

REVIEW OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION SOURCES AND INDICATORS ON GOVERNANCE

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In order to measure or quantify governance, National Statistical Offices (NSO) and International Organizations have established several data collection efforts and methodologies. Notwithstanding, due to a lack of definition, many of them differ substantially in content, data coverage, type of sources, and quality. Initiatives also diverge in terms of their conceptualization, aggregation and weighting. Thus, each one has its own methodology. Figure 2 presents which are the main sources used for measuring Governance.

In the case of NSO's, three cases will be mentioned. In the UK, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) presents Governance indicators related to elections and trust in Government. Additionally, the ONS has data on Government research and development, public sector personnel, public service productivity, aid and development, and Defense.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) measures progress in governance by asking Australians what are the most relevant aspects for achieving good governance. From this consultation, five main themes were identified: governmental trust, effectiveness, participation, informed debate and rights and responsibilities. Each of these themes have their own sub-dimensions.

Lastly, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI), through Government Censuses, collects data on Government, Public Safety, and Justice. These data include material and human resources, regulatory frameworks, policies and processes. INEGI also surveys people to assess perceptions on the quality of public services, confidence in public sector and perceptions on Public Security and Justice, as well as perceptions and actual experiences on corruption. Both censuses and surveys provide data according to the level of government: national, state and local.

UK
OFFICE FOR
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AUS
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TYPE OF SOURCES

Regarding the type of sources, they can be categorized in one of three ways:

- Population based surveys – these are focused on a representative sample of the general population. These sources aim to show the perceptions of people about a certain phenomenon.
- Expert based questionnaires (surveys) – in these types of surveys, researchers and experts in the field are asked to answer a questionnaire on a particular issue or to try to approach the situation of a country. Experts are expected to give answers based on knowledge and evidence.
- Administrative records – includes data obtained directly from government agencies or institutions responsible for governmental functions.

TYPE OF DATA

In terms of the type of data used by these exercises, three classifications can be identified. OECD (2013) divides the data into: inputs, processes, products and results. Fukuyama (2013) proposes that governance data should be associated with measures of procedures, inputs, outputs and bureaucratic autonomy. Finally, Levi-Faur (2012) argues that governance consists of four elements: structure, processes, mechanisms and strategies.

DISAGGREGATION LEVELS

As a final point, it is important to note that the vast majority of governance measurements only presents indicators at national level. This means that disaggregation at other levels, for example by region, function, or subnational levels of government is still in an exploratory phase. In addition, several of these measurements cannot necessarily be extrapolated to other regimes or political contexts, so their replicability is limited.

Figure 2 and Table 1 summarize some of the main sources used for measuring governance or aspects related to it. Table 1 is sorted by type of project and it presents the producer, availability, methodology used, as well as the dimensions included in each one.

Main Sources on Governance Information

Figure 2



Source: own elaboration based on the sources of information used by the Governance Projects presented in Table 1.

Governance Measurement Projects					Table 1 1st. part
PROJECT	PRODUCER	AVAILABILITY	METHODOLOGY	DIMENSIONS	
COMPOSITE INDEX OR RANKING					
DOING BUSINESS	World Bank & International Finance Corporation	189 economies (countries and selected cities); annually since 2002	It is based on two aggregate indicators: i) the ease of doing business, and ii) the distance to frontier measure. Both indicators are built using information provided by the laws and regulations of each country, and then assessed by local experts.	Procedures and costs for businesses to: Open a business Acquire building permit Get electricity Register property Get credit Protecting investors Pay taxes Trade with another country Enforce contracts Resolve insolvency	
COUNTRY POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT (CPIA)	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank	77 economies; annually since 2005	It is built from four equally weighted dimensions. Every dimension has its own score produced by the average of the rates included in each dimension. For each score, countries are rated on a scale of 1 to 6 by Bank's staff. Ratings are based on a variety of indicators, observations and judgments based on country knowledge. CPIA considers one dimension of Governance.	Public sector management and institutions score: Efficiency of revenue mobilization Property rights and rule-based governance rating Quality of budgetary and financial management Quality of public administration rating; Transparency, accountability, and corruption in the public sector	
MEASURING THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT AND SUBNATIONAL VARIATION	Quality Government Institute (University of Gothenburg)	27 EU countries and 172 regions; 2010	It is based on a combination of national level expert assessments and a Quality of Government survey. Assessments were conducted using World Governance Indicators. For the survey 34,000 EU citizens aged 18 or over were interviewed by telephone.	Corruption Rule of law Bureaucracy effectiveness Participation Accountability	
IBRAHIM INDEX OF AFRICAN GOVERNANCE	Mo Ibrahim Foundation	52 African countries; annually since 2007	It is a compiled from 32 international and African sources. It focuses on outputs and outcomes indicators and it has 14 sub-categories built by 94 indicators. All of its information is gathered by experts of the continent's institutions.	Security and rule of law Human development Sustainable economic opportunities Participation and human rights	

