

Measuring Social Cohesion

Results from a Screening Study and Beyond

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1. Relevance of Social Cohesion
2. Definitions of Social Cohesion
3. Interim Results for Screening Survey
4. Cohesion Radar Project
5. Discussion



Relevance of Social Cohesion

Cohesion and related tendencies

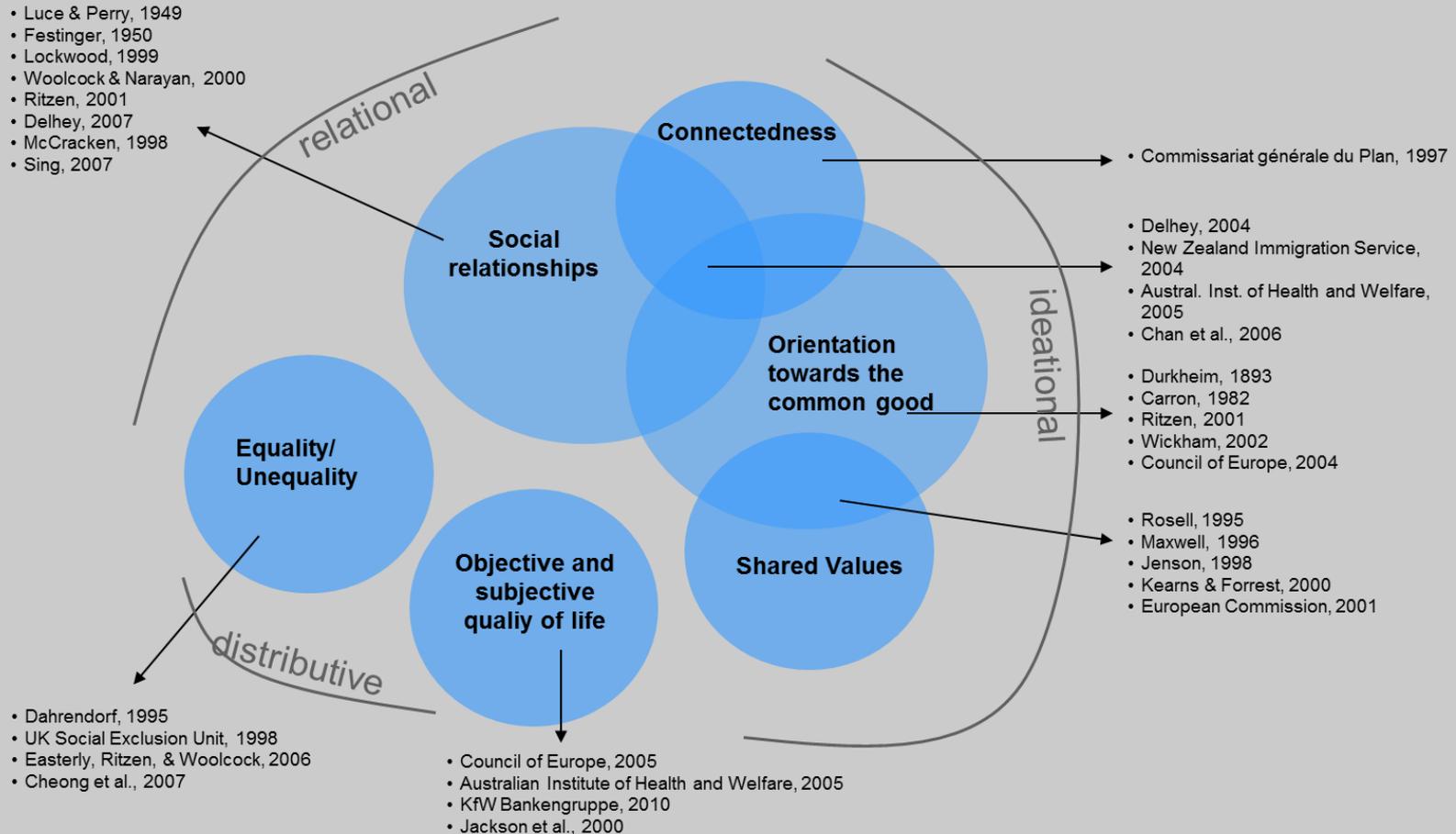
- Waning cohesion = negative effect on society
- Social and national conflicts → hotspot for violence
- Global migration → ethnic troubles
- The effect of cyber-age on interpersonal relations

Causes and effects

- The role of values for social cohesion
- Decisive for individual social well-being

Social Cohesion:

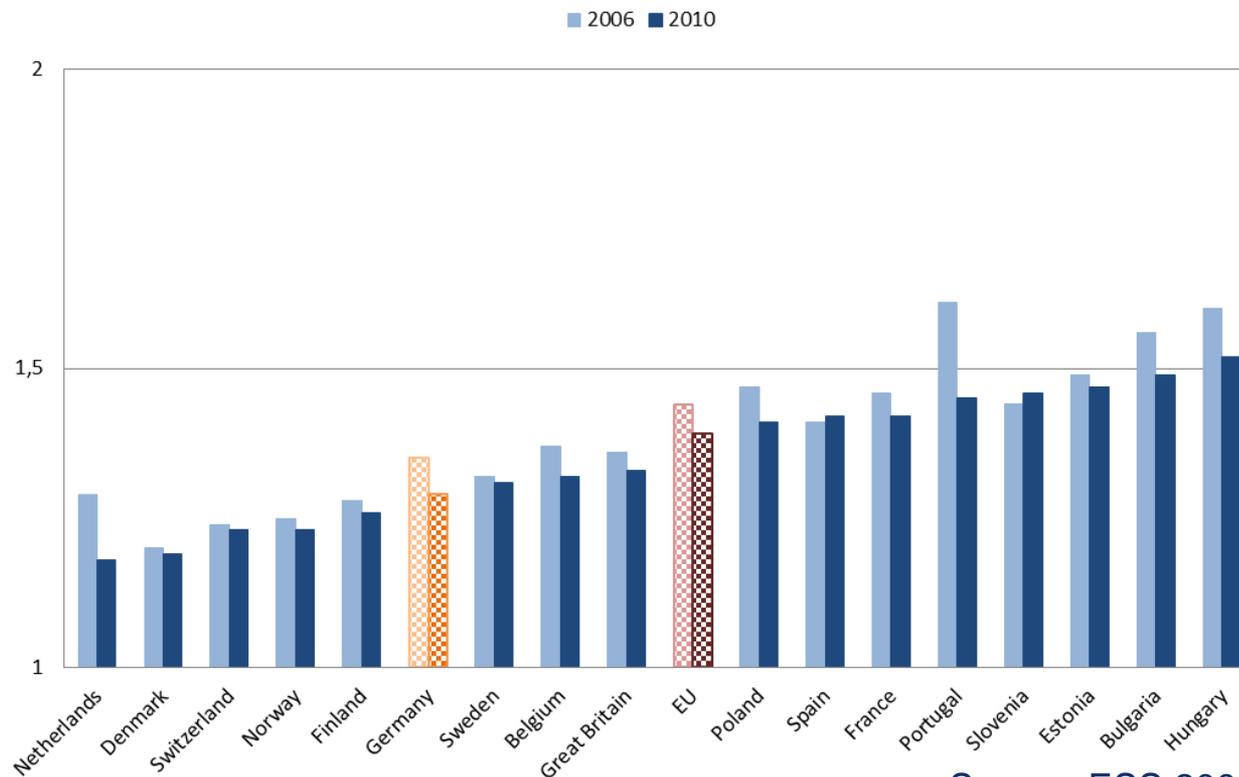
- Characteristic of a collective
- Multidimensional
- Measured on micro, meso, and macro level





