic engagement and for the improved performance of public services;
 - b. Promoting cross-sector collaboration (between government agencies, NGOs, CBOs, private sector stakeholders, and community members) at the local, regional, state, and national levels to address health issues and improve health outcomes.

Recommendations for Operationalizing Social Cohesion in the United States

Our research in Latin American communities underscores the added value that work in the field of social cohesion could provide to the Culture of Health Initiative to improve health equality, sense of belonging, and cross-sector collaboration. More work is needed to determine, implement and evaluate effective social cohesion approaches that could be replicable within the United States. Taking this into account, the establishment of a National Program Center on Social Cohesion could serve as a central research and programming hub to advance the field of social cohesion. Through a focused grant mechanism, programs stemming from this Program Center would lead the nation in programming driven by social cohesion at a time when the United States is witnessing widespread evidence of social inequity, racial unrest and violence that inhibit wellbeing in the United States.

The National Program Center could be built on three cornerstones with the following areas of focus and preliminary objectives in each area:

Research to Advance the Field of Social Cohesion

- Support ongoing, current research and track work on social cohesion;
- Monitor development in policies that reflect a social cohesion perspective;
- Identify specific national and international social cohesion initiatives for replicability within the setting of achieving a Culture of Health.

Implementation Research for Evidence-Based Programming

- Engage in pilot testing and specific studies to improve measurement, understanding of key facilitators and barriers, and develop a US-appropriate logic model related to social cohesion.

Evaluation and Dissemination of Social Cohesion Programming and Messaging

- Examine, recommend and test common measures of social cohesion for both domestic and international use;
- Evaluate specific national and international initiatives that have promise to increase social cohesion;
- Disseminate findings robustly through traditional and social media.

Each of our research recommendations, based on our findings from Latin America, could be conducted under the umbrella of this National Program Center or through individual research efforts conducted through several channels including: RWJF or other grant-funded research; investigator-initiated research by program evaluators or implementation science researchers; or government agency scientists.

We envision that our recommended research topics can inform a long-term roadmap and that several topic areas might be combined into perhaps three or four distinct research efforts in tandem with the Culture of Health Action Areas. A fully operational National Program Center could convene researchers from across the country who would contribute to our understanding of the impact of social cohesion and the benefits derived from social cohesion programming to build a just, equitable and healthy society.

Operationalizing Social Cohesion in Latin America - Implications for the United States

ABSTRACT

This report explores the field of social cohesion: why it has become a priority to many entities; how and why social cohesion policies have evolved in Latin America; and how social cohesion is conceptualized in many parts of the world. It also identifies social cohesion interventions in Latin America and Europe to understand the components and processes of social cohesion interventions. We provide a comprehensive report of our findings, their implications and subsequent recommendations for applying social cohesion effectively to health-related programming in the United States. To produce these insights, we reviewed the scientific literature and conducted case study analysis of several emerging or proven initiatives founded on the principles of social cohesion. We also conducted and analyzed a series of stakeholder interviews with individuals working in the field of social cohesion, and we reviewed supplemental materials obtained through stakeholders and web searches. Thus, our findings about the field of social cohesion draw from peer-reviewed articles, grey literature, the interviews of stakeholders involved in social cohesion-driven programming, and supplemental materials from these programs. These results offer an overview of the landscape of the field within Latin America, how it has developed, what challenges and successes might be expected and some potential areas for further work. Finally, we link our findings of social cohesion strategies to the four Action Areas of the Action Framework of the Culture of Health.

Introduction

Today's contemporaries have given rise to thoughts and conversations about what it takes for a society to effectively work together for the betterment of all, recognizing that social cohesion is systemic to a group of people. Although social cohesion is a relatively old concept, it has more and more recently been recognized as a factor that affects the wellbeing of a society, the quality of institutions and the ability of societies to respond to various kinds of disasters and issues (Freiberg, 2011). Thus, acknowledging the importance of social cohesion, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has called for social cohesion in its action areas and seeks ways to integrate social cohesion strategies into programming to achieve equitable health and health care for all.

Perhaps the importance of social cohesion can be best illustrated by comments from representatives of the URB-AL social cohesion initiative, one of the case studies featured in this report. The respondents described the difference between their programming organized under a social cohesion rubric and other development programming organized under the rubric of equality, social capital or other factor, as being attributed to the positive

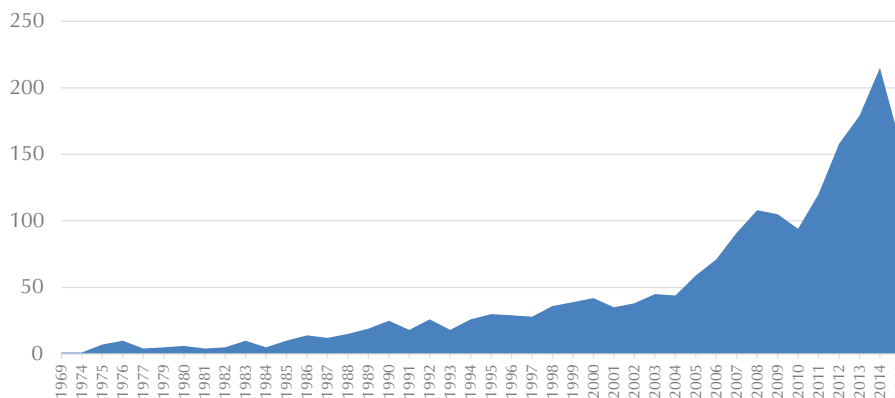
externalities that result from their programs rather than simply the programming itself. For example, they described doing things like building a sewage system, a road, or a town square that, in of itself is not social cohesion, but has the potential to foster social cohesion: "a square could really be a space of civic inclusion where you strategically make it go from an area of marginalization to an area of neighborhood communication..." The positive externalities that result from such activities are what many of these programs identified as a main priority and what really had the potential to create added value that is not typically seen or harnessed in other development programs.

This type of theme emerged from our research often and tells us that using social cohesion principles for policy and programming allows for both the identification of social gaps and inequalities while also building tools to address those issues to create greater social capital, social inclusion and social mobility. In the last few years, the field of social cohesion has gained significant traction and many have prioritized it as an area that needs further exploration and conceptualization (Bruhn, 2009). Social cohesion has also been prioritized by policy-makers and program developers globally to address emerging social issues (Jenson, 2010). To understand the field more completely, we provide a brief review of the history of social cohesion.

History and Field of Social Cohesion

The concept of social cohesion first emerged in the scientific literature in the 19th century when academics like Durkheim attempted to describe its components (Durkheim, 1884, 2014). Durkheim’s understanding of social cohesion was based on institutions that create bonds of solidarity, because of the fact that everyone participates and feels a claim of mutual obligation (Durkheim, 2014). However, at that time, there was no clear definition nor way of measuring it (Fenger, 2012). Since then, the concept has gained much momentum, has become an area of importance for various fields and entities, and has experienced a significant growth. A PubMed search of articles that used the term “social cohesion” for articles published from 1969 through June 2015 revealed that the literature, especially in the last 10 years, has grown considerably. (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Social cohesion research articles published, 1969 - present



Some studies in the literature have shown that social cohesion influences factors that affect health (Adler & Newman, 2002; Ahern, Galea, Hubbard, & Syme, 2009; Almeida, Kawachi, Molnar, & Subramanian, 2009; Altschuler, Somkin, & Adler, 2004; Clark et al., 2011; Craddock, Kawachi, Colditz, Gortmaker, & Buka, 2009; Fonner et al., 2014; Kim, Park, & Peterson, 2013; Lowe, Sampson, Gruebner, & Galea, 2015; Mair et al., 2010; Momtaz, Haron,

Ibrahim, & Hamid, 2014; Mulvaney-Day, Alegria, & Sribney, 2007; Neville, Furber, Thackway, Gray, & Mayne, 2005; Patterson, Eberly, Ding, & Hargreaves, 2004; Reitzel et al., 2013; Sherrieb, Norris, & Galea, 2010). Some of this research explores the micro- and macro-level effects of social cohesion and health (Cagney et al., 2009; Coburn, 2000). Positive associa-

tions between social cohesion and health outcomes or health behaviors were found in these studies illustrating that, when social cohesion was present, health outcomes or behaviors were better than when social cohesion was absent. However, much of the social cohesion research and programming remain outside of the field of health; additional research is needed to further explore some of these links and to develop effective ways of incorporating social cohesion into health.

Global Entities Working on Social Cohesion

Perhaps driven by the burgeoning scientific literature, social cohesion concepts, strategies and programs in the same time period as this growth in the literature have been adopted by various global entities that seek to promote and foster social cohesion in their areas of work. Several multinational organizations (e.g., Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD], Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean [ECLAC], the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] and the World Bank) have begun to place greater importance on issues of social cohesion (Jenson, 2010). In the 1990s, concerns about the limits of structural adjustment policies led the OECD to advise all of its members to take a “social investment approach for a future welfare state and new social expenditures focused on areas where returns are maximized in the form of social cohesion and active participation in society and the labor market” (Jenson, 2010). The OECD has developed recommendations for addressing issues of social cohesion in areas of fiscal and tax policy, employment and social protection, education, gender, migration, and civic participation (OECD Development Centre, 2011). More recently, the United Nations ECLAC has also created a greater focus on social cohesion as an important component for development, responding to the increases in the size of the informal sector and weak social protection coverage (ECLAC, 2007). ECLAC developed a list of three pillars of social cohesion, which include disparity, institutions, and belonging, with each pillar having its own separate indicators (Feres & Villatoro, 2010). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has also developed work on social cohesion, mostly relating to community security and social cohesion (CSSC). It has 13 CSSC programs in the following countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Macedonia, Papua New Guinea and Sudan (UNDP, 2009). It has also developed a Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index to: 1) map and monitor social cohesion and reconciliation over time; 2) assess whether a link existed between social cohesion and reconciliation; and 3) predict how these two indicators could be affected under differing hypothetical situations (Louise, Lordos, Ioannou, Filippou, & Jarraud, 2015).

The European Union is another entity that has developed programming on the concept of social cohesion. With the 1993 Treaty of Maastricht,

which established the European Union under its current name, tenets of the treaty were built on social cohesion principles to encourage sustainable and balanced progress (European Commission, 2004). The importance placed on social cohesion to improve lives of its citizens was further strengthened through the Treaty of Lisbon, which was established in 2007 and came into force in 2009 (European Commission, 2007). The Council of Europe Task Force on Social Cohesion developed a four-part strategy for the work of the EU in the field of social cohesion and advocated targeted recommendations to be implemented simultaneously as part of both top-down and bottom-up approaches. In effect, these approaches implemented social cohesion policies at the European, national, and local levels (Europe, 2010). Furthermore, in the last few years, the EU has started to expand its investment in the area of social cohesion to other parts of the world, (e.g., Latin America), by funding initiatives that implement programs to increase social cohesion.

Canada has also emphasized social cohesion within its research and policy agendas. In 1998, it established a social cohesion network and the Canadian senate produced a report on social cohesion (Mateo, 2008). The importance of policy within the social cohesion framework was recognized in Canada because “the perception that the forces of globalization were contributing to the exacerbation of social cleavages and weakening the traditional axes of community identification, including democratic values, mutual attachments, and willingness to engage in collective action” (Jeannotte, 2003). The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research has also established special research areas focused on social cohesion in its “Successful Societies” program founded in 2002. The program aims to identify the cultural and social frameworks that put societies on a path toward greater and more equitable prosperity by examining how an individual’s sense of identity and belonging within a culture can affect overall wellbeing.

Appendix 1, Entities Working in Social Cohesion, provides more detailed descriptions of work and programming in social cohesion from these groups.

Social Cohesion in Latin America

In Latin America, concerns about the effects of global economic trends and policies that had begun to erode the social fabric in many countries have led to the prioritization of social cohesion (Jenson, 2010). Specifically, two major trends that contributed to this erosion in Latin America and various other parts of the world are growing income and wealth inequality and the growing movement of people within and between countries, whether because of economic migration, humanitarian crises, or natural disaster (Piketty, 2014; Putnam, 2007). As a result of these and other global trends, unemployment and employment instability increased significantly (Tokman, 2007) and several factors threatened social cohesion: weak governance, disappearance of tra-

ditional resources, cultural inequalities, and a lack of a sense of belonging (Barcena, Prado, Beccaria, & Malchik, 2010). This led to increasing feelings of distrust in institutions and government, as well as inter-personal distrust (Ferroni, Mateo, & Payne, 2008). As a result, Latin American countries have made specific efforts to strengthen social cohesion in the region. The Ibero-America Summit in 2007 served as a key platform to encourage social cohesion strategies throughout Latin America (Shixue, 2008).

In addition to Latin American governments prioritizing social cohesion, multinational organizations, such as the EU, OECD, and ECLAC, have made social cohesion a priority (Barcena et al., 2010; European Commission, 2004) not only in Europe but in Latin American nations as well. Since 1999 and the Rio de Janeiro Summit, social cohesion has been featured prominently in dialogue between Latin America and Europe (Del Rio, 2010). As a result, initiatives and projects have developed policies and programming that foster and increase social cohesion, often by focusing on vulnerable populations. Thus, Latin America, along with the European entities sponsoring much of this work, has become a particularly interesting region to explore and to glean from its experiences.

Although the field of social cohesion has emerged in Europe and Latin America and there is a fair amount of recent scientific literature that discusses how to conceptualize social cohesion, less information is readily available about the effectiveness of social cohesion-driven programs and projects that have been implemented. Thus, our research worked toward several aims to expand our understanding of social cohesion, its benefits to civil societies and methods for implementing programming that seeks to foster social cohesion within a health and wellbeing framework.

Study Aims

The specific aims of our research taking place during 2015-2016 were:

1. To describe how social cohesion policies and interventions in Latin America have evolved, and identify cultural, social, and political factors that contribute to prioritization of social cohesion strategies in policy;
2. To identify social cohesion interventions that have taken place or are currently taking place in Latin America;
3. To understand the components (policies, etc.) and processes (actors, etc.) of social cohesion interventions;
4. To provide recommendations on operationalizing social cohesion programs in the United States.

Methodology

The findings discussed in this report come from peer-reviewed articles, grey literature, stakeholder interviews and supplemental information from individuals and their programs in the field of social cohesion. We identified peer-reviewed articles through searches on Google Scholar. We also obtained grey literature through Internet searches and, in some cases, the key stakeholders from our case studies provided materials (policies, pamphlets, guides, etc.) for our analyses.

We identified social cohesion interventions through a web-based scan and selected programs if they met three criteria: 1) had a focus on social cohesion; 2) were ongoing or recent (ended in last 3-5 years); and 3) had key stakeholders who could be contacted and interviewed. Based on these criteria, three programs from Europe and Latin America were selected for this research:

1. The Social Cohesion Laboratory I (Mexico)
2. The Social Cohesion Laboratory II (Mexico)
3. Integration, URB-AL III (Germany, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador)

Once we identified the programs, we contacted the stakeholders associated with the projects to obtain more information and their recommendations of other potential stakeholders. The resulting pool of individuals consisted of stakeholders directly related to the selected social cohesion projects, as well as individuals associated with other efforts in the field of social cohesion (e.g. program team members, local and federal government officials, researchers, policy-makers, planners, representatives from NGOs); these included the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), URB-AL, and EUROsociAL).

We designed an interview protocol based on eight domains known to be critical to large-scale interventions and programming: definitions; environmental context; development; implementation; outcomes; evaluation; sustainability; and stakeholder recommendations. A complete list of interview questions can be found in Appendix 3. A total of 17 interviews (Appendix 2) were conducted with persons in Mexico City (Mexico), Paris (France), Brussels (Belgium), Barcelona (Spain), Madrid (Spain), and Stuttgart (Germany). These interviews were transcribed verbatim, translated into English, reviewed and coded line-by-line, and sorted into the various domains of questions for analysis.

A more detailed description of the methodology can be found in Appendix 4.

Case Study Programs

The three main programs selected for our case study research are summarized below; full details of the programs can be found in Appendix 5.

The Social Cohesion Laboratory I was funded by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the government of Mexico and took place in various regions of Mexico from 2011 to 2014 (EEAS, 2015). The project had four general aims:

1. To review, renovate and systematize methodology for public policy and institutional practices;
2. To promote the articulation of efforts and capacities of government institutions, civil society and communities;
3. To foment the development of pilot projects in rural and urban environments; and
4. To develop spaces to systematically reflect on and exchange knowledge and experiences.

The thematic platforms under which the program was implemented were: urban poverty and empowerment; micro-regionalization, social participation, and decentralization of social programs; health systems; social security; tax administration; and international cooperation. The major activities that took place under these platforms were: the introduction of new coordination with various government institutions to revise and bring innovation to public policy methodology; engage NGOs in the development and implementation of public policy reforms; and implement ideas in the first two activities at the local level with a focus on rural poverty and development in the state of Chiapas.

