Operationalization of Social Cohesion

INTERVENTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND EUROPE

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Michael A. Rodriguez, MD, MPH

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Why study social cohesion?

Aim 1

To explore how and why social cohesion policies and interventions in Latin America have evolved.

Research Question: What cultural, social and political factors contribute to prioritization of social cohesion strategies?

Aim 2

To identify social cohesion interventions that have taken place or are currently taking place in Latin America

Research Question: What components (policies, etc.) and processes (actors, etc.) result in successful social cohesion interventions?

Aim 3

To provide recommendations on operationalizing health-related programs built on social cohesion within the cultural and socio-economic context of the United States

Research Methodology

Literature Review

What social, cultural, political and economic factors contribute to implementation of social cohesion strategies?

Key Informant Interviews and Case Studies

Five sites; 17 Interviews

62 nations represented

Qualitative data analyses

Assessment of Supplemental Materials

Analysis of collection of materials acquired from case study sites: guidelines, manuals, policy examples and more

Social Cohesion is:

Domains Explored: Overview of Results

Definitions

Wide range of unique definitions; linked to government obligation to its citizens

Context

Need for centralized governments; equal distribution of resources; transparency

Dimensions

Social inclusion; equality; legitimacy; human rights; civic participation; social mobility

Implementation

Unique to the issues and dimensions addressed

Evaluation

Limited efforts measured impact of factors that affect social cohesion (e.g., nutrition, social security, health, education, etc.)

Sustainability

Attributed to leadership and capability of project sites

Operationalization of Social Cohesion Logic Model: Integration, URB-AL III Program

Inputs

Situation
Abandoned former industrial areas in urban spaces (brownfields) create negative environments for surrounding communities

Situation & Priorities

Priorities
Improve tools and processes for the sustainable development of urban brownfields to reduce social and territorial inequalities

Inputs
- Technical study of local economic development
- Studies for socio-environmental strengthening
- Studies for socio-organizational strengthening
- Urban-environmental diagnostic studies
- Planning and development plans that support the project activities and the continued sustainable development of the participating territories

Outputs

Activities
- Revitalization of the abandoned physical space
- Creation of public spaces
- Creation of neighborhood assemblies
- Workshops for citizen participation
- Development and implementation of plans for strategic communication with communities

Participants
- **Investors**: program partners, federal government, and businesses
- **Experts:** environmental institutes and universities
- **Citizens:** NGOs, organized citizens, non-organized citizens, disadvantaged populations
- **Economic agents**: businesses, cooperatives, companies
- **Public entities:** mayors, economic, environmental, and planning administrations

Outcomes

Short Term

Short term
- Decontamination of brownfields
- Incorporation of comprehensive, long-term, sustainable development models
- Promotion of interdisciplinary cooperation
- Increased inclusion of marginalized social groups

Creation of:
- Recreational parks
- Mixed use spaces
- Public spaces
- Low-income housing
- Family homes

Intermediate Term

Intermediate term
- Creation of a city network
- Development and adoption of interdisciplinary cooperation between public entities for development of future projects
- Inclusion of the results of Integration in regulatory framework and city master plans
- Adoption of citizen participation model to generate social inclusion after project

Long Term

Long term
(Hope for)
- Increased citizen engagement and participation
- Greater inclusion of marginalized populations
- More equitable and sustainable development in the territories
- Increased interactions and sense of belonging from the various public spaces

