

SGI 2024 Codebook

Sustainable Governance Indicators



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1. Conceptual considerations: Moving beyond “good” toward “sustainable” governance

The Paris Agreement serves as a global framework with the aim of averting perilous climate change. Its primary objectives are to limit global warming to a level significantly below 2°C and to strive for even greater efforts to keep the increase in temperature below 1.5°C (UNFCCC 2015). However, recent projections paint a worrisome picture, revealing that the collective commitments made by nations are still falling far short of the actions required to implement effective carbon removal strategies and curb greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (Boehm et al. 2022). This discrepancy between stated goals and actual progress has sparked ongoing discussions about the adequacy of government measures. There are concerns about whether the actions taken thus far are sufficient even to achieve the targets that countries themselves have set. Moreover, uncertainties persist regarding the optimal prioritization, sequencing and coordination of individual policy measures necessary to address the complex challenge of climate change effectively.

Though we clearly face an urgent need to transform the ways in which our economic and societal systems operate, we must also recognize that this transformation poses a classic example of a “wicked problem” (Rittel and Webber, 1973). The challenges we face are inherently complex and lack straightforward solutions. At best, our search for good or even satisfactory solutions entails engaging diverse social groups and leveraging the best available expertise in an adaptable and dynamic process of negotiation.

Given the immense complexity of the challenge at hand, efforts to drive this transformation are increasingly encountering calls for legitimacy. If we are to achieve a more sustainable economy and way of life, and sustain this progress in the long run, we must dedicate greater attention to the aspect of legitimacy when discussing these transformative changes.

Ultimately, the progress we make in transformation depends on the extent to which citizens and the business community have confidence in a government’s regulations and recognize the need for its far-reaching decisions, even when such legislation runs counter to their specific interests (Easton 1965). This, in turn, depends on various factors. First, it hinges on whether citizens have the opportunity to hold the government accountable and exercise control through functioning democratic institutions. Additionally, it relies on the perceived effectiveness and fairness of the transformational policies themselves (Scharpf 1999). However, the palpable quality of the process of governance itself is also crucial. Legitimacy can be further established through advancements in efficiency, accountability, transparency in the governing process, and the inclusion of civil society expertise in policy formulation (Schmidt 2013).

Central to the achievement of sustainability goals itself is the endeavor of governments to secure the legitimacy of their own accomplishments in the long term by establishing an effective governance system. Without these efforts to foster more sustainable governance, setbacks in the transformation of the current economic and societal system are inevitable.

Despite the widespread use of the term “governance” over the past three decades, there is still no universally accepted definition of the concept, nor is there consensus on the best way to operationalize it (e.g., OECD 2009, Rotberg 2014).

According to Pierre and Peters (2021: 2), governance is traditionally defined as a sociopolitical process involving “steering and control.” It revolves around how governments, in collaboration with societal and private actors, guide society and the economy toward specific collective goals. This process includes both traditional top-down control methods and newer collaborative negotiation

processes involving stakeholders who are affected by regulations, which emphasizes the importance of balancing control with cooperation.

However, in our view, the pursuit of these collective goals must also be rooted in a functioning democratic process of accountability and citizen participation. This second dimension of governance focuses on the form of governance itself, examining the extent to which state power is appropriately restrained by effective vertical, diagonal and horizontal democratic accountability mechanisms (Malena et al., 2004; Lührmann et al., 2020).

Governance analysis necessitates considering multiple analytical levels simultaneously (see figure 1). Exploring the input side involves examining resource allocation, the influence of civil society groups, the direction and content of specific policies, the existence of democratic rights, and participation in international agreements. The throughput side focuses on the actual practice of governance, including the implementation of democratic standards and the processes by which policies are developed within and beyond the government. Finally, ex-

ploring the outcomes of governance encompasses both immediate, tangible outputs of government actions and longer-term changes in policy outcomes. To obtain comprehensive insights into governance, it is vital to consider the throughput side together with the input, output and outcomes of governance, as analyzing individual levels in isolation can lead to erroneous conclusions.

Moreover, the analysis of governance should not be confined to the central state level but should encompass multilevel interactions with other government entities (central-local), supranational bodies (e.g., national-EU), and international levels. This broader perspective allows for a comprehensive understanding of governance dynamics and their implications.

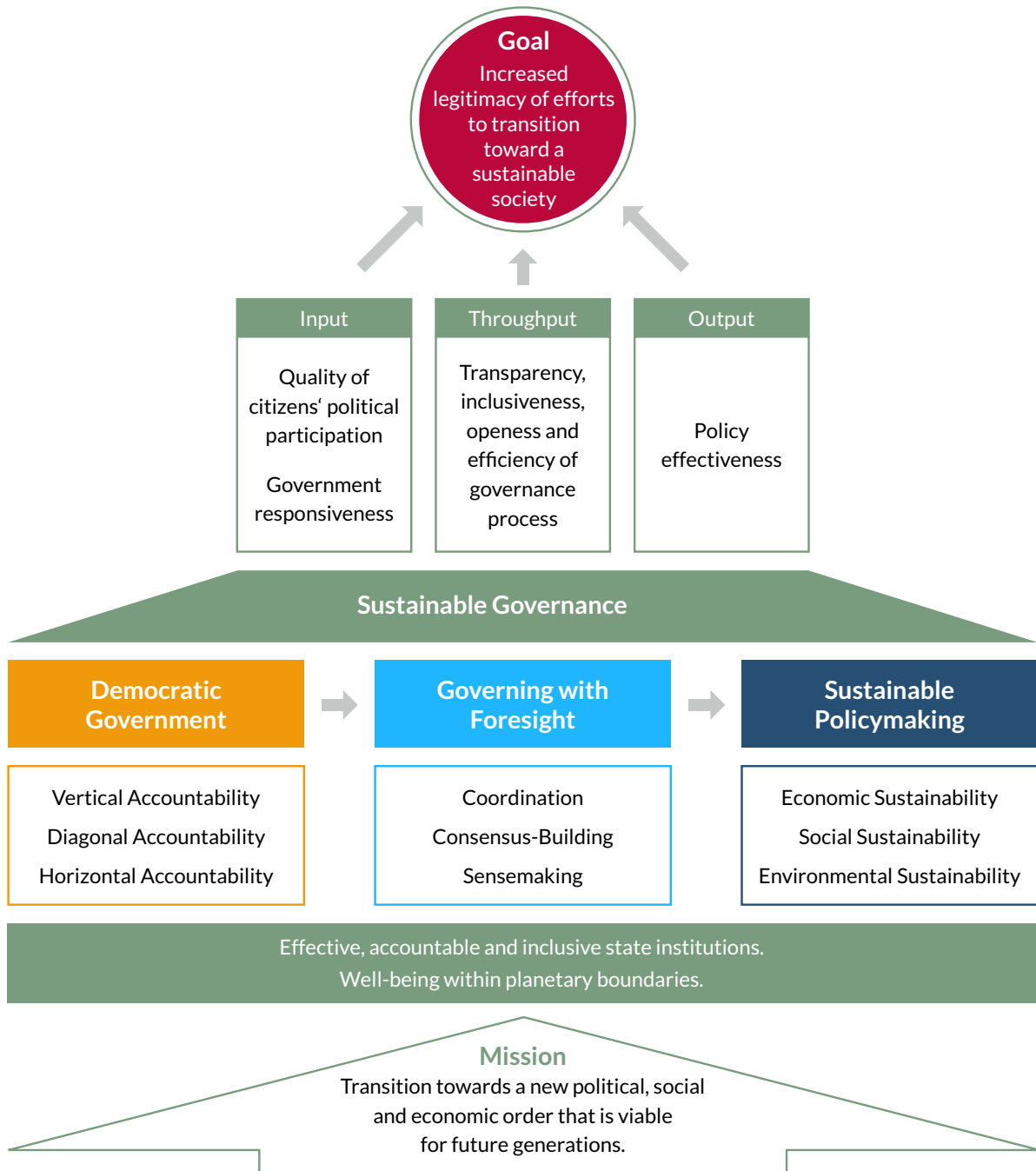
This prompts the immediate question of how we can assess the “quality” of governance and its various analytical levels. Our proposal, outlined in figure 2, revolves around evaluating the quality of governance by examining its capacity to establish the required legitimacy for transitioning toward a more sustainable social order that ensures a viable future for generations to come.

FIGURE 1 Governance analytical levels

Governance as...	Analytical Focus on...	
	... Steering	... Accountability
...Inputs/ Rights/ Structure/ Commitment	State capacity (e.g., fiscal sustainability) (Introduction of) Policies Creation of organizational structures/ coordination rules	Capacity of civil society organizations & supervisory bodies Existence of core democratic institutions & procedural requirements
...Throughput/ Process	Process of policy development (e.g., inclusiveness, transparency, efficiency and long-term orientation) (Institutional) Practice/ informal rules strengthen formal institutional setup	Effectiveness of civil society organizations & supervisory bodies Government's degree of compliance with core democratic standards & procedural requirements in practice
...Output	Policy output related to input & throughput (e.g., policy effects such as increase in expenditure etc.) Procedural output related to input & throughput (quality and quantity of communication, roadmaps, new joint datasets)	Government's responsiveness to societal concerns (e.g., issued gvt statements to concerns) Democratic outputs (e.g., quality/ quantity of voter turnout, quality of newspapers etc.)
...Outcome	Change in policy outcomes (→ ultimately well-being) Change in governing behavior (→ ultimately governing with foresight)	Change in democratic quality (→ ultimately societal trust/ social capital)

Source: Own representation.

FIGURE 2 Assessing the Quality of Governance



Source: Own representation.

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In our view, this new social order must be firmly dedicated to the shared objective of promoting well-being within the limits of our planet's resources. Additionally,

it should foster resilient, inclusive, and democratically accountable state institutions. These goals inform our understanding of sustainable governance in this context.

2. Our approach to monitoring sustainable governance

There are several indicator-based measurement tools that can contribute significantly to determining how effectively a government is targeting sustainable governance.

Measuring the progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides, for example, valuable insights into the advancements made by all countries toward the 17 sustainability goals and the likelihood of their achievement. Quantitative indicators are employed in this context to assess progress toward goals and sub-goals. For industrialized nations, the SDSN, OECD, and Eurostat serve as essential reference points for quantifying this progress. However, each approach possesses distinct strengths and weaknesses in terms of measurement methods and indicator selection. Notably, the established SDG measurement approaches demonstrate low correlation and yield different results concerning deficiencies in goal attainment (e.g., Miola and Schiltz 2019). Furthermore, data availability for SDGs often poses challenges, and consensus on the measurability of individual targets within many SDGs has not been reached.

The Worldwide Governance Indicators by the World Bank offer another important reference for aggregated indicator-based measurement approaches to assess “good” governance. Similar to the SDG dataset, this collection aspires to provide comprehensive coverage of countries by utilizing nearly all available data sources and compensating for the strengths and weaknesses of diverse measurement approaches, such as expert surveys and public opinion surveys. An advantageous aspect highlighted by its creators is the ability to calculate confidence intervals (Kaufmann 2009). However, a critical issue arises regarding the lack of transparency regarding the specific aspects measured by the six components: voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality,

rule of law, and control of corruption. The authors offer no theory of governance or the six components, and they do not provide a conceptual framework or operational map of the project. Moreover, the conceptual and methodological considerations that underpin the selection and aggregation of data sources and measurement methods for individual indicators remain unclear. Similarly, the factors that influenced the creation of precisely these six governance components lack explicit conceptual and/or methodological elucidation (e.g., Thomas 2010).

The V-Dem project offers a rigorous and comprehensive quantitative approach to measuring the quality of democracy. V-Dem measures five varieties of democracy by providing five indices: the Liberal Democracy Index, the Participatory Democracy Index, the Deliberative Democracy Index, the Egalitarian Democracy Index and the Electoral Index, which is also contained in the other four indices. However, the focus of the V-Dem indices lies primarily on de facto evaluations of democratic institutions: “(..) whenever we have measures of both the de jure and the de facto situation in a state, our indices build primarily on the de facto indicators because we want the measures to portray the ‘real situation on the ground’ as far as possible” (Coppedge et al. 2021: 8). V-Dem focuses exclusively on assessment through scores and does not elicit textual responses, which makes it challenging to ascertain the causal mechanisms, contextual conditions, and specific institutional parameters or configurations that have influenced the anonymous coders’ assessments of democracy quality.

Nevertheless, there are still no comparative datasets with aggregated indicators that allow us to draw conclusions about the sustainability of governance.

We aim to address this gap through our monitoring tool – the Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI)¹. Using this instrument, we analyze tangible policy per-

¹ Since 2009, when the Sustainable Governance Indicators project was launched, we have revised our methodology on several occasions. Most of these revisions are documented on the SGI website | FAQ (sgl-network.org). Previous datasets for the SGI are still available.

formance, measured through policy inputs, outputs and outcomes, with a focus on achieving a climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy (economic sustainability), maintaining or restoring a healthy environment (environmental sustainability), and implementing effective social policies that support these goals (social sustainability). Additionally, our analysis of governance incorporates measurements of less directly observable factors, such as the stability of social and state oversight institutions (accountability) and the government’s capacity for foresight. These latter aspects are particularly crucial for the ongoing development and success of the transformation process. Furthermore, we examine the extent to which policy development takes into account and addresses “spillover” effects in other countries as well as the level of responsibility shown by states in pursuing global public goods.

Established democracies and high-income economies bear a historical responsibility to lead by example on the path toward a more sustainable way of life and economic order. Moreover, these countries arguably feature the most favorable political, economic, and social conditions for making rapid progress in advancing transformative change. We will therefore place our monitoring focus on EU member states and other advanced democracies within the OECD. We have chosen the countries included in our survey with the aim of maximizing comparability and analytical depth. This selection process has been guided by the utilization of the most reliable and comprehensive comparative quantitative outcome indicators available. Our country sample thus includes, in addition to the EU-21 (excluding Malta, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Romania, Croatia and Bulgaria), Japan, Israel,

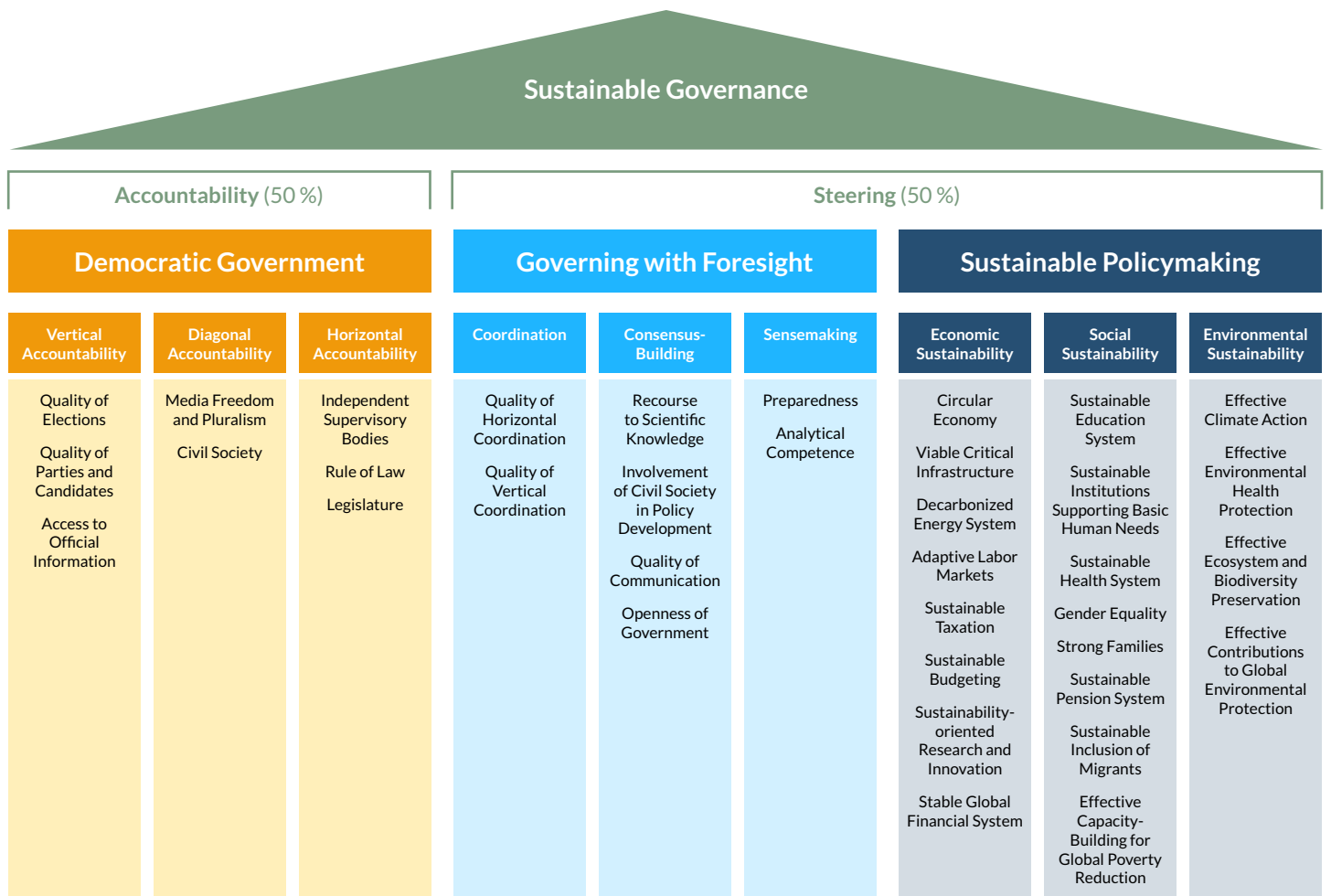
Australia, Canada, Norway, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. This sample, consisting of a total of 30 states, is also intended to provide valuable insight for Germany.

Our monitoring instrument incorporates multiple levels of aggregation (see figure 3). The highest level is represented by the Sustainable Governance Index, which combines the higher-order dimensions of “Accountability” and “Steering,” both of which are equally fundamental to achieving sustainable development with impact. They are therefore given equal weight in the aggregation process. Whereas the former is comprised of the secondary dimension of “Democratic Government,” the latter is comprised of two secondary dimensions, “Governing with Foresight” and “Sustainable Policymaking.”