Some of the expected results of the programs were to create: collaboration with relevant institutions at various levels; joint efforts between government at the state level in Chiapas and local communities and municipalities; a strengthening of interventions related to urban poverty, prevention of violence, civic participation, health, and social security systems; and the revision of planning processes, identification and financing of local development programs and actions, focused on rural poverty.

The Social Cohesion Laboratory II is funded by the EEAS and the government of Mexico. The project began in spring 2015 and is ongoing; it is taking place in Mexico City, Oaxaca, and San Luis Potosi. The goal of the Social Cohesion Laboratory II is to strengthen social cohesion in Mexico by promoting structural reforms that will reduce inequalities in access to public services, employment, justice, security, and human rights (EEAS, 2015). The specific aim of the program is to support institutions in Oaxaca and San Luis Potosi in the revision, adjustment, and implementation of public policies and institutional practices that will reduce inequalities by improving the performance of public services through more effective processes, innova-

tive and inclusive tools and mechanisms in planning, design, coordination, implementation, and supervision of public services.

The thematic platforms under which the program activities fall are: urban poverty and empowerment; micro-regionalization, social participation, and decentralization of social programs; health systems; social security; citizen security; and access to human rights and justice. Some of the activities of the program include: the support of the design and implementation of pilot initiatives for: 1) micro-regionalization, focus on social development, and funding; 2) basic mother/child health service provisions; and 3) access to formal job market for vulnerable populations; and 4) support for relevant institutions to establish thematic platforms for human rights, crime prevention, and participatory security.

The expected results of these activities are that the states of Oaxaca and San Luis Potosi will have integrated social cohesion agendas that articulate and coordinate social public policies, institutional practices, and public funding schemes that are based on lessons learned from the pilot initiatives; that the government agencies SRE and SETEC will have been strengthened in their ability to assess, revise, and implement public policies, institutional practices, and pilot projects designed to strengthen social cohesion; and that the capacity of civil society organizations to effectively participate in the design, implementation, and evaluation of social cohesion policies, programs, and projects will be strengthened.

Integration, a program of the URB-AL III initiative, was a social cohesion initiative funded by the European Commission to develop projects that increase social and territorial cohesion in various regions of Europe and Latin America. This project took place in seven different sites, which included regions in Germany, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador from 2009 to 2013. The specific aims of the program were to increase social cohesion in participating communities by increasing the power of local authorities and strengthening citizens' participation in order to improve living conditions in urban areas, to reduce social injustice, and to improve urban environmental quality for healthy living conditions.

The thematic platforms that helped to guide the program activities were the existence of principles for inner urban development and handling of spatial resources; the inter-sectoral and decentralized collaboration in urban planning; citizen participation, including those in marginalized groups, in development processes; and environmental management systems that allow for the identification, remediation and secure revitalization of brownfields. Some of the main activities of the program were: the holding of public meetings between government officials and local citizens to come to a consensus on what would be done; the holding of public events to encourage the participation by members of the society and private investors; train-

ing programs for collaborating on issues affecting the community; and the decontamination of brownfields and the creation of public spaces.

Some of the expected results of the program were: the promotion of sustainable urban development and increased efficiency for identifying and dealing with problems based on the implementation of new integrated planning processes; the promotion of interdisciplinary cooperation required for redeveloping rundown areas; increased inclusion of marginalized groups; contribution of a generic model that can be exported and used elsewhere.

Major Findings: From the Literature, Case Studies and Supplemental Materials

The following section contains our key findings and interpretation of results from our literature search and case study analyses. We present our findings in eight domains related to programming: definitions, context, development, implementation, outcomes, evaluation, sustainability, and stakeholder recommendations.

Domain 1: Definitions of Social Cohesion

Through the case study research and review of the literature, it became clear that the definition of social cohesion is as different as the programs that arise from it. There appears to be no real consensus on how social cohesion is defined; stakeholders described social cohesion in several different ways, and some had no definition at all. From the literature, we identified

19 different definitions from various fields of study, including sociology, psychology, political science, and policy. The definitions identified in the literature can be found in Appendix 6.

While the definitions were all quite unique, we did find some common words and themes used in defining social cohesion across the case studies and the reviewed literature. We conducted a word frequency analysis of the 19 definitions that were identified in the literature. The following are some of the most frequently used words in these definitions: solidarity, community, opportunity, values, norms, membership, respect, recognition, participation, belonging, inclusion, capital, shared, trust, tolerance, access, economic, institutions, and citizens. These words are reflective of the various dimensions of social cohesion and help to provide a basic understanding of the underlying values of the concept. Furthermore, we found that while there is an array of

definitions, the definitions by Kawachi and Berkman (Kawachi & Berkman, 2000), Jenson (Jenson, 1998), and Berger-Schmitt (Berger-Schmitt, 2000), are some of the most commonly cited in the literature.

Similarly, a word frequency analysis was conducted for the definitions identified in the stakeholder interviews and words were categorized into two groups. The first group featured both key actors in promoting social cohesion, as well as some of the key dimensions pertaining to the concept of social cohesion and included: rights, cohesion, citizens, democracy, interests, development, policies, inclusion, partners, and state. The second group of words focused on the conceptualization of social cohesion and highlights the various efforts to operationalize the concept. These include: variables, concept, indicators, measure, and define.

EIGHT DOMAINS OF SOCIAL COHESION

1. Definitions of Social Cohesion
2. Environmental Context of Social Cohesion
3. Development: Dimensions, Frameworks and Issues
4. Implementation
5. Outcomes
6. Evaluation of Social Cohesion-Driven Programming
7. Sustainability of Social Cohesion-Driven Programming
8. Stakeholder Recommendations

In our interviews, key informants were asked, “How do you define social cohesion?” Many responses emphasized the role of government in fostering social cohesion:

Social cohesion is something that is closely linked to the rights of citizenship, the State’s obligations towards its citizens and the citizens in respect to the State and the relationship between public and private.

Similarly, another stakeholder defined social cohesion as:

An orientation of the public policies that seek for the State to provide opportunities, provide capabilities and provide protection to citizens. It’s to support that—when speaking of skills, it has to do with education, opportunities have to do with employment and protection has to do with the situation of those who can’t fend for themselves; namely children, the elderly, the sick, the unemployed.

COMMONLY CITED DEFINITIONS OF SOCIAL COHESION

From Kawachi and Berkman: Social cohesion is the extent of connectedness and solidarity among groups in society: 1) The absence of latent social conflict—whether in the form of income/wealth inequality; racial/ethnic tensions; disparities in political participation; or other forms of polarization; and 2) the presence of strong social bonds—measured by levels of trust and norms of reciprocity (i.e., social capital); the abundance of associations that bridge social divisions (“civil society”); and the presence of institutions of conflict management (e.g., a responsive democracy, an independent judiciary, etc.). (Kawachi and Berkman, 2000)

From Berger-Schmitt: Social cohesion involves two analytically distinct “societal goal dimensions”; 1) reduction of disparities, inequalities, and social exclusion; and 2) strengthening of social relations, interactions, and ties. The second dimension embraces all aspects that are generally also considered as the social capital of a society. (Means-end approach) (Berger-Schmitt, R. 2000)

For additional definitions from the literature, see Appendix 6.

Other concepts reflected in some of the views of social cohesion were collective interests, belonging, and equity. Many interviewees thought their constituents had difficulty conceptualizing social cohesion but instead linked it to tangible factors, such as being employed. One interviewee, when referring to how individuals conceived social cohesion said,

What is the unifying element? ...there has to be capacity in the community for them to confront problems on their own, and generate a framework of synergies, of governance at the local level and then it can be moved to the macro level.

Perhaps most importantly, many alluded to the fact that, without a clear definition of social cohesion, programming would be difficult to operationalize:

...my biggest challenge was to urge them a bit to conceptualize to be able to operationalize. This was a challenge; it was teaching public administration that it would be impossible to operationalize something that is not defined. And it was not defined.

This lack of formal conceptualization of social cohesion was seen in many of the programs that we studied and

demonstrates that, in some cases, rather than having a formal conceptualization of social cohesion to guide the development of a program, there was instead the development of a more organic understanding of the concept as perceived by the people in the area where programs were implemented

We found other similar opinions about the necessity of a formal definition. One stakeholder when asked about definitions responded:

Look deep inside, we are guided without a definition but we manage fine because if we know how to measure it, it doesn't matter if we define it. If I know that social cohesion has a series of variables that characterize it, I don't feel the necessity of having a canonical definition. Instead, I can integrate social cohesion within an intermediate theory, not a macro-theory and be very empirical. I have to drive myself with a definition of cohesion through variables of measurement.

IMPLICATIONS

The wide array of responses received about definitions of social cohesion as well as the various different definitions encountered in the literature, make it clear that there is no real consensus about its conceptualization and could therefore present challenges for the operationalization of the concept. Based on our findings, it appears that the definitions of social cohesion, although informed by the literature, are adapted by an entity and its constituents to adequately address the issues, dimensions and strategies appropriate for achieving social cohesion under their given circumstances. While there have been efforts to formally conceptualize and measure social cohesion in various fields of research, this research has not necessarily been utilized by those who develop programming based on social cohesion principles, and this has led to an even wider array of definitions and forms of understanding the concept. Furthermore, the operationalization of these various definitions have taken many forms, mostly through programs that both seek to strengthen social cohesion while at the same time leveraging social cohesion to achieve better social outcomes.

While our interviewees mostly referred to the protection and promotion of human and social rights by governments, it should be noted that the use of the word citizen or the concept of citizenship could have the potential to be an exclusionary term. For example, in the US, the concept of citizenship is often used as a way to exclude those who are not citizens of the nation. Rather, the government obligation to protect its people should be considered to encompass all of those who live in the territory, whether they are considered citizens of the territory or not.

Domain 2: Environmental Context of Social Cohesion

We obtained information about the cultural, social and political characteristics of the environment in which the different social cohesion projects were undertaken. For the programs analyzed in our study, we explored how programs came to be funded, how decisions were made in selecting areas of work, the context (both global and local) and stakeholder influences. Major themes related to environmental context manifested from case studies and the literature as the cultural, social and political characteristics of an environment. They included: distribution of resources (how resources were provided and to whom); the justice system; inequalities; poverty; decentralization of governments; distrust; violence; corruption; and lack of transparency. Inequality and structural factors were among the most frequently cited. The coordinator of one of the programs we studied revealed that,

...in Latin America the issue of inequality is so brutal... You are either very, very poor or you are very, very, very, rich and there is this void in the middle. And this is a brutal social breach. So then how do you create this social cohesion?

Similar thoughts were shared by other stakeholders about the current situation in Mexico and how it drives a lot of the work that they carry out. Some of their thoughts included:

In terms of Mexico, and Latin America in general, we are encountering structural problems that are associated with inequality, poverty, violence...all of which are connected in some sense, and it is our duty in this to try and understand to work and correct this.

We believe that inequality is one of the great enemies of social cohesion. Very unequal societies will hardly be cohesive societies. So all of our efforts seek to end inequalities and to eliminate them; it is to provide those who are marginalized, who have no access to government services, [with the opportunity to access those services].

One key informant saw promise in embracing social cohesion because of a shift in the roles various actors play:

Social cohesion in Latin America is gaining ground in the political imagination of stakeholders, political, economic and social actors who have come to accept this idea [but] at first they had a hard time with it because...the state played only one role [to protect its citizens].

In the URB-AL Integration program, the uniting factors that characterized the selection of the different project sites was the fact that many cities in both Latin America and Europe had high levels of urban fragmentation due to abandoned urban spaces, which resulted not only in fragmentation, but also in social exclusion, and environmental injustice (Kirchholtes, 2013b). The use of social cohesion in their programming was seen as a key strategy to reintegrate the urban space and affected people in the surrounding areas. The contextual factors surrounding the Social Cohesion Laboratories were said to be the significant growth of the informal economy, increasing inequality, including health inequality, and polarization between different levels of governance (AMEXCID, 2015).

In Latin America, at the institutional level, issues of corruption, distrust, and lack of transparency, were seen as pressing issues that diminish social cohesion. One stakeholder mentioned that:

We obviously have the factor of corruption that is a terrible problem in this nation. There is a way to measure the high costs of corruption, the cost it has to Mexico in politics, to some it's almost 60% of available resources. The amount lost to corruption is high. So this generates a lot of distrust, crime, violence, because you don't trust the neighbor, your relations with them almost become nonexistent; you would never leave them in charge of your kids. There are many factors that cause damage. They also make us struggle if we plan to continue with the idea of social cohesion.

This is consistent with studies that have shown robust links between corruption and lack of social cohesion (Babajanian, 2012; Rocha-Menocal, 2015). In corrupt societies and dictatorships, it is likely that governments would not foster social cohesion as it can potentially be the well-spring of grassroots movements.

IMPLICATIONS

The projects studied were driven largely by the growing inequalities and societal trends occurring in the individual project sites. Each site had its own set of particular issues and needs, and the context of each project site helped to set the priority areas and the activities of each project. Although some of the areas in which projects took place were undergoing cases of extreme poverty or violence that were unique to those areas, the issues of growing inequality in the United States could potentially benefit from such strategies.

Domain 3: Development: Dimensions, Frameworks and Issues Addressed

To learn more about how programming was developed, interviewees were asked: “Which dimensions of social cohesion are reflected in each of your programs? “How did the program try to change or improve the areas of social cohesion as your program defines it?” “Was there a framework used to help guide the program?”

The dimensions that were mentioned by stakeholders were related to societal gaps in the areas where programs were implemented and included: social inclusion, equality, legitimacy, sense of belonging, human rights, civic participation,

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Belonging | Isolation |
| Inclusion | Exclusion |
| Participation | Non-involvement |
| Recognition | Rejection |
| Legitimacy | Illegitimacy |
| Trust | Mistrust |
| Collectivism | Individualism |
| Public provision of services | Private purchase of services |

These dimensions correspond to other findings of the dimensions of social cohesion (Gijsberts, Van Der Meer, & Dagevos, 2012; Jenson, 1998) (Table 1). In general, stakeholders felt that the dimensions were somewhat intangible but that social cohesion itself drove action by encouraging participation in the community and responding to the concepts of human rights.

Participants found it difficult to clearly identify how programs improved social cohesion or to discuss the framework used as the foundation for their social cohesion programming. Some cited a development framework guided by the EUROsociAL social cohesion initiative’s thematic and social areas:

We have a framework, guidance – We say we have 10 thematic areas and socially, two. We are willing to work with those countries that request from us in these thematic areas and with the idea of improving social cohesion, the fight against inequality, to create rights, to provide goods and services to citizens – if it matches with that, we will support them; that is we don’t impose anything instead we do a program which we work by the demand of public administrations.

For URBAL III’s Integration, the approach was to work through public policy before addressing “concrete needs” to address social cohesion.

When we first started with the URBAL – one of the requirements was that we don’t do the typical project that tends to the concrete need, but that it constructs public policy that contributes to social cohesion because the ultimate goal is social cohesion.

Issues addressed by the initiatives included: citizens' rights; inequality; corruption; transparency; human rights; youth issues; social protection; formality (i.e., formal economy); structural factors; and lack of trust in government. In some cases, social cohesion was considered to be the driving force to achieve or improve other issues being addressed; in other cases, social cohesion (or lack of) was the result of action. For example, the EUROsocial stakeholder commented, "EUROsocial is looking for cohesion to be produced through the fulfillment of the citizens' rights," and also admitted, "We believe that inequality is one of the great enemies of social cohesion." Others in Mexico felt that cohesive groups could be the actors for change, "...they wanted to see in what way civil society could influence the development of public policy, both locally and at the federal level."

