The Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index is an innovative approach for measuring the impact of peace-building efforts. It is essentially a statistical tool that can measure and monitor over time changes in communities’ capacities for Social Cohesion and Reconciliation.

It will be visualized as a “barometer”, allowing users to determine in which direction society is moving along the “Reconciliation spectrum”, and thus ultimately help practitioners target their interventions, donors to target their funding, and authorities to target their policies more strategically in terms of peace-building. There already exist examples of indices attempting to measure Peace, and even a few targeting reconciliation, but the SCORE is unique in examining how social factors interact with and influence the process of reconciliation. The methodology of SCORE was validated at an international conference in Nicosia in 2012, bringing together leading peace researchers and peace-building practitioners from around the world, as well as extensive local consultations.

The SCORE draws upon scores of indicators from different sources and sectors of society, but the interface is designed to be user-friendly, using a simple colour scale of 1 to 10. This interface will soon be easily accessible through the “Peace it Together” knowledge hub. Discussions are in progress with practitioners in other contexts, including the Palestinian Territories, to expand the index beyond Cyprus to allow international comparisons between different post-conflict situations. The idea of a tool for measuring social cohesion and reconciliation, which has both a descriptive and predictive potential, has already attracted the attention of several UN agencies, international donors, and peace-building organisations operating in Cyprus, the Middle East and the Balkans.