Our biennial survey is grounded in the following research questions:

1. To what extent is the power of government effectively limited at both the societal and state levels through the presence of well-functioning democratic accountability mechanisms?
- 2.a To what extent does the government succeed in continuously optimizing the institutional arrangements of its work so that it can act with foresight?
- 2.b To what extent can the government, together with societal and private actors, effectively steer society and the economy toward specific sustainability goals?

FIGURE 3 Hierarchy levels of the Sustainable Governance Indicators



Source: Own representation.

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By offering indices at various levels of aggregation, we provide valuable insights into the means and levers that can shape the achievement of the SDGs in advanced democratic economies. Figure 4 presents an overview of our indices and indicators that contribute important knowledge in this regard.

Our dataset is designed to contribute to the ongoing discourse on sustainable policy design, offering insights into successful models and facilitating international learning processes within the OECD, the EU and beyond.

FIGURE 4 SDGs and relevant SGI metrics

SDGs	Target	Relevant SGI metrics
1 No Poverty	1.3 Implement appropriate social protection schemes	Social Sustainability Index
	1.a Improve development aid	Effective Capacity-Building for Global Poverty Reduction Index
2 Zero Hunger	2.4 Ensure sustainable / resilient food production	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
3 Good Health and Well-being	3.8 Ensure universal health coverage	Sustainable Health System Index
4 Quality Education	4.7 Improve sustainable development education	Sustainable Education System Index
	4.a Ensure safe / inclusive education facilities	Sustainable Education System Index
	4.c Increase supply of qualified teachers	Sustainable Education System Index
5 Gender Equality	5.4 Value unpaid care and domestic work (e.g., through social protection policies)	Strong Families Index
	5.5 Eliminate glass ceiling in political, economic, public life	Gender Equality Index
	5.c Create coherent policy frameworks for gender equality	Gender Equality Index
6 Clean Water and Sanitation	6.5 Implement integrated water resources management	Effective Environmental Health Protection Index
	6.6 Protect / restore water ecosystems	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
7 Affordable and Clean Energy	7.2 Enhance share of renewable energy	Decarbonized Energy System Index
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.4 Improve global resource efficiency	Circular Economy Index
		Effective Climate Action Index
		Decarbonized Energy System Index
9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	9.1 Develop quality / sustainable infrastructure	Viable Critical Infrastructure Index
	9.4 Improve sustainability of infrastructure and industries	Circular Economy Index
		Effective Climate Action Index
		Decarbonized Energy System Index
9.5 Enhance R&D overall	Sustainability-oriented Research and Innovation Index	
10 Reduced Inequalities	10.2 Ensure universal social, economic, political inclusion	Sustainable Governance Index
	10.4 Adopt equality-enhancing policies	Sustainable Policymaking Index
	10.5 Enhance regulation / monitoring of global financial markets	Stable Global Financial System Index
	10.7 Improve migration policies	Sustainable Inclusion of Migrants Index
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	11.1 Ensure universal access to adequate housing	Sustainable Institutions Supporting Basic Needs Index
	11.2 Improve (inclusivity of) transport infrastructure	Sustainable Institutions Supporting Basic Needs Index

12 Responsible Consumption and Production	12.2 Sustainable natural resource management	Circular Economy Index
	12.4 Sustainable (chemical) waste management	Circular Economy Index
	12.7 Sustainable public procurement practices	Circular Economy Index Effective Climate Action Index Decarbonized Energy System Index
	12.c Restructure market incentives in favor of sustainable energy sources	Circular Economy Index Effective Climate Action Index
13 Climate Action	13.2 Integrate climate change measures in national policy frameworks	Circular Economy Index Decarbonized Energy System Index Sustainability-oriented Research and Innovation Index Effective Climate Action Index Global Environmental Policy Index
	13.3 Improve climate change-related education / awareness	Sustainability-oriented Research and Innovation Index Sustainable Education System Index
	13.a Enforce development aid commitments under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	Effective Contributions to Global Environmental Protection Index
	13.b Support climate change-related capacity-building in developing countries	Effective Contributions to Global Environmental Protection Index
14 Life Below Water	14.2 Protect marine / coastal ecosystems	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
	14.4 Regulate ocean harvesting practices	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
	14.5 Conserve 10% of coastal / marine areas	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
	14.6 Eliminate destructive fisheries subsidies	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
15 Life on Land	15.1 Protect terrestrial / inland ecosystems	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
	15.2 Improve sustainable resource management	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
	15.3 Combat desertification	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
	15.4 Protect mountain ecosystems	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
	15.5 Protect biodiversity	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index
	15.9 Integrate ecosystem / biodiversity values into policy frameworks	Effective Preservation of National Ecosystems and Biodiversity Index

16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	16.3 Promote rule of law	Rule of Law Index
	16.5 Reduce corruption / bribery	Corruption Prevention
	16.6 Enhance institution transparency	Democratic Government Index
		Governing with Foresight Index
	16.7 Ensure participatory decision-making	Democratic Government Index
Governing with Foresight Index		
16.10 Protect civil rights, public access to information	Democratic Government Index	
17 Partnerships for the Goals	17.2 Enforce official development assistance commitments	Effective Capacity-Building for Global Poverty Reduction Index
		Effective Contributions to Global Environmental Protection Index
	17.6 Enhance knowledge-sharing, access to technology	Effective Capacity-Building for Global Poverty Reduction Index
		Effective Contributions to Global Environmental Protection Index
	17.7 Fair diffusion of sustainable technologies to developing countries	Effective Contributions to Global Environmental Protection Index
17.4 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	Coordination Index	
17.19 Improve SDG monitoring	Effective Sustainability Checks	

Source: Own representation.

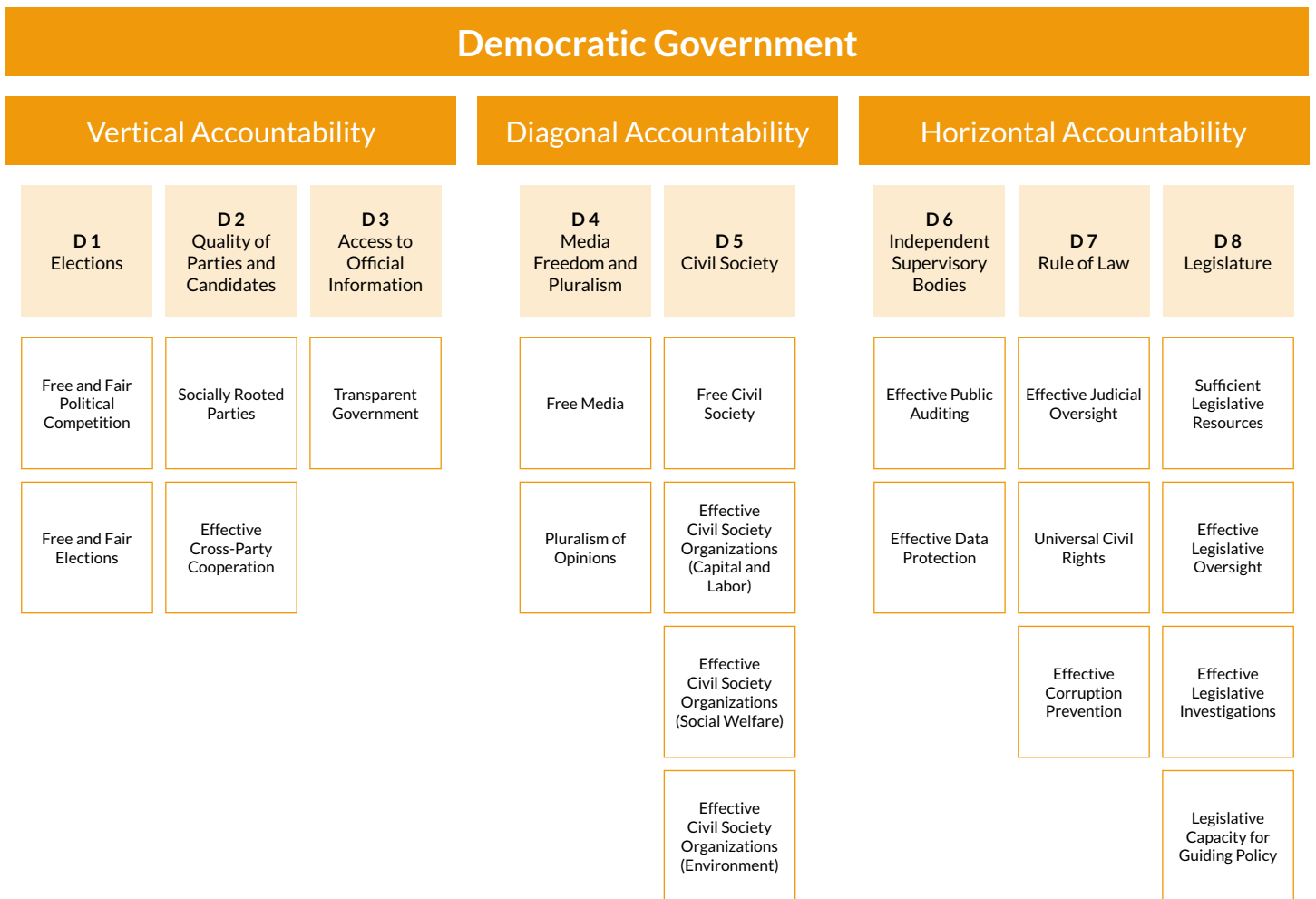
I. Democratic Government

With this dimension, we analyze the extent to which state power is limited.

This dimension examines the extent to which governments are held accountable to their citizens, both in terms of preventing unlawful behavior and enabling the assessment of policy performance. Effective accountability is demonstrated by the commitment of those in

power to provide information and be answerable for their actions, as well as the ability of citizens or oversight institutions to enforce accountability through sanctions for violations. To ensure effective government accountability, mechanisms of vertical, horizontal, and diagonal accountability are necessary. We evaluate the quality of these mechanisms through our categories of “Vertical Accountability,” “Diagonal Accountability,” and “Horizontal Accountability.”

FIGURE 5 Democratic Government dimension



Source: Own representation.

1. Vertical accountability

In this category, we are interested in examining the relationship between the executive branch and citizens, and the extent to which the population can hold the government accountable. Various indicators monitor the following criteria and associated questions:

- (1) **Quality of elections:** To what extent are political competition and elections free and fair?
- (2) **Quality of candidates and political parties:** To what extent do political parties articulate all key societal interests and maintain their ability to facilitate cross-party collaboration in policy formulation and implementation?
- (3) **Access to official information:** To what extent do citizens have access to official information?

2. Diagonal accountability

In this category, our focus is on the strength and effectiveness of non-state actors outside formal political institutions in their efforts to hold the government accountable. Various indicators monitor the following criteria and associated questions:

- (1) **Media freedom and pluralism:** To what extent can the media operate independently, and is there ensured diversity of opinions?
- (2) **Strength of civil society:** To what extent can citizens join independent political and civil society groups, openly address political issues, and assemble without restrictions? To what extent are civil society organizations able to actively participate in shaping relevant policies?

3. Horizontal accountability

In this category, our interest lies in examining the relationship between the executive branch and other state institutions as well as the extent to which other state institutions can hold the government accountable, particularly in terms of demanding information and addressing inappropriate behavior. Various indicators monitor the following criteria and associated questions:

- (1) **Effectiveness of independent oversight bodies:** To what extent are independent oversight bodies such as the audit office or the data protection authority able to exercise effective oversight?
- (2) **Rule of law:** To what extent can an independent judiciary ensure that the government, administration, and legislature act in accordance with the constitution and laws, respect and defend fundamental rights? To what extent are public officials prevented from abusing their positions for private interests, and are precautionary measures in place to prevent such abuses?
- (3) **Effectiveness of legislative oversight:** To what extent do members of the legislature have sufficient personnel and structural resources to effectively control the government? Are legislative committees capable of practically monitoring the government's activities and do they have the power to investigate unconstitutional or illegal activities of the executive? To what extent are the organization and functioning of legislative committees effective in drafting legislative proposals?

II. Governing with Foresight

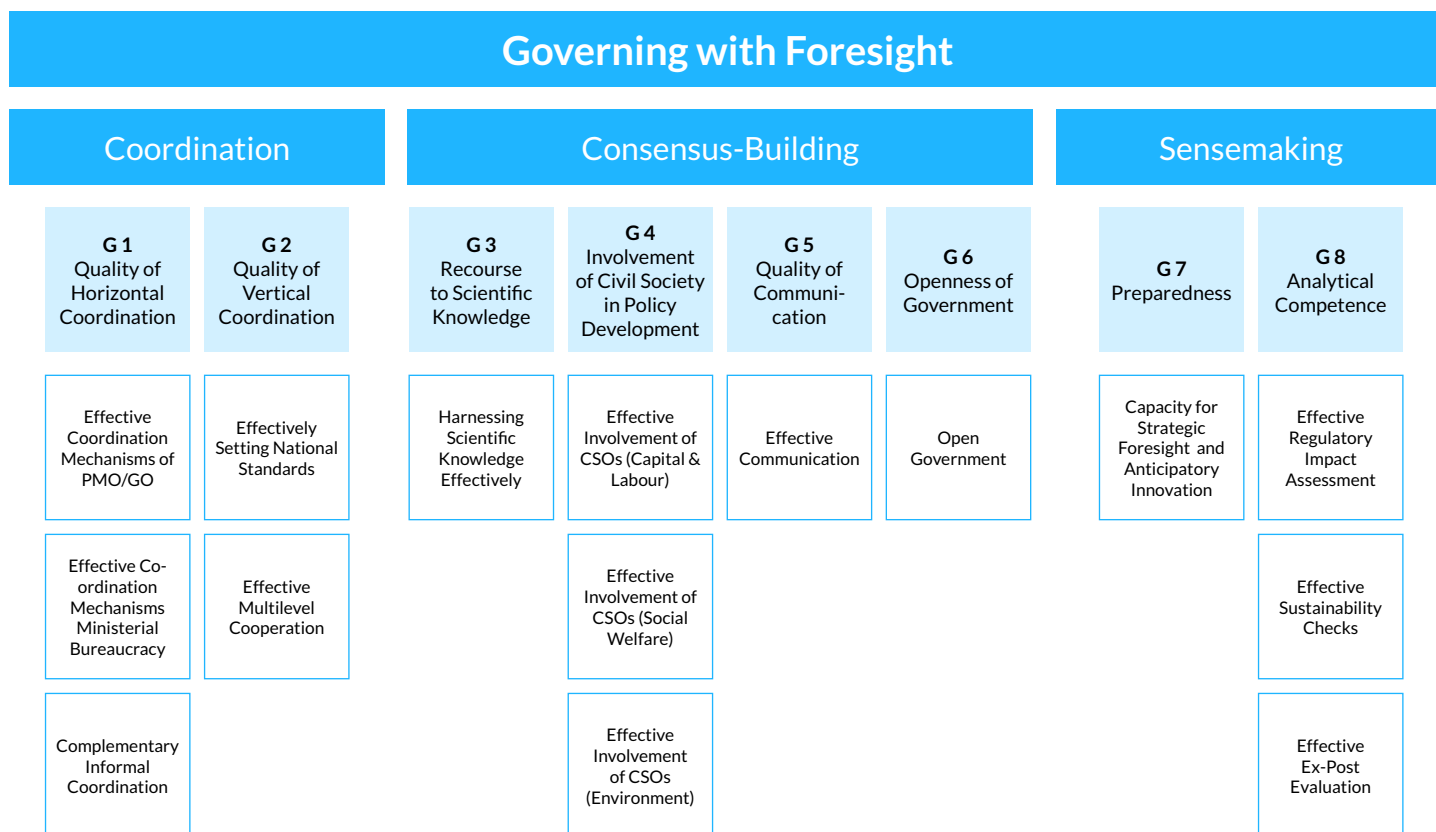
With this dimension, we analyze the extent to which internal government instruments, processes and structures enable anticipatory governance.

This dimension focuses on the suitability of existing political-administrative tools, structures and procedures to enhance and advance government actions in terms of improved efficiency, effectiveness, and long-term thinking. Ensuring foresighted government requires compelling responses the three traditional governance challenges of coordination, consensus-building, and sensemaking.

1. Coordination

In many countries, the presence of silo thinking within individual departments and levels of government poses a serious threat to policy coherence. Improving the coordination capabilities of the executive branch is thus an ongoing task of any effective administrative policy. Here, we are interested in examining the extent to which the government, both in the policy formulation and implementation phases, succeeds in institutionalizing coordination mechanisms that facilitate proactive problem-solving rather than hindering it. Various indicators monitor the following criteria and associated questions:

FIGURE 6 Governing with Foresight dimension



Source: Own representation.

(1) Quality of horizontal coordination: To what extent do coordination mechanisms between the central government and specialized ministries effectively contribute to improving policy coherence? To what extent are there formal forms of cross-ministerial coordination that emphasize incentives for identifying synergies and opportunities instead of incompatibilities with other policies? How effectively do informal coordination mechanisms complement formal mechanisms?

(2) Quality of vertical coordination: How effectively do national decision-makers collaborate with regional and local governments to enhance the delivery of public services?

2. Consensus-building

Without public trust and support, even the most well-organized government will not be able to effectively pursue its policies. Therefore, governments must strive to rapidly establish a solid knowledge base and secure broad public support for their policy initiatives. In this category, we are also interested in examining the extent to which the government succeeds in involving all relevant experts and societal actors in the early stages of policy development and effectively informing them about their policies. Various indicators monitor the following criteria and associated questions:

(1) Recourse to scientific knowledge: To what extent does the government effectively utilize scientific knowledge for policy decisions?

(2) Involvement of civil society in policy development: To what extent does the government facilitate the participation of civil society organizations such as trade unions, business associations, social and environmental groups in the political decision-making process?

(3) Quality of government communication: To what extent does the government actively engage with the public and provide an account of the rationale behind its policies?

(4) Openness of government: To what extent does the government publish data and information that empower citizens to hold the government accountable?