As discussed in their supplemental materials, the URB-AL III's Integration program seeks to address these dimensions:

1. Productive and occupational dimension: equal access to employment and the benefits of economic growth
2. Social dimension: universal access to basic social services and public safety
3. Territorial dimension: reduction in territorial imbalances
4. Civic dimension: developing active citizenship
5. Institutional dimension: strengthening institutions and local taxation systems (Del Rio, 2010)

On the other hand, the Social Cohesion Laboratory II focuses on different dimensions, including:

1. Social development: micro-regionalization and focusing on the planning, supervision, and evaluation of social programs in a manner that is participatory
2. Quality and coverage of basic health services: in particular, focusing on mother/child health
3. Access to social protection mechanism for vulnerable populations: in particular, by facilitating access to the formal labor market (AMEXCID, 2015)

IMPLICATIONS

Understanding the underpinnings of social cohesion and related frameworks used to address community issues can help to identify potential issues to incorporate when developing and implementing social cohesion programs. Communities appear to tailor their approaches to addressing issues at either the micro or macro level, with social cohesion itself becoming a driver of action.

| Table 2. Strategies and programming resulting in intermediate outcomes |
|---|
| Strategies Used |
| Using peer-learning approaches and techniques |
| Creating cooperative protocols |
| Identifying priorities |
| Strengthening design of public policy |
| Building programming on system of justice, transparency, accountability from authorities |
| Creating partnerships with all sectors of the community at local level |
| ---Involving local businesses |
| ---Partnering with central government, with high-level officials |
| ---Coordinating programs through intra-institution approaches |
| Utilizing media (traditional and social) |
| Programming or Actions Implemented |
| Creating and passing public policy |
| Providing technical assistance to institutions |
| Working with institute of women, commission of human rights, commission of access to information and transparency |
| Creating mandate between key stakeholders to advance issues being addressed |
| Conducting survey / situational analysis on social cohesion and assessments of issues / strategies |
| Addressing determinants of social cohesion (poverty, social/economic/ethnic rights) |
| Developing a policy network of social cohesion |
| Conducting policy dialogs with private sectors within nation(s) |
| Providing funding for students to conduct activities built on social cohesion |
| Offering conditional cash transfer programs |
| Considering findings from SIGI (Social Institutions and Gender Index) |
| Creating spaces where leaders can be created (training) |
| Intermediate Outcomes |
| Analytical framework, concepts, methods replicable for other countries |
| Networks created to increase capacity and collaboration |
| Support materials developed (handbooks, best practices guidebooks) |
| Roadmap created for measuring and defining social cohesion |
| Training and workshops held on the conceptualization of social cohesion |

Domains 4 and 5: Implementation and Outcomes

We asked stakeholders to elaborate on the implementation of their projects in order to gain insight on the processes, methods, and tools used to achieve social cohesion outcomes.

Methods and approaches varied for each social cohesion initiative. Some of the methods and processes included: cooperation for policy design; creation of peer-learning environments; transfer of best practices; coordinating between institutions; creating capacities at the local level; leadership training; development of networks; workshops and seminars on social cohesion; creation of development plans; and looking at global trends for insights to provide better policy advice for development challenges. Strategies and actions for programming were often repeated by several respondents and led to similar intermediate outcomes (Table 2).

Figure 2 illustrates an operationalization of these implementation strategies often cited by the social cohesion initiatives. The logic model further elucidates how the efforts were driven by adverse situations and resulted in intermediate outcomes designed to reach the long-term goal of socially cohesive societies.

Another example of a framework for influencing social cohesion can be seen with the policy development strategy used by the EUROsociAL initiative (Figure 3).

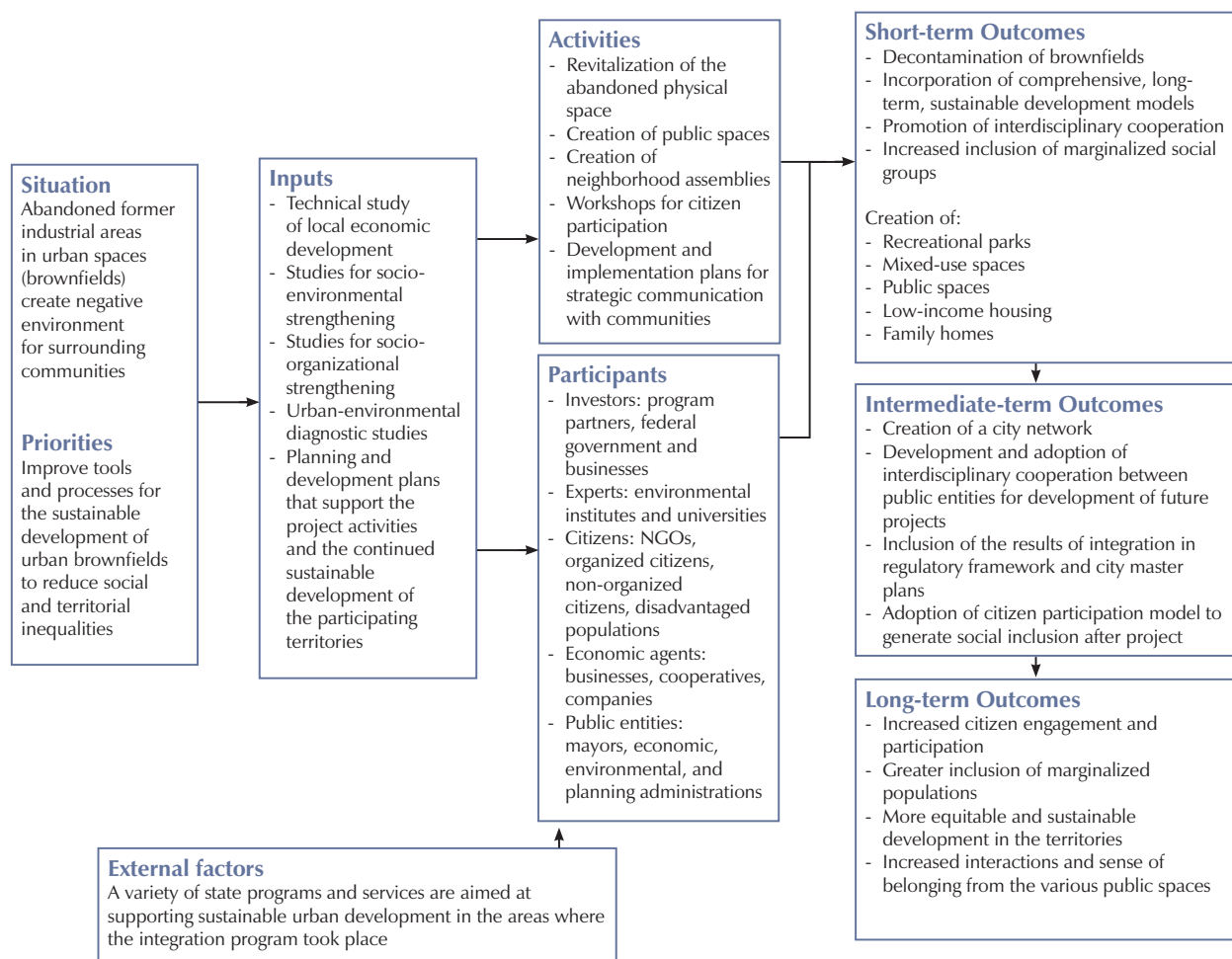
Aside from useful information about the implementation of programs, we also obtained information about some challenges that were encountered during implementation. Several of the interviewees found that multi-sector collaborations often proved to make implementation difficult because of contrasting ideas and goals, which may be short-sighted and lead to the loss of potential benefits. A representative of the URB-AL III initiative shared that:

Sometimes the issue you face when doing collaboration is that what [one group] wants sometimes is just money to do something, period... But sometimes the project is more important for the externalities it generates rather than the project itself.

Connected to this challenge of a lack of common goals, comes the challenge of collaboration between academics and policy makers. Social cohesion seems to be an area of work that requires input from both policy developers and academics, yet collaboration between the two was seen as difficult, as described by a representative of the Social Cohesion Laboratory I:

I think that the concept of social cohesion, there are some strong connections between the academia and public policy... I think one of the challenges is for the academics of Mexico to try and cooperate with public policy in a virtuous manner, synergetic and that the cooperation will be relevant at an international level.

Figure 2. Operationalization of social cohesion logic model: Integration, URB-AL III program

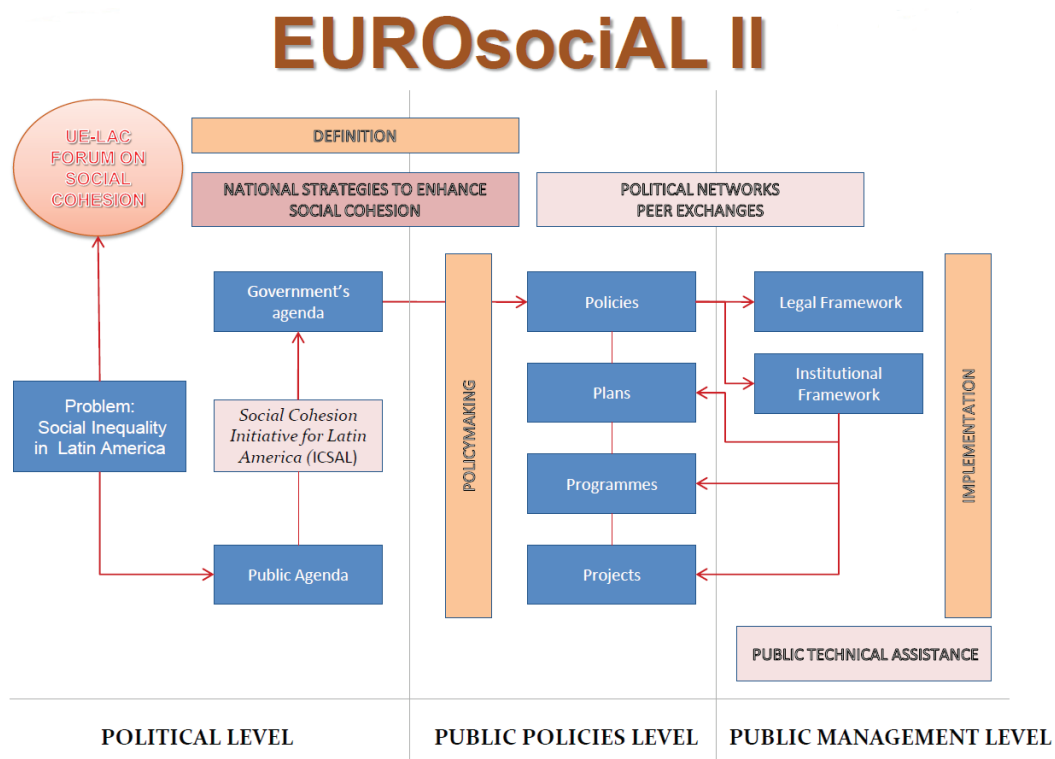


Finally, another pressing issue that affects implementation is a general lack of trust in institutions. As one interviewee mentions,

Distrust is an element that is very much present in Mexican society because of problems with violence, corruption, lack of transparency.

Distrust is a huge barrier not only to social cohesion but also to the efforts that seek to increase social cohesion. It makes it difficult for citizens to engage and become active when there are institutions involved that are not trusted; overcoming this lack of trust was mentioned to be very difficult.

Figure 3. EUROsociAL framework for influencing social cohesion



(FIIAPP & OECD Development Centre, 2011)

IMPLICATIONS

Implementation: Logic models can guide programming and provide a useful roadmap to reaching desired outcomes; both the URB-AL III and EUROsociAL II programs used comprehensive logic models after receiving feedback and agreement from stakeholders on inputs, outputs and desired outcomes. Strategies and programming studied (e.g., cross-sector collabora-

tion, individual engagement, participatory policy development) provide rich data and operational steps that may have potential for replication in other settings.

Outcomes: Social cohesion programming can achieve tangible intermediate outcomes; yet, there is a need for longer-term studies using specific methodologies to assess outcomes to prove sustainability of the outcome over time.

Domains 6 and 7: Evaluation, Sustainability of Social Cohesion-Driven Programming

Evaluation: In our attempt to determine whether the programs examined were successful in achieving their goals, we sought to collect information about measures of success or failure, about their tangible outcomes, and about their efforts to make their programs viable and sustainable. Such information was not very easily available, and there was, indeed, a significant lack of evaluation in general. Of the three initiatives studied, none had conducted comprehensive evaluation for long-term measurement. Some had conducted short-term assessments of programs but agreed that, “social cohesion success is measured in the medium- and long-term. If a country progresses, if poverty is reduced, if inequalities are diminished, we achieve cohesive societies.”

Most programs measured the impact of factors that affect social cohesion (e.g., social participation, nutrition, inclusion, health, social security, development, education, culture, income, employment, habitat, security, violence, etc.). Others analyzed success by the core items that steered programming within the actors of social cohesion (government, civil society, community and education). For short-term success, one stakeholder cited action taken, such as

*...our indicator for success? They want to change a law?
[Success is] that the law has been changed.*

The URB-AL III initiative has developed a comprehensive methodological guide that provides program planners a series of questions designed to evaluate the effects of projects on social cohesion. Sample evaluation questions from URB-AL III are presented below, while complete questions and examples of measures to evaluate the contribution of projects to components of social cohesion can be found in Appendix 8.

1. Equality and Inclusion:

- a. Does the project increase equality of opportunity in accessing basic rights and the conditions necessary to enjoy them, favoring specific groups or the whole population of marginal territories?
- b. Does it undertake actions, in one or more areas of society, directed at the social inclusion of specific groups of excluded people?

- c. Does it incorporate the gender perspective? How? (Is it specific, neutral, or redistributive?)
- d. Does it aim to create a universal social protection system or facilitate protection measures and services to prevent exclusion in the face of events and/or conditions that increase social vulnerability?
- e. Does it strengthen the service system intended to respond to situations of inequality and exclusion?
- f. Does it guarantee compatibility of the development of the territory with sustainable reproduction of environmental goods and services with the aim of providing them for future generations?

2. Participation:

- a. Does it promote, or is based on, a multi-actor system of governance in which private and civil subjects, well rooted in the local community and who democratically represent the interests of the groups or collectives affected by the policy in question, participate in the decisions and its assessment?
- b. Does it use mechanisms to integrate the opinions, needs, and proposals of the population interested in the policy/action/project in question into decision making also facilitating their involvement in the monitoring process?
- c. Does it combat phenomena that can arise with public participation?
- d. Does it incorporate the gender perspective in actions aimed at promoting public participation? How?

3. Legitimacy:

- a. Does it make public action transparency mechanisms effective?
- b. Does it bring service provision to the citizens' places of residence?
- c. Does it train public operators to be accountable to the public for their actions and provide better quality of services?
- d. Does it show a will to prevent and punish corruption and a commitment to justice?
- e. Does it promote or recognize the autonomous initiative, commitment and the implication of civil society to undertake activities of public interest based on the principle of horizontal subsidiarity?
- f. Does it act impartially?

4. Belonging:

- a. Does it produce initiatives that strengthen the practice of values shared by most of the local population?
- b. Does it show a capacity to deliberately promote general interests above corporate or private interests?

- c. Does it create or extend spaces for coexistence to all the public?
- d. Does it initiate mechanisms for mediation and reconciliation between different sectors of the public in conflict?
- e. Is it part of a strategic development plan based on an agreed vision of the future for the territory as an element for building a common identity for its inhabitants?

5. Recognition:

- a. Does it promote recognition and appreciation of differences in the framework of the values and rules of coexistence to all local society?
- b. Does it prevent and/or combat manifestations of intolerance towards people with marginalized identities?
- c. Does it implement affirmative actions in favor of groups that are historically victims of discrimination due to specific identities? (Del Rio, 2010)

In the literature, we found that, similar to the range of definitions, there were also many different ways that various actors and entities seek to measure social cohesion. There are tools that have been developed to measure social cohesion both at the micro and the macro level. The decision to utilize one tool over the other would likely be determined by the specific needs of each entity and by the availability of data to utilize those measures. It is likely that the more widely used measures would be those for which data could be easily accessed from existing data sets. However, there is no clear consensus on which measures are most viable or most appropriate to use. Appendix 7, Measures of Social Cohesion, summarizes our literature findings of various measurement tools and concrete examples for using the measures on both macro and micro levels.

Sustainability: Factors for Success. Interviewees gave some insights as to factors for success, most frequently citing: 1) a leader who understands the issues areas, process and goals of a project; and 2) capability of project sites to implement projects over the long-term. One program found that strengthening existing efforts vs introducing new projects was important to long-term success. Others found that technical assistance led to building capacity, including the engagement of civilians, which led to developing public policies that would live on beyond the program period:

Furthermore, the technical assistance has served to build capacities and they can, as a result, leave public policies that are more comprehensive, more coordinated, and with a very special component of citizen participation. This too is an important fundamental aspect of the institution, which is to incorporate organized sectors of civilian society in the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policy. So, municipal, state, and federal levels of government are left empowered.

The *Integration* project used these strategies to achieve sustainability:

1. Creation of a city network to help publicize program
2. Development and adoption of interdisciplinary cooperation between municipal public bodies
3. Inclusion of the results of Integration into public policies and the regulatory framework of city master plans (Kirchholtes, 2013a)

Sustainability: Barriers to Success. While several challenges and barriers were cited through the interviews, interviewees said that leadership was a critical factor for success: “The ability, the kindness or evilness of that leader and also our actions have accounted for some projects being successful and others being little or not successful whatsoever.” Some witnessed programs implemented but, with the end of program funding, little follow-up or long-term benefits were seen unless public policy had been instituted. One interviewee felt that it was difficult for academics and policymakers to cooperate in a way that was productive and synergistic. Others blamed lack of sustainability on the changing government administrations:

“...whether we would continue with another program like URB-AL IV...is a debate that is being tainted by the current European situation. They start a program, the period ends, and they stop the program and then there is no follow-up.”