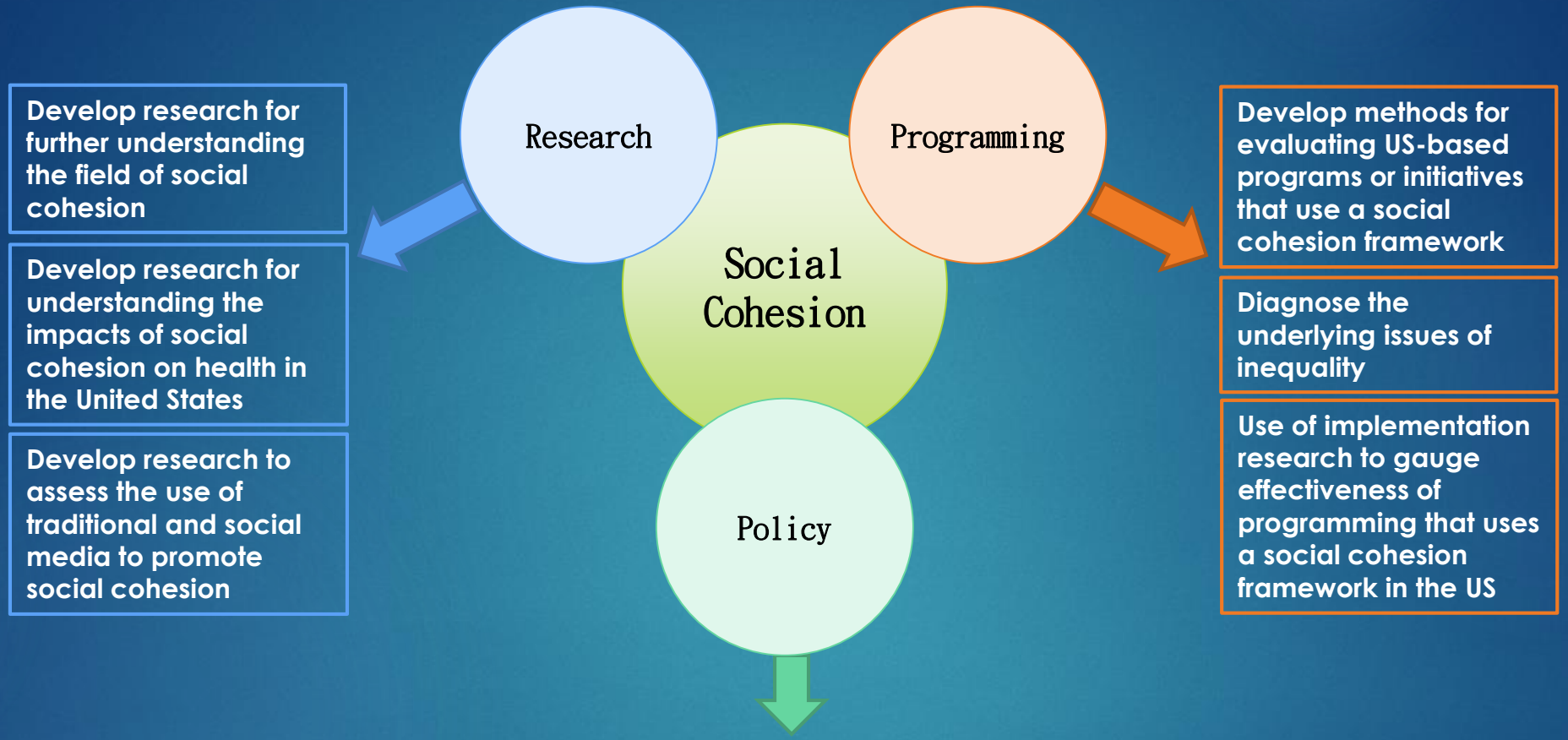
External factors
A variety of state programs and services are aimed at supporting sustainable urban development in the areas where the Integration program took place

External Factors

Gaps in Social Cohesion Knowledge and Implementation

- Consistent definition of social cohesion
- Formal, long-term evaluation of programs
- Methods for measuring the achievement of social cohesion
- Methods for identifying and developing policies that foster social cohesion
- Improved understanding of the utility of social cohesion for improving health outcomes in the United States

Recommendations



- Develop research for further understanding the field of social cohesion
- Develop research for understanding the impacts of social cohesion on health in the United States
- Develop research to assess the use of traditional and social media to promote social cohesion
- Develop methods for evaluating US-based programs or initiatives that use a social cohesion framework
- Diagnose the underlying issues of inequality
- Use of implementation research to gauge effectiveness of programming that uses a social cohesion framework in the US
- Research strategies for identifying priorities and developing, implementing, and evaluating policies within communities to ensure inclusivity, participation, and sustainability
- Identify policies that inhibit or restrict cross-sector collaboration at the local, regional, state, and national levels
- Identify policies and procedures that promote shared values of health and civic engagement using approaches from European and Latin American communities

Thank you for your time

ANY QUESTIONS??

Email inquiries to:
Mrodriguez@mednet.ucla.edu

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