Interim Results I

How much of the time during the past week you felt lonely?

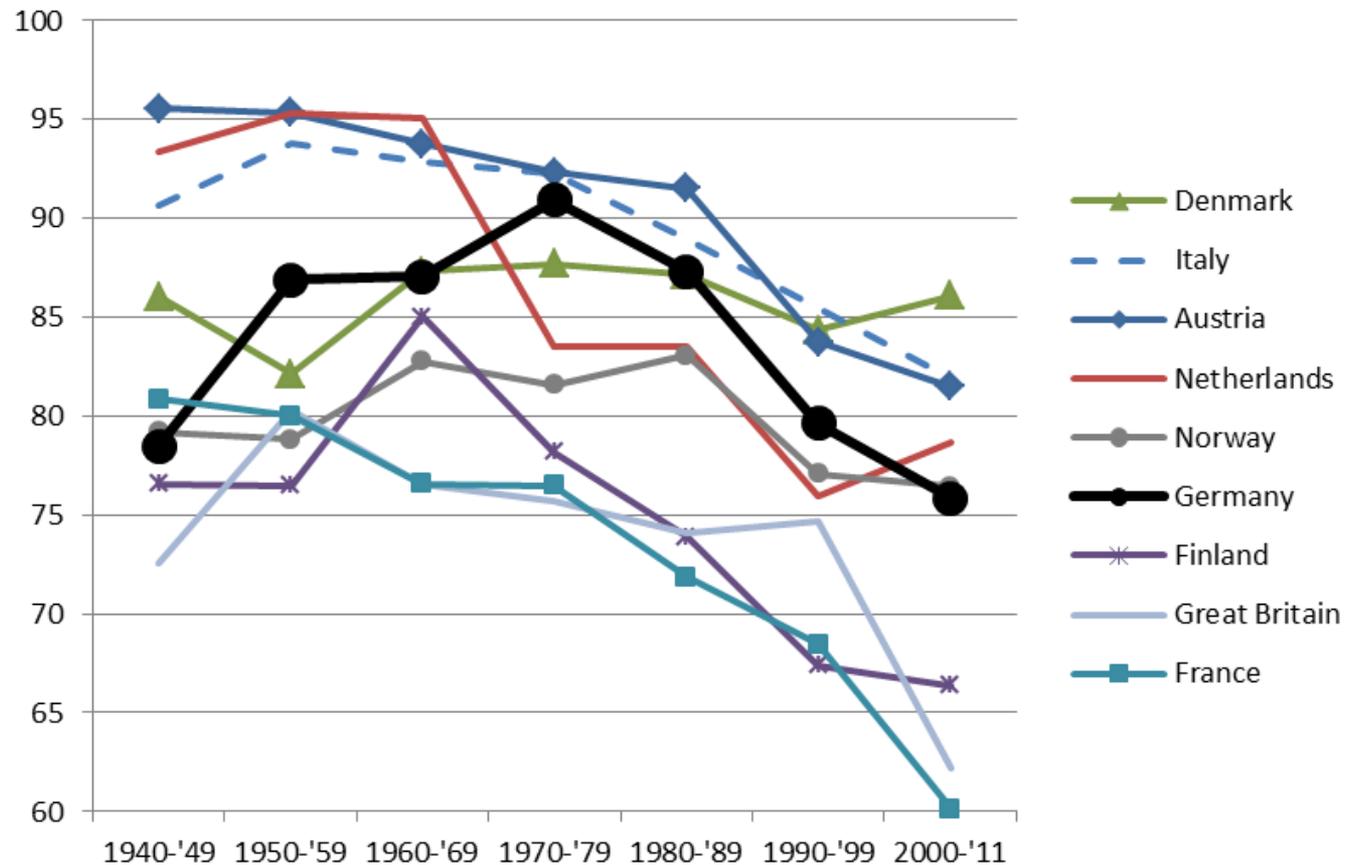


Source: ESS 2006 and 2010



Interim Results II

Participation in Parliamentary Elections

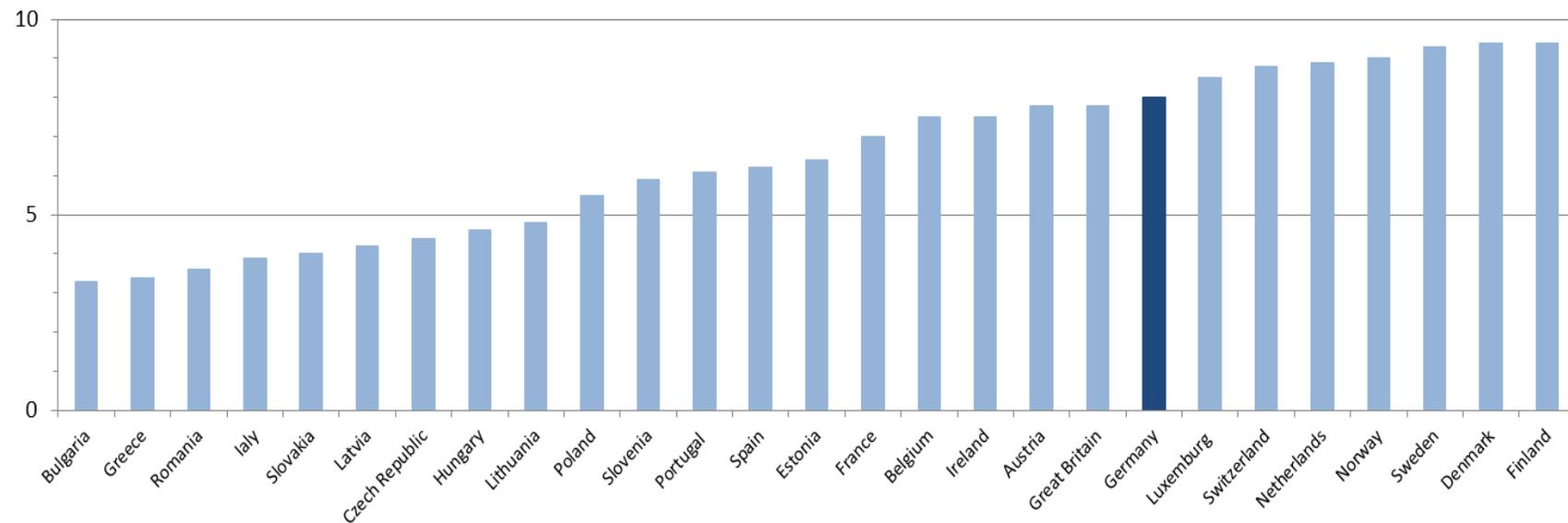


Source: Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance



Interim Results III

Corruption Perception Index



Source: Transparency International



Research Aims

- Developing a comprehensive and multidimensional measure for social cohesion
