

# CONTENTS

<b>Preface</b>	9
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	11
<b>General introduction – The reasons for a methodological guide produced by the Council of Europe</b>	13
1. Social cohesion in the context of human rights and the exercise of democracy	15
2. Social cohesion in changing modern societies	15
3. Contents of the <i>Methodological guide</i>	17
a. Objectives	17
b. Method of analysis	17
c. Structure	18
d. Results expected	18
<b>Part I. Conceptual approach to social cohesion – Definition and strategic approaches</b>	21
<b>CHAPTER 1 – CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES TO SOCIAL COHESION</b>	23
1. Proposal for a benchmark definition based on the principles of the Council of Europe	23
2. Other definitions of social cohesion: analysis of contributions and their limitations	24
a. The etymological sense of cohesion	24
b. The origins of the concept of social cohesion: the views of Emile Durkheim	24
c. Definitions based on community bonds	24
d. Definitions based on shared values and a sense of belonging	25
e. Definitions based on the ability to work together	25
3. Justification for a benchmark definition proposed by the Council of Europe	26
4. Conclusions	27
<b>CHAPTER 2 – STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO SOCIAL COHESION</b>	29
1. Spheres of modern life and development of social cohesion	29
2. Levels of analysis: comparison of social cohesion approaches and strategies	30
2.1. The negative approach	31
2.2. The positive approach	32
a. Territorial cohesion approach	33
b. Social capital approach	34
c. Quality of life approach	35
d. Access to rights approach	36
3. Thoughts on the development of social cohesion strategies	37
<b>CHAPTER 3 – THE APPROACH PUT FORWARD IN THE GUIDE</b>	40
1. The Council of Europe’s Strategy for Social Cohesion: an interactive approach based on the shared responsibility of all players	40
2. Social cohesion analysis framework	41



## **Part II. Understanding social cohesion – Frames of reference, fields of analysis, levels of assessment and monitoring** 45

### **Introduction: why do we need to understand social cohesion and how do we go about it?** 47

#### **CHAPTER 1 – UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL COHESION AS AN OBJECTIVE** 49

1. Key elements in respect of quality of life (situations) 49
2. Key elements in respect of areas of life (players and actions) 49
  - a. Human rights and sustainable development as manifestations of the shared objective of the well-being of all 50
  - b. Citizenship and the associative approach as a manifestation of shared responsibility 52
  - c. Democratic skills as evidence of the capacity to reflect together, define each person's responsibilities, take joint decisions, and learn from and capitalise on experience 53
  - d. Balancing the objectives of economic development and social cohesion 54
3. Core constituents of social cohesion and integrity of civic values 55
4. Summary and conclusion 56

#### **CHAPTER 2 – UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL COHESION AS A PROCESS** 59

1. An economic model and governance paradigm conducive to social cohesion: the post-war years 60
2. Changes in the public arena: the shaping of a social cohesion model based on rights and on the action of the state 61
  - 2.1. The affirmation of rights within public action 62
    - a. Spheres of life subject to regulation and given political support 62
    - b. Vulnerable groups in the exercise of their rights and citizenship 64
3. Extension of the public arena to include other stakeholders: the search for a new form of social cohesion 64
  - a. The role of citizen organisations 65
  - b. The role of companies and professional organisations 66
4. Conclusion 66

#### **CHAPTER 3 – UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL COHESION AS AN ACQUISITION** 68

1. General framework and objectives of the exercise 68
2. Proposed methodology 69
  - a. Assessing general trends in social cohesion (first assessment level) 71
  - b. Assessing social cohesion as a whole (second assessment level) 71
  - c. Assessment of social cohesion through an analysis of eight areas of life (third assessment level) 72
  - d. Assessment of social cohesion through vulnerable groups (fourth assessment level) 74



<b>Part III. Development of tools for understanding social cohesion – Questions, indicators and syntheses</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLS</b>	<b>81</b>
1. General problem: contexts and concepts for the development of tools	81
2. Guidance tools	82
3. Synthesis tools	84
a. Methods and tools for analysing general trends in social cohesion (first assessment level)	84
b. Methods and tools for analysing social cohesion as a whole (second assessment level)	85
c. Methods and tools for a detailed analysis of social cohesion, by area of life or vulnerable group (third and fourth assessment levels)	85
d. Conclusion	86
4. Quality criteria: questions, indicators and data	87
<b>CHAPTER 2 – DRAWING UP THE QUESTIONS</b>	<b>90</b>
1. Methodological rules for formulating questions	90
2. Questions for the first level (trend analysis)	91
3. Questions for the second level (analysis of public action)	91
4. Questions for the third level (analysis by area of life)	92
a. Analysis of situations	92
b. Analysis of the basic components of life	94
c. Analysis of the action	94
5. Questions for the fourth level (analysis by vulnerable groups)	95
6. Summary of the logical framework and its application in the monitoring of action plans	96
<b>CHAPTER 3 – DEVELOPMENT AND CHOICE OF INDICATORS</b>	<b>98</b>
1. Benchmarks for drawing up indicators	98
a. Definition of the indicators and response scales	99
b. Analysing and improving significance by cross-referencing with other indicators, comparing data and/or using derived indicators	100
c. Identifying sources and data	101
d. Improvement in data reliability: statistical processing (averages, deviations and disaggregations)	102
2. Method selected for the development of indicators	102
3. Description of the indicators	103
<b>Part IV. Measuring social cohesion – Tables and databases</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>107</b>
1. Structure of the tables and choice of indicators	107
2. Structure of the indicators database	108
3. Guidelines for using the data sheets	109
4. Examples of practical application as a reference	109
5. The ultimate aim: collective learning and accumulation of knowledge	109