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# Discussion – Relationships Block

**Friends of the Chair of Social and Demographic Statistics  
Technical Workshop**

**11 Sept 2025**



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

CENTRE ON WELL-BEING, INCLUSION,  
SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY (WISE)

<https://www.oecd.org/wise/>

# Growing policy interest in relationships



## United Kingdom

2018 appointment of the first Minister for Loneliness & Strategy (Department for Digital, Culture, Media, Sport)



## Germany

2022 Strategy against Loneliness (Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth)



## Sweden

2025 National Loneliness Strategy (Public Health Agency for Ministry of Health and Social Affairs)



## Netherlands

2018 Loneliness Programme (Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport)



## Korea

Seoul campaign against lonely deaths and Going Together Socially Connected Index



## Spain

National loneliness strategy under development (Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030)



## Japan

2021 appointment of first Minister for Measures of Loneliness and Isolation & 2024 loneliness and isolation as whole-of-society issue law



## Denmark

2023 National Partnership against Loneliness (Danish Parliament, Red Cross)



World Health Organization



Commission on Social Connection

European Commission

# In search of a conceptual framework

## Measuring social connectedness in OECD countries

A scoping review

Working paper

More info 



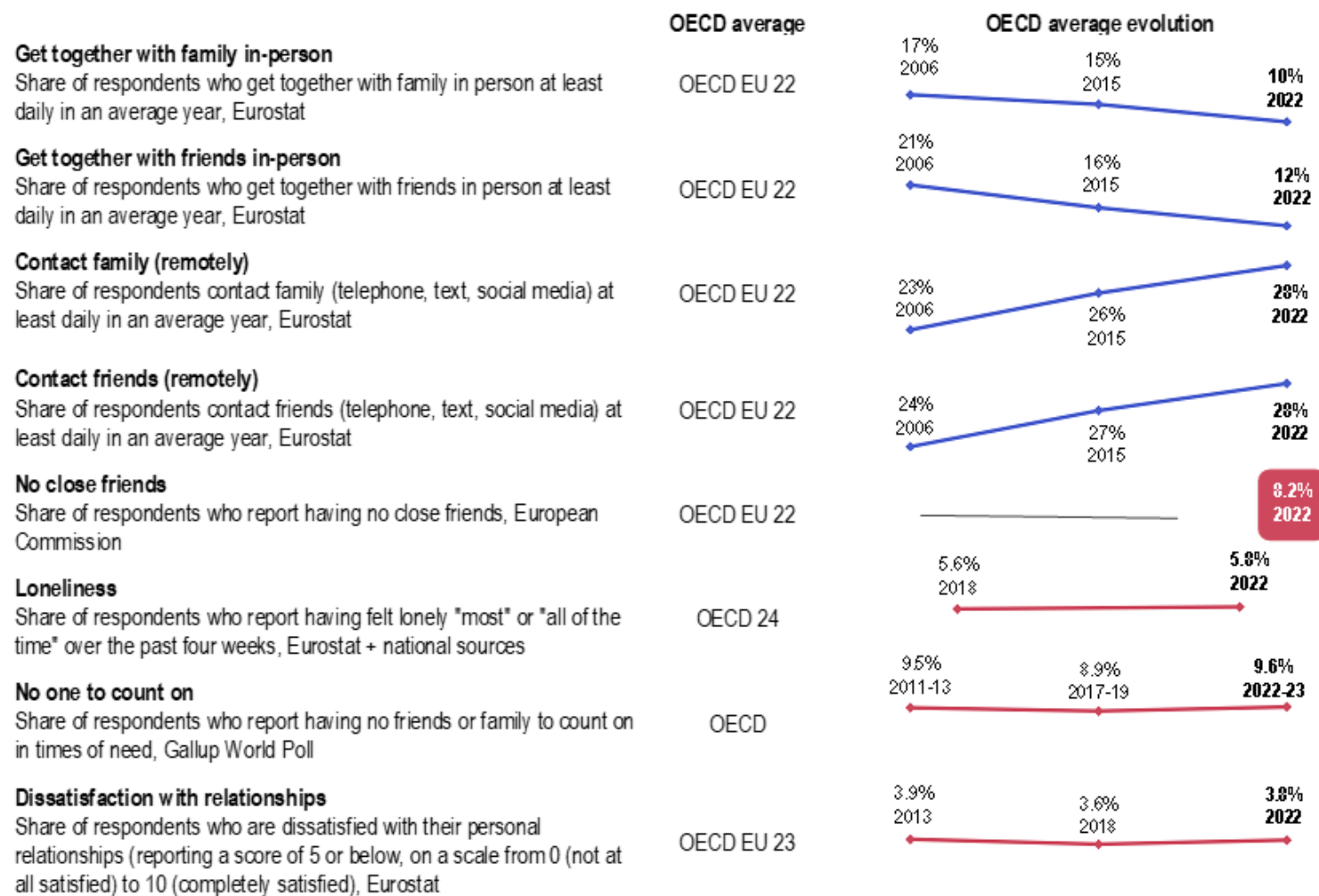
**Structure/ Extent**  
Time spent with others  
Social isolation  
Types of social contact  
Network composition

**Function & Quality**  
Social support  
Loneliness  
Satisfaction with & emotions associated with relationships

**Community connectedness**  
Connections across societal groups  
Sense of belonging  
Social acceptance and discrimination

# Open questions about how components behave

Figure 1.3. At a glance: Social connections outcomes over time



# Comments on opportunities for future work

- We support the proposed opportunities for future work, to gather internationally comparable relationship metrics to inform a CFSPSS and other relevant areas (eg well-being statistics and policy) and are interested to collaborate – we are planning **measurement recommendations on social connectedness**, depending on financial support, and this could be done together with a global focus
- It would be great if further NSOs beyond Canada and Morocco would perform the expert mapping exercise
- We agree with the need to further test existing and newly created relationship measures – in our well-being measurement guidelines series, there is a process for systematically assessing statistical properties including validity
- Further step should also be a ranking of indicators to identify a key priority list that is most relevant to policy and performs best according to statistical quality criteria and can act as lead indicators for their relationship dimension (the current list is still very long)