- International comparison: current state and longitudinal study



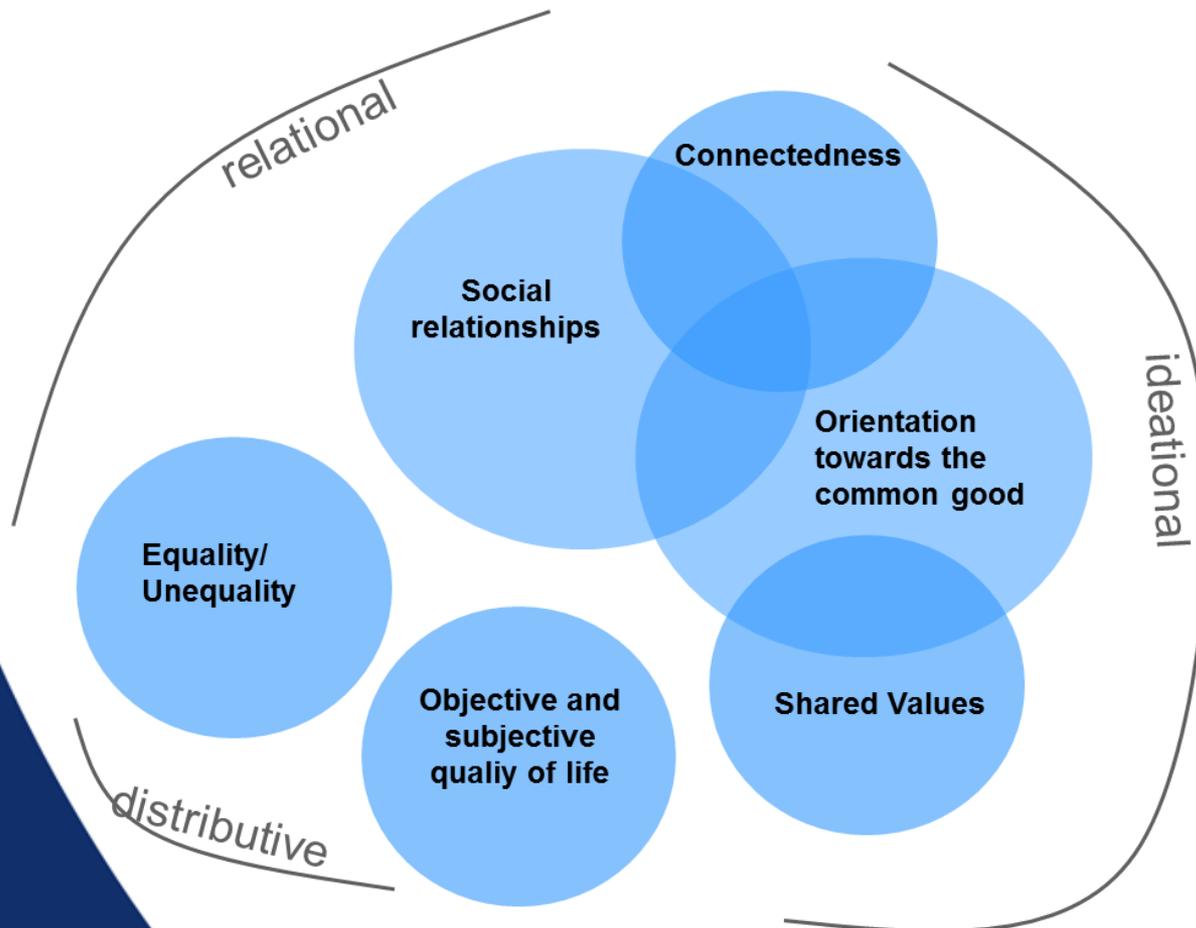
The Approach of the Cohesion Radar

- Characteristic of a collective
- Main and subdimensions of social cohesion
- Several levels of measurement
 - Individual level perceptions and attitudes
 - Institutional level characteristics
 - National level indicators
- Exclusion of inequalities in the construction of the measure
 - Assumption: it is a predictor of social cohesion