IMPLICATIONS

Most stakeholders who were interviewed agreed on the importance of evaluation, although long-term evaluation had not yet been conducted on any of the programs studied. Nevertheless, the stakeholders and literature provided good input on factors believed to contribute to the success and sustainability of social cohesion-driven programs. These factors expressed by the interviewees could be considered in programming within the United States: a) having an informed leadership with an understanding of the issues to be addressed, goals of a project and processed for implementation; and b) building capacity in civilian, government and professional groups to lead to the effective implementation of programs and public policies for long-term sustainability.

Domain 8: Stakeholder Recommendations

Interviewees were asked to identify issues that would affect successful social cohesion efforts in the United States and actions they felt might be important to programming using social cohesion strategies. Inequality was the most often-cited issue and most agreed that the enormous inequality in the distribution of wealth of the country created more social exclusion, lack of integration, recognition and sense of belonging, with the resulting high levels

of poverty and violence. Key recommendations for action included: building networks to generate public opinion and increase capacity through collaborations; identifying stakeholders, partners, and leaders to spearhead social cohesion efforts; choosing an “entry point” with a tangible project that eliminates physical fragmentation (e.g., developing an urban space to help cities eliminate social and symbolic fragmentation); and analyzing existing surveys that can inform programming on the dimensions of social cohesion.

IMPLICATIONS

Perhaps summing up the sentiment from stakeholders and the literature, a member of our Expert Advisory panel suggested that an important goal for the United States could be to more effectively communicate to the public the importance of social cohesion and how it has been used to create successful systems. For example, social cohesion and solidarity have formed the foundation for the US social security and Medicare systems. Likewise, if communicated and used effectively, social cohesion could propel programming to improve health outcomes and wellbeing among Americans..

Conclusions

We identified several gaps at various levels of the operationalization of social cohesion in existing programming as well as in the literature. From conceptualization to the implementation and measurement of programs and policies, the operationalization of social cohesion is still very much in an exploratory stage. Work is needed to further develop the various ways in which social cohesion applies to different fields and contexts.

From the array of definitions that exist for social cohesion, it is apparent that there are many different interpretations of what it could mean, and subsequently how it could be measured. This was not only apparent in the literature that was encountered but also in the interviews that took place throughout the course of the project. Additionally, of the definitions and reports that were gathered, most came from the field of sociology and political science, and a much smaller portion of the literature came from the field of health. This leads us to believe that further work needs to be done on this topic as it relates to health.

In terms of measures, we found several different tools that have been developed to measure levels of social cohesion. Some are meant to be utilized to measure social cohesion at a more micro, neighborhood level, while others are designed to be utilized at the national or even international level. The measures are context driven and utilize an array of information. Some tools require the implementation of surveys, while others require information that is readily available from existing datasets. However, there is currently no consensus on which measures are more appropriate or effective for different contexts.

In considering how social cohesion relates to the field of health, it is

clear that much health research tends to look at individual-level factors for determining health behaviors or outcomes. However, as has been demonstrated in some of these studies, examining community-level and even bigger, macro-level factors can help to explain some health-related behaviors and health outcomes. These studies show that there is some association between health and social cohesion and suggests that additional research could help to reveal further significant relationships.

In general, there is abundant need for further exploration of social cohesion in the areas of: 1) conceptualization of social cohesion projects; 2) development of programming with proper, systematic evaluations to determine the actual effects of social cohesion strategies on communities' health and wellbeing; and 3) policy development and their potential for fostering social cohesion for the wellbeing of the population. Thus, in the following section, we provide specific recommendations on how to conduct research to address these areas.

Recommendations for Additional Research Needed

Our analysis of the body of research and active programming leads us to the understanding that social cohesion is a construct that acknowledges the need for equity and its importance to preserving human rights. Social cohesion involves the inclusion of all people, especially those most vulnerable, so that all individuals believe that there is a certain level of equity in society and can develop a sense of belonging and trust within their communities. Moreover, although many social cohesion programs that we encountered resembled what are generally considered to be development projects (i.e., addressed a particular societal issue such as water, education, gender discrimination, etc.), the programs differentiated themselves from general development projects by focusing on the positive externalities, or broader benefits, that can result from the activities of a program, rather than just the expected activity outcomes. According to many of the people we interviewed, the added value of projects that focus on increasing participation of individuals and increasing interactions between various groups of people achieved an increased sense of belonging and, thus, success in achieving project goals and could be specifically useful in making health a shared value to reach improved health outcomes.

In this section, we present approaches and recommendations for future work in the areas of research, programming, and policy development incorporating social cohesion principles, strategies and/or interventions (Figure 4). These recommendations are for consideration by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to weave into its research agenda for the Culture of Health, as well as for other grant makers or research institutions interested in advancing social cohesion.

Academic Research to Advance the Field of Social Cohesion

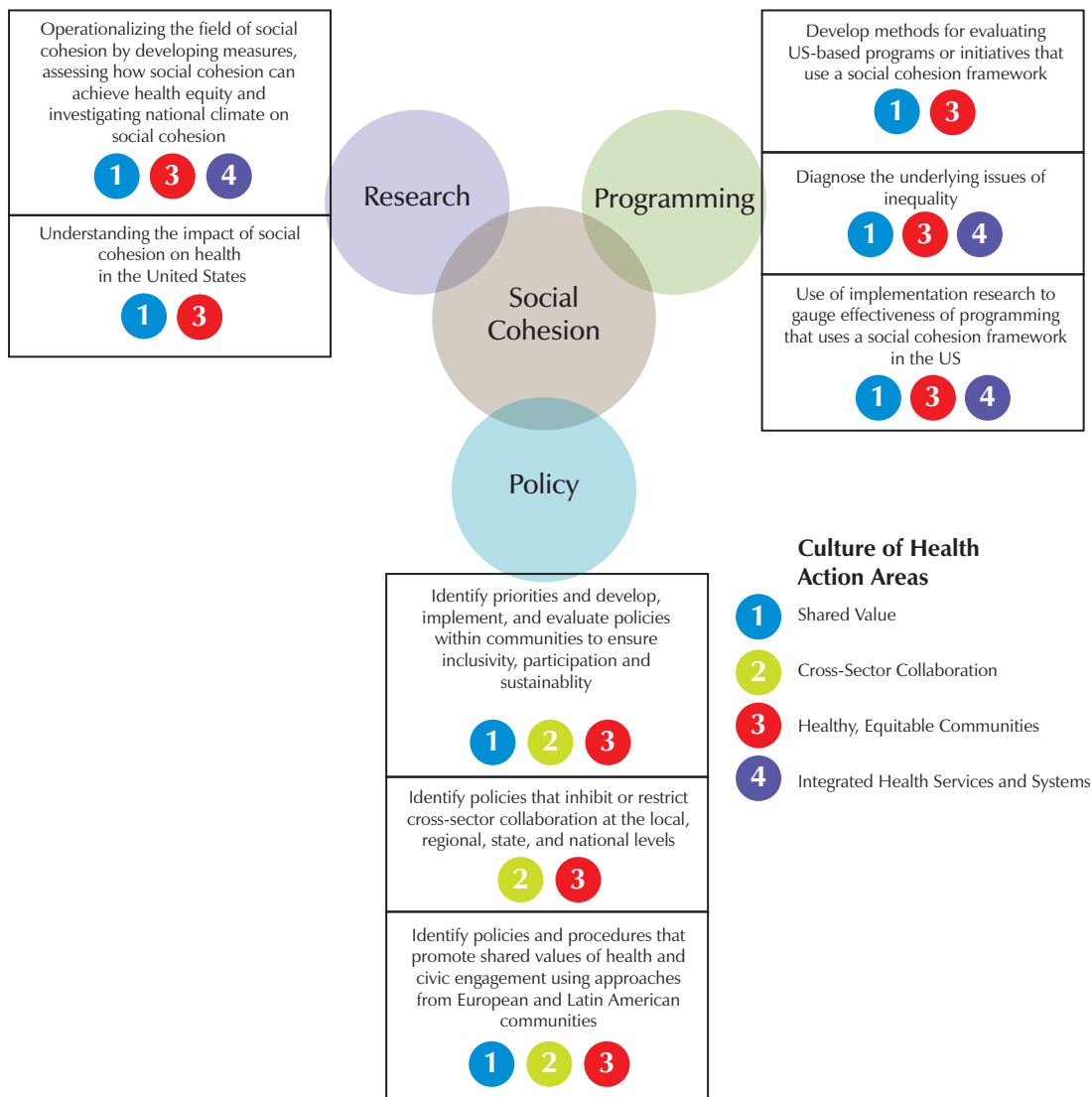
Research efforts in this area will offer evidence to support, inform and operationalize Action Area 1 (Making Health a Shared Value) and Action Area 3 (Healthy, Equitable Communities).

1. Operationalize the field of social cohesion by conducting the following:
 - a. Develop and validate measures of social cohesion and its various dimensions at different societal levels (micro, meso and macro) by establishing shared conceptual and operational definitions to inform the development of the measurement tools;
 - b. Assess how social cohesion programs and policies would contribute to achieving equity in health outcomes and how planning, implementation and evaluation would be affected;
 - c. Investigate “national climate”/status on the dimensions of social cohesion by adding questions to existing surveys that identify

gaps in programs or policies that seek to increase social cohesion and new surveys that examine individual perceptions on social cohesion.

2. Understand the impact of social cohesion on health in the United States:
 - a. Examine associations between health-related activities, social cohesion, and health outcomes. Does social cohesion directly or indirectly affect health outcomes (e.g. stroke risk, depressive symptoms, participation in physical activity, cigarette smoking, self-rated health, etc.)? If so, what are the pathways through which it does?

Figure 4. Work needed in the areas of research, programming and policy development related to social cohesion



- b. Explore the influence (positive or negative) of social cohesion on health gaps to assess its ability to be a direct driver of health equality and attendant equity considerations.

Programming Research to Advance the Implementation of Social Cohesion Strategies

Programming research efforts in this area will offer evidence to inform, support and operationalize Action Area 1 (Making Health a Shared Value), Action Area 3 (Healthy, Equitable Communities), and Action Area 4 (Integrated Health Services and Systems).

1. Develop valid, systematic methods for evaluating emerging, US-based programs or initiatives that use a social cohesion framework as defined by our preliminary findings;
 - a. Examine the level of social cohesion in a community and compare to a levels of social cohesion found within a community project that uses a social cohesion framework (including any program that seeks to strengthen social cohesion, seeks to leverage social cohesion to improve other outcomes, or both);
 - b. Assess the development of “positive externalities” (i.e. various dimensions of social cohesion) from a community project or activity focused on improving or promoting health and equity in a community setting. Explore conditions, if any, under which social cohesion engenders harmful external benefits.
2. Diagnose the underlying issues of inequality through diagnostic studies. For example, identify physical spaces that are detrimental to the environment and health of the community and engage stakeholders in development of plans for mitigation.
3. Gauge effectiveness of social cohesion programming in the United States through implementation research
 - a. Conduct demonstration project to:
 - i. Test and measure the benefits, feasibility, process implications, etc. of social cohesion strategies used to promote health and equity in the US community.
 - ii. Evaluate the impact of social cohesion programming on creating healthier and more equitable communities.

Policy Research on Issues Relevant to Social Cohesion

Policy research efforts in this area will offer evidence to inform, support and operationalize Action Area 1 (Making Health a Shared Value), Action Area 2 (Cross-Sector Collaboration), and Action Area 3 (Healthy, Equitable Communities).

1. Identify priorities and develop, implement and evaluate policies within communities to ensure inclusivity, participation and sustainability.

2. Identify policies that inhibit or restrict cross-sector collaboration at the local, regional, state and national levels.
3. Identify policies and procedures to promote shared values of health and civic engagement using approaches from European and Latin American communities, such as:
 - a. Creating peer learning environments where community leaders and community groups can share and learn from their different strategies for civic engagement and for the improved performance of public services;
 - b. Promoting cross-sector collaboration (between government agencies, NGOs, CBOs, private sector stakeholders, and community members) at the local, regional, state, and national levels to address health issues and improve health outcomes.

Recommendations for Operationalizing Social Cohesion in the United States

Our research in Latin American communities underscores that work in the field of social cohesion could provide added value to the Culture of Health Initiative Action Areas to improve health equality, sense of belonging, and cross-sector collaboration. Yet, for US communities, more work is needed to determine effective approaches based on the social cohesion framework. Taking this into account, our overarching recommendation is the establishment of a National Program Center on Social Cohesion to serve as a central research and programming hub that would advance the field of social cohesion. Through a focused grant mechanism, programs stemming from this Program Center would lead the nation in programming driven by social cohesion at a time when the United States is witnessing widespread evidence of social inequity, racial unrest and violence that inhibit wellbeing in the United States.

The Program Center could have the following areas of focus:

1. Support ongoing, current research and track work on social cohesion;
2. Encourage research and evaluation of specific national and international initiatives that have promise to increase social cohesion;
3. Engage in pilot testing and specific studies to improve measurement, understanding of key facilitators and barriers, and develop a logic model related to social cohesion;
4. Monitor development in policies that reflect a social cohesion perspective;
5. Examine and recommend common measures of social cohesion for both domestic and international use.

The National Program Center could be built on three cornerstones with the following areas of focus and preliminary objectives in each area:

Research to Advance the Field of Social Cohesion

- Support ongoing, current research and track work on social cohesion;
- Monitor development in policies that reflect a social cohesion perspective;
- Identify specific national and international social cohesion initiatives for replicability within the setting of achieving a Culture of Health.

Implementation Research for Evidence-Based Programming

- Engage in pilot testing and specific studies to improve measurement, understanding of key facilitators and barriers, and develop a US-appropriate logic model related to social cohesion.

Evaluation and Dissemination of Social Cohesion Programming and Messaging

- Examine, recommend and test common measures of social cohesion for both domestic and international use;
- Evaluate specific national and international initiatives that have promise to increase social cohesion;
- Disseminate findings robustly through traditional and social media.

Each of our research recommendations, based on our findings from Latin America, could be conducted under the umbrella of this National Program Center or through individual research efforts conducted through several channels including: RWJF or other grant-funded research; investigator-initiated research by program evaluators or implementation science researchers; or government agency scientists.

We envision that our recommended research topics can inform a long-term roadmap and that several topic areas might be combined into perhaps three or four distinct research efforts in tandem with the Culture of Health Action Areas. A fully operational National Program Center could convene researchers from across the country who would contribute to our understanding of the impact of social cohesion and the benefits derived from social cohesion programming to build a just, equitable and healthy society.

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Appendix 1: Entities Working on Social Cohesion

EU– Council of Europe Task Force on Social Cohesion

The Council of Europe Task Force on Social Cohesion developed a four part strategy for Europe's work in the field of social cohesion and advocate targeted recommendations. They suggest that these recommendations should be implemented simultaneously as part of both top-down and bottom-up approaches. In effect, these approaches would execute social cohesion policies at the European, national, and local level.

The four part strategy:

1. Reinvesting in social rights and a cohesive society
 - a. Offer all citizens equal opportunities while providing additional support for disadvantaged situations
 - b. Create conditions for all citizens to have full access to social rights; overcome barriers created by institutional language, eliminate discrimination and double standards.
 - c. Ensure persons in vulnerable situations receive income support and have access to health care and social and financial services.
 - d. Involve all stakeholders in guaranteeing sustainability of universal social rights
 - e. Promote advancement of social links, networking and solidarity as approaches to job creation. Assist initiatives and entrepreneurs of environmental and socially sustainable projects
 - f. Promote family stability
 - g. Ensure that everyone has access to adequate housing and also that vulnerable people can avoid excessive debt
2. Building a Europe of shared and social responsibilities
 - a. Create environment for sharing of social responsibilities between public officials, citizens and relevant stakeholders
 - b. Provide incentives for stakeholders to make decisions based on the wellbeing of all
 - c. Guarantee transparency in policy decision making process. Allow all stakeholders a forum to debate policy vision and content
 - d. Instate procedures where citizens can express their social cohesion expectations
 - e. Encourage minority and immigrant representation, particularly in public services
 - f. Establish transparency in public expenditure objectives
 - g. Measure progress in terms of inequality reductions on top of economic metrics like GDP growth rate
3. Strengthening representation and the democratic decision making process and developing social dialogue and civic engagement.
 - a. Involve citizens not just in the democratic process of choosing officials, but also in the execution and evaluation of resulting policies
 - b. Guarantee appropriate and adequate structures of representation that encourage all members of society to participate, including vulnerable minority groups.
 - c. Create guiding principles for legislation and policy that include: integration of specific groups of vulnerable citizens, independent living, non-discrimination, and full participation of community life.

