

## Education, Health and Social Capital: a Cross-country Analysis

**Franco Sassi** – mailto: [Franco.SASSI@oecd.org](mailto:Franco.SASSI@oecd.org)

OECD, Health Division, Paris, France

The London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Social Policy, London, UK

Analyses of the relationships between education and health and between social capital and health have been generally focused on individual countries, sometimes involving a sub-national geographical analysis based on administrative areas of varying sizes within countries. Less is known about how different countries compare in terms of the influence education and social capital have on health status and longevity. The World Health Survey (WHS), undertaken by the World Health Organization in 2003, offers new opportunities to explore the influences of education and aspects social capital on health status and health-related behaviours. The WHS is a household based health interview survey undertaken on nationally representative samples in 70 countries at different levels of income and development. Through the WHS, detailed information was collected on individual health status, health related behaviours (e.g. nutrition, physical activity, smoking), educational level and aspects of social capital such as voting behaviour, trust in government, perception of safety in the neighbourhood. Using a multilevel structure, the relationships between individual-level and country-level characteristics and individual health and health related behaviours will be modelled. Interactions between individual-level and country-level factors will be explored through random coefficients. The selection of country-level characteristics for inclusion in the model will focus primarily on features of national policies (e.g. minimum school leaving age) or aspects that are directly influenced by national policies (e.g. private expenditures on education). Attempts will be made to establish the extent to which the relationships identified may be considered causal, in a view to drawing policy relevant conclusions from the analysis.