Social Cohesion:

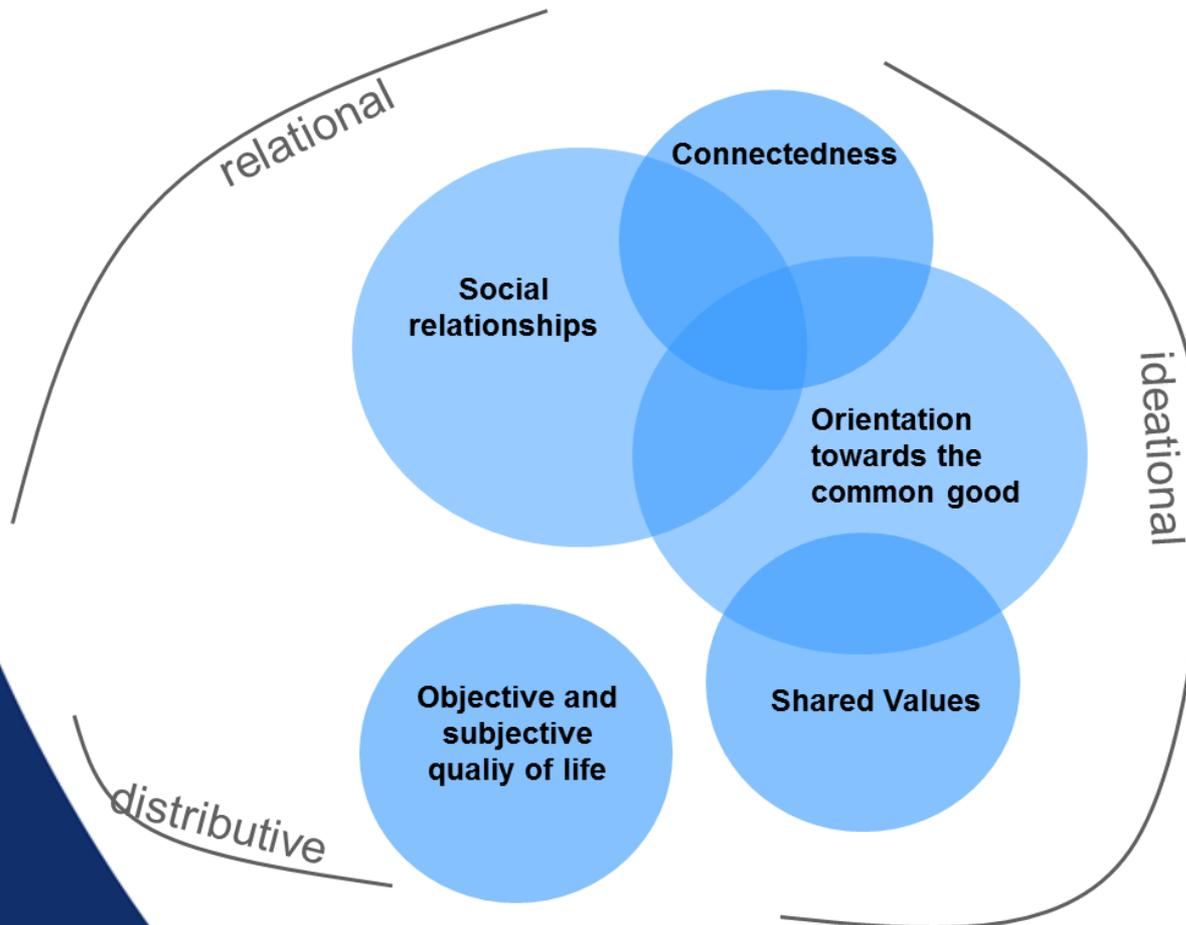
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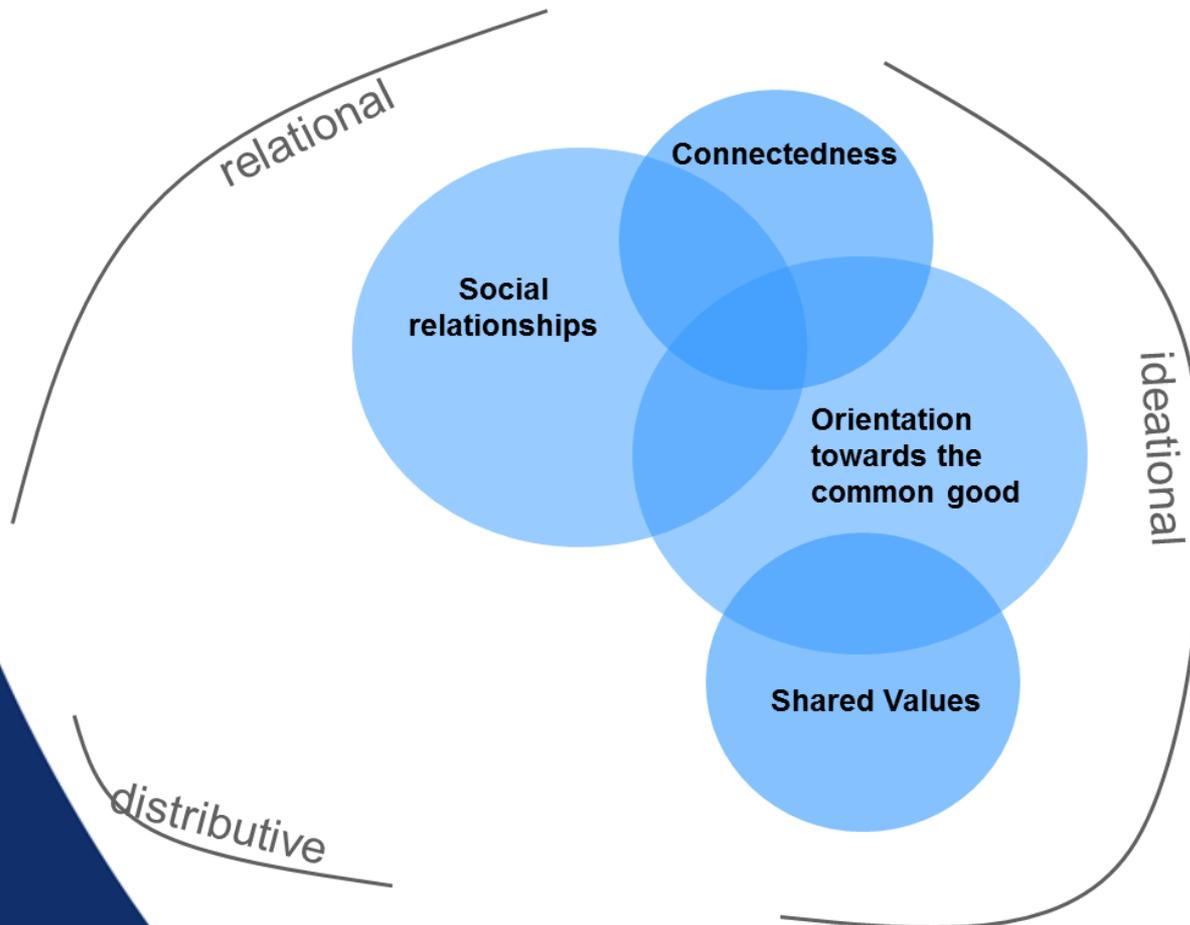
