



SCORE Index - Brief Review

WHAT IS THE SCORE INDEX?

The Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index is an innovative tool designed to measure the state of peace in multi-ethnic societies around the world. In order to achieve this goal, SCORE **examines two main components of peace – reconciliation and social cohesion – and the intricate relationship between them** in order to formulate policy recommendations.

SCORE Index is developed through a partnership between UNDP-Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT) in Cyprus and the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD), with USAID funding. The tool supports policy decisions for national and international stakeholders and is particularly **suited for post-conflict multi-ethnic societies** that now face peace-building and state-building challenges.

SCORE Index also explores the impact of Social Cohesion and Reconciliation on Readiness for Political Compromise. These findings can be used to guide the allocation of peacebuilding resources in supporting the ongoing peace processes. So far, the SCORE was implemented in Cyprus twice (2013 and 2014), and once in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Nepal.

WHAT IS SOCIAL COHESION?

“A cohesive society works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust, and offers its members the opportunity of upward mobility.” (OECD 2011)

WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

“(Intergroup) reconciliation pertains to the removal of the emotional barriers which hinder the path towards conflict resolution” (adapted from Shnabel & Nadler, 2008)

THE SCORE Index PROCESS in Cyprus



Social Cohesion

Variables:

- Freedom from Corruption (in public life)
- Civic Life Satisfaction (perceived satisfaction with the course of public life)
- Trust in Institutions (e.g. police, judicial system, parliament, government)
- Representativeness of Institutions (belief that institutions work for the benefit of citizens)
- Economic Security (having a secure basic income, able to cover for needs)
- Political Security (feeling free to associate and express political views)
- Personal Security (feeling protected from any kind of violence)
- Civic Engagement (being active in civic life)

Reconciliation

Variables:

- Negative Stereotypes towards the other community
- Social Distance (wishing to have no or weak social ties with the other community including professionally)
- Intergroup Anxiety (being uneasy of meeting members of the other community)
- Social Threats (perceiving the other community as a threat to own community)
- Active Discrimination (actively discriminating against members of the other community)
- Cultural Distance (tendency to view the other community as culturally different)
- Contact with the other community

Readiness for Political Compromise

Variables:

- Propensity to Vote 'Yes' in a future referendum
- Expectation that negotiations should conclude and a settlement achieved
- Support for a Bi-zonal Bi-communal Federation
- Support for the termination of the status quo

GENERAL POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR CYPRUS

- 1. ENHANCE DIVERSITY:** Help Cypriots become more comfortable with cultural diversity.
- 2. REDUCE SOCIAL DISTANCE:** Find practical ways to reduce social distance between the two communities.
- 3. FOSTER INCLUSIVITY:** Make the peace process more inclusive and participatory within a broader effort towards inclusive participatory democracy.
- 4. PROVIDE HUMAN SECURITY:** Adopt a citizen-centred approach to address all aspects of human security (i.e. political, economic and personal security)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO NEGOTIATING STAKEHOLDERS

- Invest in the Technical Committees as a forum of collaboration which reduces social distance, and showcase their work and experience to the society at large.
- Focus on how a potential settlement plan can cover the cultural needs of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots who will be living under the administration of the other community.
- Find practical ways to engage citizens in the negotiations such as developing a “peace process” public communications office, organising “town-hall” meetings, and holding regular polling on the different dossiers that are being discussed. Particular emphasis should be given to youth and women.
- Reframe the security dossier from a discussion around the issue of guarantors to an issue about the needs of the people to feel secure in both communities.
- Make full use of the Cyprus Dialogue Forum as a structured feedback loop between the formal negotiations and citizens’ opinion and concerns about the peace process.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES AND LEGISLATORS

- Establish contact with political parties of the other community (especially parties who were not engaged in such practices before).
- Organise joint events for the parties’ grassroots (with particular focus on youth and women representatives of the parties) to discuss cultural diversity.
- Take responsibility, as political parties, to consult with grassroots on issues of the peace process and present them to the negotiators to be taken into consideration.
- Prepare and support policies that make possible the teaching of the other community’s language in the schools’ curriculum.
- Propose and support policies that foster collaboration among the academic community from both sides of the divide.
- Raise awareness within the Greek Cypriot political parties regarding the effects that policies concerning Turkish Cypriots have on bi-communal relations.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Support the creation of shared spaces especially in the buffer zone, in order for people from both communities to meet and work.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTING DISPLACED PEOPLE

- Involve the youth of the organisations (e.g. of local authorities with displaced citizens, associations representing displaced people or other organisations) to organise discussions on the future of Cyprus, to visit towns and villages of origin, and to engage in a dialogue with the older generations.
- Wherever possible, start including the language of the other community on signs, information leaflets, guides or other information material.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

BI-COMMUNAL CSOs

- Share the experiences and challenges of collaboration between the two communities as good practices.
- Showcase the bi-communal experience to schools and universities across the island.

YOUTH CSOs

- Establish youth assemblies through collaboration of youth CSOs of both communities to discuss the future of Cyprus.
- Organise bi-communal workshops that deal with the common issue of youth unemployment, to enhance professional skills or support social entrepreneurship.