4. Building a secure future for all
 - a. Form an environment of shared vision of wellbeing, with regard to future generations, with citizens and other stakeholders
 - b. Guarantee a peaceful environment for children to develop and grow.
 - c. Develop special provisions for the promotion of social mobility that support disadvantage youth
 - d. Encourage policies that help young men and women strike a sustainable balance between profession and private lives as well as civic engagements
 - e. Develop relevant political solutions to address paramount current challenges such as: peace, security, social justice, and economic efficiency. These solutions must take into account: a fair distribution of resources, a healthy environment, and future generations' rights to wellbeing.
 - f. Examine a new vision of security that focuses on non-material values such as social links and solidarity
 - g. Recognize the importance of older citizens in society by providing adequate and sustainable pensions and support services
 - h. Focus on sustainable social security systems
 - i. Support the family unit as the first conduit of social cohesion (Europe, 2010)

FIIAP International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies - (Information has been taken from the European Commission Website)

One of the major investments in social cohesion programming by the EU in Latin America is the EUROsociAL initiative. The International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAP) is the implementing organization of EUROsociAL, which aims to support institutions and public policies that improve social cohesion in Latin America. The latest version, EUROsociAL II, focuses on the following:

1. Universal access to quality social services and the advancement of the young and youth rights
2. Fiscal systems and public finances geared towards redistribution and expenditure efficiency
3. Decentralization, social dialogue, and democratic institutionalism
4. Public Safety and equal access to the justice system (European Commission, 2015)

Social Cohesion Laboratory I and II

The Social Cohesion Laboratories I and II are social cohesion programs that are funded by the European External Action Service and the Government of Mexico. The two entities collaborate to increase social cohesion in various part of Mexico by supporting the creation of structural reforms to ensure that citizens are able to have access to good quality public services. Additionally, the Laboratories seek to review, revise, develop and implement policies and practices that increase social cohesion through public sector programs (EEAS, 2015).

URB-AL III: Regional Cooperation Program

URB-AL III is a social cohesion initiative that was funded by the European Commission and took place in various regions of Europe and Latin America. Sub-national governments collaborated to develop and implement a series of projects that would produce policies that promote social cohesion across various sectors (European Commission).

The URB-AL III initiative has been structured around the following dimensions:

1. Institutional strengthening and local taxation
2. Productive and occupational dimension
3. Social dimension with universal access to basic social services and public safety
4. Civic dimension with the construction of active citizenship
5. Territorial dimension with reduction of territorial inequalities (EuropeAid)

OECD- Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development-

Information has been taken from OECD report Perspectives on Global Development 2012 (OECD Development Centre, 2011)

OECD observes social cohesion through three equally important instruments: social inclusion, social capital and social mobility

Fiscal & Tax Policy

OECD recommends that countries de-link expenditures from the volatility of current revenues. Predictable fiscal space is needed to finance development expenditure priorities. The organization also recommends that governments save during good times to maintain investments in recessions. Also, the body recommends the development of semi-autonomous tax collection agencies. These agencies, combined with expenditure policy reform in regards to providing better public services, create a “fiscal exchange” where services received are linked with taxes paid. Consequently, citizens observe a “virtuous circle.”

Employment and Social Protection

OECD recommends reforms setting out guarantees for workers and collective bargaining systems. Also, the organization affirms that protecting workers does not necessarily mean protecting jobs. As economies develop, they recommend advancing an agenda that secures income through social protections such as unemployment insurance and assistance rather than job security. They suggest income support while out of work, during old age, and in the form of many public services that include healthcare. OECD recommends that the active use of minimum wages should not be a substitute for effective social policy or for ensuring that labor markets institutions fulfill their price-setting role efficiently. OECD advocates being wary of costly and distortionary subsidies that are regressive such as fuel subsidies.

Education

OECD suggests that a key objective should be to minimize the differences in individuals’ abilities to benefit from formal schooling. For example, over 200 million children are estimated to not be able to reach their development potential because their growth has been stunted or they have deficiencies in iron and iodine. They also recommend lowering the cost of continuing education through conditional cash transfers and food for education initiatives based on school enrollment and attainment. In addition, the organization recommends closing the gender gap by fostering gender-sensitive school policies and facilities. Furthermore, curriculums should be changed to encourage participation of children from disadvantaged groups. Techniques should foster diversity and enhance positive perceptions of others within the system and society.

Gender

OECD recognizes that many social institutions are at the core of existing power relations. Thus, changing this dynamic is challenging. They suggest increasing women's access to credit and technology, as well as providing conditional cash transfers targeted at transforming discriminatory social institutions such as forced and early marriages. Last, the organization states that property and inheritance rights for women need to be guaranteed.

Migration

The trend of migration between developing countries has increased greatly over the last 20 years and is likely to intensify in the future. Examination of the history of integration in OECD countries suggest that the earlier that immigrant destination countries address the issue of immigration, the more successful policy interventions will be. In addition, migration related social cohesion goes beyond anti-discrimination measures. A set of social employment, education and housing measures should be developed. Also, there is a need to improve native-born citizens' perceptions of immigrants. Moreover, bonds between immigrants and locals should be fostered. Another recommendation is to promote social mobility for immigrants by improving labor market mobility and making entrepreneurship easier. Last, a process for matching skills and encouraging education among immigrant populations should be developed.

Civic Participation

OECD recognizes that the process of policy making is as important as the policies being made. It is important for sustained growth that policy is inclusive and brings in the views of all stakeholders. OECD sees promoting civic participation and decentralization as goals in their own right in addition to being a powerful tool in service delivery.

First, countries should focus on strengthening civil service and quality of regulation by improving human resource management in public employment and using "performance based budgeting" mechanisms. Second, horizontal cooperation across ministries is needed. Third, decentralization and local capacity building is important, but roles need to be negotiated to insure accountability. On that note, vertical and horizontal co-ordination is needed and the center government must take an active management role. (OECD Development Centre, 2011)

ECLAC (CEPAL in Spanish) United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-

ECLAC developed a list of 3 pillars of social cohesion: *disparity*, *institutions* and *belonging*. Within the *disparity* pillar, there are 7 indicators: poverty and income; employment; social protection; education; digital gap; health; consumption and access to services. In the *institutions* pillar there are 6 indicators: democratic system; rule of law; corruption reduction; justice and human security; public policy; market institutions. Last, within the *belonging* pillar there are 5 indicators: multiculturalism, social capital; expectations for the future; social integration and membership; and pro-social values.

Based on the promotion of these indicators, ECLAC recommends that social cohesion become part of national agendas within the region. Actions that are com-

mon to all national agendas include: increasing production opportunities, encouraging the development of personal capabilities, and developing more inclusive safety nets to deal with vulnerabilities and risks. With these in mind, ECLAC advocates a social cohesion contract for individual countries within Latin America and the Caribbean (Feres & Villatoro, 2010)

Canada

The Social Cohesion Network (SCN) began to engage policy researchers in conversations about social cohesion in 1997. They have determined areas where social cohesion is important in Canada and need to be better understood are:

1. Participation, citizenship, and governance
2. Income distribution, equity, inclusion, and access
3. Respect of diversity with attention to immigration and integration
4. Enhancing opportunities in aboriginal communities
5. Peace, Safety and Security
6. Information technology, new economy, globalization and integration.

They have proposed frameworks for enhanced connections between policy research and actual practices in the community (Bittle, 2001).

Additionally, the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) has developed work in the area of social cohesion under two of its focus areas. One of the focus areas is on Social Interactions and Wellbeing, and it seeks to forge a new social science based on the concepts of identity, social interactions, and subjective wellbeing. It includes work from the fields of economics, political science, and sociology (<http://www.cifar.ca/social-interactions-identity-and-well-being/>). The other focus area that features work on social cohesion is the area of Successful Societies, which is a program that “aims to identify the cultural and social frameworks that put societies on a path toward greater and more equitable prosperity.” It includes the disciplines of sociology, political science, economics, public policy, social psychology, and history (<http://www.cifar.ca/successful-societies/>).

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme

UNDP has devoted much work to Community Security and Social Cohesion (CSSC). It has 13 CSSC programs in the following countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Macedonia, Papua New Guinea and Sudan. The organization recognizes that the number of violent conflicts is decreasing worldwide. Yet the level of social violence is at its highest ever. Reasons for this violence are absence of rule of law, organized crime, failing governance, corruption, limited opportunities for youth, migration, inequality and cultural issues. UNDP developed an approach to enhance security and social cohesion.

Their approach is based on 9 key elements:

1. Enhancing governance at the local level by emboldening local institutions and promoting popular participation in the political process.
2. Rule of law needs to be strengthened and the justice system should be made accessible to everyone.
3. Conflict prevention and peacekeeping support
4. Providing alternative opportunities for income generation and better livelihoods.
5. Empowering women to assume leadership roles in recovery efforts.
6. Enhancing community environment and improving public service delivery.

7. Integrating former combatants and others associated with armed groups into the community.
8. Addressing the proliferation of the means to commit violence. Take action against the demand for weapons
9. Approaching crime and violence from a public health perspective.

UNDP recognizes that these approaches to security need to be taken at the National, Provincial/municipal and local levels. (UNDP, 2009)

UNDP has also developed and Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index to map and monitor social cohesion and reconciliation over time, assess if there is a link between the two ideas and predict how these two indicators could be affected under differing hypothetical situations. (Louise et al., 2015)

Appendix 2: List of Interviews Conducted

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Head of America's Desk, OECD Development Centre | Wednesday, July 15, 2015 |
| Head of Research, OECD Development Centre | Wednesday, July 15, 2015 |
| Coordinator, Youth Inclusion Project, Social Cohesion Unit, OECD Development Centre | Wednesday, July 15, 2015 |
| OECD Development Centre Representative | Wednesday, July 15, 2015 |
| Professor of Public Health, Antwerp Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Queen Mary, University of London | Monday, July 20, 2015 |
| Professor, Departament de Filologia i Comunicació, Universitat de Girona (URB-AL III Consultant) | Thursday, July 23, 2015 |
| URB-AL III Coordinator | Friday, July 24, 2015 |
| URB-AL III Representative | Friday, July 24, 2015 |
| Coordinator, Technical Unit of Public Finance and Democratic Governance, FIIAPP, EUROsociAL | Tuesday, July 28, 2015 |
| External Consultant for the Social Cohesion Laboratory I | Wednesday, June 24, 2015 |
| International Cooperation Expert, Social Cohesion Laboratory I | Thursday, June 25, 2015 |
| Coordinator, Social Cohesion Laboratory I | Friday, June 26, 2015 |
| Coordinator, Social Cohesion Laboratory II | Friday, June 26, 2015 |
| Advisor, Ministry of Social Development, Mexico (SEDESOL) | Thursday, June 25, 2015 |
| Emeritus Representative of the United Nations | Friday, June 26, 2015 |
| Social Cohesion Laboratory Expert | Friday, June 26, 2015 |
| Coordinator, Integration Project, URB-AL III | Friday, September 04, 2015 |

Appendix 3: Case Study Interview Questions

1. How do you define social cohesion? (**Definitions**)
 - a. Thinking about your country/region/city, what are some examples of programs that reflect the principles of social cohesion that you have defined?
 - b. Thinking about your country/region/city, what are some examples of programs that reflect principles of social cohesion defined differently than how you define it?
 - c. How did these programs define social cohesion?
 - d. Did the definition of social cohesion used for this program change over time?
2. What do you believe were some of the important cultural, social, and political factors that influenced the development of this program? (**Context**)
 - a. How did the programs come to be funded and developed?
 - b. How were the particular problems or issue areas to work on decided?
 - c. How would you describe the environmental context in which this program was established?
 - d. How did this particular item make it onto the agenda of policy makers?
 - i. Social movements are a way to bring issues into public view and public discourse. Were social movements involved in promoting the programs that were discussed here? If yes, how?
3. What about these programs demonstrates that they are aimed at achieving social cohesion? (**Development**)
 - a. Which dimensions of social cohesion are reflected in each of the programs you mentioned?
 - b. How did the program try to change or improve the areas of social cohesion that you mentioned in your definition?
 - c. Was there a framework that was used to help describe and guide the purposes and goals of the program?
 - d. What are the issue areas being addressed by the program?
4. How was the program implemented? (**Implementation**)
 - a. What processes or methods were used in the implementation of the program?
 - b. What were the different tools used in the implementation of the program and how were they used?
 - c. Who were the stakeholders (other entities or organizations) involved in the implementation of the program and what were their roles?
 - d. Was the program implemented as planned?
 - i. What are the different things that needed to be changed during the implementation of the program?
 - ii. What affects the successful implementation of a program?
 - e. What are some challenges that have been encountered?
5. How was the success of the program in achieving or contributing to social cohesion assessed? (Short term, intermediate term, and long term?) (**Outcomes**)
 - a. What measures were used in the evaluation of the program?
 - b. What are the mechanisms that were assessed during the evaluation?
 - i. Did the program improve social inclusion?
 - ii. Did the program improve social capital?
 - iii. Did the program improve social mobility?
 - iv. Were there any other types of improvements, changes of benefits to

- citizens achieved by these programs?
- c. How were things different across sites (measures, outcomes, etc.)? Why?
 - d. How would you rate the program you mentioned in its ability to achieve or contribute to social cohesion?
 - e. For any programs that you considered to be unsuccessful, what were the barriers or challenges to achieving or contributing to social cohesion for these particular programs?
 - f. For programs that you considered to be successful, what were the factors that made this program or approach successful?
 - g. Are you aware of any other programs or policies that may have interacted with or influenced the outcomes of the program?
6. What was done to continue the work of this program after the program ended? **(Sustainability)**
- a. What are the main challenges for policy making for social cohesion in your country/city/region?
 - b. What are the commitments that governments have to continue to support work on social cohesion?
 - i. How have government commitments to social cohesion been affected by this program?
 - ii. How would similar programs be supported or prioritized and continued?
7. What are some recommendations for the United States?
- a. What are some of the issues present in the United States?
 - b. What are some actions steps that can be taken?
8. What are some tangible outcomes of the program?

Do you have any additional comments or thoughts you have that you would like to share about social cohesion programs?

Appendix 4: Research Methodology

Peer-reviewed Literature, Grey Literature and Supplemental Information

The information for this report comes from peer-reviewed articles, grey literature, and supplemental information from interviews conducted with individuals working in the field of social cohesion. Peer-reviewed articles were identified through searches on Google Scholar using the search terms “social cohesion” (239,000 results), “social cohesion Latin America” (11 results), “Latin America social cohesion” (10 results), “social cohesion and health” (709 results), “social cohesion definitions” (28 results), “operationalization of social cohesion” (13 results), “social cohesion measures” (177 results), and “social cohesion indicators” (550 results). The search results were then scanned for relevance to the field of social cohesion and number of citations per publication. The publications with the most citations were read, and citations of these articles were also reviewed to determine if they would reveal further peer reviewed articles or relevance.

The grey literature that helped to inform this report was obtained through various internet searches, where the same terms mentioned above were searched, with the addition of other terms: “social cohesion programs” and “Latin America” (247 results), “social cohesion projects” and “Latin America” (393 results), “social cohesion initiative” and “Latin America” (227), and “social cohesion interventions” and “Latin America” (246 results). This resulted in several documents and websites that were included in our analyses. Additionally, we obtained some of the grey literature from several of the key stakeholders who were interviewed as part of the case study research of the project.

Criteria for Selecting Case Studies

For the purposes of this project, we consider a social cohesion intervention to be any project or program that specifically seeks to increase social cohesion in the area where it is implemented.

Social cohesion interventions were identified for the project initially through a web-based scan. The scan consisted of searching the terms “social cohesion,” “social cohesion in Latin America,” “social cohesion projects,” and “social cohesion initiatives.” Searches yielded websites for social cohesion initiatives, articles, reports, and academic literature about social cohesion interventions, and other grey literature regarding social cohesion. From that initial scan, a list was created of potential interventions to be considered for inclusion as a case study. Individuals associated with these interventions at various levels were identified and contacted to obtain more information and to inquire about other potential interventions. The information gleaned from the web-based search and the contacts that were made were reviewed by project team, and selected on these criteria:

1. The intervention had a focus on social cohesion
2. The intervention is either ongoing or recent (ended in the last 3-5 years)
3. Intervention stakeholders can be contacted and interviewed

Key Stakeholder Interviews

Once projects within the social cohesion programs were identified, stakeholders associated with the projects were contacted via email for more information. These stakeholders were given a brief description of the project and the project's goals and asked if they would be interested in participating. The initial stakeholders were then asked to recommend other people who they thought were key individuals in the development and implementation of their social cohesion project(s). The recommended individuals were also contacted via email, provided with a description of the project, and asked if they would be willing to participate. The resulting pool of individuals consisted of stakeholders directly related to the selected social cohesion projects, as well as individuals associated with other efforts in the field of social cohesion.

