



# SOCIAL CAPITAL

Individual and societal perspectives

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## “Social Capital”: an appealing yet problematic concept

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- People’s relationships and social behaviour have a profound impact on individual and societal outcomes.

“Economic capital is in people’s bank accounts, human capital is inside their heads, social capital is in ... their **relationships**”

(A. Portes)

- It has proved “fiendishly difficult to measure” because “we do not quite know what we should be measuring”

(P. Dasgupta)





# Social capital: a private (individual) or public (societal) good?

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## Bourdieu:

- Private good
- Social capital as “the resources available to individuals through membership in social networks”

## Coleman:

- Both private and public good
- Social capital is “defined by its function”, and can be “any aspect of social relations that facilitate certain actions”

## Putnam:

- Emphasis on public good
- Social capital as “norms of reciprocity and networks of civic engagement”





# Personal relationships: individual behaviour

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Size of people's networks  
(friends, family, neighbours,  
colleagues, etc.)

Type/intensity of  
relationship (strong,  
weak)



Frequency/mode of  
contact

Composition/  
diversity of  
people's  
networks



Degree of social  
isolation





# Social network support: individual outcomes

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Helping out  
e.g. caring, childcare,  
etc.



Emotional support



Financial support



Material support  
e.g. borrowing a car

Information and advice  
(e.g. for business opportunities, job searches, for a life decision)





# Civic Engagement: behaviour that benefits society

**Associational membership**  
(e.g. charity, professional, common interest, etc.)

**Volunteering**

**Other social contributions**  
(e.g. jury duty, donating blood, giving money to charity)

**Social mobilisation/  
community action**

**Political/democratic participation**  
(e.g. voting, contacting politician, canvassing, etc.)

**Interest in community/  
social issues**





# Trust & cooperative norms: societal outcomes

**Trust and trustworthiness**  
(e.g. trust in strangers, level of honesty, etc.)



**Institutional effectiveness**  
(e.g. trust in government, media and other institutions, corruption and perceived corruption, etc.)

**Generalised reciprocity**  
(e.g. willingness to help others)



**Other co-operative norms**  
(e.g. altruism, solidarity, etc.)

**Tolerance of diversity**  
(e.g. acceptance of different ethnicities, religions, sexual orientation, nationalities, etc.)





## Four interpretations of “Social Capital”

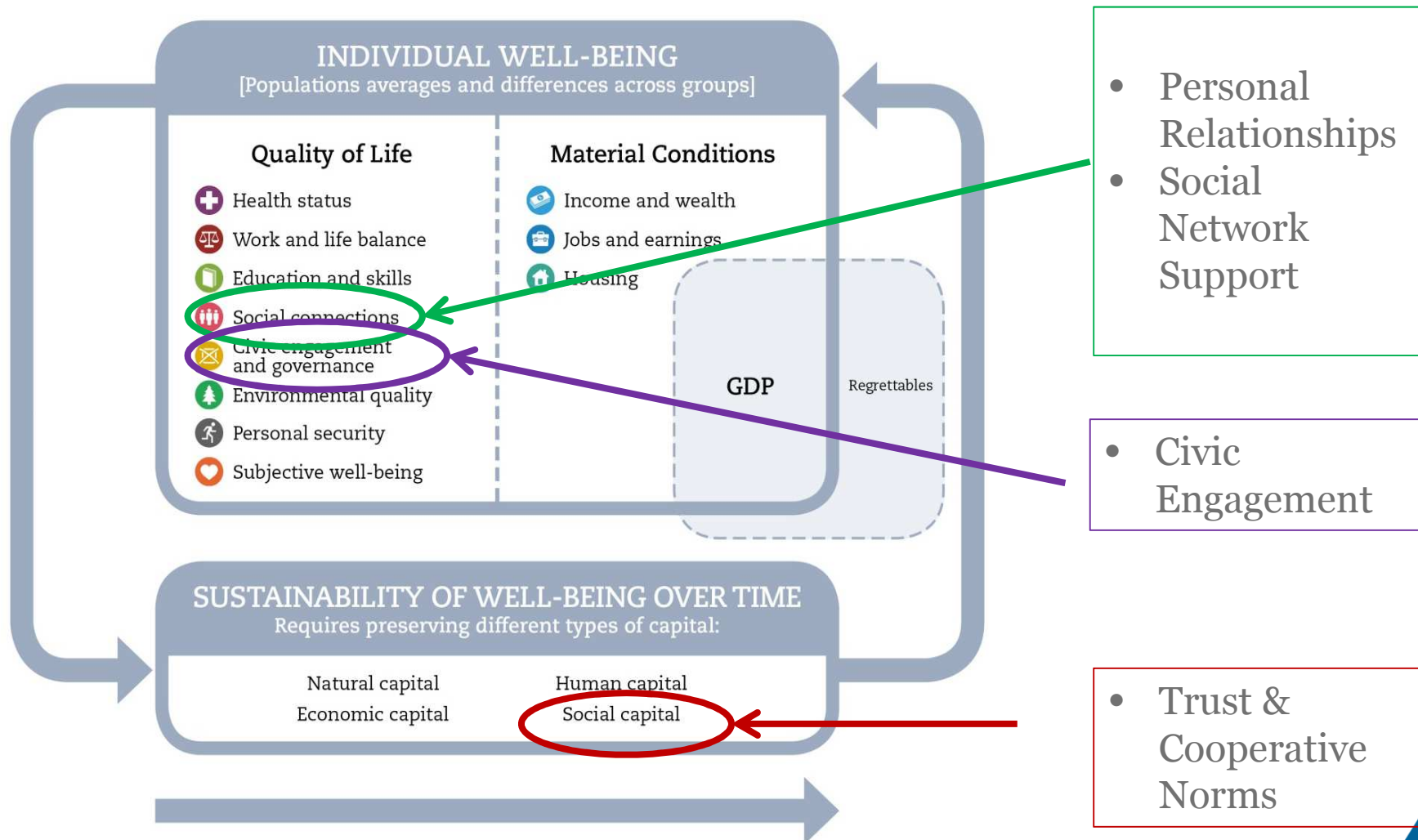
	<i><b>BEHAVIOUR</b></i>	<i><b>OUTCOME</b></i>
<i><b>INDIVIDUAL</b></i>	<b>PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS</b>	<b>SOCIAL NETWORK SUPPORT</b>
<i><b>SOCIETAL</b></i>	<b>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>TRUST AND COOPERATIVE NORMS</b>







