

# Social capital as driver of social equality and quality of life in minority groups in the European Union

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July 2020

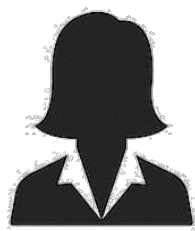


# European Union promotes social equality for its citizens, but diversity groups communities face problems related to social trust and social stress



Gay man that just came out of the closet tends to **feel more excluded** and present **higher rates of social anxiety and depression**, when trying to integrate in LGBT+ community than those who remain inside the closet (Pachankis, 2015).

Social cohesion among African descents is around **5% less strong in predominant white students schools**, than in schools in which colored students are the majority (Bentley-Edwards, 2014)



Women

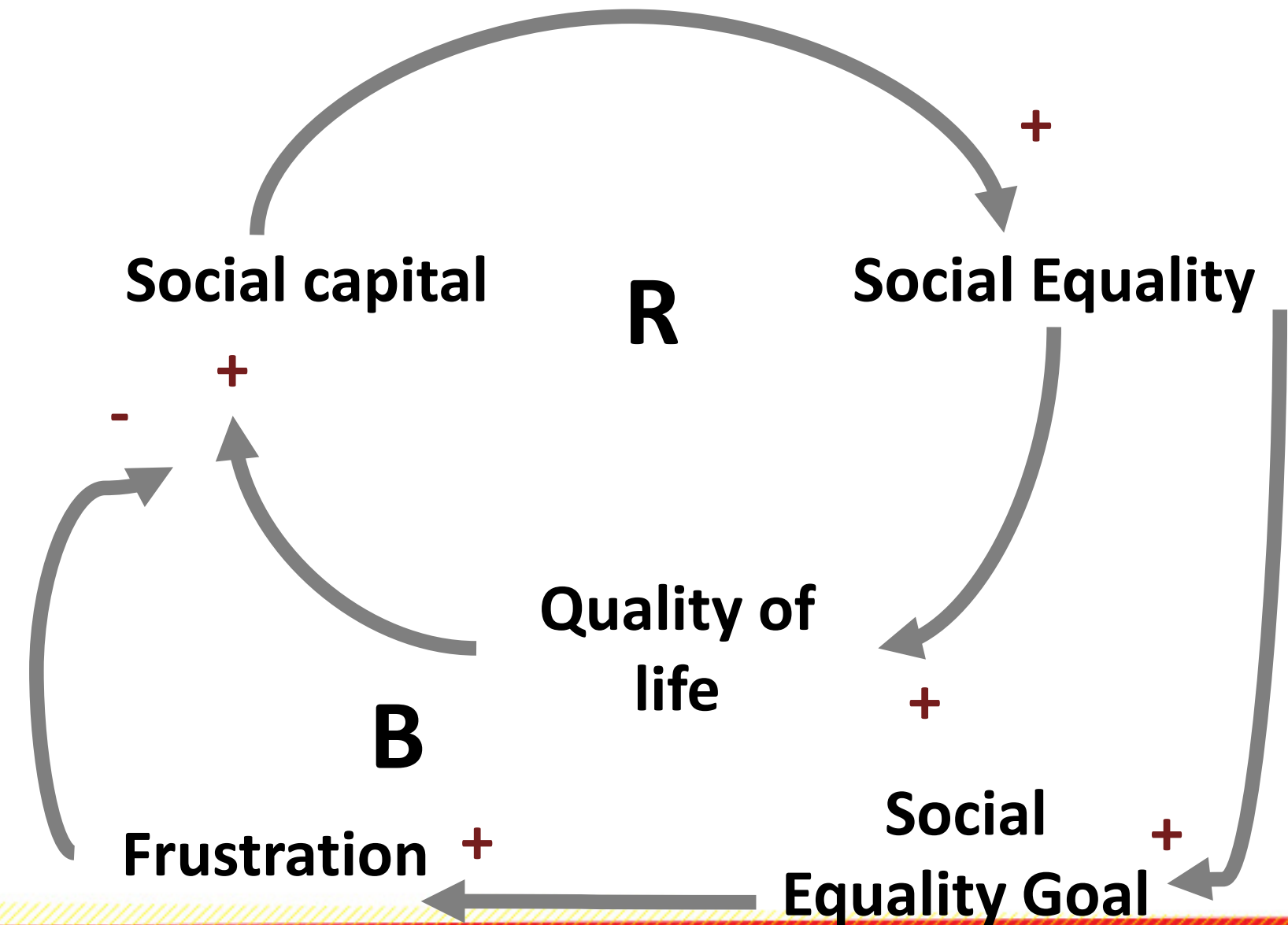
*“Women’s mutual understanding lies in the fact that they identify with each other: but then **each one competes with her companion**... the less able she is to show her own merits, the fiercer she is in wanting to be sovereign”* (De-Beauvoir, 1949)