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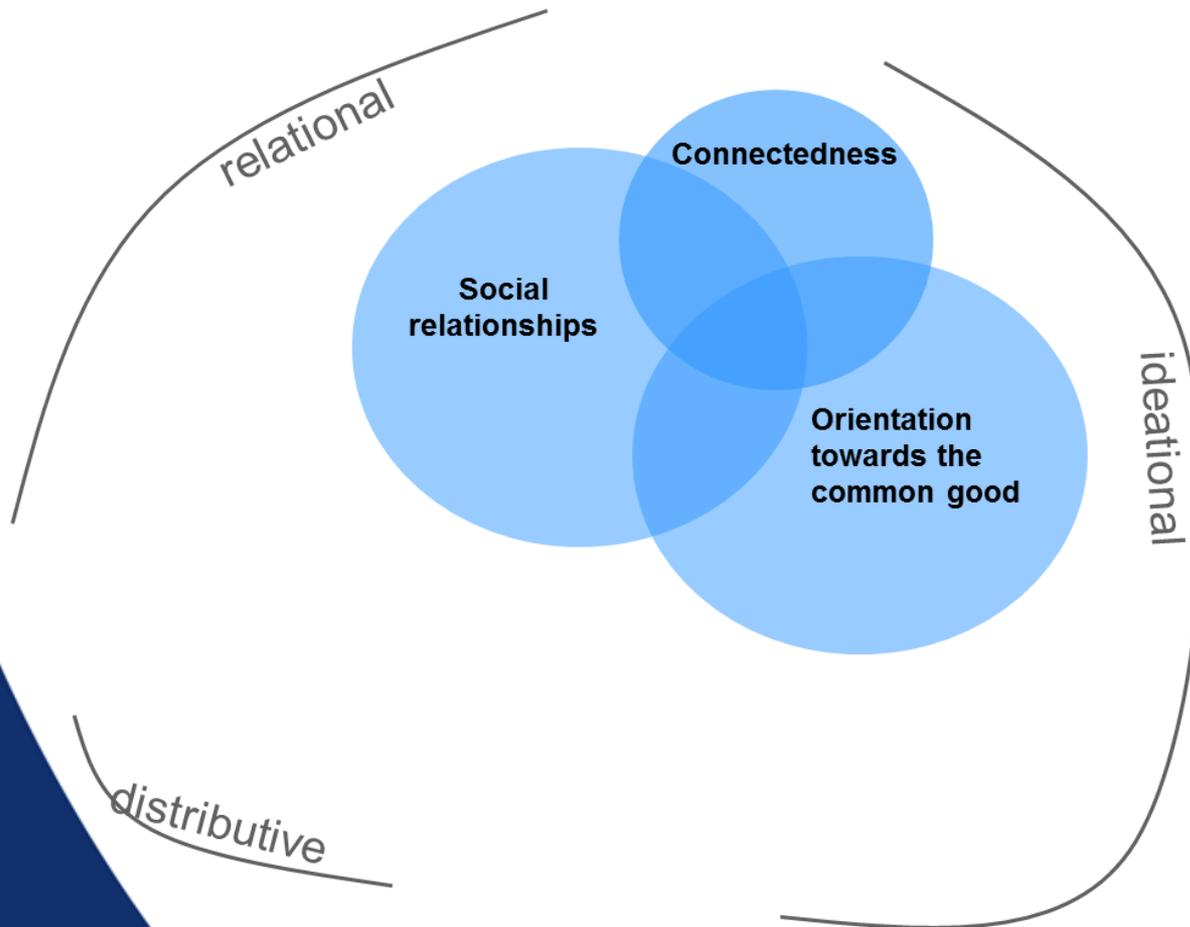
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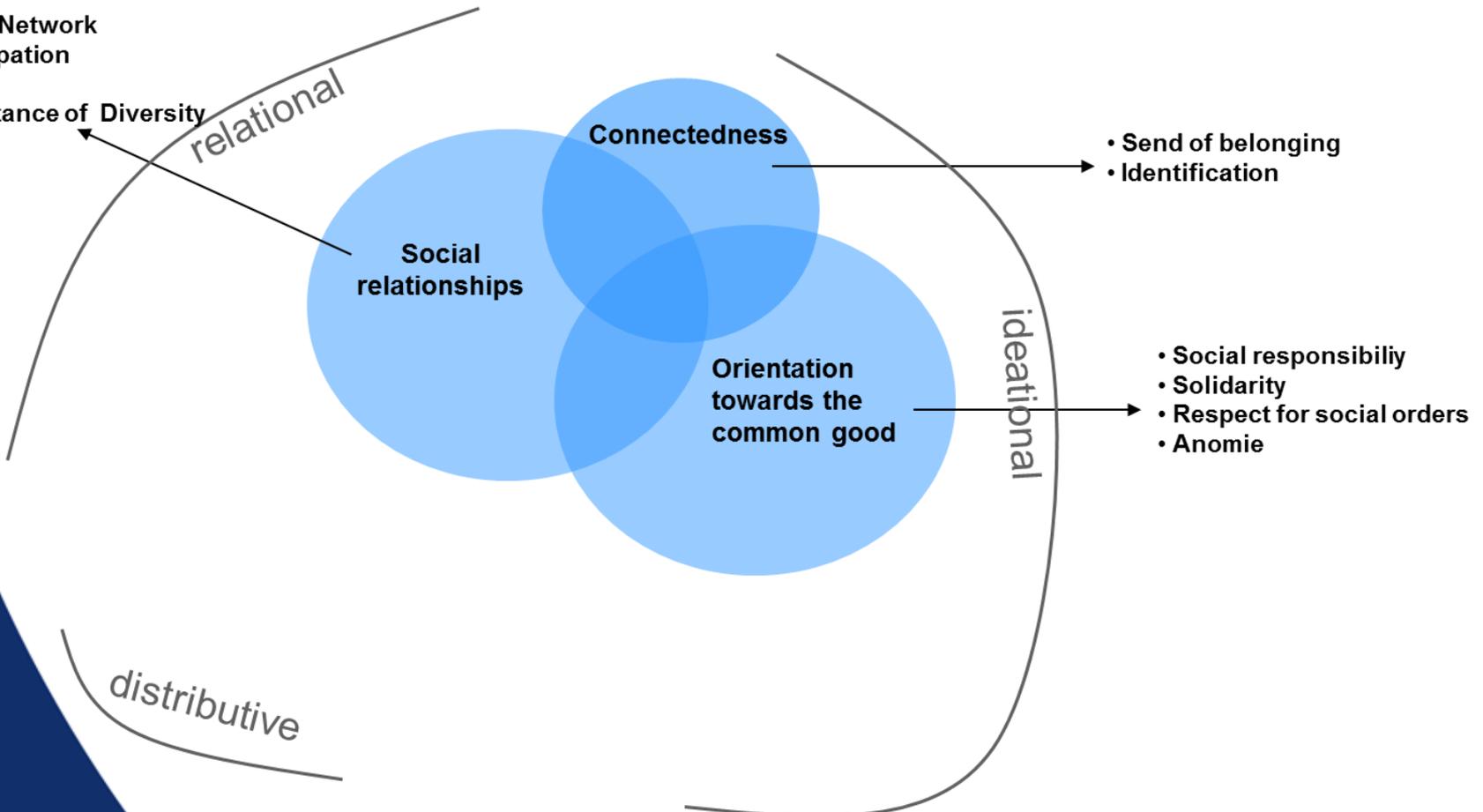