WOMEN CSOs

- Organise groups consisting of women from both communities to act as mentors and talk to women in towns and villages across the island.

OTHER CSOs

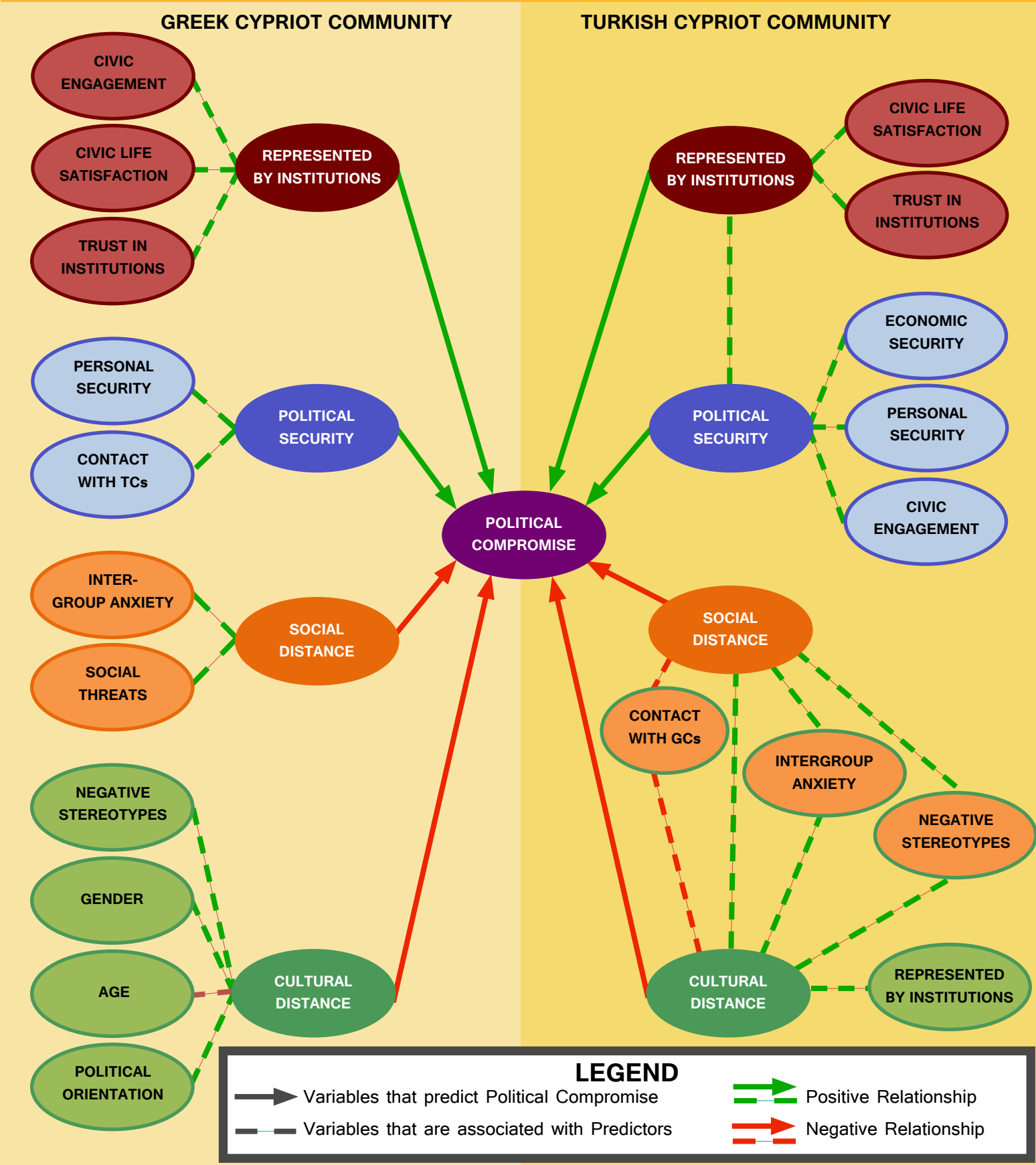
- Establish contacts with CSOs of the other community which are operating on the same causes.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

- Provide relevant means of support for Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot stakeholders in order to develop the policy recommendations above into actions.

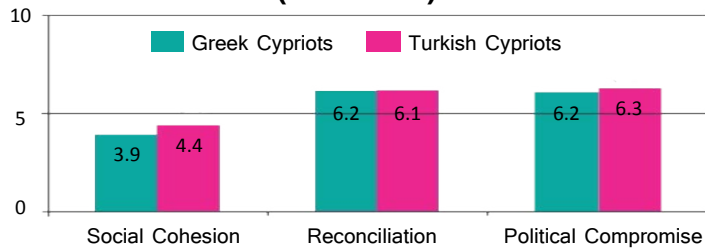
Predictors of political compromise and the factors that associate with them in each community

This diagram illustrates the variables (predictors) that influence readiness for political compromise for each community and the variables associated with these predictors. The four predictors (dark ovals) are common to both communities and they are related to political compromise either positively or negatively. A positive relationship (green lines) suggests that higher scores on the predictor lead to greater readiness for political compromise, whereas a negative relationship (red lines), suggests that higher scores on the predictor lead to less readiness for political compromise. Each of these predictors is associated with a number of other SCORE variables (faded ovals). All the aforementioned relationships were used to develop policy recommendations. More information can be found at www.scoreforpeace.org.