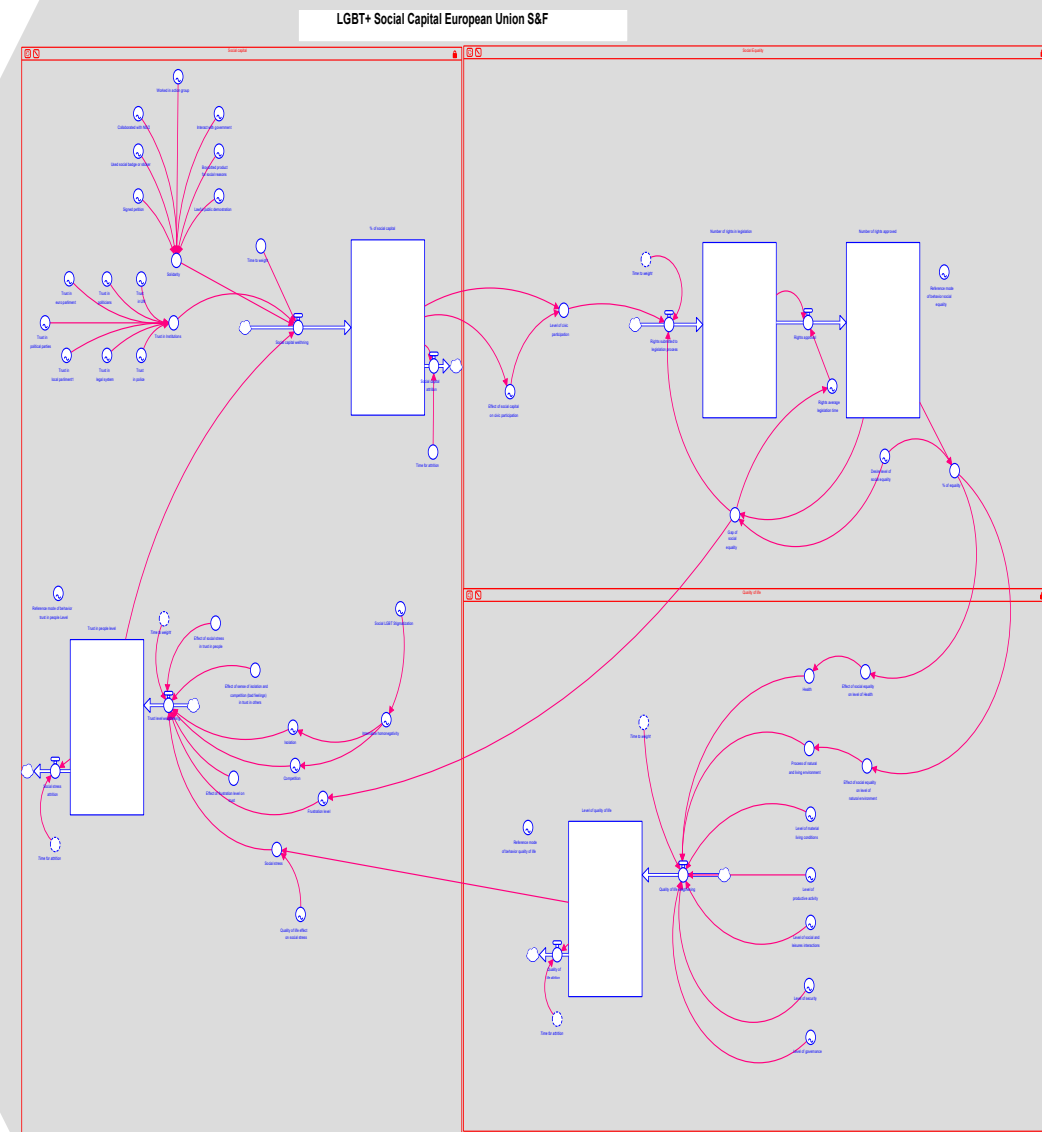
# Dynamic hypothesis

Based on literature and experiences with growing up with an intersectional diversity profile (first author), dynamic hypotheses are suggested:

- The quality of life of minority groups positively affects their social capital by reinforcing trust among minority groups members.



# Research process



To test such hypothesis three research questions need to be answered.