3. Sensemaking

The rapid emergence and complexity of today's societal problems require, more than ever, strategically forward-looking, anticipatory, and evidence-based policy design. If strategic action is to become the norm rather than the exception, governments must develop collective learning processes and a culture of open communication that facilitates the integration of evidence-based foresight into the routine of policy development. In this category, we are interested in examining the extent to which the government succeeds in advancing internal processes and structures that create the conditions for improved capacity for preparedness and analysis.

(1) Preparedness: To what extent can the government promote the capacity for strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation within its organization?

(2) Analytical competence: To what extent does the government conduct high-quality impact assessments to evaluate the potential effects of prepared legislation before implementation? How effectively does the government incorporate sustainability assessments? To what extent do ministries utilize ex post evaluations to improve existing measures?

III. Sustainable Policymaking

With this dimension, we analyze the extent to which selected areas of economic, social, and environmental policy meet the challenges of sustainability.

The focus of this dimension is to examine not only the existing policy outcomes that indicate a need for reform but also the current reform efforts that signal the government's sincere commitment to addressing sustainability challenges with impact. Effective reform efforts require the selection of appropriate policy instruments, securing broad political support, the development of measurable goals and an operationalized strategy, addressing potential obstacles to policy implementation, building administrative capacities, and a willingness to continuously evaluate and adapt policy measures. Additionally, we assess the government's contribution to providing global public goods. Policy design aligned with sustainability requirements thus demands significant improvements across all key areas of economic, social, and environmental policy that are central to sustainability.

1. Economic sustainability

In this category, we are interested in examining the extent to which the government succeeds in aligning different areas of economic policy with the requirements of sustainability. Various indicators monitor the following criteria and associated questions:

- (1) **Circular economy:** To what extent does the government create effective conditions and regulations for resource-efficient and low-emission production methods?
- (2) **Viable critical infrastructure:** To what extent does economic policy contribute to the establishment of viable and resilient critical infrastructures?
- (3) **Decarbonized energy system:** To what extent does the government create the conditions conducive to achieving a fully decarbonized energy system by 2050?
- (4) **Adaptive labor markets:** To what extent do labor market institutions create inclusive and adaptive labor markets and adequate risk protection?

- (5) **Sustainable taxation:** How effective is taxation in achieving the goals of tax sustainability?
- (6) **Sustainable budget planning:** How effective is budget policy in achieving the goals of sustainable fiscal management?
- (7) **Sustainability-oriented research and innovation:** To what extent do research and innovation support the transition to a sustainable economy and society?
- (8) **Stable global financial system:** How do financial regulations and the government's international activities contribute to effective regulation and oversight of the international financial architecture?

2. Social sustainability

In this category, we are interested in examining the extent to which the government succeeds in aligning different areas of social policy with the requirements of sustainability. Various indicators monitor the following criteria and associated questions:

- (1) **Sustainable education system:** To what extent does education policy realize a sustainable education system?
- (2) **Sustainable institutions for supporting basic human needs:** To what extent do essential public services and systems for securing basic income meet fundamental human needs?
- (3) **Sustainable healthcare system:** To what extent does health policy succeed in realizing a sustainable health system?
- (4) **Gender equality:** How effectively do policies and regulations support gender equality?
- (5) **Strong families:** To what extent does the current system effectively recognize and value unpaid family work to assist individuals in achieving their desired work-life balance?
- (6) **Sustainable pension system:** To what extent does the country's pension policy achieve a sustainable system for retirement?

(7) Sustainable inclusion of migrants: How effectively do political measures and initiatives facilitate the integration of migrants into society and the labor market?

(8) Effective capacity-building for global poverty reduction: To what extent does national development cooperation effectively contribute to capacity-building for poverty reduction and the provision of social benefits in low- and middle-income countries?

3. Environmental sustainability

In this category, we are interested in examining the extent to which the government succeeds in aligning different areas of environmental policy with the requirements of sustainability. Various indicators monitor the following criteria and associated questions:

(1) Effective climate protection measures: To what extent does environmental policy create effective conditions and regulations to achieve climate neutrality by 2050?

(2) Effective protection of the environment and health: To what extent does environmental policy create effective conditions and regulations to prevent environmental pollution and minimize environmental health risks?

(3) Effective protection of ecosystems and biodiversity: To what extent does environmental policy create effective conditions and regulations for the conservation, protection and enhancement of ecosystems and biodiversity?

(4) Effective contributions to global environmental protection: To what extent do the policies and international activities of the government contribute to effective global environmental protection?

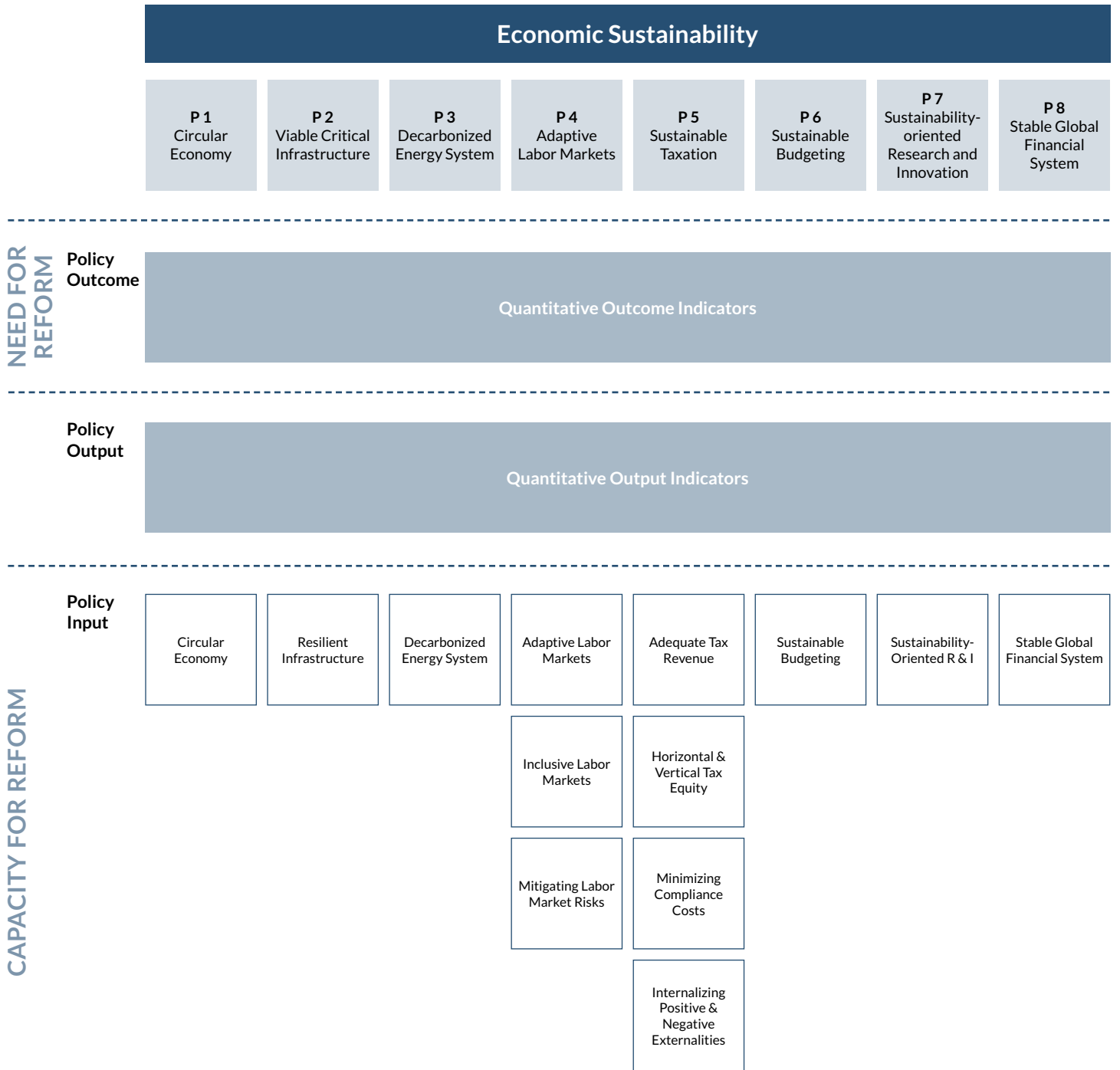
FIGURE 7 Sustainable Policymaking dimension



Source: Own representation.

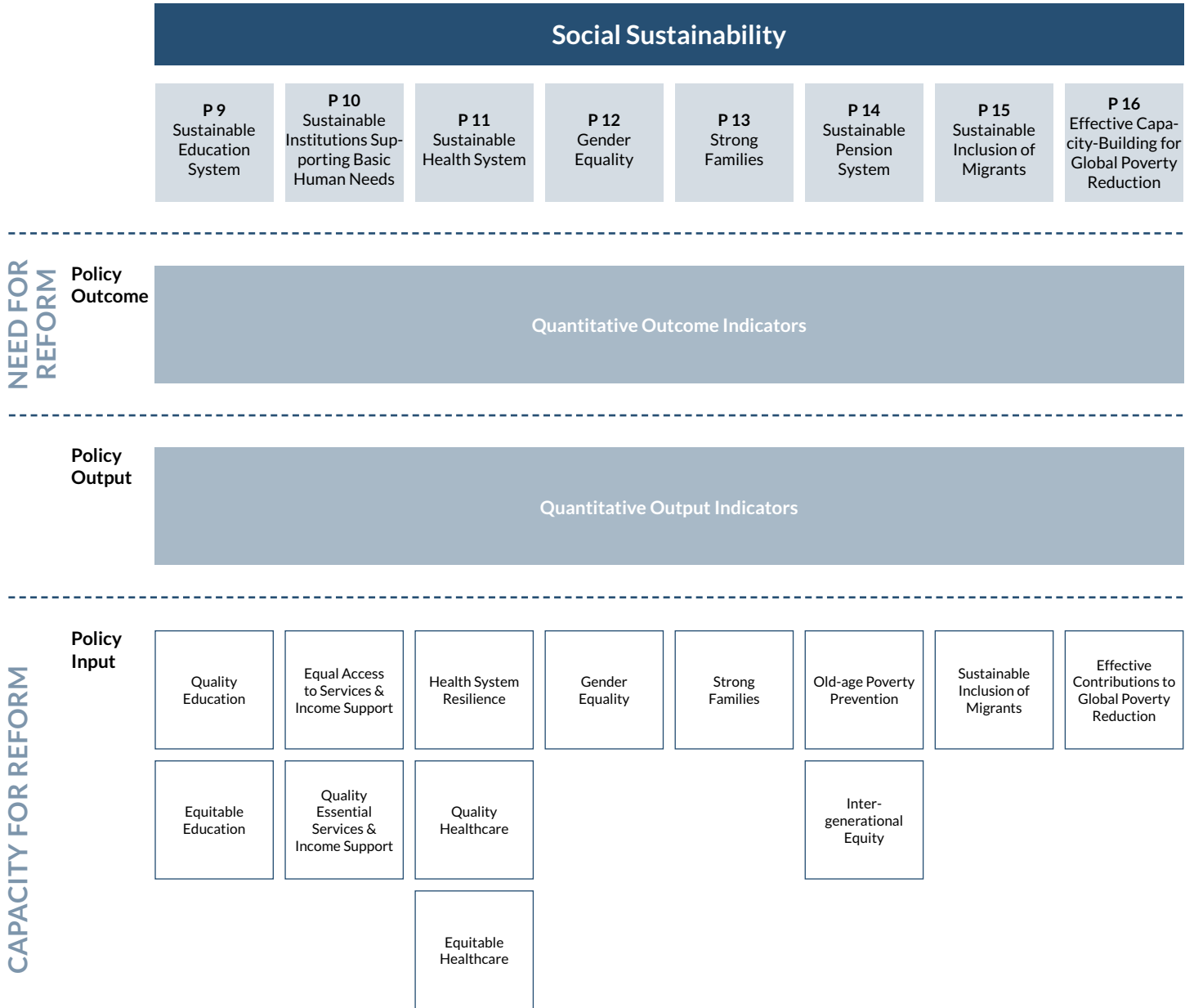
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FIGURE 8 Economic Sustainability category



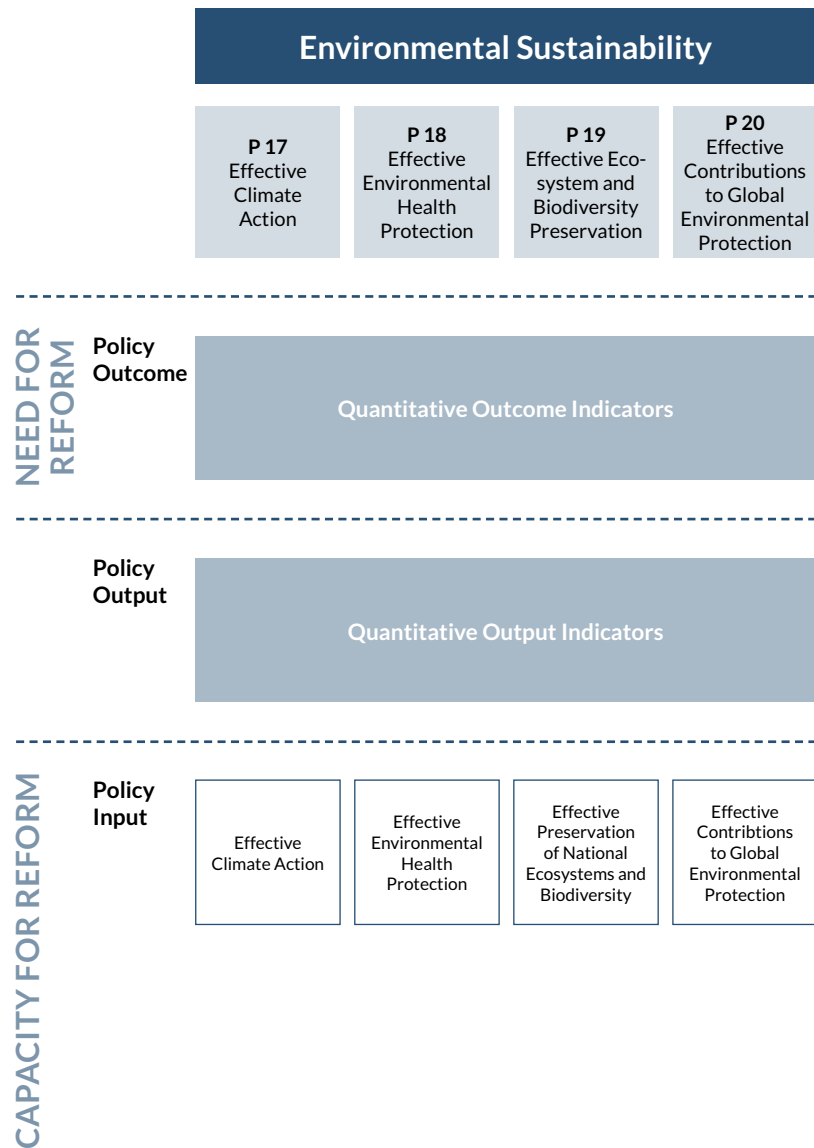
Source: Own representation.

FIGURE 9 Social Sustainability category



Source: Own representation.

FIGURE 10 Environmental Sustainability category



Source: Own representation.

| BertelsmannStiftung

3. Aggregation and measurement

To operationalize and measure the concepts used in constructing the SGI, we chose to rely primarily on qualitative assessments provided by country experts for each item in the SGI questionnaire (see below).

In the Sustainable Policymaking dimension, we use a combination of qualitative and quantitative assessments. The quantitative indicators are derived from official data sources and compiled by the SGI team, providing a quantitative measure of a country's past performance and indicating the need for reform in specific criteria. These outcome indicators comprise 50% of the overall rating, while the qualitative assessments provided by country experts account for the remaining 50%.

The output indicators, on the other hand, serve as reference points for the country experts to assess perfor-

mance in specific policy areas but do not directly affect the final rating. To enhance the assessment process, external data sources containing comparative qualitative information on SGI countries in the respective policy field are made available to the country experts.

While expert ratings adhere to a unified scale from 1 to 10, the quantitative indicators have different scales and units of measurement. To ensure comparability, the quantitative indicators undergo a linear transformation, standardizing them on a scale of 1 to 10. For more details on the standardization procedure, see <https://www.sgi-network.org/2022/FAQ>.

The aggregation of all items and components into composite indices follows a simple weighting model that assigns equal weights to each component and utilizing an additive method of aggregation.

4. Assessment process

November to January

During this period, country experts provide scores and responses to each question in the database at www.sgi-data.de, generating a country report of at least 70 pages. All subsequent steps in the process depend on this initial country report.

November to January

Coordinators diligently monitor the quality and progress of the country report, ensuring its timely submission. They are available to address any queries related to the survey process. Throughout this phase, coordinators identify inconsistencies or gaps in the report and collaborate with the country experts to resolve them.

January to February

Reviewers undertake their assigned task of thoroughly examining and editing the country experts' report. Their responsibilities include revising formulations, providing comments and incorporating new information. The reviewers' scores are independent of the scores given by the country experts, ensuring an unbiased evaluation. Reviewers do not have access to the scores provided by country experts at this stage.

February to March

Coordinators perform a cross-check of both the text and scores provided by the country experts and reviewers. This allows them to make further adjustments to the text, as needed, and contribute their own scores. At this stage, the coordinators' work is made available for joint examination by the country experts and reviewers. This collaborative approach facilitates a discursive process to finalize the text. While consulting with the country experts and reviewers, the coordinator adjusts the scores to account for differences among countries, ensuring comparability within regions.

March to April

The coordinators and the SGI team review the ratings across regions. This is followed by a calibration conference where the scores are further adjusted to ensure comparability between regions.

April to May

The coordinators finalize the country reports; during this phase, the country experts remain available to address any questions until the report is completed.

May to July

Professional editors proofread the country reports. Any queries from the editors are resolved by the coordinator, resulting in a finalized report ready for publication.