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Governance Measurement Projects					Table 1 2nd. part
PROJECT	PRODUCER	AVAILABILITY	METHODOLOGY	DIMENSIONS	
OPEN BUDGET INDEX	International Budget Partnership	100 countries; biennial since 2006	It is a rank based on the public availability of budget information and other budgeting practices; thus it focuses on processes. For constructing this rank, a survey of 125 questions is addressed to one or to a group of experts within an organization from the country at stake. Finally, each country receives a score from 0 to 100 based on the simple average of the responses.	No dimensions are defined; though it assess: Timeliness and comprehensiveness of eight key budget documents Oversight capacity of legislatures and supreme audit institutions Opportunities for public engagement during the budget process	
POLITY IV	Center for Systematic Peace & Integrated Network of Societal Conflict Research	167 countries; it covers the period 1800-2013.	Polity IV includes constructed annual measures for both institutionalized democracy and autocracy, as many polities exhibit mixed qualities of both of these distinct authority patterns. The Polity score is derived by subtracting the autocracy value from the democracy value; it ranges from a +10 to a -10. Data is gathered by analysts, experts in academia, policy and the intelligence community who monitor real-time events or outcomes.	Competitiveness of executive recruitment Openness of executive recruitment Constraints on chief executive Competitiveness of political participation	
RESOURCE GOVERNANCE INDEX	Revenue Watch Institute	58 countries; 2013	It evaluates the governance of the oil, gas and mining sector. The index includes 45 indicators grouped in four dimensions that measure the disclosure of information about natural resources through official sources. Data was collected by experts (20 local society experts, 12 independent consultants based in-country and 14 experts based outside the country they assessed) who used a specially designed questionnaire and several external sources. The RGI score is a weighted average of each dimension score.	Institutional & legal setting Reporting Practices Safeguards and Quality Controls Enabling Environment	
WORLDWIDE GOVERNANCE INDICATORS	World Bank	215 economies; over the period 1996-2012	The WGI are composite governance indicators based on 32 underlying data sources. It uses enterprise, citizen and expert surveys that are collected by a number of survey institutes, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and private sector firms. These data sources are rescaled and combined to create six aggregate indicators.	Voice and accountability Political stability and absence of violence Government effectiveness Regulatory quality Rule of law Control of corruption	

Governance Measurement Projects					Table 1 3rd. part
PROJECT	PRODUCER	AVAILABILITY	METHODOLOGY	DIMENSIONS	
BERTLESMANN TRANSFORMATION INDEX	Bertlesman Foundation & Centre for Applied Research (Munich University)	128 developing and transition countries; biennial since 2006	It analyzes and evaluates whether and how developing countries and countries in transition are steering social change toward democracy and a market economy. Country experts assess the extent to which a total of 17 criteria have been met by using a standardized codebook. Such assessments are then reviewed. The results are aggregated to build two indices. Each of these is equivalent to the average of the scores of the associated criteria.	Democracy status - stateness, political participation, rule of law, stability of democratic institutions and political and social integration Market economy status - level socio-economic development, organization of the market economy and competition, currency and price stability, private property, welfare regime, economic performance and sustainability Management index – level of difficulty, leadership capability, resource efficiency, consensus-building and international cooperation	
GLOBAL INTEGRITY INDEX	Global Integrity	31 countries; annually since 2004	It evaluates anti-corruption legal frameworks and the practical implementation and enforcement of those frameworks among countries. It uses quantitative data and qualitative reporting. Data are provided by local experts using a double-blind peer review process.	Non-governmental organizations Public information and media Elections Safeguards Checks and balances of conflicts of interest in government Public administration and professionalism Government supervision and controls Anti-corruption legal framework Judicial impartiality Professionalism of law enforcement	
GLOBAL RIGHT TO INFORMATION INDEX	Access Info Europe & Centre for Law and Democracy	98 countries; annually since 2010	It rates the overall legal framework for the right to information in a country; it does not measure quality of implementation. Experts provide subratings in seven different thematic areas divided in 61 indicators. The indicators are rated and weighted according to international standards on the right to information, as well as comparative studies. To check these assessments, local legal experts were asked to review and comment on the original scores.	Right of access Scope Application procedures Appeals, sanctions and protections Promotion measures	