In order to do so four versions of the stock and flow diagrams have been developed using data bases of the European Union and NGOs.

**RQ1:** What are the levels of social cohesion, social equality and quality of life of diversity groups in the European Union?





**RQ2:** What are the main causal mechanisms influencing the level of social cohesion, social equality and quality of life if minority groups in the European Union?

**RQ3:** Which are effective policy options to improve the quality of life of minority groups of the European Union?

As previously mentioned this stock and flow is based literature and personal experiences with being part of a intersectional diversity group.



**RQ1: What are the levels of social cohesion, equality index and quality of life of diversity groups in the European Union?**

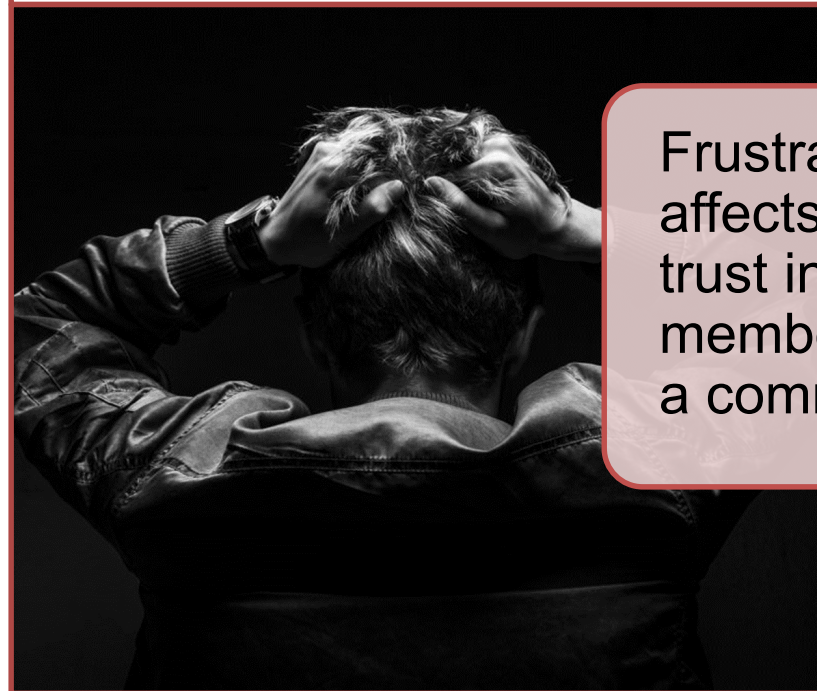
	Social capital	Social equality	Quality of life
 Women	67,8%	100%	49,8%
 PWD	63,3%	93,3%	47,2%
 African descents	58,2%	100%	49,8%
 LGBT+	52,4%	47,9%	42,5%



## RQ2: Which are the main causal mechanisms influencing the level of social cohesion, social equality and quality of life of minority groups in the European Union?

Results from sensitivity analysis.

### Social capital



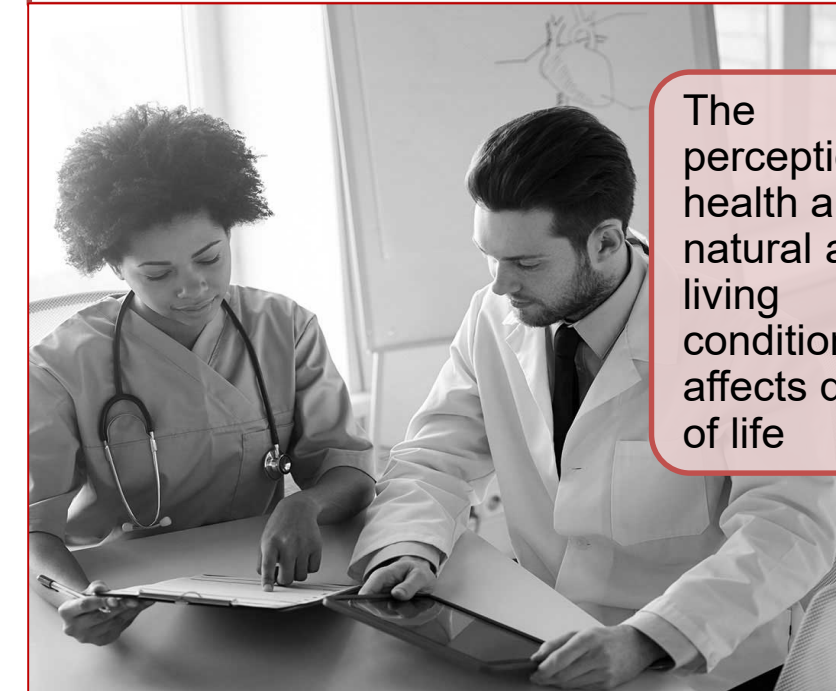
Frustration affects the trust in other members of a community