September

The country report is published on the SGI website (www.sgi-network.org), with both the country experts and the regional coordinator being listed as authors. It is important to note that the country report is a living document and is updated and revised on a biennial basis. The authors cited in the report are the most recent contributors.

November

Significant findings from the SGI project are published as special studies or policy briefs. These studies aim to enrich ongoing political discussions on sustainability and governance by providing data at both aggregated and disaggregated levels.

5. Important notes for your assessment

Period under review

The period under review spans from January 15, 2022, to January 15, 2024, which marks the end of the assessment by country experts. Any developments occurring after January 15, 2024, cannot be taken into account. It is crucial for all country experts to consider the entire investigation period when writing the text and assigning scores. This ensures that developments and processes are adequately accounted for and assessed.

Utilizing the entire scoring scale

When responding to the SGI questionnaire, it is important to carefully read the additional explanations provided with the questions. This ensures that each expert has a consistent understanding of the question, enabling comparability of answers and scores among all experts. To ensure comparability of country assessments, all sub-questions should be answered for each questionnaire item.

At the same time, experts should carefully review all answer options before making a selection. Experts should bear in mind that their assessments will be considered within the context of the entire sample of OECD/EU countries. Thus, experts should strive to utilize the entire range of answer options as much as possible to avoid skewed data distribution. It is also essential to ensure consistency between the assigned score and the qualitative assessment (text).

Compliance with scientific quality standards

Qualitative assessments should adhere to scientific standards. This means that sources should be cited within the text using a shorthand notation and the underlying source information should also be provided.

Dealing with changes in government

In the event of a change in government during the evaluation period, the country expert should determine how to assess each period of governance and, if necessary, assign appropriate weights. If the change in government occurs toward the end of the assessment period, minimal attention should be given to the new government. Conversely, if the change occurs at the beginning of the period under review, more focus should be placed on the new government. In the qualitative text of the assessment, experts should clearly indicate which government period they are referring to for each context-specific evaluation.

Taking quantitative indicators into consideration

For most policy areas, the SGI database provides several quantitative indicators. Before answering the codebook questions, experts should consider these quantitative indicators and data, as they provide valuable information for qualitative assessments. In addition, data on important context variables are provided for certain questions.

6. Codebook

Democratic Government

Vertical Accountability

D 1 Elections	30
D 2 Quality of Parties and Candidates	32
D 3 Access to Official Information	34

Diagonal Accountability

D 4 Media Freedom and Pluralism	35
D 5 Civil Society	37

Horizontal Accountability

D 6 Independent Supervisory Bodies	41
D 7 Rule of Law	43
D 8 Legislature	46

Free and Fair Political Competition

To what extent is political competition among candidates and political parties free and fair?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of political competition in your country (see below). Please also comment on elections at the subnational level.

De jure

- Do registration procedures for candidates and political parties meet standards of transparency and fairness, including requirements such as financial deposits, age, party affiliation, petition signatures (party-only), exclusion based on insolvency, undischarged bankruptcy, criminal record/convictions?
- Are eligible candidates prevented from being elected or disqualified from registration in a manner that does not adhere to objectively verifiable criteria set by law?
- Do candidates and parties who have been denied the right to be elected or registered have the right to appeal to a competent jurisdiction capable of reviewing such decisions and correcting errors in a prompt and effective manner?
- Are parties and candidates required to maintain accurate financial records, disclose the nature and value of received donations, and publish their accounts on a regular basis?

De facto

- Do candidates and parties enjoy fair opportunities to access the media and other communication channels? Is access to the media restricted or denied on the basis of ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, birth or other status?
- Does the media landscape as a whole offer fair coverage of various political positions?
- Do parties and candidates in practice maintain accurate financial records, disclose the nature and value of received donations, and publish their accounts on a regular basis?
- Is party funding transparently monitored by an independent body, and are sanctions imposed in the event of violations?
- Are there any mechanisms in place that provide significant advantages to specific candidates or parties, such as gerrymandering?
- To what extent is political competition affected and distorted by deliberate manipulation through new media?

There are no barriers, by law or in practice, to effective political competition.	10
	9
	8
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose no significant obstacles to effective political competition.	7
	6
	5
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose some significant obstacles to effective political competition.	4
	3
	2
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose various significant obstacles to effective political competition.	1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[ACE Project](#)

Free and Fair Elections

To what extent can all citizens, both in legal terms (de jure) and in practice (de facto), exercise their right to vote?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects (see below) of voter registration and elections in your country. Please also comment on elections at the subnational level (see below).

De jure

- Are voting rights granted to all citizens, including those without permanent residence in the country or those with felony convictions?
- Is there any disenfranchisement resulting from a flawed voter registry, such as “use or lose it” policies, which significantly impacts election representativeness?
- Do individuals who have been denied the right to vote or to be registered as voters have the opportunity to appeal to a competent jurisdiction to review such decisions and rectify errors in a timely and effective manner?
- Is there an impartial and highly capable electoral management body equipped with sufficient and trained staff and the financial resources to effectively administer elections?

De facto

- Are (multiparty) elections conducted according to the established schedule?
- Is the election process carried out in an impartial and non-discriminatory manner? When addressing this question, please provide additional details regarding the following aspects: the number of polling stations in relation to population density, accessibility of polling stations (including their location and availability of free public transport, especially for handicapped citizens), voting time-frame and date, comprehensive ballot design, implementation of the secret ballot, and provision of voter assistance (e.g., water supply in waiting lines),
- Is the absentee/email/early voting conducted in an easy, impartial and non-discriminatory manner?
- Were there any incidents of harassment, violence, or intimidation against voters?
- Were there any irregularities observed in the voter registry, such as cases of double voting or impersonation?
- Were there any other voting irregularities observed, such as intentional withholding of voting materials, dissemination of misleading information about voting procedures, instances of ballot-stuffing, misreporting or false collation of votes?
- To what extent can such irregularities be resolved through the electoral management body?

If applicable, you may refer to election observation data from organizations like the OSCE. Additionally, please take into account any notable discrepancies in the implementation of voting and registration rights at the subnational level when providing your assessment.

There are no barriers, by law or in practice, that hinder citizens or specific groups in society from exercising their right to vote.	10
	9
	8
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose no significant obstacles to voting.	7
	6
	5
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose some significant obstacles to voting.	4
	3
	2
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose various significant obstacles that substantially hinder voting.	1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights: Elections | OSCE](#)

Socially Rooted Party System

To what extent do parties articulate and aggregate all societal interests?

With their programs, political parties bundle different social interests and positions. They are thus an important link between citizens and government, as they create incentives to follow political programs.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of the existing parties' capacity for societal integration.

De jure

- To what extent do the legal aspects of the political system (e.g., electoral system features) hinder the representation of relevant societal interests through political parties?

De facto

- To what extent do the major political parties have an organization with local branches to represent distinct local interests?
- To what extent do the existing parties in the legislature comprehensively represent significant societal interests in a programmatic manner, as opposed to relying on clientelism?
- How distinctive are their party manifestos from one another, and are they publicly accessible?

There are no barriers, by law or in practice, to achieving effective societal integration.	10
	9
	8
Existing obstacles in the party system, by law and in practice, pose no significant barriers to achieving effective societal integration.	7
	6
	5
Existing obstacles in the party system, by law and in practice, pose some significant barriers to achieving effective societal integration.	4
	3
	2
Existing obstacles in the party system, by law and in practice, pose various significant barriers to achieving effective societal integration.	1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases

- [Manifesto Project](#)
- [Chapel Hill Expert Survey](#)
- [V-Dem Project](#)
- [The PopuList](#)

Effective Cross-Party Cooperation

To what extent do political parties retain their ability to enable cross-party cooperation in policymaking and implementation?

Extensive ideological polarization, whether between candidates and parties or within them, can hinder the system's ability to foster compromise, result in paralysis, and diminish its role in ensuring accountability.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of the existing parties' capacity to ensure cross-party cooperation.

Input

- How widespread is the acceptance of liberal democratic values and institutions among major political parties, and to what degree are they committed to advancing them?

De facto

- To what extent does ideological polarization hinder cooperation in the development and execution of policies?
- How effective are those who support democracy in working together to control or neutralize the influence of anti-democratic actors?

There are no barriers, by law or in practice, to achieving effective cross-party cooperation.	10
	9
	8
Existing obstacles in the party system, by law and in practice, pose no significant barriers to achieving effective cross-party cooperation.	7
	6
	5
Existing obstacles in the party system, by law and in practice, pose some significant barriers to achieving effective cross-party cooperation.	4
	3
	2
Existing obstacles in the party system, by law and in practice, pose various significant barriers to achieving effective cross-party cooperation.	1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

- [Manifesto Project](#)
- [Chapel Hill Expert Survey](#)
- [V-Dem Project](#)
- [The PopuList](#)

Transparent Government

To what extent can citizens and residents access official information?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of accessing government information.

De jure

- Is there a Freedom of Information Act or a similar legal regulation in place?
- In what respect do the rules limit access to information (e.g., exemptions, response time limits, etc.) and are these restrictions justified?
- Are there mechanisms in place for citizens to appeal for their right to access information (e.g., administrative review, court review, ombudsman, commission, etc.)?

De facto

- How adequately does the government fulfill citizens' requests for information?
- How promptly does the government respond to citizens' request for information?

There are no barriers, by law or in practice, for citizens seeking to access official information.	10
	9
	8
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose no significant obstacles for citizens seeking to access official information.	7
	6
	5
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose some significant obstacles for citizens seeking to access official information.	4
	3
	2
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose various significant obstacles for citizens seeking to access official information.	1

Free Media

To what extent are the media free from government influence and able to act independently?

This question examines whether the de jure and de facto factors shaping the media landscape facilitate or hinder the media from exercising criticism of the government and public officials.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of media freedom.

De jure

- Is media freedom guaranteed?
- Do the regulations governing public-owned media ensure an adequate level of independence from government influence and political interference?
- Do the licensing and regulatory systems for privately owned media ensure independence from government influence and political interference?
- To what extent do additional legal regulations hinder the ability of independent media to report freely? Specifically, how do regulations regarding wiretapping, the protection of whistleblowers and “fake news” impact media reporting?

De facto

- To what extent do the government or other public officials censor digital, print or broadcast media?
- To what extent do the government or other public officials indirectly attempt to censor digital, print or broadcast media (e.g., through control over broadcast frequencies, influence on printing facilities, selective distribution of subsidies or advertising, imposing prohibitive tariffs, bribery, etc.)?
- To what extent does the government censor online content (excluding criminal content such as child pornography)?
- Are public officials held accountable for instances of unlawful censorship?
- How prevalent is self-censorship among journalists?
- To what extent do journalists face harassment, including threats of libel, arrests, physical assault, or murder? Are perpetrators of crimes against journalists effectively prosecuted?

There are no disincentives, by law or in practice, for the media to criticize the government and public officials.	10
Existing disincentives, by law and in practice, pose no significant obstacles to the media in criticizing the government and public officials.	9
Existing disincentives, by law and in practice, pose some significant obstacles to the media in criticizing the government and public officials.	8
Existing disincentives, by law and in practice, pose various significant obstacles to the media in criticizing the government and public officials.	7
	6
	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[EUI Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom – Media Pluralism Monitor](#)

[European Centre for Press & Media Freedom: Media Freedom Rapid Response \(MFRR\)](#)

[Freedom House – Freedom on the Net Report FOTN2022](#)

Pluralism of Opinions

To what extent is a plurality of opinions in the media ensured?

The underlying assumption here is that a plurality of opinions in the media is more likely to accurately represent the varied views and positions that exist in society.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of media pluralism in your country.

Input /de jure

- To what extent do anti-monopoly policies, in principle, ensure transparency of ownership structures and a plurality of opinions in digital, print and broadcast media outlets?
- Do the regulations overseeing publicly owned media ensure an adequate plurality of opinions?
- Do the licensing and regulatory regimes of privately owned media ensure an adequate plurality of opinions?

De facto

- To what extent do a significant number of major digital, print and broadcast outlets consistently critique government policies and report on abuses of power?
- Do the major media outlets encompass a diverse range of political perspectives? Do the major media outlets ignore or censor significant political perspectives? Is there a media bias against certain (opposition) parties or candidates?

There are no barriers, by law or in practice, to a pluralistic media landscape that represents all existing political perspectives in society.	10 9
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose no significant obstacles to the media in representing all relevant political perspectives in society.	8 7 6
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose some significant obstacles to the media in representing all relevant political perspectives in society.	5 4 3
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose various significant obstacles to the media in representing all relevant political perspectives in society.	2 1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[EUI Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom – Media Pluralism Monitor](#)

Free Civil Society

To what extent are citizens able to freely form or join independent political and civic groups, openly raise and discuss political issues, and assemble without restrictions?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects regarding the political freedoms of association and assembly.

De jure

- To what extent do the constitution and other legal norms safeguard political rights such as freedom of association and freedom of assembly?

De facto

- To what extent are political and civic groups able to operate freely without unwarranted state intrusion or interference in their activities?
- Does the government apply transparent and non-discriminatory criteria when evaluating requests for permits to associate and/or assemble?
- How extensive are the restrictions on assembly and association, either affecting all citizens or specific social groups within society?
- Does the government employ intimidation, harassment or threats of retaliation to hinder citizens from exercising their rights to legally assemble and associate (e.g., through arbitrary arrests, detentions, imprisonment of peaceful demonstrators, or excessive use of force)?

Please note that legal restrictions aimed at protecting democratic processes (e.g., no-protest zones or the prohibition of fascist or racist organizations) should not be considered as factors contributing to a lower score.

There are no barriers, by law or in practice to creating an engaged society and civil society organizations that are free to operate.	10 9
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose very few or no significant obstacles to creating an engaged society and civil society organizations that are free to operate.	8 7 6
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose some significant obstacles to the creation of an engaged society and civil society organizations that are free to operate.	5 4 3
Existing barriers, by law and in practice, pose various significant obstacles to the creation of an engaged society and civil society organizations that are free to operate.	2 1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

- [Amnesty International Report 2022/23: The state of the world’s human rights – Amnesty International](#)
- [Rule of Law Index \(World Justice Project\) – Factor 4 “FundamentalRights”](#)
- [Civicus Monitor](#)

Effective Civil Society Organizations (Capital and Labor)

To what extent do civil society organizations (CSOs) have the capacity to actively participate in the co-creation of relevant policies?

Relevant policy proposals will capture the attention of a significant share of the population, propose concrete policy measures and analyze the potential effects or costs/benefits of implementation. In their efforts to co-create such policies, CSOs may rely on exerting pressure on the legislature and government (i.e., pressure politics) or they may be integrated into the policy formulation process (i.e., neo-corporatism). CSOs may leverage their own academic staff, associated institutes, think tanks, or engage in collaborative efforts with academic institutions.

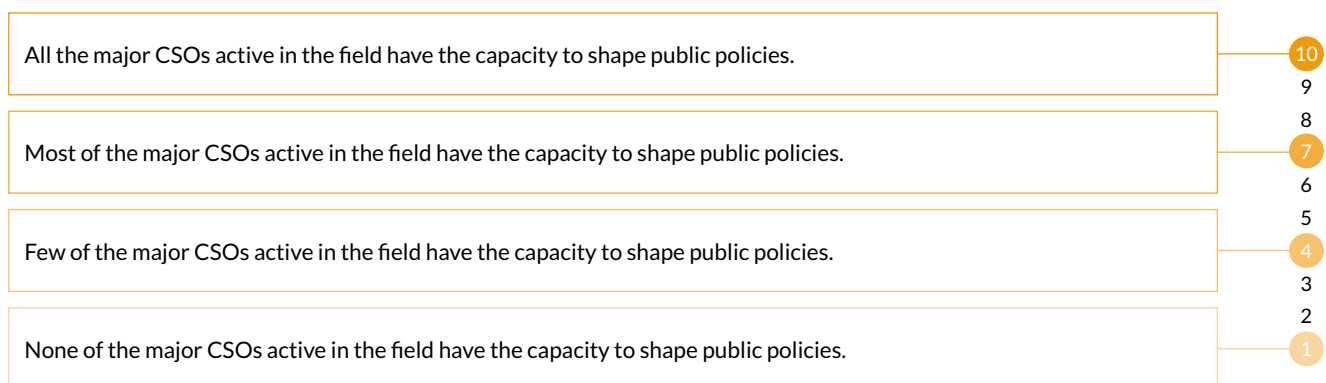
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to the input and actual influence of major CSOs involved in capital and labor issues (employers' association, industry, trade unions, consumer groups) when it comes to formulating policies.

Input/ resources

- Does the constitution or legislation facilitate the cultivation of CSOs (e.g., public funding, membership dues are tax-deductible)?
- Do the major CSOs have the organizational strength (e.g., financial resources, policy experts, associated institutes and think tanks, and connections to other think tanks) to independently formulate policies, or to participate in an integrated policy formulation process with the government?
- To what extent are the major CSOs cooperative and capable of forming alliances?
- To what extent does the general population participate in major CSO activity?

De facto

- To what extent are the major CSOs supported by a significant share of the population?
- To what extent does the government feel obliged to respond to the policy proposals put forward by the major CSOs?



Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[OECD/AIAS ICTWSS database](#)

Effective Civil Society Organizations (Social Welfare)

To what extent do civil society organizations (CSOs) have the capacity to actively participate in the co-creation of relevant policies?

Relevant policy proposals will capture the attention of a significant share of the population, propose concrete policy measures and analyze the potential effects or costs/benefits of implementation. In their efforts to co-create such policies, CSOs may leverage their own academic staff, associated institutes, think tanks, or engage in collaborative efforts with academic institutions.