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Governance Measurement Projects					Table 1 4th. part
PROJECT	PRODUCER	AVAILABILITY	METHODOLOGY	DIMENSIONS	
CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX	Transparency International	177 countries; annually since 1995	It scores and ranks countries based on how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be. It is based on a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption collected by different institutions. The data capture business and expert views. Year to year comparisons are possible from 2012 onwards.	No dimensions are defined	
RULE OF LAW INDEX	World Justice Project	99 countries; annually since 2010	It is a composite score that captures the experiences and perceptions concerning the performance of the State, its agents and the actual operation of the legal framework. It presents data on nine composite factors that can be disaggregated into 47 specific indicators. Each score is calculated using a General Population Poll and Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires. The General Population Poll uses a probability sample of 1,000 respondents in the three largest cities of each country. Polling methodologies vary according to the context of each country. The Qualified Respondents Survey are completed by respondents selected from directories of law firms, universities, research organizations and NGOs; on average, there are 24 respondents per country. Both questionnaires are equally weighted in the calculation of the scores.	Constraints on Government power Absence of corruption Open Government Fundamental rights Order and security Regulatory enforcement Civil justice Criminal justice Informal justice	
DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS					
AGI DATA	World Bank	Varies according to data source, country and indicator	It is a portal that consolidates information on actionable governance indicators. Its purpose is to facilitate the use of governance indicators for research, policy analysis and design of institutional, governance and public sector reforms. Data are provided by different sources from non-governmental, multilateral and academic institutions.	No dimensions are defined; though it compiles indicators on: Institutional arrangements (design) Organizational capacity Governance system performance	
DATA GOB	Inter-American Development Bank	Varies according to data source, country and indicator	It is a user-friendly interface for accessing indicators from 30 different publications, including multilateral organizations, NGOs, private firms, and think tanks. It allows users to easily produce cross-national comparative and time series graphs and tables. It contains approximately 400 governance indicators.	Governance Rule of law Decentralization Democracy Markets Society Public administration Transparency	

Governance Measurement Projects					Table 1 5th. part
PROJECT	PRODUCER	AVAILABILITY	METHODOLOGY	DIMENSIONS	
GOVERNMENT AT GLANCE	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	34 OECD countries; biannually since 2009	It provides over 50 indicators describing the political and institutional frameworks of governments as well as their performance. It covers the whole production chain of public goods and services: inputs, processes, outputs and outcomes. Data come from administrative records, population based surveys and other NGOs data collection efforts.	Confidence in government Policy effectiveness Strategic government Finance and public accounts Practices and procedures of public budget Employment and wages in the public sector Women in government Public procurement Open and inclusive government Accessibility Quality of public services	
GOVERNMENT STATISTICS & GOVERNANCE INDICATORS	Office for National Statistics (United Kingdom)	Varies according to data source and indicator selected. Most data can be disaggregated at a national, regional or sub regional level.	The ONS collects data for Governance and Government topics. Data are produced by central and local governments, the Department for International Development and the Defense and Analytical Services and Advice.	Government statistics Central and Local Government: Elections, Government Research and Development, Public Sector Personnel, Public Service Productivity International Affairs: Aid and Development Defense: Activities, equipment, estate, money and personnel Governance indicators: i) Percentage of registered voters who voted; ii) Percentage of those who have trust in national Government	

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Governance Measurement Projects

Table 1
6th. part

PROJECT	PRODUCER	AVAILABILITY	METHODOLOGY	DIMENSIONS
MEASURES OF AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS	Australian Bureau of Statistics (AUS)	Varies according to data source and indicator selected.	According to a consultation, Australians have rated governance as an important part of their national progress. In this sense, the ABS sought to provide indicators that measure Australian's aspirations. For this purpose, five dimensions were identified. Data sources vary according to each indicator; however, they are mainly provided by administrative records and population based surveys.	Trust: Overall progress, Integrity, Transparency, Accountability, Processes and Systems Effective governance: Overall progress, Effective, Interactions, Protection, Balance, Resilience Participation: Overall progress, Involvement, Awareness, Access and opportunity, Responsibility Informed public debate: Overall progress, Open and informed, Freedom, Free media, Regulation People's rights and responsibilities: Overall progress, Rights and responsibilities, Laws, Justice, Freedom, International
GOVERNMENT STATISTICS	National Institute of Statistics and Geography (MEX)	Since 2009; Data can be disaggregated at National, State and Municipal levels.	INEGI has two major sources for Governance data. One is the Government Censuses which contain data on Public Administrations (institutional design, legal framework, resources and processes). Data are provided by the public administrations at the federal, state and municipal levels. The other, the Quality of Public Services Survey is a Population based survey that measures the experiences and perceptions of public services, including measurements of perceptions and actual experiences on corruption. The sample size is about 33,000 individuals.	Public administrations: Organizational structure, Resources, Processes and services, Anticorruption measures, Legal framework. Quality of Public Services: Perceptions and expectations, Experiences with processes and services, Evaluations and priorities
POPULATION BASED SURVEYS				
EUROBAROMETER	European Commission	28 EU countries, since 1973	The Eurobarometer is a European-wide survey with national representative samples published twice a year. It has a core questionnaire and a thematic battery that changes with every edition. The Eurobarometer uses a non-substitute representative sample in each of the 28 countries; number of face-to-face interviews ranges from about 500 to 1,500 per country.	No dimensions are defined; however, the main questionnaire centers on topics such as: Citizens' rights, political institutions, economic situation and opinions about present topics and future perspectives The thematic batteries vary widely on the topics, from agricultural policy to sport or personal well-being