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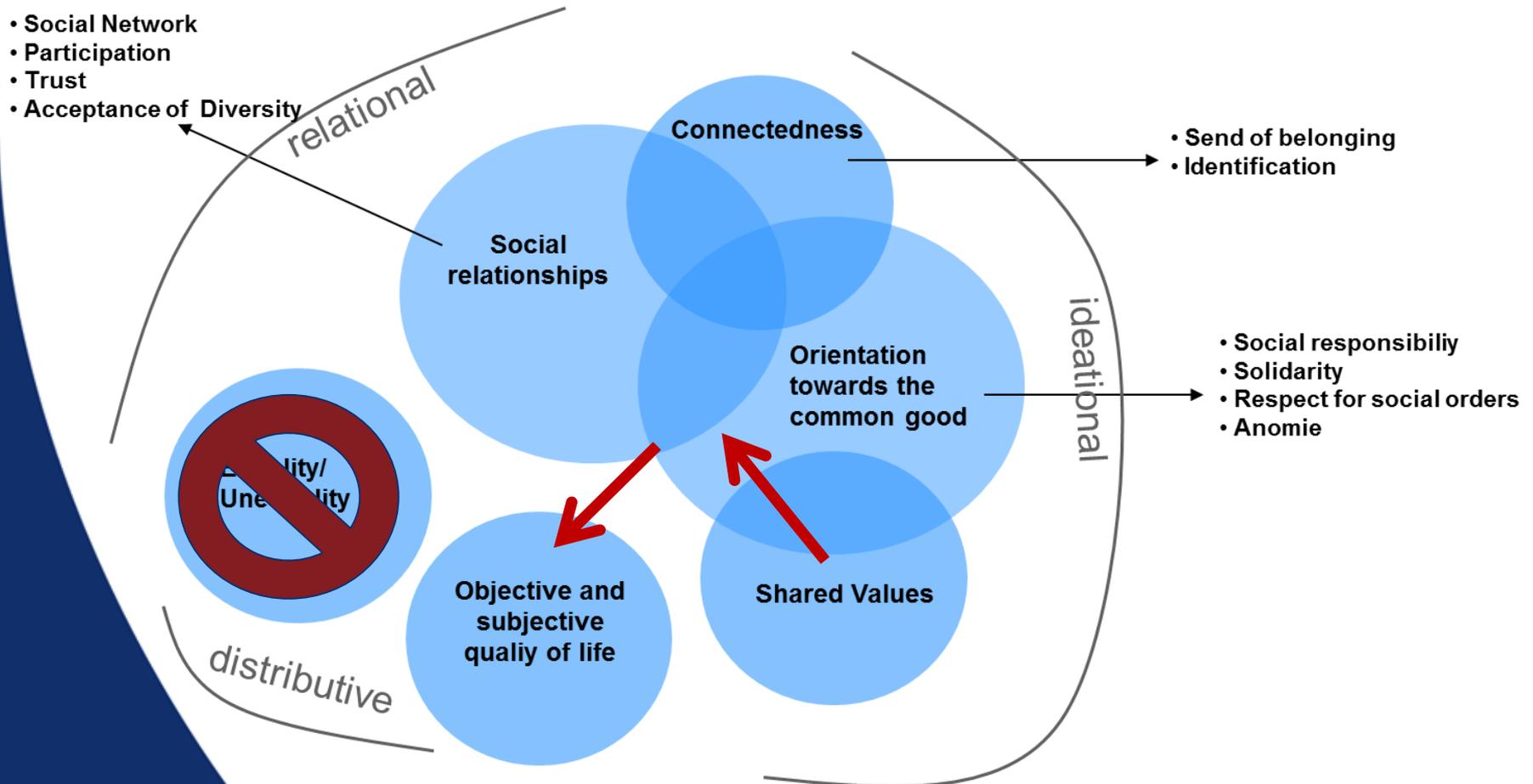
- Social Network
- Participation
- Trust
- Acceptance of Diversity