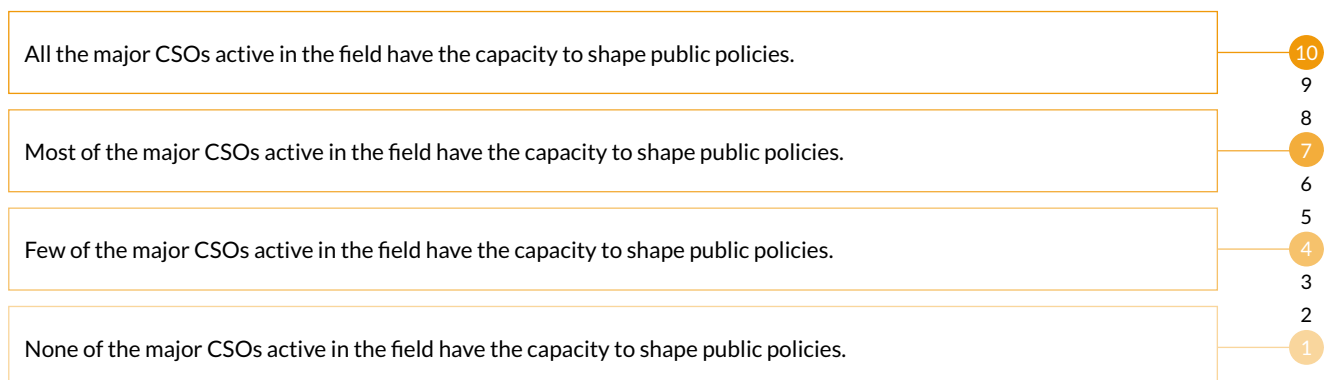
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to the policy formation capacity of major CSOs active in the field of social welfare (youth groups, family groups, welfare associations).

Input/ resources

- Does the constitution or legislation provide support to CSOs (e.g., public funding, membership dues are tax-deductible)?
- Do the major CSOs have the organizational strength (e.g., financial resources, policy experts, associated institutes and think tanks, and connections to other think tanks) to independently formulate policies?
- To what extent does the general population participate in major CSO activity?
- To what extent are the major CSOs cooperative and capable of forming alliances?

De facto

- To what extent are the major CSOs supported by a significant share of the population?
- To what extent does the government feel obliged to respond to the policy proposals put forward by the major CSOs?



Effective Civil Society Organizations (Environment)

To what extent do civil society organizations (CSOs) have the capacity to actively participate in the co-creation of relevant policies?

Relevant policy proposals will capture the attention of a significant share of the population, propose concrete policy measures and analyze the potential effects or costs/benefits of implementation. In their efforts to co-create such policies, CSOs may leverage their own academic staff, associated institutes, think tanks, or engage in collaborative efforts with academic institutions.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to the policy formation capacity of major CSOs active in the field of environment (environmental groups, climate movement groups).

Input/ resources

- Does the constitution or legislation provide support to CSOs (e.g., public funding, membership dues are tax-deductible)?
- Do the major CSOs have the organizational strength (e.g., financial resources, policy experts, associated institutes and think tanks, and connections to other think tanks) to independently formulate policies?
- To what extent does the general population participate in major CSO activity?
- To what extent are the major CSOs cooperative and capable of forming alliances?

De facto

- To what extent are the major CSOs supported by a significant share of the population?
- To what extent does the government feel obliged to respond to the policy proposals put forward by the major CSOs?

All the major CSOs active in the field have the capacity to shape public policies.	10 9 8
Most of the major CSOs active in the field have the capacity to shape public policies.	7 6 5
Few of the major CSOs active in the field have the capacity to shape public policies.	4 3 2
None of the major CSOs active in the field have the capacity to shape public policies.	1

Effective Public Auditing

Is there an independent audit office? To what extent is it capable of exercising effective oversight?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following operational aspects of an audit office.

Input

- Is there a nationally recognized audit office that is legally acknowledged as independent?
- To what extent does the audit office have the legal authority to exercise its discretion in deciding which audits it undertakes?
- Does the audit office have the legal authority to obtain all the information needed and question officials and witnesses to fulfill its mandate?
- Is the process of appointing the head of the audit office conducted to ensure his or her independence? Does the legislative or judiciary have the final say before the head of the audit office can be removed from their position?
- To what extent do the financial and personnel resources align with the requirements of the audit office to effectively carry out its mandate? To what extent are these decisions beyond the discretion of the executive branch?

De facto

- Do its activities lead to an adequate follow up on the part of the executive branch?
- How extensively are the findings of the audit office reported in the media and used by the legislature?

There exists an effective and independent audit office.	10 9 8
There exists an effective and independent audit office, but its role is somewhat limited.	7 6 5
There exists an independent audit office, but its role is considerably limited.	4 3 2
There is no independent and effective audit office.	1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[Open Budget Survey](#)

Effective Data Protection

Is there an independent authority that effectively holds government offices accountable for their handling of data protection and privacy issues?

Most countries have a data protection authority, which is sometimes referred to as a data protection office or commissioner or authority for data protection or information. Please refer to the functional equivalent in your country. The question aims to determine whether a national-level data protection authority exists in the country, and whether it has the necessary capacities, structural framework and personnel resources to effectively advocate for data protection and privacy issues in relation to the government. To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following operational aspects.

Input

- Is there a legally recognized national data protection authority that operates independently?
- To what extent does the national data protection authority have the discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake?
- Does the national data protection authority have the statutory power to access all the necessary information and question officials and witnesses to fulfill its mandate?
- Is the process of appointing the head of the national data protection authority conducted in a manner that ensures his or her independence? Does the legislative branch or judiciary have final consent authority for the removal of the head of the national data protection authority?
- To what extent are the financial and personnel resources allocated to the national data protection authority consistent with the resources it needs to fulfill its mandate? To what extent are the decisions regarding these resources beyond the executive's discretion?

De facto

- Do the activities of the national data protection authority lead to an adequate follow up by the executive branch?
- How extensively are the findings of the data protection authority reported in the media and utilized by the legislature?

An independent and effective data protection authority exists.	10
	9
An independent and effective data protection authority exists, but its role is somewhat limited.	8
	7
	6
A data protection authority exists, but both its independence and effectiveness are considerably limited.	5
	4
	3
	2
There is no effective and independent data protection office.	1

Effective Judicial Oversight

To what extent does an independent judiciary ensure that the government, administration and legislature operate in accordance with the constitution and law?

This question examines the extent to which the national courts can effectively review actions and norms implemented by the executive and legislative branches. In order to exercise effective control, courts need to pursue their own reasoning free from the influence of incumbent governments, powerful groups or individuals, and corruption.

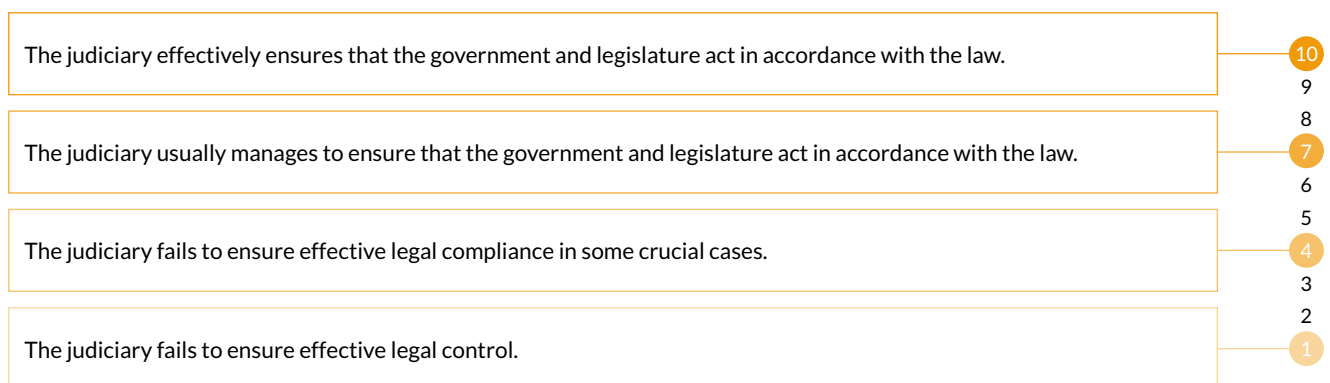
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of the judicial review process.

Input

- To what extent does the national judiciary as a whole (including specialized courts) possess legal autonomy to independently interpret and review existing laws, legislation and policies?
- To what extent does the national judiciary have the capacity to exercise independent judicial review? There may be different indicators of judicial independence. You might consider the following questions: Is legal education inclusive and accessible to all segments of society? Does the judiciary’s jurisprudence reflect a commitment to independent judicial review? Are there ethics rules and standards?
- To what extent does the process of appointing justices (whether in the supreme or Constitutional Court) ensure the independence of the judiciary? You might consider the following aspects to assess the judiciary’s independence: The likelihood of politically unbiased justices increases when there are higher majority requirements and when cooperation among involved bodies is necessary. A cooperative appointment process should involve at least two democratically legitimized institutions. In cooperative procedures with qualified majorities, the court’s independence is best secured. Please consider transparency in the process public media coverage, if applicable. If your country does not have a supreme or Constitutional Court, evaluate the appointment process of the appellate court responsible for citizens’ appeals against government decisions.

De facto

- How easy is it to bring a case to challenge government action?
- How independent do you perceive the court’s rulings to be in cases that are significant to the government?
- How frequently does the government comply with important decisions of the court, even if it disagrees with them? Are there specific examples of non-compliance?



Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[V-Dem Project](#)

Universal Civil Rights

How well does the executive branch and its members uphold and safeguard civil rights, and to what extent do the courts effectively protect citizens against rights violations?

Civil rights serve to constrain and regulate the exercise of state power through the rule of law. They ensure legal protection for life, freedom and property as well as safeguard against unjust arrests, forced exile, terrorism, torture or unwarranted intrusions into personal life by both state entities and private actors. Additionally, equal access to the law and equitable treatment under the law are fundamental civil rights that are essential for enforcing and upholding civil rights as a whole.

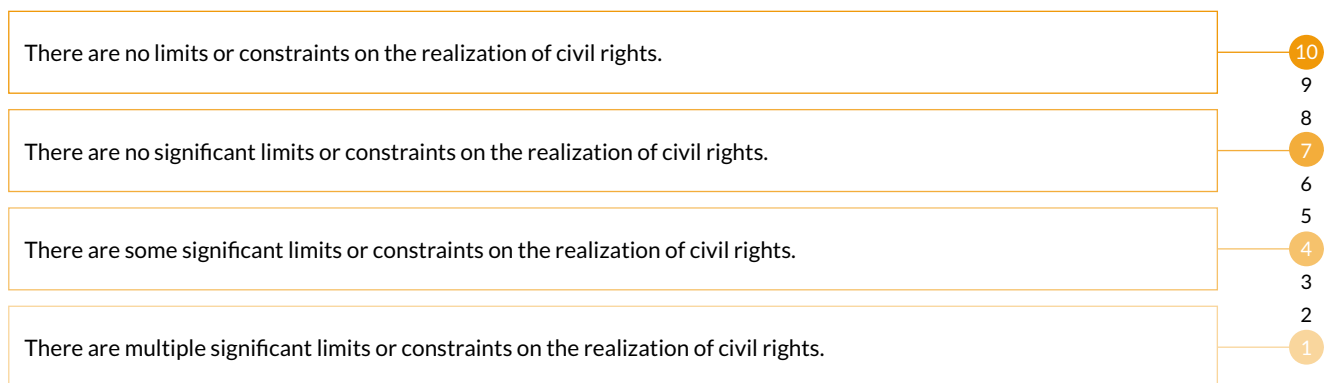
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of protecting civil rights in your country.

De jure

- To what extent does the national legal and constitutional system guarantee the protection of civil rights? Key aspects encompass: Safeguarding personal liberty against both state and non-state actors, including the right to life and security, prohibition of torture and inhumane treatment or punishment, and the protection of privacy; ensuring equality before the law, equal access to justice, and due process under the rule of law, such as protection against arbitrary imprisonment without due process.

De facto

- To what extent do state actors demonstrate respect for civil rights and effectively safeguard them by identifying, prosecuting and punishing violations?
- To what extent are the policies implemented by state institutions effective in preventing discrimination based on factors such as sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, health, age, ethnic origin, social status, political views or religion? Please consider the effectiveness of measures such as positive discrimination, special representation rights or autonomy rights in protecting the rights of disadvantaged individuals or those belonging to minority groups.
- To what extent do all individuals have equal access to justice and due process under the rule of law?



Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[Amnesty International Report 2022/23: The state of the world’s human rights – Amnesty International](#)
[Rule of Law Index \(World Justice Project\) – Factor 7 “Civil Justice”](#)

Effective Corruption Prevention

To what extent are public officeholders prevented from abusing their position for private interests?

This question explores the measures implemented by the state and society to prevent public servants and politicians from accepting bribes. It focuses on the mechanisms in place to ensure the integrity of officeholders.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of integrity mechanisms.

De jure

- To what extent are there established public accounting standards that facilitate the detection of corruption?
- To what extent does party financing regulation help prevent corruption? (e.g., bans and limits on private income, direct public funding of parties, regulations on spending, reporting, oversight and sanctions)
- To what extent are there rules for officeholders, such as asset declarations, conflict of interest rules, or codes of conduct? (e.g., income and assets, incompatibilities, reporting, sanctions, oversight)
- To what extent are there rules in place to enhance the transparency of public procurement procedures? (e.g., scope, information availability, open competition)

De facto

- To what extent are the integrity mechanisms described above effectively implemented?
- To what extent is compliance with integrity rules effectively monitored?
- To what extent are public officeholders who abuse their positions prosecuted or penalized?

Note: Please note that the responses provided to this question may be used by Transparency International for their Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) assessments. To ensure unbiased assessments, please refrain from basing your evaluation solely on the CPI.

Legal, political and public integrity mechanisms effectively prevent public officeholders from abusing their positions.	10
	9
	8
Most integrity mechanisms are effective and provide disincentives for public officeholders to abuse their positions.	7
	6
	5
Few integrity mechanisms are effective and provide disincentives for public officeholders to abuse their positions.	4
	3
	2
Public officeholders can exploit their offices for private gain as they see fit without fear of legal consequences or adverse publicity.	1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[EuroPAM](#)

[Corruption Risk Forecast](#)

[Council of Europe. Evaluations – Group of States against Corruption](#)

[OECD. Country monitoring reports on the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention](#)

Sufficient Legislative Resources

Do members of the legislature possess sufficient personnel and structural resources to effectively monitor government activities?

To effectively monitor government activities, members of parliament must have access to resources that enable them to acquire self-produced or independent information and expertise.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of legislative resources.

Input

- To what extent does the legislature exercise control over its resources to finance its own operations?
- To what extent does the legislature have resources such as deputy expert staff or administrative support staff (e.g., legislative libraries or legislative research units)?
- To what extent does the legislature have monetary allowances allocated for conducting independent research?

De facto

- To what extent does the legislative research unit consistently produce reports and studies?

As a group, legislative members have access to a range of resources that are suited for effectively monitoring all government activity.	10 9 8
As a group, legislative members have access to a range of resources that are suited for effectively monitoring a government's key activities.	7 6 5
As a group, legislative members have access to a range of resources that are suited for selectively monitoring some government activities.	4 3 2
The resources provided to legislative members are not suited for any effective monitoring of the government.	1

Effective Legislative Oversight

Are legislative committees able to exercise oversight of government activities in practice?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of legislative resources.

De jure

- To what extent do parliamentary committees/parliaments have the ability to acquire the desired documents from the government?
- To what extent can parliamentary committees/parliaments summon ministers to committee meetings and hold them accountable by posing relevant questions?

De facto

- To what extent are documents provided in their entirety and within a reasonable timeframe?
- To what extent do ministers comply with invitations and provide satisfactory answers to the questions posed?

The legislature is able to exercise its oversight function.	10
The legislature is able to exercise its oversight function most of the time.	9
The legislature is able to exercise its oversight function most of the time.	8
The legislature faces constraints in exercising its oversight function in a significant number of cases.	7
The legislature faces constraints in exercising its oversight function in a significant number of cases.	6
The legislature's oversight function is frequently and severely compromised.	5
The legislature's oversight function is frequently and severely compromised.	4
The legislature's oversight function is frequently and severely compromised.	3
The legislature's oversight function is frequently and severely compromised.	2
The legislature's oversight function is frequently and severely compromised.	1

Effective Legislative Investigations

Do legislative committees have the capacity to investigate unconstitutional or illegal activities carried out by the executive branch?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of legislative investigations.

De jure

- Can opposition parties initiate investigation functions within the legislature against the will of the governing party or coalition?

De facto

- How likely is it that investigation activities would result in an unfavorable decision or report?
- How likely is it that an unfavorable investigation outcome will have consequences for the government?

The legislature is able to exercise its investigation function.	10 9
The legislature is able to exercise its investigation function most of the time.	8 7 6
The legislature faces constraints in exercising its investigation function in a significant number of cases.	5 4 3
The legislature's investigation function is frequently and severely compromised.	2 1

Legislative Capacity for Guiding Policy

To what extent are the organization and operations of legislative committees effective in guiding the development of legislative proposals?

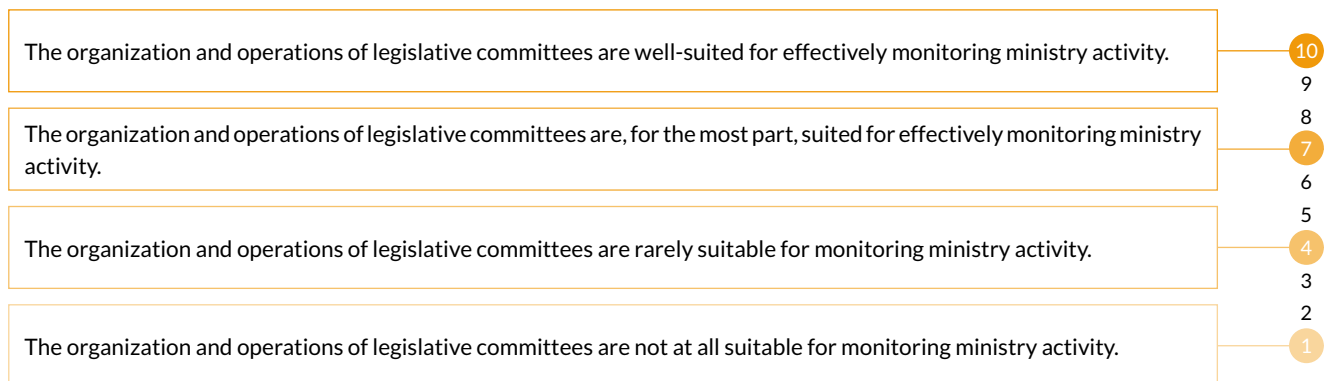
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of legislative monitoring capacity.