### Social equality



The value of social rights influences the annual goals of minority groups

### Quality of life



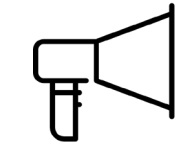
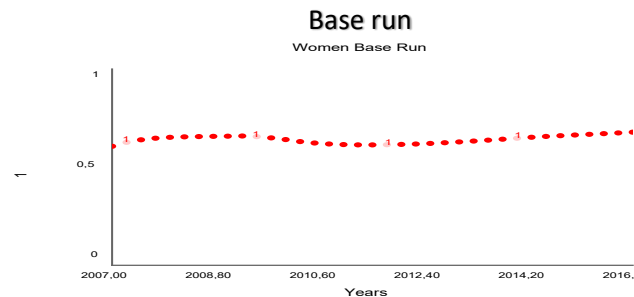
The perception of health and of natural and living conditions affects quality of life

# RQ3: Which are effective policy options to improve the quality of life of minority groups in the European Union?

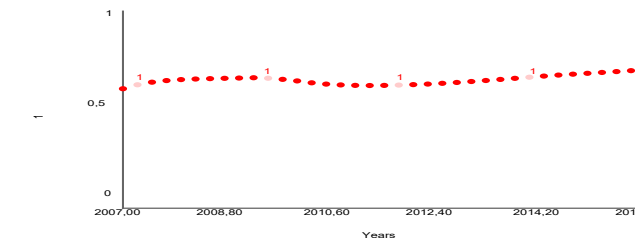
For people with disabilities and LGBT+ community awareness raising campaigns show better results, while women and people from African descents responded better to education policies.



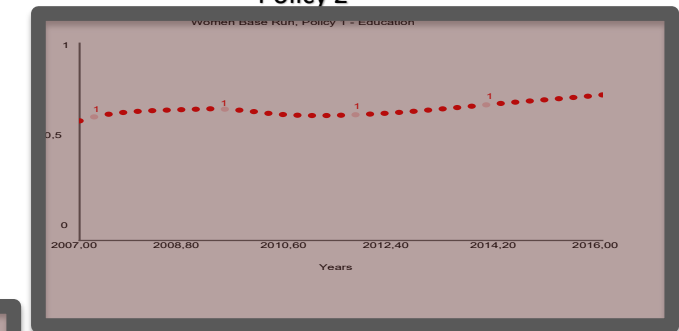
Women



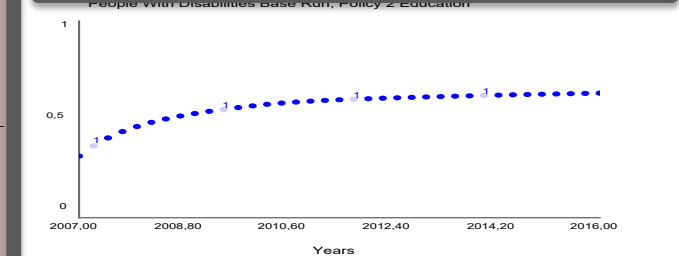
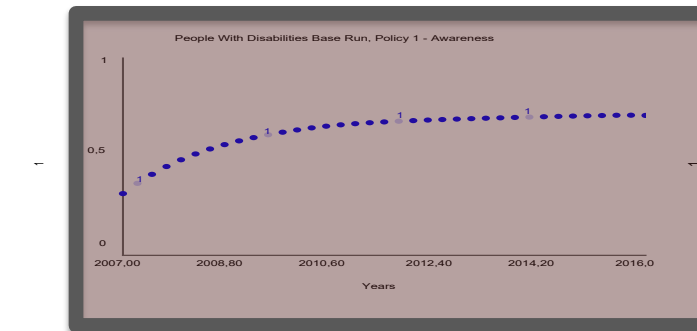
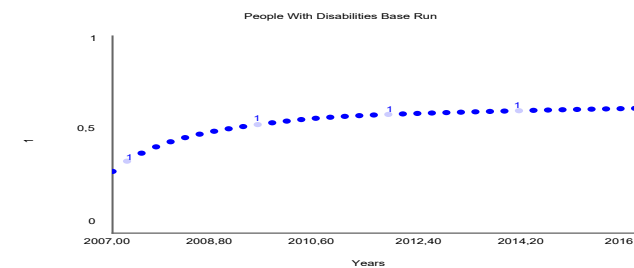
Policy 1