Governance Measurement Projects				
Table 1 7th. part				
PROJECT	PRODUCER	AVAILABILITY	METHODOLOGY	DIMENSIONS
CITIZENS FIRST	Canadian Institute for Citizen-Centered Service (ICCS)	6 waves, since 1996	The “Citizens First” Survey focuses on the satisfaction with the services provided by the government. It generates nation-wide satisfaction indicators that are used to assess improvements on public services. The sample-size is about 10,000 people and it is collected whether by on-line or by mail methods.	No dimensions are defined; however the survey aims to capture the general satisfaction with public services, including: Expectations, actual experiences and service reputation and importance. It also includes questions about the maximum time expected to wait in line and the use of web-services, for example
THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY	National Research Center (USA)	More than 500 cities/counties in the US; periodicity varies according to cities/counties	The National Citizen Survey measures the public opinion on services and other challenges that cities face. This is not a nation-wide poll: cities that require it, hire the NRC to carry on the study based on its needs and budget; thus sample-sizes, periodicity and content varies between cities. The collection data method is generally web-based questionnaires, although cities may choose to expand to a telephone or mail sample. It is the most wide-spread local citizen satisfaction survey in the US.	No dimensions are defined, but topics include: Community engagement Education and enrichment Recreation and wellness Economy Built environment Natural environment Safety Mobility
UK CITIZEN'S SATISFACTION SURVEYS	UK cities and local councils	Varies according to city or council	Local authorities use specific on-line or telephone surveys to account for public opinion during the decision-making process. Most surveys are followed by public meetings and discussions to analyze the results and take the appropriate measures. These exercises are not standardized and cannot be used for making large-scale comparisons nor trends, but serve as a specific and local way to bring citizens and authorities to work together. The methodology varies widely depending on the topic, including on-line voluntary polls or telephone surveys of a representative sample.	Topics vary widely, from general, long-term satisfaction surveys, to specific problems that cities face, such as public libraries, urbanization, parks, etc.

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Governance Measurement Projects

Table 1
8th. and final part

PROJECT	PRODUCER	AVAILABILITY	METHODOLOGY	DIMENSIONS
GALLUP WORLD POLL	Gallup	160 countries worldwide; frequency depends on the country, but most of them are year to year	The GWP provides data on global and region-specific issues and the thoughts and behaviors of population aged 15 and over. All samples are probability based. The typical survey includes at least 1,000 surveys; though it depends on the country. There is a standard set of core questions used around the world. Telephone and face-to-face interviewing are used depending on the context of each country. Finally, quality control procedures are used to validate sampling methods and that the correct person is randomly selected in each household.	In terms of governance, the core questionnaire contains perceptions and thoughts on: Government and Politics - Approval or disapproval of Politicians leadership performance, confidence in elections and national governments Law and order - Perceptions of insecurity, perceptions on corruption, confidence in the judicial system and the police
LATINOBARÓMETRO	Latinobarómetro	18 countries; annually since 1995	Latinobarómetro is a public opinion poll focusing on the interrelated development issues of democracy, economy and society. It measures attitudes, values and behaviors of the population from Latin America aged 18 or over. It is a face-to-face interview and it is representative at a national level. Sample sizes vary between 1,000 and 1,200 interviews per country. Sampling methods vary according to each polling company.	No dimensions are defined, but in terms of governance, the questionnaire contains information on political values and attitudes, perceptions and confidence on democracy and other relevant political institutions

Governance: a conceptual and methodological review