Input

- How well do the task areas of legislative committees align with those of ministries? If there are fewer committees than ministries, the committees may become overwhelmed with the task of monitoring ministerial activities. Conversely, if there are more committees than ministries, oversight responsibilities are fragmented and legislative activity may lack cohesion.
- To what extent do the committees responsible for cross-cutting policy areas that are typically organized under specific ministries (PMOs, finance ministries or “super-ministries”) effectively cover and address these areas?
- How well do the size of committees and the frequency with which they meet enable effective monitoring and discussion of ministerial activities?
- To what extent is it possible for opposition parties to hold the chair of a legislative committee?

De facto

- What is the likelihood that an opposition party determines the chair of an important legislative committee?
- What is the likelihood that draft legislation will change as a result of committee deliberations?



Governing with Foresight

Coordination

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Consensus-Building

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Effective Coordination Mechanisms of the GO/PMO

To what extent do established coordination mechanisms between the government’s office and line ministries effectively enhance policy coherence?

This question aims to assess the level of functioning coordination between the government’s office (referred to in some countries as the prime minister’s office or chancellery) and line ministries.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of coordination between the GO/PMO and line ministries.

Input

- To what extent does the GO/PMO have the necessary capacity, including personnel and financial resources, to evaluate policy proposals from line ministries and ensure they are aligned with the government’s overall priorities?
- To what extent are line ministries required to involve the GO/PMO in the preparation of policy proposals, not only regarding legal/technical matters but also programmatic aspects?

De facto

- To what extent does the GO/PMO regularly provide assessments of draft bills for the head of government?
- To what extent do regular meetings take place between the GO/PMO and line ministries, where the GO/PMO receives regular briefings from line ministries regarding new developments that may impact policy proposal preparations?

If the institutions addressed in this question do not fully align with those found in your country, please respond by indicating possible functional equivalents.

Functional coordination mechanisms between line ministries and the GO/PMO, aimed at enhancing policy coherence, are in place.	10
	9
	8
Largely functional coordination mechanisms between line ministries and the GO/PMO, aimed at enhancing policy coherence, are in place.	7
	6
	5
Coordination mechanisms between line ministries and the GO/PMO, aimed at enhancing policy coherence, are only somewhat functional.	4
	3
	2
Coordination mechanisms between line ministries and the GO/PMO, aimed at enhancing policy coherence, are not at all functional.	1

Effective Coordination Mechanisms within the Ministerial Bureaucracy

To what extent are there positive (formalized) forms of coordination across ministries that aim to enhance policy coherence?

This question refers to ex ante administrative/bureaucratic coordination, that is, the coordination that takes place before policy proposals undergo political coordination within bodies like ministerial committees, coalition committees or the cabinet. It explores the extent to which mechanisms exist to ensure proactive coordination between ministry officials and civil servants across different ministries in order to promote policy coherence. Coordination can occur at various levels of the bureaucratic hierarchy.

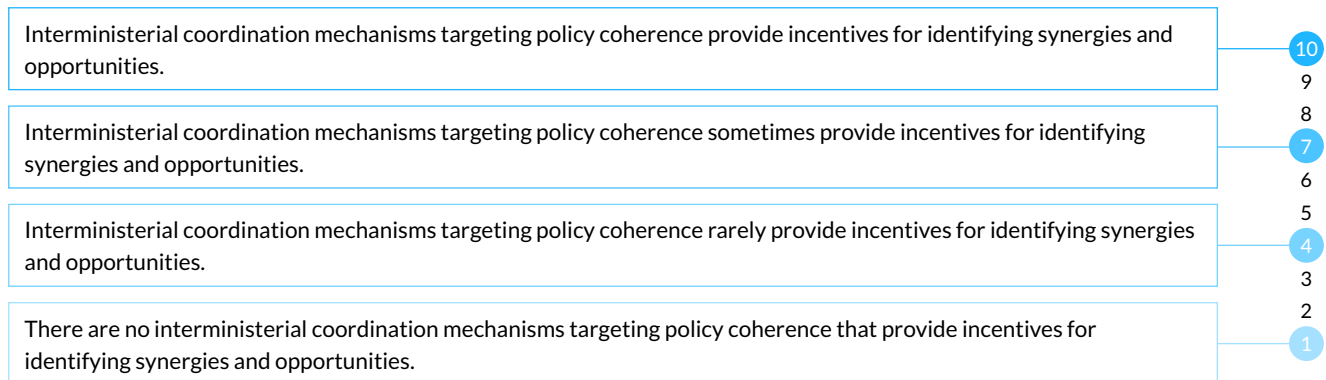
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of coordination mechanisms within the ministerial bureaucracy.

Input

- Are there formalized coordination mechanisms (e.g., interministerial working groups) in place that facilitate the flow of information on upcoming policy initiatives?
- Are there digital technologies (e.g., IT programs and platforms) and digital information systems in place that facilitate interministerial coordination? To what extent are they utilized?
- To what extent are work-related incentives (e.g., job rotation with the GO/PMO or job-sharing) available at all hierarchical levels to encourage civil servants to actively exchange information across ministerial boundaries in their daily work?
- To what extent do the formal pre-consultation procedures provide incentives for identifying synergies and opportunities rather than emphasizing incompatibilities with other policies (negative coordination)?

De facto

- To what extent are individual ministries caught off guard by policy initiatives from other ministries?
- To what extent are digital technologies employed to facilitate interministerial coordination?
- To what extent do the legislative processes encourage positive rather than negative coordination?



Complementary Informal Coordination

How effectively do informal coordination mechanisms complement formal mechanisms of interministerial coordination?

This question examines whether there are informal coordination mechanisms that complement formal mechanisms of interministerial coordination, that is, mechanisms which may be regularly applied and have formal agendas, but which are not stipulated in the formal regulations of internal governmental procedures and processes.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of informal coordination.

Input

- How frequently do informal meetings occur among high-ranking government officials and/ or party groups take place?
- How regularly do informal meetings take place across various levels of government?

De facto

- To what extent do informal meetings support or undermine formal coordination efforts between the GO/PMO and the line ministries?
- To what extent do informal meetings support or undermine formal coordination efforts within the ministerial bureaucracy?

Informal coordination mechanisms complement formal mechanisms of interministerial coordination.	10 9
In most cases, informal coordination mechanisms complement formal mechanisms of interministerial coordination.	8 7 6
In some cases, informal coordination mechanisms undermine formal mechanisms of interministerial coordination.	5 4 3
Informal coordination mechanisms undermine formal mechanisms of interministerial coordination.	2 1

Effectively Setting and Monitoring National (Minimum) Standards

To what extent does central government ensure that subnational self-governments meet national (minimum) standards in delivering public services?

This question seeks to assess how central government ensures that the decentralized delivery of public services adheres to nationally agreed-upon minimum standards. This may be achieved by a centralized authority that sets the standards and monitors compliance through national authorities, agencies or cooperative intergovernmental bodies.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of setting effective national standards for the decentralized delivery of public services.

De jure

- To what extent are clearly defined nationwide minimum standards established to guide the decentralized provision of public services in critical areas such as environmental services, education, social assistance, healthcare, land use, waste management, public transport, and housing?
- To what extent are credible and reliable nationally agreed-upon performance indicators used to determine whether national standards are met?

De facto

- To what extent is compliance with minimum standards monitored by the central government or cooperative intergovernmental bodies?
- To what extent are sanctions imposed by the central government for non-compliance with minimum standards?
- To what extent do subnational governments use key performance indicators to implement reforms targeting compliance with minimum standards?

The central government effectively ensures that subnational self-governments successfully meet national standards for public service delivery.	10 9
Most of the time, the central government ensures that subnational self-governments successfully meet national standards for public service delivery.	8 7 6
The central government rarely ensures that subnational self-governments successfully meet national minimum standards for public service delivery.	5 4 3
The central government does nothing to ensure that subnational self-governments successfully meet national standards for public service delivery.	2 1

Effective Multilevel Cooperation

To what extent do national policymakers effectively collaborate with regional and local governments to improve the delivery of public services?

This question explores the extent to which national policymakers work together with regional and local governments to address issues regarding the quality of public services delivery.

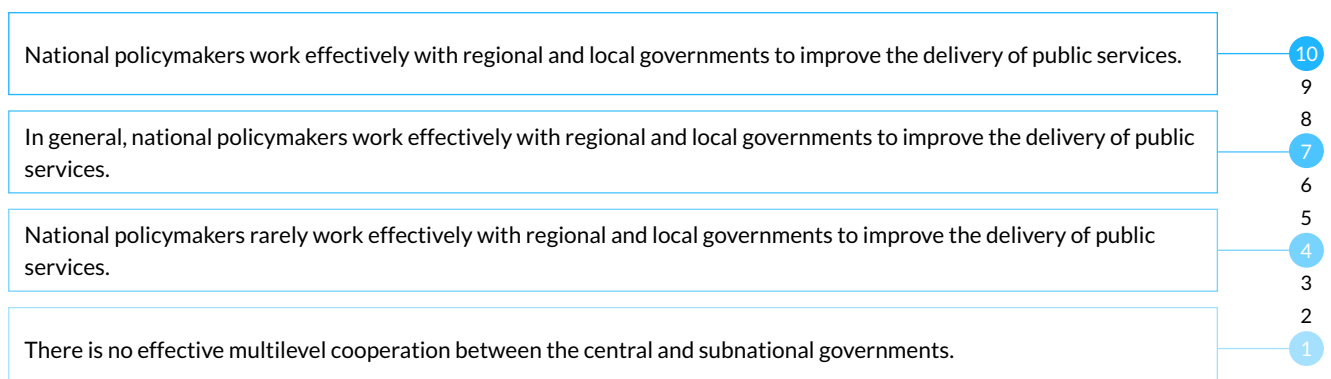
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of multilevel cooperation in national policies.

De jure

- To what extent are there formal coordination and consultation mechanisms in place that provide opportunities for subnational self-governments to actively engage in discussions regarding central government policy initiatives that directly affect them?
- To what extent do these formal mechanisms of coordination and consultation also include local self-government?

De facto

- Are there formal or informal fora for intergovernmental interaction that operate on a hierarchical or cooperative basis and make binding decisions or informal recommendations?
- If they exist, how frequently do these fora meet in the different sectors of public activity?
- How frequently do civil servants at the subnational self-government express dissatisfaction with being given token opportunities to participate in decision-making processes at the central government level, particularly regarding issues that directly impact them?
- How frequently do civil servants in local self-government express dissatisfaction with being given token opportunities to participate in decision-making processes at the central government level, particularly regarding issues that directly impact them?



Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[Self-rule index for local authorities in the EU, Council of Europe and OECD countries, 1990-2020](#)

Harnessing Scientific Knowledge Effectively

To what extent is the government successful in effectively harnessing the best available scientific knowledge for policymaking purposes?

Effective and legitimate consultation with non-governmental experts, along with a comprehensive evaluation of the best available scientific evidence, should begin during the early stages of the policymaking process when decisions can still be modified. This consultation should be transparent to the public. Superficial consultations with experts lacking genuine government interest do not qualify as effective consultation.

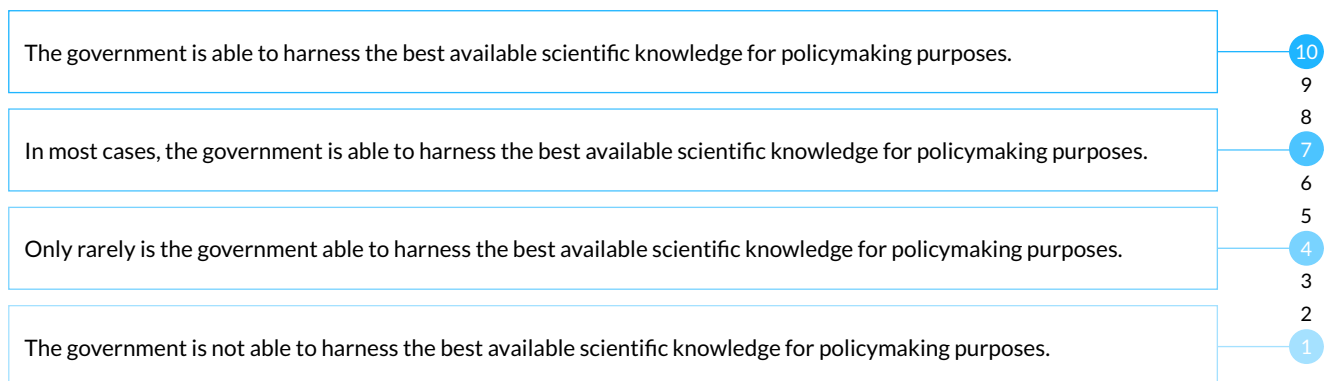
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and the actual utilization of the best available scientific knowledge for policymaking.

Input

- To what extent do institutional mechanisms ensure that the government can access the best available scientific expertise from the outset and on short notice for all projects of key importance? For instance, are there expert commissions in key reform areas or collaborative projects between government bodies and academic institutions?
- How often do government officials and non-governmental experts engage with each other, and how frequent is this exchange?
- How transparent is the consultation process?
- To what extent do the selected experts represent a diverse range of perspectives?
- How open is the circle of consulted non-governmental experts to new members?

De facto

- How strong is the criticism from the scientific community regarding the government's central plans? To what extent do the government's plans in key areas blatantly contradict prevailing scientific opinions?
- To what extent is the government successful in managing academic controversies and reconciling divergent expert opinions in practice? To what extent does the government face criticism for disregarding advice from relevant segments of the scientific community?
- How frequently do non-governmental experts express criticism regarding superficial or token participation?



G 4 Involvement of Civil Society in Policy Development

Category: Consensus-Building

Effective Involvement of Civil Society Organizations (Capital and Labor)

To what extent does the government facilitate the participation of trade unions and business organizations in policymaking?

This question asks whether the government effectively involves capital and labor in various stages of the policymaking process, including agenda-setting, policy formulation, deliberation and decision-making, policy implementation and performance-monitoring.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and the government's actual ability to involve capital and labor in policy development.

Input

- To what extent do institutional mechanisms ensure the active involvement of capital and labor from the initial stages of policymaking on issues of central importance to both sectors? This includes mechanisms that engage capital and labor to participate in expert commissions, public hearings and performance-monitoring.
- How often do government officials engage with capital and labor, and how regular is this exchange?
- How transparent is the consultation process?
- To what extent do the institutional mechanisms ensure an inclusive process in which all members of the private sector and labor are able to participate?

De facto

- How frequently do members of capital and/or labor express dissatisfaction with token participation in the policymaking process?
- To what extent does the government demonstrably act to follow up on consultation talks?
- To what extent is the government successful in moderating disputes within and between labor and capital, and in balancing diverse opinions in practice?

The government is able to effectively involve trade unions and business organizations in policy development.	10 9
Most of the time, the government is able to effectively involve trade unions and business organizations in policy development.	8 7 6
The government is rarely able to effectively involve trade unions and business organizations in policy development.	5 4 3
The government is not able to effectively involve trade unions and business organizations in policy development.	2 1

G 4 Involvement of Civil Society in Policy Development

Category: Consensus-Building

Effective Involvement of Civil Society Organizations (Social Welfare)

To what extent does the government facilitate the participation of leading social welfare CSOs in policymaking?

This question asks whether the government effectively involves prominent social welfare CSOs in various stages of the policymaking process, including agenda-setting, policy formulation, deliberation and decision-making, policy implementation and performance-monitoring.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and the government's actual ability to involve major CSOs active in the field of social welfare (e.g., youth and family organizations, welfare associations).

Input

- To what extent do institutional mechanisms ensure the active involvement of prominent social welfare CSOs from the initial stages of policymaking on issues of central importance to this sector? This includes mechanisms that engage social welfare CSOs to participate in expert commissions, public hearings and performance-monitoring.
- How often do government officials and CSOs active in the field of social welfare engage with each other, and how regular is this exchange?
- How transparent is the consultation process?
- To what extent do the institutional mechanisms ensure an inclusive process in which relevant social welfare CSOs are able to participate?

De facto

- How frequently do members of major CSOs active in the field of social welfare express dissatisfaction with token participation in the policymaking process?
- To what extent does the government demonstrably act to follow up on consultation talks?
- To what extent is the government successful in moderating disputes within and between major social welfare CSOs, and in balancing diverse opinions in practice?

The government is able to effectively involve leading social welfare CSOs in policy development.	10
	9
	8
Most of the time, the government is able to effectively involve leading social welfare CSOs in policy development.	7
	6
	5
The government is rarely able to effectively involve leading social welfare CSOs in policy development.	4
	3
	2
The government is not able to effectively involve leading social welfare CSOs in policy development.	1

G 4 Involvement of Civil Society in Policy Development

Category: Consensus-Building

Effective Involvement of Civil Society Organizations (Environment)

To what extent does the government facilitate the participation of leading environmental CSOs in policymaking?

This question asks whether the government effectively involves prominent environmental CSOs in various stages of the policymaking process, including agenda-setting, policy formulation, deliberation and decision-making, policy implementation and performance-monitoring.