Social cohesion stakeholders included:

- a. Program team members
- b. Local and federal government officials
- c. Researchers
- d. Policy-makers
- e. Planners
- f. Representatives from NGO's

Interview Questions

An interview protocol was designed based on eight domains known to be critical to large-scale interventions and programming in the public domain: definitions, context, development, implementation, evaluation, outcomes, sustainability, and recommendations. The purpose of interview questions by domain are summarized below;

- a. Definitions: To explore information about how stakeholders and their programs defined social cohesion.
- b. Context: To obtain information about the characteristics of the environment in which social cohesion projects were undertaken.
- c. Development: To gather information about dimensions of social cohesion reflected in social cohesion project and issue areas addressed.
- d. Implementation: To gain insight on the processes, methods, and tools used to achieve social cohesion, as well as challenges encountered during those processes.
- e. Evaluation: To collect information about measures of success or failure of social cohesion interventions.
- f. Outcomes: To assess the tangible products that resulted from social cohesion projects (e.g. policies, networks, programs, materials)
- g. Sustainability: To determine level of continued support for social cohesion activities after the end of a project.
- h. Recommendations: To elicit recommendations/implications for increasing social cohesion in the United States, from the perspective of the interviewee.

Interviews Conducted

A total of 17 interviews were conducted with persons in Mexico City (Mexico), Paris (France), Brussels (Belgium), Barcelona (Spain), Madrid (Spain), and Stuttgart (Germany). The majority of interviews were conducted in Spanish, all were digitally recorded, transcribed verbatim, and then translated into English. A line-by-line re-

view was done for each transcript with various team members to achieve consensus on the coded text. The coded interviews were all combined and sorted by the domains to be analyzed. The domains were analyzed by project team members (AM, RB, AD), where a first round of analysis was completed. Once preliminary results were compiled, the project team members were assigned the domains that they had not previously analyzed. Following this second round of analysis, the results from the first and second round were combined to produce the final results.

Supplemental Materials

In addition to the interview data, we obtained and reviewed supplemental materials that helped to provide additional information about the context, development, implementation, and results of the social cohesion programs. These materials included pamphlets, presentations, reports, and websites that pertained to the different programs. We obtained the materials from web-based searches about each of the programs or through the key stakeholders participating in the interviews.

Appendix 5: Case Study Information Charts

| Social Cohesion Laboratory I, EU-Mexico | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Time/Location | Project Aims | Thematic Platforms | Activities | Expected Results | |
| Chiapas, Mexico (2011-2014) | 1. To review, renovate and systematize methodology for public policy and institutional practices; 2. To promote the articulation of efforts and capacities of government institutions, civil society, and communities; 3. To foment the development of pilot projects in rural and urban environments; 4. To develop spaces to systematically reflect on and exchange knowledge and experiences. | Urban poverty and empowerment | 1. Introduction of new coordination with various government institutions to revise and bring innovation to public policy methodology | Collaboration with relevant institutions at various levels | |
| Funders | | Micro-regionalization, social participation, and decentralization of social programs | | 2. Engage NGOs in the development and implementation of public policy reforms | Joint efforts between government at the state level in Chiapas and local communities and municipalities |
| European External Action Service and Government of Mexico | | Health systems | 3. Implement ideas in activities 1 and 2 at the local level with a focus on rural poverty and development in the state of Chiapas | | Strengthening of interventions: urban poverty, prevention of violence, civic participation, health and social security systems |
| | | Social security | | | Revision of planning processes, identification and financing of local development programs and actions, focused on rural poverty |
| | | Tax administration | | | |
| | International cooperation | | | | |

| Social Cohesion Laboratory II, EU-Mexico | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| Time/Location | Project Aims | Thematic Platforms | Activities | Expected Results | | |
| San Luis Potosí and Oaxaca, México (2015-ongoing) | General aim: To strengthen social cohesion in Mexico by promoting structural reforms that will reduce inequalities in access to basic public services, employment, justice, security, and human rights. Specific aim: To support institutions in Oaxaca and San Luis Potosi in the revision, adjustment, and implementation of public policies and institutional practices that will reduce the aforementioned inequalities by improving the performance of public services through more effective processes, innovative and inclusive tools and mechanisms in planning, design, coordination, implementation, and supervision of public services | Urban poverty and empowerment | Support the design and implementation of pilot initiatives for: 1. microregionalization, focus on social development, and funding; 2. basic mother/child health service provision; 3. access to formal job market for vulnerable populations | The states of San Luis Potosi and Oaxaca will have an integrated social cohesion agendas that articulate and coordinate social public policies, institutional practices, and public funding schemes that are based on lessons learned from the pilot initiatives | | |
| Funders | | Micro-regionalization, social participation, and decentralization of social programs | | | Support relevant institutions to establish two thematic platforms, one for human rights and the other on crime prevention and participatory security | |
| European External Action Service and Government of Mexico | | Health systems | | | | The agencies SRE and SETEC will have been strengthened in their ability to assess, revise and implement public policies, institutional practices, pilot projects designed to strengthen social cohesion |
| | | Social security | | | | |
| | | Citizen security | | | | |
| | | Access to human rights and justice | | | | |

| Integration: Integrated Urban Development | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Time/Location | Project Aims | Thematic Platforms | Activities | Expected Results |
| Chihuahua and Guadalajara, Mexico; Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Quito, Ecuador; Bogota, Colombia; Stuttgart, Germany (January 2009-May 2013) | The project sought to increase social cohesion in participating communities by increasing the power of local authorities and strengthening citizens' participation in order to improve living conditions in urban areas, to reduce social injustice, and to improve urban environmental quality for health living conditions. | The existence of guiding principles, which incorporate goals and visions as the inner urban development and the careful handling of spatial resources | Cities focused on using abandoned areas within the city itself rather than expanding outwards so that its occupants have easier access to workplaces, commerce, and residencies. | Promotion of sustainable urban development and an increase in efficiency, powers for dealing with and the identification of problems based on the implementation of new integrated planning processes |
| Funders | European Commission | Integrated urban planning, involving diff. divisions of municipal admin, working in decentralized, inter-departmental groups | In order to come up with plans for the use of brownfield sites, government officials met with citizens so that they may voice their opinions and can come to a consensus of what is to be done | Promotion of interdisciplinary cooperation required for redeveloping rundown areas. |
| | | Participation of citizens, esp. socially deprived groups affected by the development process | Public events were held in order to encourage the participation of members of society and private investors. In Quito, Citizen Training Schools were created in order to offer a space for learning of and collaboration on issues affecting the community | Increased inclusion of marginalized groups as a result of finding new used for rundown urban areas. |
| | | Environmental management sys. That allows identification, remediation, and secure revitalization of brownfields | 54% of the 44 hectares of land in partner cities were used for the creation of green spaces and public places. Not all brownfield sites were contaminated, some were not used to their full potential | Contribution of a generic model for sustainable urban integration that can be exported and used elsewhere |

Appendix 6: Definitions of Social Cohesion

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| (Kawachi & Berkman, 2000) | The extent of connectedness and solidarity among groups in society. 1) The absence of latent social conflict--whether in the form of income/wealth inequality; racial/ethnic tensions; disparities in political participation; or other forms of polarization; and 2) the presence of strong social bonds--measured by levels of trust and norms of reciprocity (i.e., social capital); the abundance of associations that bridge social divisions ("civil society"); and the presence of institutions of conflict management (e.g., a responsive democracy, an independent judiciary, etc.). | Kawachi, Ichiro, and Lisa Berkman. "Social cohesion, social capital, and health." <i>Social epidemiology</i> (2000): 174-190. |
| (Jenson, 1998) | Unpacked social cohesion as it is commonly conceptualized in the literature into five different dimensions: 1) Belonging v. Isolation: refers to existence or absence of shared values and a sense of identity 2) Inclusion v. Exclusion: looks at the equality of opportunity among citizens in the market 3) Participation v. Noninvolvement: focuses on people's political participation at both the central and the local levels of government 4) Recognition v. Rejection: concerns the respect for difference or tolerance for diversity in society. 5) Legitimacy v. Illegitimacy: maintenance of legitimacy of major political and social institutions as mediators among individuals of different interests. | Jenson, J.: 1998, 'Mapping social cohesion: the state of Canadian research', Paper SRA-321 (Strategic Research and Analysis Directorate, Department of Canadian Heritage, Ottawa). |
| (Berger-Schmitt, 2000) | Points out that social cohesion involves two analytically distinct "societal goal dimensions"; a) reduction of disparities, inequalities, and social exclusion and b) strengthening of social relations, interactions, and ties. The second dimension embraces all aspects which are generally also considered as the social capital of a society. (Means-end approach) | Berger-Schmitt, R.: 2000, 'Social cohesion as an aspect of the quality of societies: concept and measurement', eureporting Working Paper No. 14, (Centre for Survey Research and Methodology, Mannheim). |
| (Whelan & Maître, 2005) | Three levels of social cohesion: 1) the micro level: degree of interpersonal trust, strength of primary ties within families and between friends, risk of social isolation; 2) the meso level: the strength of relations within secondary groups-neighborhoods, work groups, ethnic groups, and the relations between such groups; and 3) the macro level: the extent to which the relational practices and beliefs in a society involve a common sense of membership of society, tolerance of inter-group differences, structures of support in times of adversity and the legitimating of political practices. | Whelan, Christopher T., and Bertrand Maître. "Economic vulnerability, multidimensional deprivation and social cohesion in an enlarged European community." <i>International Journal of Comparative Sociology</i> 46.3 (2005): 215-239. |
| Joseph Chan et al. | Social cohesion is a state of affairs concerning both the vertical and the horizontal interactions among members of society as characterized by a set of attitudes and norms that includes trust, a sense of belonging and the willingness to participate and help, as well as their behavioral manifestations. | Chan, Joseph, Ho-Pong To, and Elaine Chan. "Reconsidering social cohesion: Developing a definition and analytical framework for empirical research." <i>Social indicators research</i> 75.2 (2006): 273-302. |
| Council of Europe | View it not as a concept but as a policy approach. The hallmark of the Council of Europe approach is to treat access to rights for all as an essential reference for a cohesive society and also as a principle facilitating recognition of the dignity of all individuals regardless of their ability to meet their own needs. <i>It is defined as the capacity of a society to ensure the wellbeing of all its members, minimizing disparities and avoiding marginalization.</i> | Chan, Joseph, Ho-Pong To, and Elaine Chan. "Reconsidering social cohesion: Developing a definition and analytical framework for empirical research." <i>Social indicators research</i> 75.2 (2006): 273-302. |
| Department of Cultural Heritage, 2001 (Canada) | A cohesive and inclusive society depends on respect for all ethnic groups and the fullest possible participation of all citizens of civic life. | Chan, Joseph, Ho-Pong To, and Elaine Chan. "Reconsidering social cohesion: Developing a definition and analytical framework for empirical research." <i>Social indicators research</i> 75.2 (2006): 276. |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Canada structural conversations on social cohesion (2001-2002) | Social cohesion should encompass a wide range of elements, from income distribution, employment, housing, universal access to health care, and education systems to political and civic participation | Chan, Joseph, Ho-Pong To, and Elaine Chan. "Reconsidering social cohesion: Developing a definition and analytical framework for empirical research." <i>Social indicators research</i> 75.2 (2006): 273-302. |
| Different interpretations of Social Cohesion according to the Council of Europe | is created by strong social bonds and acceptance by members of society of their joint responsibilities / requires all individuals to be able to participate in economic life and enjoy its advantages / necessitates processes challenging power structures and the distribution of resources in society / requires tolerance and recognition of persons from different cultures and identities | Chan, Joseph, Ho-Pong To, and Elaine Chan. "Reconsidering social cohesion: Developing a definition and analytical framework for empirical research." <i>Social indicators research</i> 75.2 (2006): 273-302. |
| (Duhaime, Searles, Usher, Myers, & Fr chet, 2004) | Social cohesion is founded on two components: organic solidarity and mechanical solidarity. The former refers to access to formal economic and governmental conditions, while the latter refers to access to family and community-based, face-to-face relations. They listed six sets of indices: 1) presence of social capital 2) demographic stability 3) social inclusion 4) economic inclusion 5) community quality of life 6) individual quality of life | Duhaime, G., E. Searles, P. Usher, H. Myers and P. Fr chet: 2004, 'Social cohesion and living conditions in the Canadian artic: from theory to measurement', <i>Social Indicators Research</i> 66, pp. 295-317. |
| Canada Policy Research Initiative | The ongoing process of developing a community of shared values, shared challenges and equal opportunity within Canada, based on a sense of trust, hope, and reciprocity among all Canadians | Jenson, J.: 1998, 'Mapping social cohesion: the state of Canadian research', Paper SRA-321 (Strategic Research and Analysis Directorate, Department of Canadian Heritage, Ottawa). |
| (Maxwell, 1996) | The process of building shared values and communities of interpretation, reducing disparities in wealth and income, and generally enabling people to have a sense that they are engaged in a common enterprise, facing shared challenges, and that they are members of the same community. | Maxwell, J., 1996, Social dimensions of economic growth. Eric John Hanson Memorial Lecture Series, Volume 8, University of Alberta. |
| (FIIAPP & OECD Development Centre, 2011) | More than a mean or an end (a goal), social cohesion is a guiding principle for the public action. It aims at the creation of a social fabric that structures the different communities and groups in a country. It promotes the consolidation of democratic institutions and the implementation of sustainable public policies that provide the citizens with opportunities; ensure their protection and enable them to develop their abilities. It aims at consolidating both institutions and policies that improve the social welfare and the living conditions of citizens. | http://www.oecd.org/dev/pgd/46991423.pdf |
| (Lockwood, 1999) | A state of strong primary networks (like kinship and local voluntary organization) at communal level | Lockwood, D.: 1999, 'Civic integration and social cohesion', in Gough and Olofsson (eds.), <i>Capitalism and Social Cohesion</i> , ch.4. |
| (Lockwood, 1992) | Social cohesion, together with "civic integration" (institutional order at the macro-societal level) represent two levels of social integration, which concern the orderly or conflictual relationships between actors in society | Lockwood, D.: 1992, <i>Solidarity and Schism, 'The problem of disorder' in durkheimian and Marxist sociology</i> (Clarendon Press, Oxford). |
| (Bollen & Hoyle, 1990) | There are two perspectives to cohesion: objective and perceived. Objective refers to some objective attribute of the group as a whole, and this involves some composite measures based on each member's self-reported closeness to other members in the group. Perceived cohesion is a function of each member's perception of his own standing in the group. This in turn depends on 1) the individuals' sense of belonging to the group and 2) their feelings of "morale" associated with membership in the group. | Bollen, K. A. and R. H. Hoyle: 1990, 'Perceived cohesion: a conceptual and empirical examination', <i>Social Forces</i> 69(2), pp. 479-504. |
| (Easterly, Ritzen, & Woolcock, 2006) | The nature and extent of social and economic divisions within society. These divisions – whether by income, ethnicity, political party, caste, language, or other demographic variable – represent vectors around which politically salient societal cleavages can (although not inevitably or "naturally") develop. | Easterly, William, Jozef Ritzen, and Michael Woolcock. "Social cohesion, institutions, and growth." <i>Economics & Politics</i> 18.2 (2006): 103-120. |
| (OECD, 2014) | This report from the OECD Development Centre "defines a cohesive society as a society that strives for social integration and builds up social capital to create a common sense of belonging, and as a place where prospects exist for upward social mobility." | OECD (2014), <i>Social Cohesion Policy Review of Viet Nam</i> , Development Centre Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris. |

| | | |
|---------------|--|---|
| (ECLAC, 2007) | Social cohesion may be defined as the dialectical relationship between instituted social inclusion and exclusion mechanisms and responses, perceptions, and attitudes of citizens toward the way these mechanisms operate. | ECLAC. (2007). Social Cohesion. Inclusion and a sense of belonging in Latin America and the Caribbean. Santiago del Chile: ECLAC. |
|---------------|--|---|

Appendix 7: Measures of Social Cohesion

The table below summarizes our literature findings of various measurement tools and concrete examples for using the measures on both macro and micro-level levels. Specific examples from various programs are described following the table.