Social Cohesion:

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Dimensions and Aspects

I. Social Relationships

1. Social Networking
2. Participation
3. Trust
4. Acceptance of Diversity

II. Connectedness

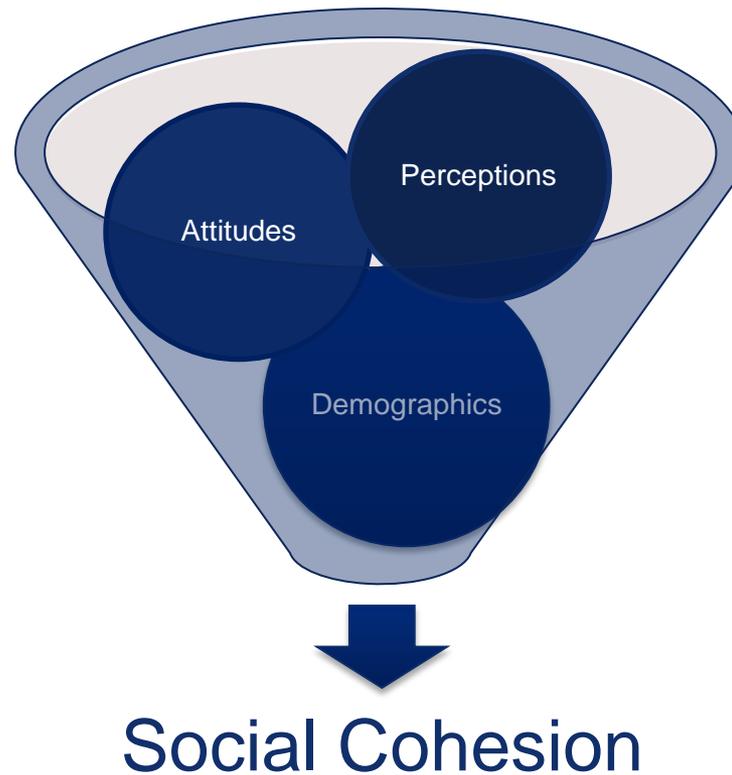
5. Feeling of Belonging
6. Identification

III. Orientation towards common good

7. Social responsibility
8. Recognition of Social Order/Anomie



Methodological Considerations I





Methodological Considerations II

Applied Data

I. Attitude and Perception: cross-national surveys

- WVS/EVS
- ESS
- EQLS
- GWP

II. Demographics: Process data

- Demographic data
- Composite Measures
- Aggregated survey data



Methodological Considerations II

Applied Data – Availability

Land	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Australia						#										# G		G	G		G	# G
Belgium	#									#					++	+	G	++	#G		G	# G+
Denmark	#									#			+	+	+	G	+	G+	G+	#	G+	# G+
Germany	#										#					G	#	G	G	G	G	# G
Finland	#									#			+	+	+	G	+	G+	#G+	G	G+	# G+
France	#						#				#		+	+	+	#	G+	+	G+	#	G+	# G+
Greece	#									#				++	+	G	#G+	+	#G+	G	G+	# G+
Ireland	#							#		#			+	+	+	G	#+	G+	#G+	#G	G+	# G+
Israel										#				++		G+		G+	#	G	G+	# G+
Italy	#									#			+	+		+	G+	+	#G	G+	G	# G++
Canada											#		+				G	G	G+	G	G	# G+
Luxemburg	#									#				++		#G	+	G+	G	#G	G	# G+
New Zealand										#				++	+			+	#	G	G	# G+
Netherlands	#									#			+	+	+	G	#+	G+	#G+		G+	# G+
Norway								#							#		G	G	G		G	# G
Austria	#						#						+		+		G+	#+	#G+		+	#
Portugal	#									#			+	+			G+	+	#G+		G+	# G+
Sweden	#					#				#	#		+	+	+		+	#G+	#G+	G	G	# G++
Switzerland	#						#			#			+	+	+	G	#+	G+	G+	#G	#G+	# G+
Spain							#						+		+		G+	#	#+	G	+	#
USA	#								#	#			+	+	+	#G	+	G+	#G+	#G	#G+	# G+
UK						#				#							#G	G	G	G	G	# G