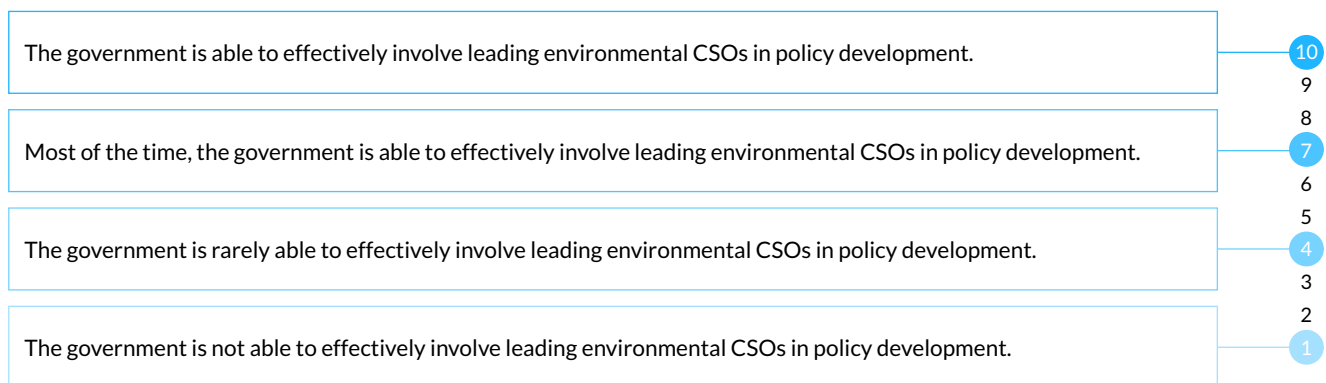
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and the government's actual ability to involve key environmental CSOs active in the field (e.g., environmental organizations, climate change organizations).

Input

- To what extent do institutional mechanisms ensure the active involvement of environmental CSOs from the initial stages of policymaking on issues of central importance to this sector? This includes mechanisms that engage environmental CSOs to participate in expert commissions, public hearings and performance-monitoring.
- How often do government officials and major environmental CSOs engage with each other, and how regular is this exchange?
- How transparent is the consultation process?
- To what extent do the institutional mechanisms ensure an inclusive process in which all members of environmental CSOs are able to participate?

De facto

- How frequently do members of leading environmental CSOs express dissatisfaction with token participation in the policymaking process?
- How strong is the criticism from key environmental CSOs regarding the government's central plans?
- To what extent is the government successful in moderating disputes within and between major environmental CSOs, and in balancing diverse opinions in practice?



Effective Communication

To what extent does the government actively communicate to the public and account for the rationale behind its policies?

This question explores whether the government maintains proactive and accountable communication practices to ensure consistency and coherence in its messaging.

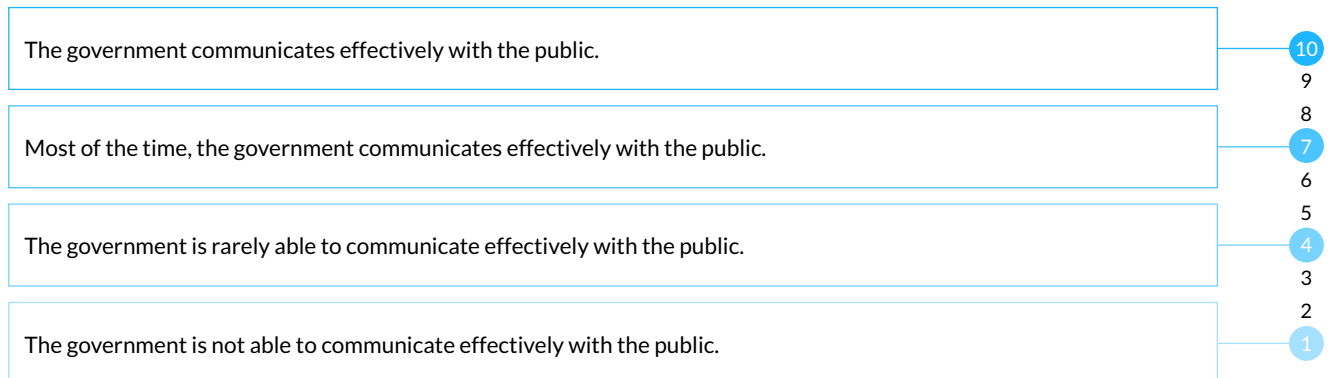
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and the government's actual ability to communicate effectively.

Input

- To what extent does the government maintain a consistent overarching narrative that is aligned with a clear agenda and clear goals?
- To what extent are coordination mechanisms or incentives in place to enhance the coherence of communication across all government departments?
- To what extent does the government have a comprehensive communication strategy that defines quality standards, accountability rules and clear responsibilities?
- To what extent does the government utilize diverse communication channels, including social media?

De facto

- To what extent is the government proactive and frequent in communicating its assessment of a given situation?
- To what extent does the government clearly communicate which assessments have influenced selected policy measures and their timelines?
- To what extent does the government effectively address uncertainties or misinformation?
- To what extent does the government provide information about its next steps and communicate anticipated timelines for measures?



Open Government

To what extent does the government publish data and information that empowers citizens to hold the government accountable?

This question evaluates the extent to which the government is proactive in publishing data and information that enables citizens to hold the government accountable. In addition, the question assesses the user-friendliness of the data.

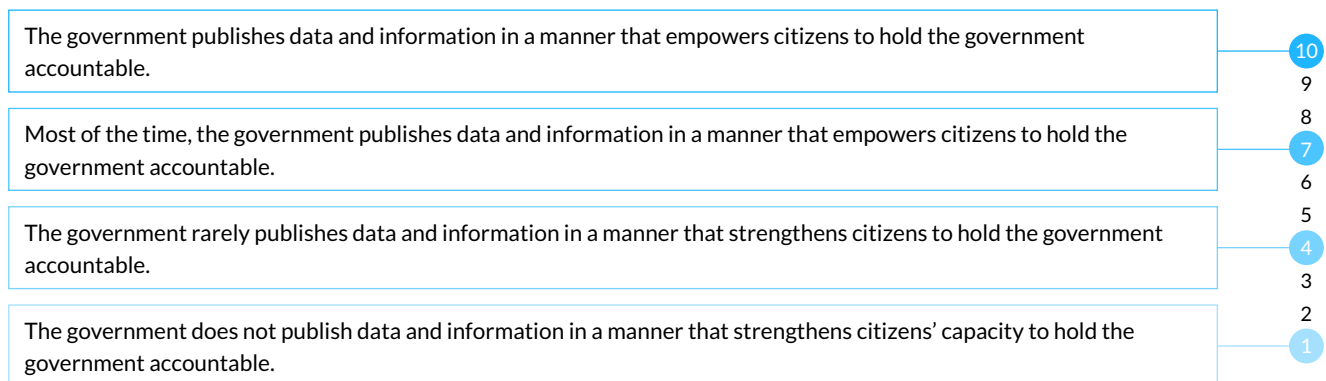
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and the government's actual ability to proactively publish data and information in a manner that empowers citizens' capacity to hold the government accountable.

Input

- To what extent does the government take the lead in developing comprehensive data governance frameworks (e.g., national data strategies) and building data management capacities across the public sector to foster an environment that encourages data reuse?
- To what extent does the government enable its open government data portals to function as interactive feedback and communication tools rather than mere repositories of data?
- How effectively do quality standards and standardization efforts ensure the production of high-quality government information and data?

De facto

- To what extent does the government proactively provide information and data that adequately meets the increasing demands of citizens in terms of information diversity and level of detail?
- To what extent does the government ensure the availability of comparable data across different regions and administrative levels?
- To what extent does the government proactively provide data and information in a timely manner?
- To what extent can the government's information and data be considered user-friendly for both humans and machines, including factors such as data formats, ease of access, provision of documentation or user guides?



Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[Open Government Data - OECD](#)

Capacity for Strategic Foresight and Anticipatory Innovation

To what extent can the central government foster the capacity for strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation within its organization?

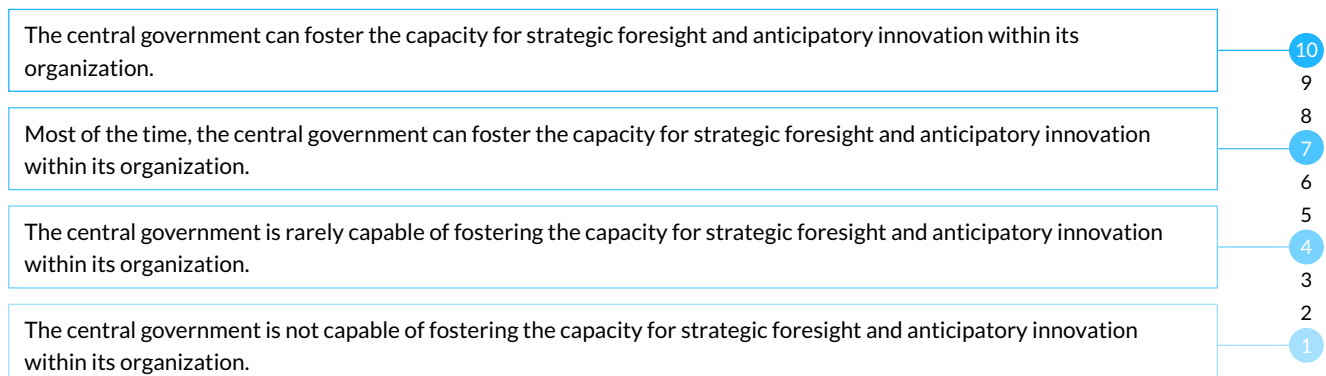
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and a government's actual ability to foster the capacity for strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation within its organization.

Input

- To what extent are there dedicated central government units for strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation that autonomously explore ideas and scenarios, provide tools and guidance, coordinate and monitor activities, offer training and coaching, and organize events?
- To what extent are there central government policy units that provide support for policy implementation in specific areas such as open government, knowledge management and digital transformation?
- To what extent does the government foster policy experimentation through innovation labs, behavioral insights or delivery teams, using techniques like prototyping, human-centered design, randomized controlled trials, project-based employment and data analysis?
- To what extent does the government allocate sufficient financial and human resources, such as grant funding and procurement to establish test beds for new ideas?
- To what extent are strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation included as fundamental skills to be acquired in the recruitment and training of high level civil servants?

De facto

- To what extent do the central government strategic foresight and innovation units have a meaningful impact on work practices and the organizational culture within ministerial bureaucracies? One indicator could be the frequency of meetings/events between these units and ministries. Another indicator could be the existence of plans, programs, central regulations designed in line with the guidelines proposed by innovation units.
- To what extent does the central government's planning allow for multiple futures and scenarios to coexist in strategic plans?
- To what extent are experimental techniques employed before policy measures are rolled out?
- What is the level of success achieved in projects that directly affect how the government operates? These include projects targeting open government, knowledge management and digital transformation. To what extent does the government secure adequate financial resources to sustain these activities in the long term?

**Useful Data Sources:****Comparative Databases:**

[Observatory of Public Sector Innovation](#)

Effective Regulatory Impact Assessment

To what extent does the government conduct high-quality impact assessments to evaluate the potential effects of prepared legislation before implementation?

This question focuses on the effectiveness of high-quality impact assessments in guiding the preparation of legislation.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and the actual conduct of regulatory impact assessments.

Input

- To what extent is there a legal requirement to conduct RIAs for new legislation?
- To what extent is there a legal requirement to involve stakeholders who can provide empirical information on the needs and likely responses of individuals in relation to a regulatory change?
- To what extent is it legally mandated to regularly communicate or make publicly available the results of RIAs?
- To what extent are uniform (scientific) minimum standards in place for implementing RIAs?
- To what extent does an independent organizational body exist that conducts periodic quality evaluations of the RIA process and its results?

De facto

- To what extent are RIAs applied to new legislation? What are the practical limitations that affect their full application?
- How often do the results of RIAs lead to changes in legislation?
- To what extent do the implemented RIAs meet minimum standards? How effectively do RIAs provide reliable information about the impacts of regulations on key socioeconomic indicators (e.g., public budgets, labor market outcomes, environment, compliance costs for businesses)? To what extent are modern analysis methods, such as those derived from behavioral research, utilized in RIAs?
- To what extent are stakeholders involved in the regulatory impact assessment process, particularly those who can provide empirical information on the needs and likely responses of individuals to a legislative change?
- To what extent are the results of RIAs regularly communicated to the public or more made publicly available?
- To what extent are regular evaluation reports on RIA processes and results published?

If there is no centralized registration of RIA activities, please try to obtain exemplary information that is representative of the situation in your country. **Please Note: If RIAs are not applied or do not exist, assign a score of "1" to your country for this question.

The government draws on high-quality RIAs to assess the potential impact of prepared legislation before implementation.	10
In most cases, the government draws on high-quality RIAs to assess the potential impact of prepared legislation before implementation.	9
The government rarely draws on high-quality RIAs to assess the potential impact of prepared legislation before implementation.	8
The government does not draw on high-quality RIAs to assess the potential impact of prepared legislation before implementation.	7
	6
	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

Effective Sustainability Checks

To what extent does the government effectively incorporate sustainability assessments within the framework of RIAs?

This question examines whether RIAs also consider the impacts of regulations on sustainability and their alignment with a national sustainability strategy based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

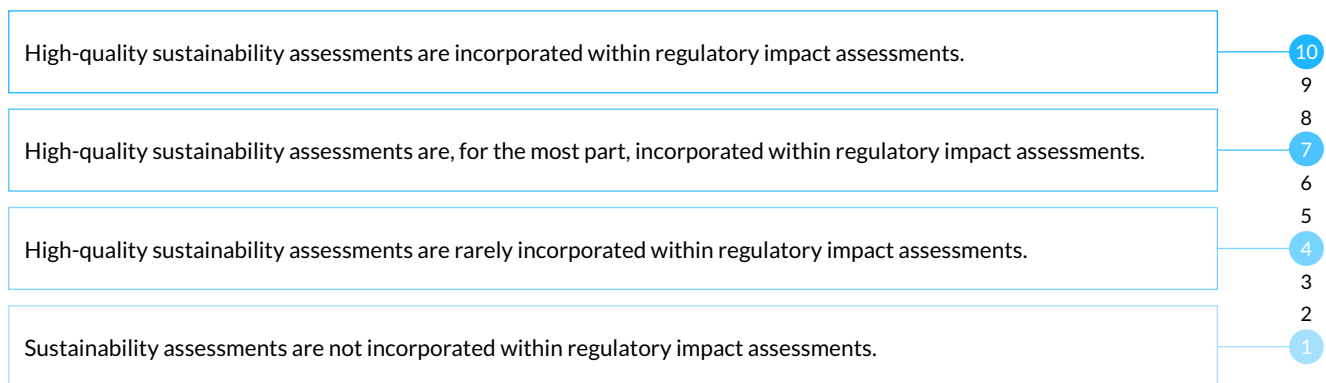
To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and the actual application of sustainability assessments.

Input

- Has your country formally adopted a sustainable development strategy that is based on the SDGs? To what extent has it been implemented?
- Has the strategy been broken down into concrete action plans for implementation? If so, please illustrate with a few examples.
- To what extent are sustainability checks legally required as part of RIAs?
- To what extent are sustainability assessments required to include analyses that span multiple time periods, including short-term, medium-term and long-term perspectives?
- Is the monitoring capacity (availability of data and information and statistical capacity) of the country sufficient to measure progress? To what extent is the government addressing any deficiencies?

De facto

- To what extent are sustainability assessments an integral and practical part of RIAs? What are the limitations, in practice, to their full application?
- To what extent do sustainability assessments draw upon a comprehensive set of appropriate impact indicators that encompass economic, social and environmental sustainability aspects?
- To what extent are analyses provided for different time periods, including short-term, medium-term and long-term perspectives?



Effective Ex Post Evaluation

To what extent do government ministries utilize ex post evaluations to improve existing policies?

This question examines the extent to which the government utilizes ex post evaluations, whether conducted internally or externally, to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of existing policies. Ex post evaluations determine to what extent the intended effects/ results of the measure were achieved and can provide guidance for revising existing policies or designing new and better policies.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects related to inputs and the actual use of ex post evaluations.

Input

- To what extent is regular analysis of the effectiveness and efficiency of existing policies through ex post evaluations required by law?
- To what extent is there a legal requirement to involve stakeholders who can provide empirical information on the needs and likely responses of individuals in relation to a regulatory change?
- To what extent is it legally mandated to regularly communicate or make publicly available the results of ex post evaluations?
- To what extent are uniform (scientific) minimum standards in place for implementing ex post evaluations?
- To what extent does an independent organizational body exist that conducts periodic quality evaluations of the policy evaluation process and results?

De facto

- To what extent are ex post evaluations applied to existing public policies? What are the practical limitations that affect their full application?
- How often do the results of ex post evaluations lead to changes in existing legislation or inform the development of new legislation?
- To what extent do conducted ex post evaluations meet minimum scientific standards? To what extent do they provide reliable information about impacts of regulations on key socioeconomic indicators? To what extent are modern analysis methods, such as those derived from behavioral research, utilized in ex post evaluations?
- To what extent are stakeholders involved in ex post evaluations, particularly those who can provide empirical information on individuals' experiences with and responses to public policy interventions?
- To what extent are the results of ex post evaluations regularly communicated to the public or more made publicly available?
- To what extent are regular evaluation reports on the results and process of ex post evaluations published?

High-quality ex post evaluations serve as the basis for making adjustments to public policies.	10
	9
	8
High-quality ex post evaluations frequently serve as the basis for making adjustments to public policies.	7
	6
	5
High-quality ex post evaluations rarely serve as the basis for making adjustments to public policies.	4
	3
	2
High-quality ex post evaluations are not utilized to make adjustments to public policies.	1

Sustainable Policymaking

Economic Sustainability

P 1 Circular Economy	67
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Social Sustainability

P 9 Sustainable Education System	83
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Environmental Sustainability

P 17 Effective Climate Action	98
P 18 Effective Environmental Health Protection	100
P 19 Effective Ecosystem and Biodiversity Preservation	102
P 20 Effective Contributions to Global Environmental Protection	104

To what extent does the government create effective framework conditions and regulations for a resource- and emission-saving mode of production?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Material footprint
- Circular material use rate²
- Recycling rate of all waste (excluding major mineral waste)³

Circular Economy Policy Efforts and Commitment

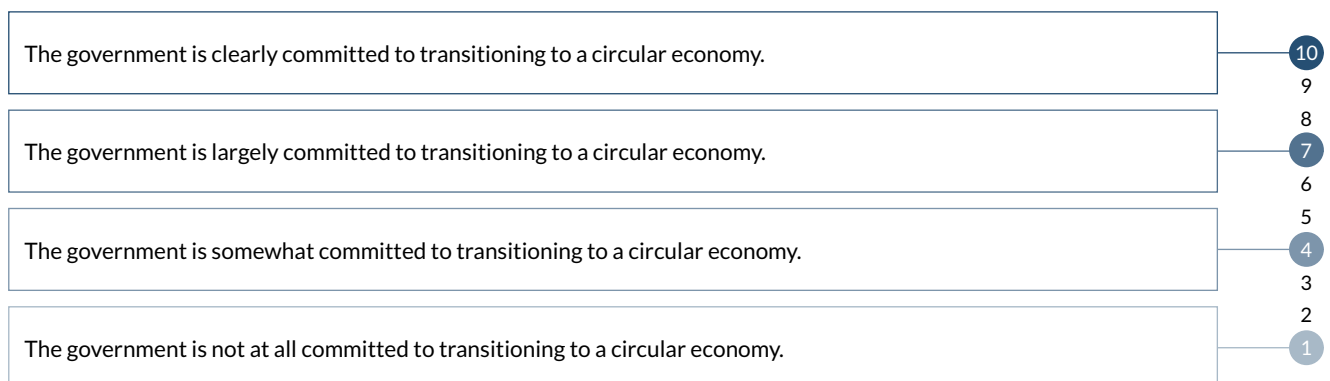
How committed is the government to driving the transition toward a circular economy?