| Table 1. Social Cohesion Measures and Measurement Tools (Cagney et al., 2009) | | |
|---|---|---|
| Description | Measures | Examples |
| Developed measures of two aspects of neighborhood social processes: social cohesion and exchange; and social and physical disorder | Individual level neighborhood perceptions of overall cohesiveness and exchange people perceive in their neighborhood, as well as own level of integration in the neighborhood | How often in your neighborhood: Do you see neighbors and friends talking outside in the yard or in the street? Do you see low or inadequate lighting at night? Do you see trash and litter? |
| | | How many neighbors: Do you know by name? Could you call on for assistance in doing something around your home or yard or to “borrow a cup of sugar” or some other small favor? |
| (Rajulton, Ravanera, & Beaujot, 2007) | | |
| Using the Canadian National Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating they developed a multi-dimensional measure of social cohesion, based on six dimensions adapted from Jenson (1998) | Under the economic domain, they look at inclusion equality. Under the political domain they look at legitimacy and participation. Under the socio-cultural domain, they look at recognition and belonging | Proportion of people voting in the last federal, provincial, and municipal elections. |
| | | Proportion participating in organizations. Proportion socializing weekly with family and relatives. Proportion socializing weekly with friends. |
| European Union (ECLAC, 2007) | | |
| As part of the Lisbon strategy, the EU created the Laeken Indicators of Social Cohesion. They are used as a reference in policy-making and often as a comparison across countries | The list of indicators is comprised of primary indicators and secondary indicators on income, work, education, and health | Low-income by: age and gender, work status, household type, housing tenure, low income amounts, persistent low income, depth of low income, Gini coefficient |
| | | Work by: regional cohesion, long term unemployment rate, jobless households |
| | | Education: not in education or training, low educational attainment |
| | | Health: life expectancy at birth, self-defined health status |
| Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)(ECLAC, 2007) | | |
| Developed indicators for social cohesion that are geared toward issues unique to the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean | The different areas of focus of the indicators include gaps, institutions, and belonging | Indicators for Gaps include: income inequality, poverty and indigence, employment, education, health, housing, pensions, digital divide |
| | | Indicators for Institutions include: effectiveness of democracy, state institutions, market institutions, family |
| | | Indicators for Belonging include: multiculturalism, trust, participation, expectations of mobility, social solidarity |
| Jane Jenson for United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) (Jenson, 2010) | | |
| Developed indicators that could be measured with data from the World Bank or the International Labor Organization (ILO) | Social cohesion as inclusion, cultural and ethnic homogeneity, trust, and participation and solidarity | Inclusion indicated by access to: financial services, economic activity, education and human capital, health, technology |
| | | Cultural and ethnic homogeneity as: % of foreign born in population, ethnic fractionalization, country is officially bi- or multilingual |
| | | Trust questions taken from public opinion surveys like the World Values Survey |
| | | Participation and solidarity as: electoral participation, participation in voluntary associations, charitable giving |

| Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) | | |
|---|--|--|
| Description | Measures | Examples |
| Developed quantitative measures that are used to demonstrate the various aspects of social cohesion | Dimensions of social cohesion represented are: social inclusion, social mobility, and social capital | Social inclusion measured using: Gini index; growth incidence; employment elasticity and employment population ratios; income growth incidence; consumption poverty rates; SES indicators for education, health employment, housing, and vulnerability and examine them across sex, ethnicity, and age |
| | | Social mobility measured using: income mobility, employment mobility, and children's' educational aspirations |
| | | Social capital measured using: % of people who say most people can be trusted, Tolerance to Diversity Index, social network support (who would help you in the case of problems?), Civic Engagement Index, World Governance Index, Social Institutions and Gender Index |

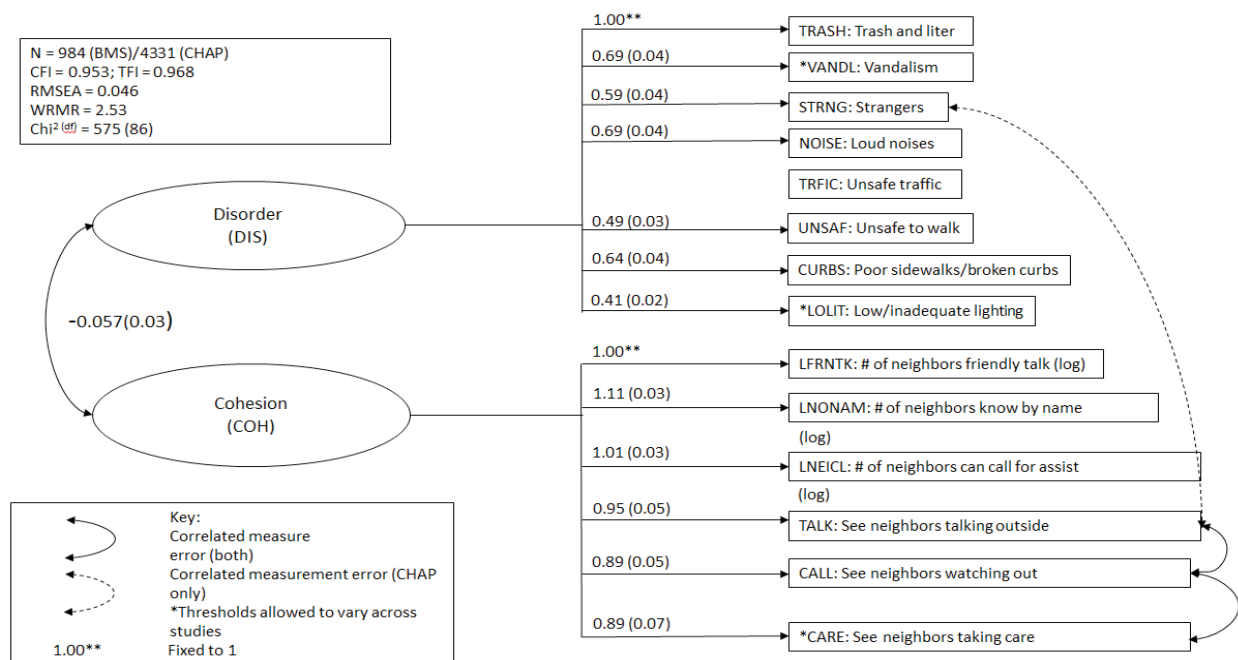
Neighborhood Level Social Cohesion

Validate measures of two aspects of neighborhood social processes: social cohesion and exchange; and social and physical disorder. They sought to identify key terms that describe these two aspects and test their reliability. They also desired to assess the validity of the measures by comparing them with other neighborhood based assessments such as SES. Furthermore, they tested the robustness across two urban locations and discuss what is found in relationship to other community context research on older adults. This test was done using identical questions from the Chicago Neighborhood and Disability Study (CNDS) and the Baltimore Memory Study (BMS).

The overall goal of this study was to construct a meaningful index of social cohesion and social and physical disorder that can be used in research on neighborhood social processes and the health of older adults.

The survey questions that were used to measure social cohesion are as follows:

1. How many neighbors do you have a friendly talk with at least once a week?
2. How many neighbors do you know by name?

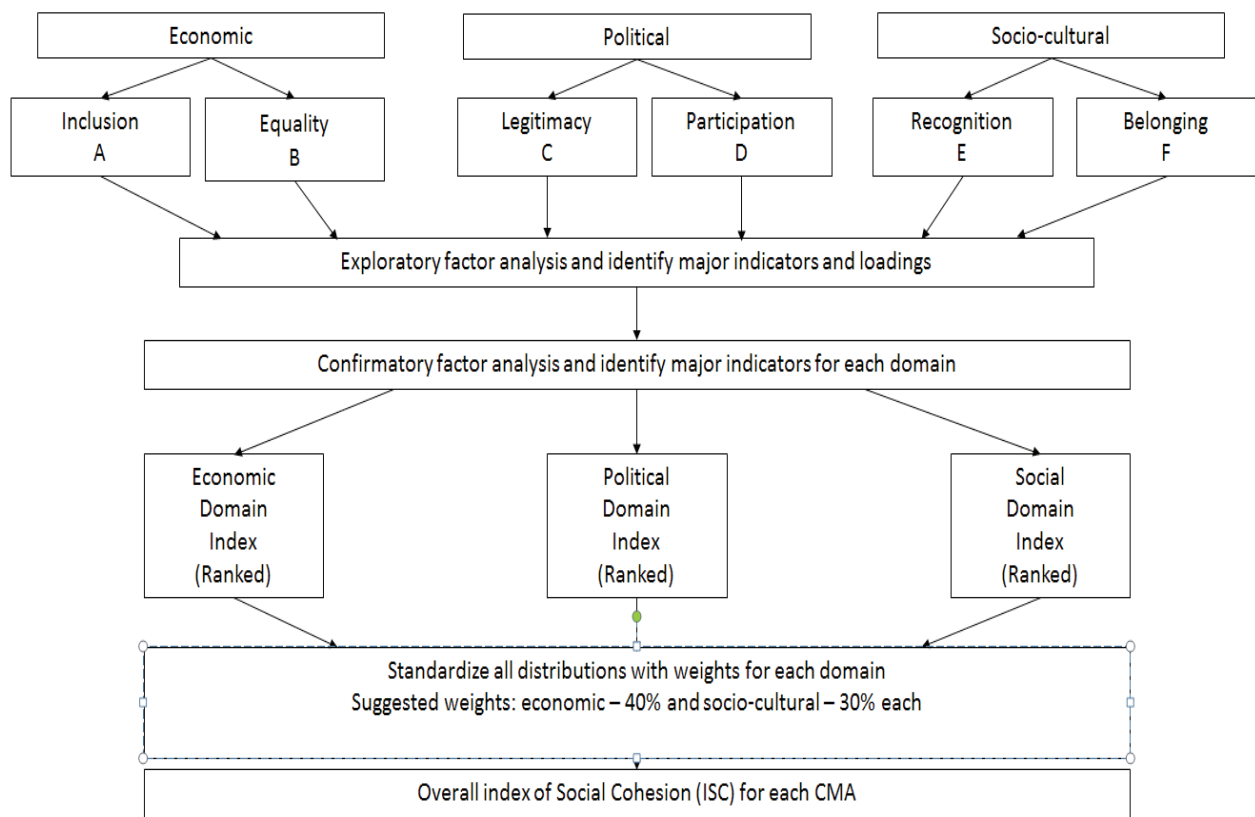


Measurement model of neighborhood cohesion and disorder. WRMR = Weighted Root Mean Square Residual

3. How many neighbors could you call on for assistance in doing something around your home or yard or to “borrow a cup of sugar” or some other small favor?
4. Do you see neighbors and friends talking outside in the yard or on the street
5. Do you see neighbors watching out for each other, such as calling if they see a problem?
6. Do you see neighbors taking care of each other, such as doing yard work or watching children? (Cagney et al., 2009)

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In 2006, using the Canadian National Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating they developed a multi-dimensional measure of social cohesion, based on six dimensions adapted from Jenson (1998). They examined social cohesion at the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) level within Canada. They ranked all 49 CMAs according to each domain: social, political and economic. They also combined the 3 rankings and weighted them to create an overall index of social cohesion. (Rajulton et al., 2007)



European Union

As part of the Lisbon strategy, in December 2001 the European Union created the Laeken Indicators of Social Cohesion. They are used as a reference in policy making and often as a comparison across countries.

There are 21 different indicators described in the table below.

| The European Union's Indicators of Social Inclusion | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Laeken Indicators of Social Cohesion in the European Union | | |
| Thematic area/indicator | Breakdowns by: | |
| | Age | Sex |
| Primary Indicators | | |
| Income | | |
| 1. Low income after transfers threshold set at 60% of median national equivalised income | Yes | Yes |
| 1a. Low income rate after transfers with breakdowns by household type | By house-hold type | By house-hold type |
| 1b. Low income rate after transfers by work intensity of household members | No | No |
| 1c. Low income rate after transfers with breakdowns by most frequent activity states | Yes | Yes |
| 1d. Low income rate after transfers with breakdowns by housing tenure status | Yes | Yes |
| 2. Low income threshold (illustrative measures) | No | No |
| 3. Distribution of income (quintile 5/quintile 1) | No | No |
| 4. Persistence of low income (based on threshold of 60% of median national equivalised income) | Yes | Yes |
| 5. Relative median low-income gap (difference between the median income of persons below the low-income threshold and the threshold of 60% of median national equivalised income) | Yes | Yes |
| Employment | | |
| 6. Regional cohesion (dispersion of regional employment rates) | No | Yes |
| 7. Long term unemployment rate (percentage of EAP that has been unemployed for at least 12 months) | Yes | Yes |
| 8a. Children (aged 0-17) living in jobless households | No | No |
| 8b. Adults (aged 18-59) living in jobless households | No | Yes |
| Education | | |
| 9. Early School leavers not in education or training | No | Yes |
| 10. Fifteen-year-old students with low reading literary scores | No | Yes |
| Health | | |
| 11. Life expectancy at birth | No | Yes |
| Employment | | |
| 12. Immigrant employment gap | Desirable | Yes |
| Secondary Indicators | | |
| Income | | |
| 13. Dispersion around the low-income threshold | Yes | Yes |
| 14. Low-income rate anchored at a moment in time | Yes | Yes |
| 15. Low-income rate before transfers, by sex | Yes | Yes |
| 16. Gini coefficient | No | No |
| 17. Persistence of low income (below 50% of median income) | Yes | Yes |
| 18. Women at risk of poverty | Yes | Yes |
| Employment | | |
| 19. Long-term employment share | Yes | Yes |
| 20. Very long-term unemployment rate (at least 24 months, as a percentage of the working population) | Yes | Yes |
| Education | | |
| 21. Persons with low educational attainment | Yes | Yes |

(ECLAC, 2007)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC or more often CEPAL)

ECLAC has developed a set of indicators similar to the European Laeken indicators. They focus on gaps, belongingness and institutions. The purpose is to be a reference for policy makers and to compare countries similar to the Laeken indicators. However, these indicators were deemed more suitable to Latin America and the Caribbean based on issues unique to the region. A summary is shown in the table below. (ECLAC, 2007)

| Indicators | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gaps | Institutions | Belonging |
| Income inequality | Effectiveness of democracy | Multiculturalism |
| Poverty and indigence | State institutions | Trust |
| Employment | Market institutions | Participation |
| Education | Family | Expectations of mobility |
| Health | | Social Solidarity |
| Housing | | |
| Pensions | | |
| Digital divide | | |

(Jenson, 2010)

Some Indicators across countries and over time were measured in 2010 in a study you can find here: http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/2934/S201015_en.pdf?sequence=1

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

After reviewing some of the ways of measuring social cohesion above, Jane Jenson proposes 3 types of indicators that can be measured with data available from World Bank or International Labour Organization. The purpose of this set of indicators was to improve on what had already been developed. But most importantly, she wanted the indicators to be measured with data that exists and universally available on most countries and regions.

| United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) |
|---|
| Measures for Social Disparities |
| 1. Social cohesion as social inclusion – indicated by access to financial resources, measured in three ways: The Gini coefficient, which is a measure of inequality of income distribution or inequality of wealth distribution Measures of income shares including: the share of middle 60 per cent of the population income share held by highest 10 per cent income share held by highest 20 per cent income share held by lowest 10 per cent income share held by lowest 20 per cent Measures of poverty: percentage of population meeting the poverty headcount ratio at \$1 a day percentage of population meeting the poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day percentage of population at national poverty line These poverty measures should be provided for minorities and immigrants groups, as appropriate to each small state. |
| 2. Social cohesion as social inclusion – indicated by access to economic activity Unemployment rate (percentage of total labor force) youth unemployment (percentage of total labor force aged 15-24) female unemployment (percentage of total female labor force) Minority (minorities) unemployment rate. This measure may not be appropriate to all small states. It should also, if possible, be analyzed by sex and for youth Employment in the informal economy, as a percentage of total unemployment – the ratio between the number of persons employed in the informal economy and the total number of employed persons |
| 3. Social cohesion as social inclusion – indicated by access to education and human capital Literacy rate, adult total (percentage of people aged 15 and above) Adult female (percentage of females aged 15 and above) Adult male (percentage of males aged 15 and above) Percentage of population over 15 who have not completed primary education Male and female as well as total rates Percentage of population over 20 who have not completed secondary education Male and female as well as total rates Percentage of children of secondary school age enrolled in secondary education Percentage of population aged 18-24 in tertiary education The measures should be provided for minorities and immigrant groups, as appropriate to each small state. |
| 4. Social cohesion as social inclusion – indicated by access to health Life expectancy at birth, in years Total For males and females For minorities Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births) Total For minorities Mortality rate, under five (per 1,000) Total For minorities Births attended by skilled health staff (percentage of total) Total For minorities |
| 5. Social cohesion as social inclusion – indicated by access to technology Percentage of households with access to broadband internet Measures for cultural and ethnic homogeneity |
| 6. Social cohesion as cultural and ethnic homogeneity |

| |
|--|
| Percentage of foreign born in the population Ethnic fractionalization – an index measuring the probability that two randomly selected people will not belong to the same ethno-linguistic group. Country is officially bi- or multilingual (0 or 1) |
| 7. Social cohesion as trust Questions about trust from public opinion surveys. The usual source is the World Values Survey, which provides comparable questions and data management. No small states are included. See http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/ |
| 8. Social cohesion as participation and solidarity Electoral participation – percentage of eligible voters participating in national elections. Rate of participation in voluntary associations – percentage of people who are members of a voluntary association. For comparative analysis these data are usually found in the World Values Survey (and therefore once again do not include small states) Charitable giving – percentage of population making a charitable gift. |

(Jenson, 2010)