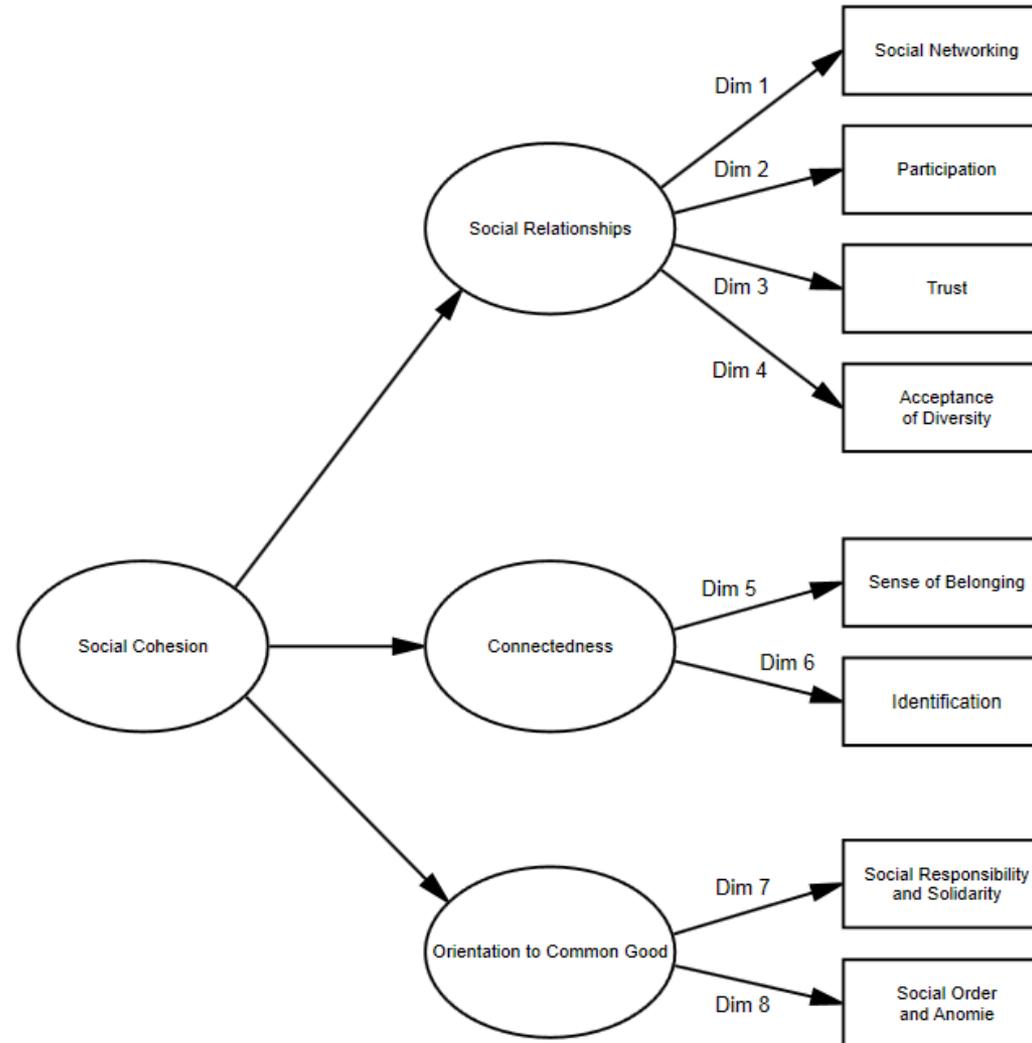
#: WVS oder EVS, G: GWP, +: ESS oder EQLS



Methodological Considerations III

Aggregational Methods

- From individual level to country level
- Confirmatory Factor Analysis
 - + Empirical confirmation of the relationship between dimensions





Methodological Considerations IV

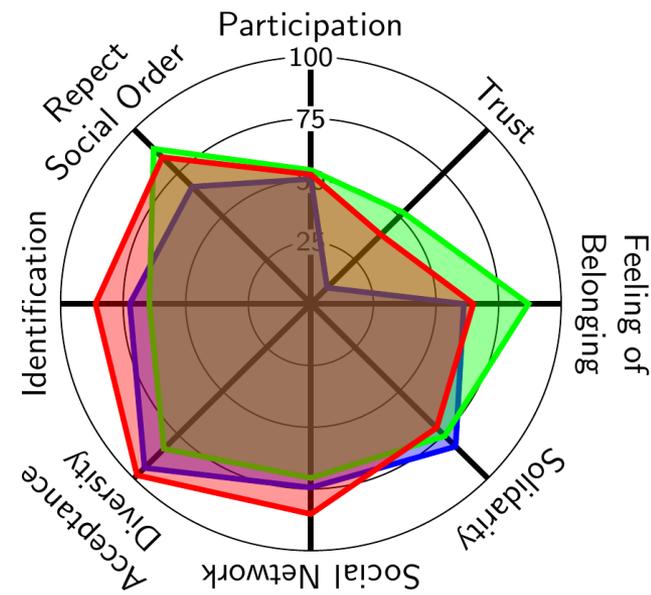
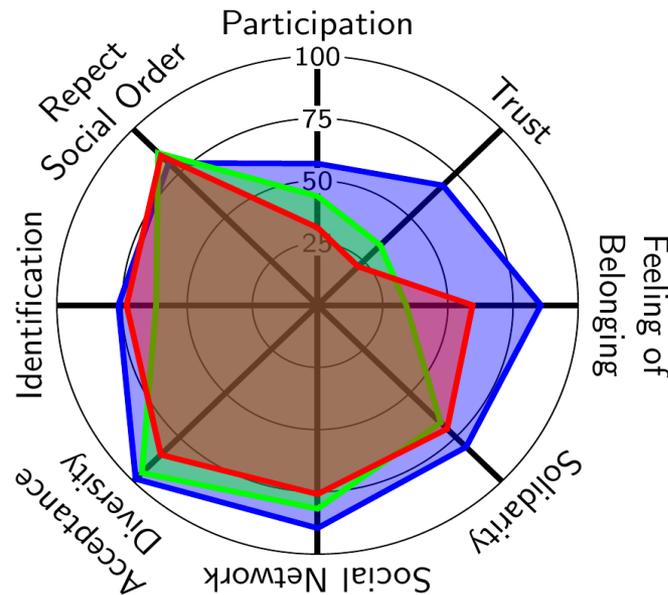
Aggregational Methods

- From individual level to country level
- Confirmatory Factor Analysis
 - + Empirical confirmation of the relationship between dimensions
- Matching Percentiles (Lambsdorff 2006, Foa and Tanner 2011)
 - + Normative approach to the definition of cohesion
 - + Rank-like measure based on normative distribution
- Radar Chart/Smart Spider of Cohesion



Sweden Germany Bulgaria

Brazil China USA



Data From: World Value Survey Wave 5 (2005-2007)

1. Social Network: v5 "How important in your life: Friends"
2. Participation: v7 "How important in your life: Politics"
3. Trust: v23 "Most people can be trusted or need to be very careful"
4. Acceptance of Diversity: v39 "Would not like to have as neighbors: Immigrants"
5. Feeling of Belonging: v75 "Willing to fight for your country"
6. Identification: v209 "How proud are you to be [COUNTRY]"
7. Solidarity: v84 "It is important to this person to help the people nearby"
8. Respect of social order: v199 "How OK: Avoiding a fare on public transport"



Open Questions and Discussions

- Aggregation from the individual level?
- Matching Percentiles vs. Confirmatory Factor Analysis?
- CFA with countries? ($n < 30$)
- Usefulness of Radar Chart
- Handling missing values: individual level and country level?
- Vulnerability to set of countries?!



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
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