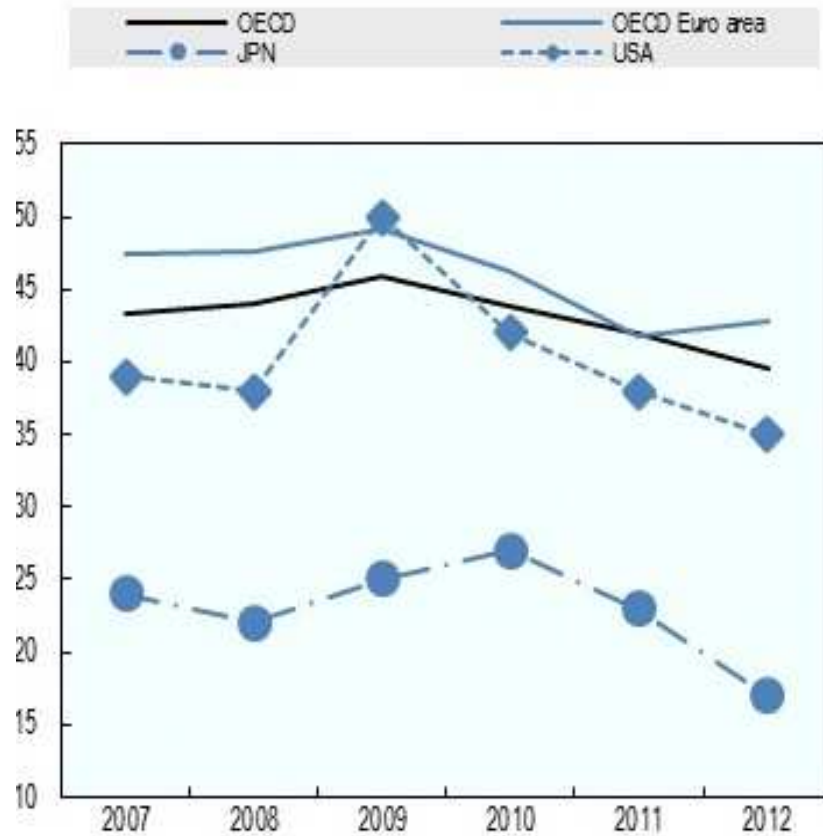
# Relating the perspectives to individual and societal well-being



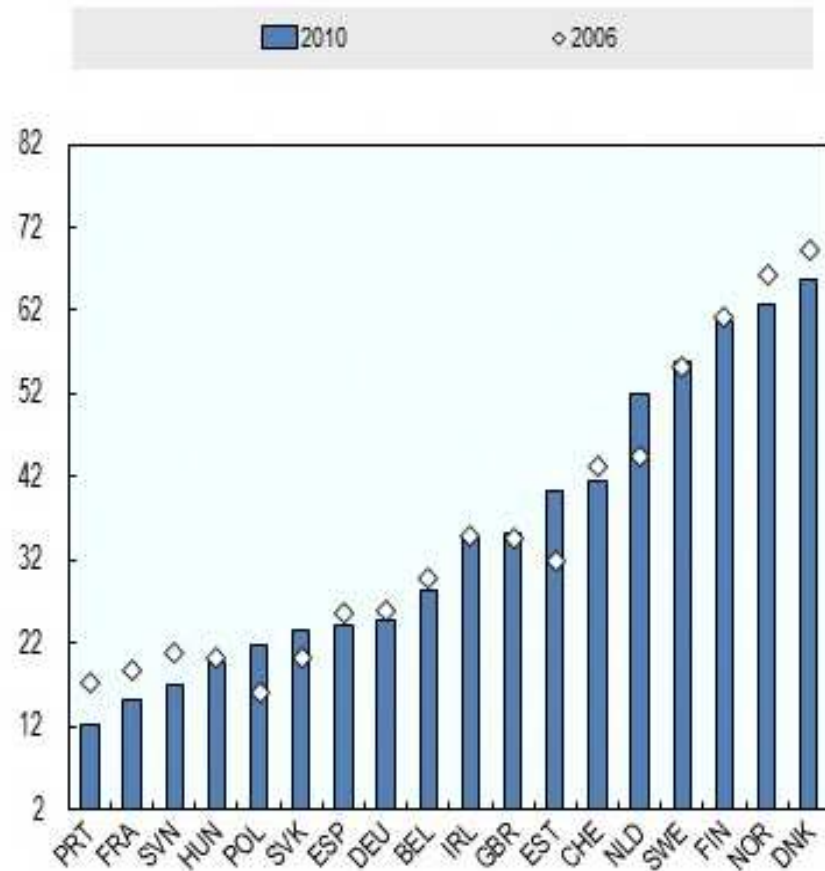


# Impact of crisis on trust

Panel A. Percentage of people who trust national government



Panel B. Percentage of people who trust others





Thank you!

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