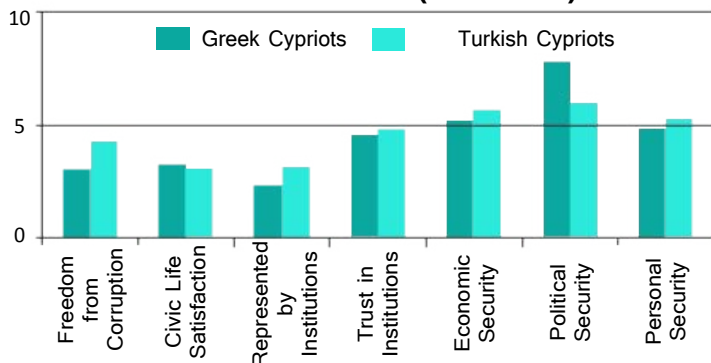
Overall Scores per Community - 2014

(Scale 0-10)



- Social Cohesion is low in both communities.
- Reconciliation scores suggest distance between the two communities.
- Political Readiness scores suggest ambivalence to a political compromise.

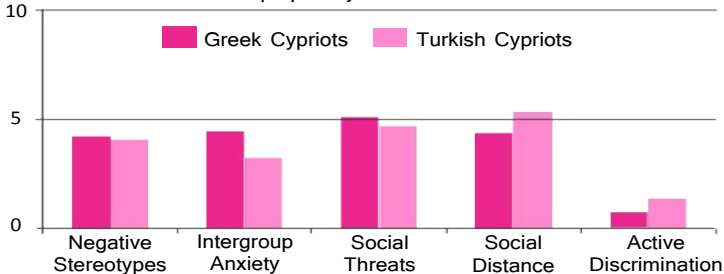
Social Cohesion (Scale 0-10)



- Representativeness of institutions drives down the levels of social cohesion in both communities.

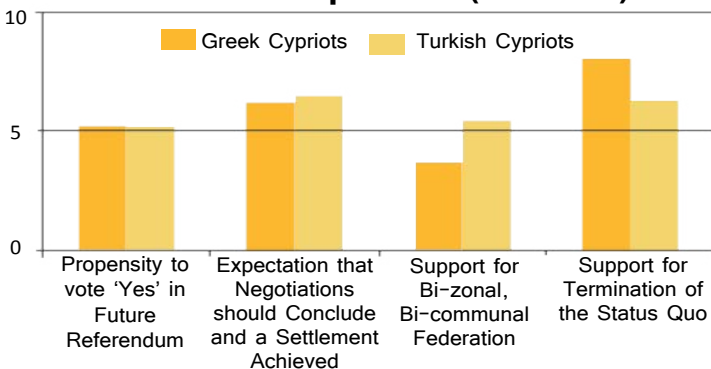
Reconciliation (Scale 0-10)*

*The higher the score on each indicator below, the lower the propensity for reconciliation



- Greek Cypriots' propensity for reconciliation is mostly affected by their perception that Turkish Cypriots are threatening to their own economic development and employment status.
- The propensity for reconciliation of Turkish Cypriots is driven down by their desire to keep their distance from the other community.

Political Compromise (Scale 0-10)



- Greek Cypriots are more in favour of the termination of the status quo.
- Turkish Cypriots show greater support to the federal solution.

Demographics

Certain demographic groups are particularly resistant to political compromise.



Comparison of SCORE 2013 – SCORE 2014

In Cyprus, SCORE was implemented twice in one year, making it possible to compare and identify trends. The most interesting results are noted as follows:

- For Turkish Cypriots, Quality of contact went from positive in 2013 to negative in 2014, propensity for reconciliation and propensity to vote 'Yes' in a Future Referendum decreased over the course of the same year. Cultural distance, on the other hand, widened between 2013 and 2014.
- For Greek Cypriots, cultural distance increased in 2014 too, but quality of contact, propensity for reconciliation, and propensity to vote Yes at a future referendum remained unchanged.

Greek Cypriots towards Turkish Cypriots			
VARIABLE	2013 (0-10)	2014 (0-10)	Difference
CULTURAL DISTANCE	6.1	7.0	+0.83 ↑

Turkish Cypriots towards Greek Cypriots			
VARIABLE	2013 (0-10)	2014 (0-10)	Difference
RECONCILIATION	6.9	6.2	-0.69 ↓
CULTURAL DISTANCE	5.4	6.2	+0.80 ↑
QUALITY OF CONTACT	6.8	3.7	-3.12 ↓
PROPENSITY TO VOTE 'YES' IN FUTURE REFERENDUM	5.7	5.2	-0.5 ↓

*The tables above show only results that came out to be statistically significant

SCORE Index is a partnership project between UNDP ACT, USAID and SeeD. For more information: www.scoreforpeace.eu, info@seedsofpeace.eu