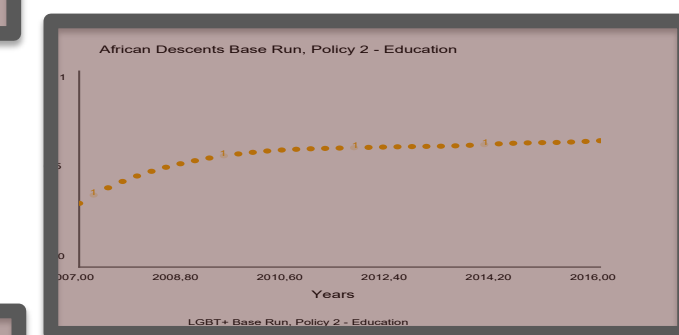
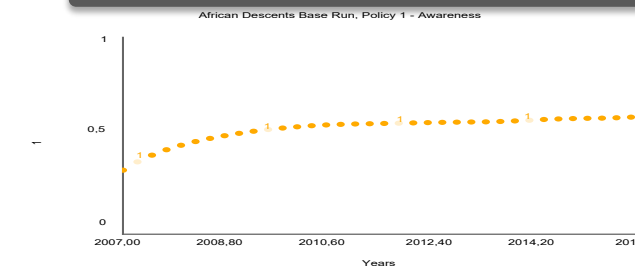
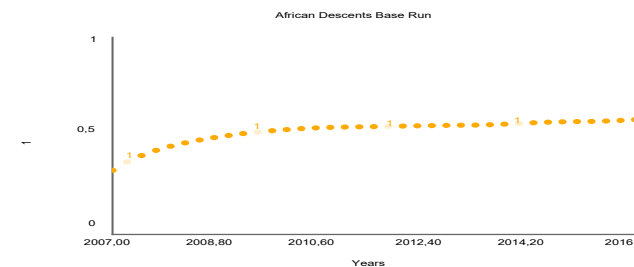
Policy 2



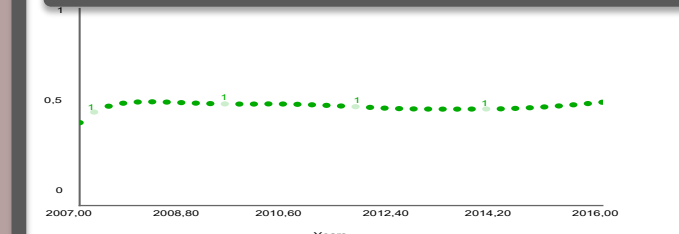
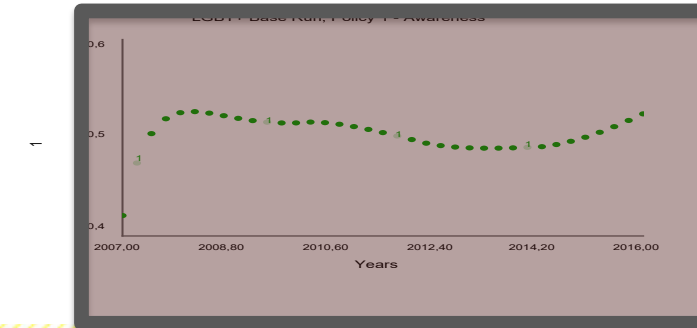
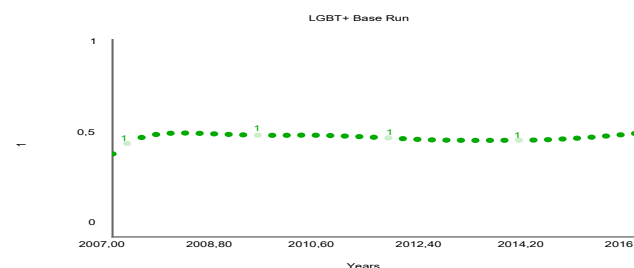
PWD



African descents



LGBT+





## Conclusions

- With an overall 23.14% discrepancy between simulation and reference modes of social equality, the simulation confirms that the level of social capital of minority groups is positively affecting their level of social equality.
- With an overall discrepancy of 11,98% between simulated quality of life and reference modes of behavior, simulation confirms that the level of social equality of minority groups positively affects the quality of life.
- Sensitivity tests suggest that the quality of life positively affects the social capital of minority groups via increasing the trust between minority group members.





**Thank you.**