Bertelsmann Stiftung

The Social Cohesion Radar is an international comparison of social cohesion tool created by Bertelsmann Stiftung (Bertelsmann Stiftung). The radar has measured Social Cohesion on the nation level and compared within the EU and OECD. They also have applied the same index to measure social cohesion across the 16 German states. They have measured four sets of data that range from 1989 until 2012; which allows social cohesion to be measured over time. The Radar has 3 domains: Social Relations, Connectedness, and Focus on the Common Good. Each of these domains has 3 dimensions. They are described in the chart below: (Dragolov, Ignacz, Lorenz, Delhey, & Boehnke, 2013)

| Bertelsmann Stiftung Social Cohesion Radar | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Domains | Dimension | Indicators |
| 1. Social Relations | 1.1 Social Networks | Important in life: Friends |
| | | How much time during past week you felt lonely (-)? |
| | | How often socially meet with friends, relatives, or colleagues? |
| | | Support if needed advice on serious personal or family matter |
| | 1.2 Trust in People | Count on to help |
| | | People can be trust |
| | | People try to be fair |
| | 1.3 Acceptance of Diversity | Most of the time people helpful |
| | | Would not like to have neighbor: of different race |
| | | Would not like to have neighbor: immigrants/foreign workers |
| | | Rating of ethnic tension (-) |
| | | Justifiable: homosexuality |
| Gays and lesbians free to live life as they wish | | |
| Country's cultural life enriched by immigrants | | |
| Country's culture undermined by immigrants (-) | | |
| Rating of religious tension (-) | | |
| City/area good place for: Racial/ethnic minorities | | |
| City/area good place for: Gay or lesbian people | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 2. Connectedness | 2.1 Identification | How attached to country? |
| | | How proud of nationality? |
| | | Ideally, would permanently move to another country (-) |
| | 2.2 Trust in institutions | Confidence in police |
| | | Confidence in parliament |
| | | Confidence in political parties |
| | | Confidence in justice system |
| | | Confidence in health care |
| | | Confidence in financial institutions |
| | | Honesty in elections |
| | 2.3 Perception of fairness | Didn't report a crime, because fearful/did not like the police (-) |
| | | Corruption (-) |
| Corruption within business (-) | | |
| To get ahead need to be corrupt (-) | | |
| To get ahead, forced to do things that are not correct (-) | | |
| Government should reduce differences in income levels (-) | | |
| I earn what I deserve | | |
| 3. Focus on the common good | 3.1 Solidarity and helpfulness | Get paid about what deserved |
| | | Tensions between the rich and the poor (-) |
| | | Government provide for people (-) |
| | | Help others excl. family/work/voluntary organizations |
| | 3.2 Respect for social rules | Unpaid voluntary work through community and social services |
| | | Donated money |
| | | Helped a stranger |
| | | To what extent people obey traffic laws |
| | 3.3 Civic participation | How wrong to commit traffic offense (-)? |
| | | Feel safe after dark on the street |
| | | Feel safe walking alone at night |
| | | Size of shadow economy (-) |
| Important in life: politics | | |
| Interest in politics | | |
| Worn or displayed campaign badge/sticker | | |
| Signed a petition | | |
| Contacted politician or public official | | |
| Voiced opinion to public official | | |
| Served on committee or done voluntary work for organization | | |
| Volunteered time to organization | | |
| Worked in association or organization | | |
| Voting turnout in elections or referends | | |

(Dragolov et al., 2013)

In order to obtain the data values for the dimensions, they used a combination of the following data sets:

| Combination of data sets |
|---|
| 1. World Values Survey (WVS or WEVS) |
| 2. European Values Study |
| 3. Gallup World Poll (GWP) |
| 4. European Social Survey (ESS) |
| 5. European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) |
| 6. International Social Survey Program (ISSP) |
| 7. International Social Justice Project (ISJP) |
| 8. Eurobarometer (EB) |
| 9. International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS) |
| 10. International Country Risk Guide (ICRG) |
| 11. Shadow Economies in Highly Developed OECD Countries (Schneider & Buehn 2012, abbreviated S&B) |
| 12. Measures of Democracy 1810-2010 (Vanhanen 2011, abbreviated VAN) |

(Dragolov et al., 2013)

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Within the 2014 book *Social Cohesion Policy Review of Viet Nam*, there are quantitative measures that are used to demonstrate aspects of social cohesion such as:

| OECD Quantitative Measures | | |
|--|---|--|
| Social Inclusion | Social Mobility | Social Capital |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inequality/Gini index - Growth Incidence - Comparing employment elasticity and employment to population ratios - Income Growth Incidence - Consumption Poverty Rates - SES Indicators in regards to Education, Employment, Health, Housing and Vulnerability and examining them across sex, ethnicity and age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income mobility - Employment mobility - Children's educational aspirations (measured in years of schooling) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % of people who say that most people can be trusted - Tolerance to diversity index - Social Network support and the role of the family in the form of the question "Who would help you in case of problems?" - Civic Engagement Index - World Governance Index - Social Institutions and Gender Index |

(OECD, 2014)

Sylvain Acket, Monique Borsenberger, Paul Dickes and Francesco Sarracino: In 2010, the VALCOS Index was built to measure social cohesion within countries. They used it to rank social cohesion across 39 European countries and investigate differences across groups of countries. The index contains 6 dimensions: Trust in Institutions, Solidarity, Political Participation, Socio-cultural Participation, Formal Relations and Substantial Relations.

| Table 5. Social Indicators and the dimension of trust in institutions of the VALCOS Index | | | | | |
|---|--------|----|---------------------------------|-------|----|
| negative relation | | | positive relation | | |
| Variable | rho | CS | variable | rho | CS |
| var027 People killed in road accidents | -.60** | | var048 Level of Internet access | .76** | |
| var017 HICP | -.50* | | var050 Income per capita | .69** | |
| var036 Country superfiey | -.46* | | var019 Minimum wages | .68** | |
| | | | var008 Part-time employment | .61** | |
| | | | var012 GDP per inhabitant | .60** | |
| | | | var052 Immigration rate | .59** | |
| | | | var049 Cinema attendance | .58** | |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|-------|------|
| | | | var051 Emigration rate | .58** | |
| | | | var011 Unionization rate | .57* | |
| | | | var057 Vote in European elections | .55** | |
| | | | var032 Lifelong learning | .54** | |
| | | | happy_mean I | .52** | oecd |
| | | | var046 Air pollution | .50* | |
| | | | var053 Type of state | .48* | |
| | | | var038 Crude birth rate | .46* | |
| | | | var042 Life expectancy at age 65 | .45* | |
| | | | var 063 Employment rate of young people | .45* | |
| | | | SWB2_mean | .44** | |
| | | | var039 Fertility rate | .44* | |
| | | | var041 Life expectancy at birth | .44* | |
| | | | var047 Motorization rate | .43* | |
| | | | lifesat_mean | .40* | oecd |

Table 6. Macro-variables and the solidarity dimension of the VALCOS Index

| negative relation | | | positive relation | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------|
| variable | rho | SC-indicator | variable | rho | SC-indicator |
| var025 Suicides | -0.61** | oecd | var024 Health expenditure | .55* | |
| | | | var004 Long-term unemployment rate | .45* | |
| | | | var033 Number of inhabitants | .45* | |
| | | | var029 Early leavers from education | .43* | Eurostat |

Table 7. Macro-variables and the dimension of political participation of the VALCOS Index

| negative relation | | | positive relation | | |
|--|--------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| variable | rho | SC-indicator | variable | rho | SC-indicator |
| var059 Legal abortions | -.71** | | var050 Income per capita | .85** | |
| var017 HICP | -.69** | | var019 Minimum wages | .84** | |
| var043 Infant mortality | -.59** | | var042 Life expectancy at age 65 | .83** | |
| var018 Recreational and cultural services HICP | -.58** | | var012 GDP per inhabitant | .80** | |
| var027 People killed in road accidents | -.54** | | var008 Part-time employment | .78** | |
| var002 Jobless households | -.40** | eurostat | var 041 Life expectancy at birth | .78** | |
| | | | var014 Social protection expenditure | .77* | |
| | | | var048 Level of internet access | .76** | |
| | | | var032 Lifelong learning | .69** | |
| | | | var 049 Cinema attendance | .68** | |
| | | | var047 Motorization rate | .65** | |
| | | | var051 Emigration rate | .61** | |
| | | | var024 Health expenditure | .60** | |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-------|------|
| | | | var035 Urbanization rate | .58** | |
| | | | var057 Vote in European elections | .58** | oecd |
| | | | var039 Fertility rate | .56** | |
| | | | var052 Immigration rate | .56** | |
| | | | var061 Women in Parliament | .56** | |
| | | | happy_mean1 | .53** | oecd |
| | | | var001 Employment rate | .51** | |
| | | | SWB2_mean | .50** | |
| | | | var063 Employment rate of young people | .48** | |
| | | | var046 Air pollution | .46** | |
| | | | var053 Type of state | .46** | |
| | | | lifesat_mean | .45** | oecd |
| | | | var062 Employment rate of women | .43** | |

Table 8. Macro-variables and the sociocultural participation dimension of the VALCOS Index

| negative relation | | | positive relation | | |
|--|--------|--------------|--|-------|--------------|
| variable | rho | SC-indicator | variable | rho | SC-indicator |
| var003 Unemployment rate | -.65** | | var048 Level of internet access | .89** | |
| var006 Unemployment rate of women | -.62** | | var050 Income per capita | .74** | |
| var004 Long-term unemployment rate | -.61** | eurostat | var032 Lifelong learning | .74** | |
| var043 Infant mortality | -.54** | | var012 GDP per inhabitant | .71** | |
| var005 Unemployment rate of young people | -.52 | | var062 Employment rate of women | .70** | |
| var023 At-risk-of-poverty rate | -.46* | eurostat | var001 Employment rate | .69** | |
| var002 Jobless households | -.42* | eurostat | var039 Fertility rate | .64** | |
| var036 Country supergiefey | -.42* | | var008 Part-time employment | .64** | oecd |
| | | | var011 Unionization rate | .58** | |
| | | | lifesat_mean | .57** | oecd |
| | | | SWB2_mean | .54** | |
| | | | var063 Employment rate of young people | .51** | |
| | | | var061 Women in Parliament | .50** | |
| | | | happy_mean_1 | .47** | oecd |
| | | | var019 Minimum wages | .47* | |
| | | | var014 Social protection expenditure | .45* | |
| | | | var053 Type of state | .44* | |
| | | | var051 Emigration rate | .43* | |
| | | | var 042 Life expectancy at age 65 | .42* | |

Table 9. Macro-variables and formal relations dimension of the VALCOS Index

| negative relation | | | positive relation | | |
|--|--------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| variable | rho | SC-indicator | variable | rho | SC-indicator |
| var030 Education attainment level | -.59** | | var008 Part-time employment | .58** | |
| var027 People killed in road accidents | -.50* | | var048 Level of Internet access | .56* | |
| var017 HICP | -.45* | | var046 Air pollution | .55** | |
| | | | var019 Minimum wages | .53* | |
| | | | var049 Cinema attendance | .50* | |
| | | | var050 Income per capita | .50* | |
| | | | var051 Emigration rate | .50* | |
| | | | var052 Immigration rate | .50* | |
| | | | var053 Type of state | .43* | |
| | | | var012 GDP per inhabitant | .42* | |
| | | | happy_mean_1 | .34* | oecd |

Table 10. Macro-variables and substantial dimension of the VALCOS Index

| negative relation | | | positive relation | | |
|--|--------|--------------|--|-------|--------------|
| variable | rho | SC-indicator | variable | rho | SC-indicator |
| var043 Infant mortality | -.63** | | var048 Level of Internet access | .92** | |
| var059 Legal abortions | -.60* | | var050 Income per capita | .86** | |
| var004 Long-term unemployment rate | -.53** | eurostat | var032 Lifelong learning | .83** | |
| var002 Jobless households | -.54** | eurostat | var012 GDP per inhabitant | .82** | |
| var027 People killed in road accidents | .47* | | var039 Fertility rate | .77** | |
| var023 At-risk-of-poverty rate | -.45* | eurostat | var019 Minimum wages | .75** | |
| var003 Unemployment rate | -.44* | | var008 Part-time employment | .74** | |
| | | | var001 Employment rate | .70** | |
| | | | var042 Life expectancy at age 65 | .68** | |
| | | | var014 Social protection expenditure | .66** | |
| | | | var062 Employment rate of women | .65** | |
| | | | var041 Life expectancy at birth | .61** | |
| | | | var047 Motorization rate | .58** | |
| | | | var049 Cinema attendance | .58* | |
| | | | var051 Emigration rate | .57** | |
| | | | var063 Employment rate of young people | .57** | oecd |
| | | | SWB2_mean | .57** | |
| | | | var035 Urbanization rate | .56** | |
| | | | var061 Women in Parliament | .56** | |
| | | | lifesat_mean | .56** | oecd |
| | | | happy_mean_1 | .55** | oecd |
| | | | var038 Crude birth rate | .53** | |
| | | | var052 Immigration rate | .53* | |
| | | | var053 Type of state | .52* | |
| | | | var028 Expenditure on education | .49* | |
| | | | var057 Vote in European elections | .49* | oecd |
| | | | var040 Live births outside marriage | .47* | |

(Acket, Borsenberger, Dickes, & Sarracino, 2011)

Appendix 8: Sample Questions from URB-AL III Integration for Contributions of Projects to the Components of Social Cohesion

| Contributions of the project/action/public policy to the components of social cohesion... |
|---|
| Key questions |
| ...Equality and social inclusion |
| Does it increase equality of opportunity in accessing basic rights and the conditions necessary to enjoy them, favoring specific groups or the whole population of marginal territories, and, specifically, one or more of the following rights: work, health, education, safety, justice, housing, and a healthy and clean environment? |
| Does it undertake actions, in one or more area of society, directed at the social inclusion of specific groups of excluded people, using instruments such as: / measures for integration or re-integration into the labor market and/or / financial transfers (measure of redistributive policy) and/or / care goods and services (material, emotional, informative assistance) and/or / measures to develop the social capital of people (relational capital and personal skills) to confront conditions of exclusion? |
| Does it incorporate the gender perspective? How? (Is it specific, neutral or redistributive policy?) |
| Does it aim to create a universal social protection system or facilitate protection measures and services to prevent exclusion in the face of events and/or conditions that increase social vulnerability in one or more of these areas: old age, disability, disease, violence, lack of income/poverty (unemployment or lack of job security), dependency, etc.? |
| Does it strengthen the service system intended to respond to situations of inequality and exclusion, such as: / increasing coverage, also through creating new services / improved quality and capacity to provide care, also by means of innovation in the service system? |
| Does it guarantee compatibility of the development of the territory with sustainable reproduction of environmental goods and services, with the aim of providing them for future generations? |
| ...Participation |
| Does it promote, or is based on, a multi-actor system of governance in which private and civil subjects, well rooted in the local community and who democratically represent the interests of the groups or collectives affected by the policy in question, participate in the decisions and its assessment? |
| Does it use mechanisms to integrate the opinions, needs and proposals of the population interested in the policy/action/project in question into decision making, also facilitating their involvement in the monitoring processes? |
| Does it combat phenomena that can arise with public participation, such as a lack of preparation to face the issues, cronyism and partisanship, the emergence of community leaders who take possession of collective representation based on particular interest, gender domination, etc.? |
| Does it incorporate the gender perspective in actions aimed at promoting public participation? How? |
| ...Legitimacy |
| Does it make public action transparency mechanisms effective: promoting publicity and access to information on procedures, contents and decisions adopted in exercising public service, including the use of budgetary resources and accountability in government actions? |
| Does it bring service provision to the citizens' places of residence? |
| Does it train public operators to be accountable to the public for their actions and provide better-quality services? |
| Does it show a will to prevent and punish corruption and a commitment to justice? |
| Does it promote or recognize the autonomous initiative, commitment and the implication of civil society (private agents, association, etc.) to undertake activities of public interest, based on the principle of horizontal subsidiarity? |
| Does it act impartially, i.e., does it clearly and actively avoid cronyism and granting favors? |
| ...Belonging |
| Does it produce initiatives that strengthen the practice of values shared by most of the local population, in particular civic behavior (respecting rights and responsibilities in the interpersonal coexistence) and freedom and personal safety? |
| Does it show a capacity to deliberately promote general interests above corporate or private interests? |
| Does it create or extend spaces for coexistence to all the public (centers, squares, parks, etc.)? |
| Does it initiate mechanisms for mediation and reconciliation between different sectors of the public in conflict? |
| Is it part of a strategic development plan based on an agreed vision of the future for the territory as an element for building a common identity for its inhabitants? |
| ...Recognition |
| Does it promote recognition and appreciation of differences in the framework of the values and rules of coexistence to all local society? |
| Does it prevent and/or combat manifestations of intolerance towards people with marginalized identities (gender, ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, political opinions, etc.) including sanctions against the people responsible? |
| Does it implement affirmative actions (preferential treatment) in favor of groups that are historically victims of discrimination due to specific identities? |

(Del Rio, 2010)

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