This question addresses a government’s broader strategy and regulatory framework to promote material prosperity without exceeding planetary boundaries. In this context, resource efficiency is defined as the sustainable utilization of the Earth’s limited resources while minimizing environmental impacts. To ensure a sustainable and resource-saving economy, governments must adopt policies, regulations and incentives to achieve the following goals:

1. **Reduction:** Decreasing the input of (scarce) resources, the emission of climate-damaging substances, and the generation of waste produced.
2. **Endurance:** Encouraging the development of durable products that retain their value over time.
3. **Reuse:** Promoting the increased utilization of products, for instance by fostering a market for used and refurbished products.
4. **Recycle:** Increasing the extent to which products are composed of material sourced from prior use phases and encouraging the design of materials that are easier to recover.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects.

- Is there a strategy and roadmap for a transition toward a circular economy with clearly defined goals? To what extent is it binding?
- Has the strategy been broken down into sector-specific action plans? If so, please illustrate with examples. How aligned are these sectoral targets with the overall targets?
- How comprehensive are the strategy and designated policies regarding the goals of reduction, endurance, reuse and recycle mentioned earlier?
- How do existing policies either support or undermine efforts to transition to a circular economy?
- To what extent is public procurement aligned with the circular economy strategy?
- Is there a lead unit, and if so, which unit is it? If there are multiple units, which units are involved in circular economy policy? And are there effective coordination mechanisms to facilitate interministerial policy coordination?
- If policy implementation is delegated in some manner to bureaucracies and executive agencies, to what extent do federal and sub-national ministries monitor the activities of these bodies to ensure effective implementation of government policies? Can central government ministries intervene at lower political levels if effective implementation is endangered?
- How (and how often) does the government monitor the progress of the transitioning process? How many indicators are used to measure the outcomes related to the aforementioned goals? What steps is the government taking to continually expand and improve these indicators?



² Not available for AUS, CAN, CHE, ISR, JPN, NOR, NZL, USA
³ Not available for AUS, CAN, CHE, ISR, JPN, NOR, NZL, USA

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[Circular economy policy innovation and good practice](#)

To what extent does economic policy contribute to creating a viable and resilient critical infrastructure?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Quality of overall infrastructure
- Share of trains in inland passenger transport⁴
- Share of motor coaches, buses and trolley buses in inland passenger transport⁵
- Share of railways in inland freight transport⁶
- Share of waterways in inland freight transport⁷
- High speed internet coverage (total)⁸
- High speed internet coverage (low settled areas)⁹

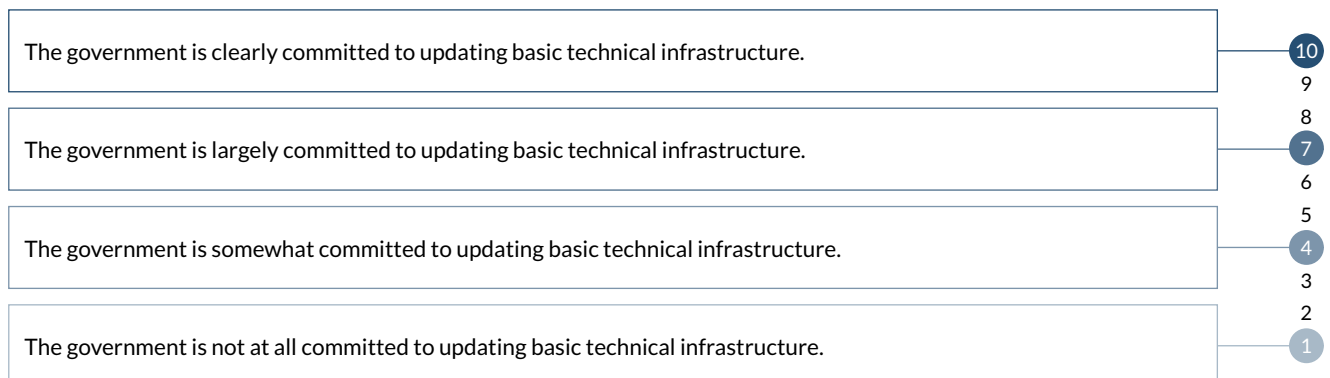
Policy Efforts and Commitment to a Resilient Critical Infrastructure

How committed is the government to updating and protecting critical infrastructure?

This question explores the extent to which a government’s strategy and regulatory framework contributes to efforts to update and protect the infrastructure required to maintain vital economic and societal functions (critical infrastructure). In this context, “update” refers here to the modernization and adaptability of infrastructure to ensure its long-term functionality. The protection aspect involves identifying vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure and improving its robustness, recovery, and restoration capacity to protect it against destruction or disruption by natural disasters, criminal activity and terrorism.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects focusing on basic technical infrastructure in the digital, transport, water and energy sectors.

- Is there a clearly defined strategy and roadmap for updating and protecting critical infrastructure? To what extent is the strategy binding?
- Has the strategy been broken down into sector-specific action plans. If so, please illustrate with a few examples. To what extent do these action plans consider infrastructure interdependencies between different sectors and the physical-digital interface?
- To what extent do existing policies support or undermine policy efforts to update and effectively protect basic technical infrastructure?
- Is there a lead unit, if so, which unit is it? If there are multiple units, which units are involved in infrastructure policy? And are there effective coordination mechanisms to facilitate interministerial policy coordination?
- If policy implementation is delegated in some manner to bureaucracies and executive agencies, to what extent do federal and sub-national ministries monitor the activities of these bodies to ensure effective implementation of government policies? Can central government ministries intervene at lower political levels if effective implementation is endangered?
- How (and how often) does the government monitor the progress of the updating process? How many indicators are in place to measure the outcomes related to the aforementioned goals? What measures is the government taking to continually expand and improve these indicators?



4 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 5 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 6 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 7 Not available for AUS, CAN, DNK, EST, GRC, IRL, ISR, JPN, LVA, NZL, NOR, PRT, SVN, ESP, USA
 8 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 9 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[Global Cybersecurity Index \(2020\)](#)

To what extent does energy policy succeed in creating effective framework conditions for achieving a fully decarbonized energy system by 2050?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Share of energy from renewable sources
- CO2 emissions from fuel combustion (tons per capita)
- CO2 emissions from fuel combustion (Index: 2000=100)
- Energy productivity
- Primary energy consumption per capita

Policy Efforts and Commitment to Achieving a Decarbonized Energy System by 2050

How committed is the government to fully decarbonizing the energy system by 2050?

This question explores the extent to which a government’s strategy, its policies and regulatory framework facilitate the transition toward a decarbonized energy system by 2050. This transition encompasses the electricity, heat and mobility sectors, as well as reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects.

- Is there a strategy and roadmap to facilitate the transition toward a fully decarbonized energy system by 2050? To what extent is the strategy based on clearly defined targets?
- To what extent is the strategy binding? Are there established consequences for ministers if targets are missed?
- Has the overall strategy been broken down into sector-specific action plans (e.g., electricity, heat, mobility etc.)? To what extent are these sector-specific targets aligned with the overall targets?
- Are there policies backing sector-specific targets? (Name 1-2 measures per sector)
- Are there policies scaling back fossil-based energy?
- Are there policies undermining the goal of a decarbonized energy system?
- To what extent is public procurement aligned with the energy transition strategy?
- Is there a lead unit, if so, which unit is it? If there are multiple units, which units are involved in energy policy? And are there effective coordination mechanisms to facilitate interministerial policy coordination?
- If policy implementation is delegated in some manner to bureaucracies and executive agencies, to what extent do federal and sub-national ministries monitor the activities of these bodies to ensure the effective implementation of government policies? Can central government ministries intervene at lower political levels if effective implementation is endangered?
- To what extent does the government monitor progress toward medium- or long-term energy policy targets, such as technology-specific deployment or energy efficiency targets, and focus on areas with slow progress? What steps is the government taking to continually expand and improve these indicators?

The government is clearly committed to transitioning to a decarbonized energy system.	10 9
The government is largely committed to transitioning to a decarbonized energy system.	8 7 6
The government is somewhat committed to transitioning to a decarbonized energy system.	5 4 3
The government is not at all committed to transitioning to a decarbonized energy system.	2 1

Useful Data Sources:

Output Indicators:

Electricity production capacities for renewables – wind¹⁰

Electricity production capacities for renewables – solar¹¹

Electricity production capacities for renewables – geothermal¹²

Electricity production capacities for renewables – hydro, tide, wave, ocean¹³

Comparative Databases:

[Energy support measures and their impact on innovation in the renewable energy sector in Europe – European Environment Agency](#)
[IEA – International Energy Agency – IEA](#)

10 Not available for AUS, CAN, CHE, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

11 Not available for AUS, CAN, CHE, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

12 Not available for AUS, CAN, CHE, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

13 Not available for AUS, CAN, CHE, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

To what extent do labor market institutions succeed in creating inclusive and adaptive labor markets?

Past Policy Outcomes

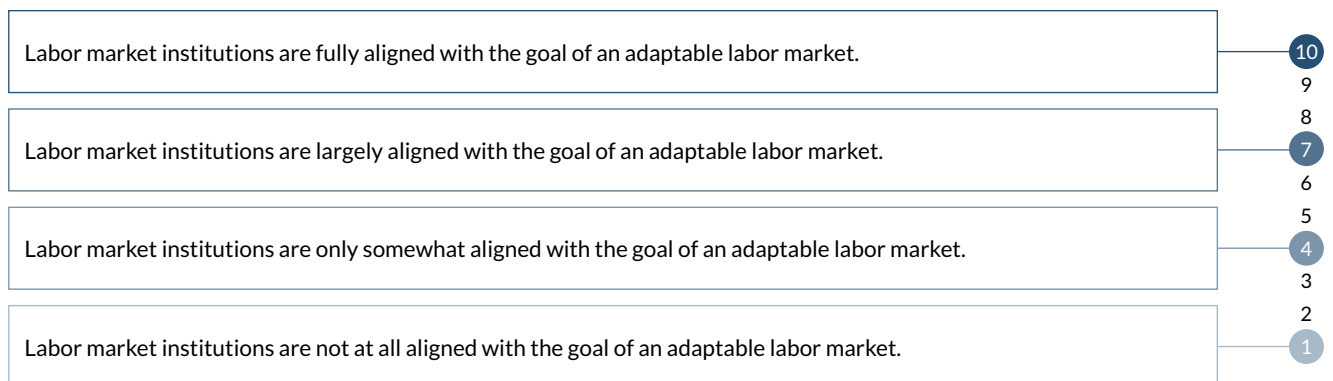
- Unemployment rate
- Long-term unemployment
- Youth unemployment
- Employment rate
- Gender employment gap
- Low-wage earners
- Involuntary part-time employment
- In-work at risk of poverty rate¹⁴

Policies Targeting an Adaptive Labor Market

To what extent do existing labor market institutions support or hinder the transition to an adaptive labor market?

This question explores the extent to which labor market institutions are balancing supply and demand on the labor market and preparing it for future challenges in a rapidly changing economy. To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects.

- To what extent do policies and regulations encourage/discourage and empower/disempower people to develop their skills throughout their working life in response to changing labor market demands?
- To what extent do policies and regulations incentivize/disincentivize employers to anticipate sustainability challenges in the labor market and invest in upskilling or reskilling their workforce?
- To what extent do policies and regulations help firms absorb short-term economic shocks through short-time work schemes?
- To what extent do services by employment agencies facilitate or impede worker mobility across firms, industries and regions and countries?



¹⁴ Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

Policies Targeting an Inclusive Labor Market

To what extent do existing labor market institutions support or hinder the transition to an inclusive labor market?

This question explores the extent to which labor market institutions are preventing labor market exclusion. To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of labor market inclusion. In addition to policies and regulations, please comment on the effectiveness of the work carried out by employment agencies.

- How effectively do policies and regulations combine accessible out-of-work benefits with active labor market programs to safeguard workers and to improve possibilities of finding a job?
- To what extent do policies and regulations incentivize or discourage groups from entering employment or increasing working hours by addressing barriers to employment (e. g. through tax-benefit reforms and targeted in-work benefits)?
- To what extent do policies and regulations target the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training?
- To what extent do policies and regulations help workers achieve a work-life balance (e.g., through remote work arrangements)?

Labor market institutions are fully aligned with the goal of an inclusive labor market.	10 9
Labor market institutions are largely aligned with the goal of an inclusive labor market.	8 7 6
Labor market institutions are only somewhat aligned with the goal of an inclusive labor market.	5 4 3
Labor market institutions are not at all aligned with the goal of an inclusive labor market.	2 1

Policies Targeting Labor Market Risks

To what extent do existing labor market institutions support or hinder the mitigation of labor market risks?

This question explores the extent to which labor market institutions are protecting individuals against labor market risks. To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of mitigating labor market risks. In addition to policies and regulations, please comment on the effectiveness of the work carried out by employment agencies.

- How well do policies and regulations provide social protection for all workers by extending existing social insurance schemes to previously excluded worker categories or adapting them to non-standard forms of work?
- To what extent can all workers benefit from protection through effective representation through trade unions or other means?
- How well do policies and regulations provide for the portability of social rights, such as social insurance, pensions?

Labor market institutions are fully aligned with the goal of protecting individuals against labor market risks.	10 9
Labor market institutions are largely aligned with the goal of protecting individuals against labor market risks.	8 7 6
Labor market institutions are only somewhat aligned with the goal of protecting individuals against labor market risks.	5 4 3
Labor market institutions are not at all aligned with the goal of protecting individuals against labor market risks.	2 1

Useful Data Sources:

Output Indicators:

Financial disincentive to return to work
Job related nonformal education and training

Comparative Databases:

[OECD Employment Outlook](#)

How effective is taxation in realizing fiscal sustainability goals?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Redistribution effect
- Tax system complex complexity
- General government structural balance

Policies Targeting Adequate Tax Revenue

To what extent do existing tax institutions and procedures support or hinder adequate tax revenue flows?

A country's tax policy should strive to provide sufficient financial resources to fulfill the government's obligations and tasks. This involves carefully considering the potential disincentives to work and invest and adequate administrative resources to collect taxes.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of ensuring adequate revenue. In addition to policies and regulations, please comment on the effectiveness of the work carried out by fiscal authorities.

- To what extent does the government address possible disincentives of the tax system that may discourage both individuals from seeking employment and companies from making investments?
- To what extent are administrative capacities sufficient to collect the taxes levied? How effectively is tax evasion prosecuted?

The tax system is fully aligned with the goals of ensuring adequate tax revenues.	10 9
The tax system is largely aligned with the goals of ensuring adequate tax revenues.	8 7 6
The tax system is only somewhat aligned with the goals of ensuring adequate tax revenues.	5 4 3
The tax system is not at all aligned with the goals of ensuring adequate tax revenues.	2 1

Policies Targeting Tax Equity

To what extent do existing tax institutions and procedures consider equity aspects?

Addressing equity aspects in taxation means, above all, aligning the tax burden on individuals and companies with their economic capacity. To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of tax equity. In addition to policies and regulations, please comment on the effectiveness of the work carried out by fiscal authorities.

- How equitably do existing tax policies treat different groups of economic actors with similar tax-paying abilities (horizontal equity)?
- To what extent does the tax system impose higher taxes on individuals or companies with greater ability to pay (vertical equity)?

The tax system is fully aligned with the goal of ensuring equity.	10 9
The tax system is largely aligned with the goal of ensuring equity.	8 7 6
The tax system is only somewhat aligned with the goal of ensuring equity.	5 4 3
The tax system is not at all aligned with the goal of ensuring equity.	2 1

Policies Aimed at Minimizing Compliance Costs

To what extent do existing tax institutions and procedures minimize compliance and collection costs?

A country's tax policy should minimize compliance and collection costs. To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of compliance and collection costs. In addition to policies and regulations, please comment on the effectiveness of the work carried out by fiscal authorities.

- How transparent and easily understandable are the tax rules, and to what degree do they minimize compliance costs for taxpayers (such as form filling and consulting fees)?
- To what extent do the tax rules promote transparency and comprehensibility, leading to reduced administrative collection costs for tax institutions and avoiding expensive tax litigation?

The tax system is fully aligned with the goal of minimizing compliance and collection costs.	10 9
The tax system is largely aligned with the goal of minimizing compliance and collection costs.	8 7 6
The tax system is only somewhat aligned with the goal of minimizing compliance and collection costs.	5 4 3
The tax system is not at all aligned with the goal of minimizing compliance and collection costs.	2 1

Policies Aimed at Internalizing Negative and Positive Externalities

To what extent do existing tax institutions and procedures internalize negative and positive externalities?

A country's tax policy should utilize the steering effects of taxation to avoid negative externalities and promote positive externalities. To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects. In addition to policies and regulations, please comment on the effectiveness of the work carried out by fiscal authorities.

- To what extent are taxes and subsidies introduced to internalize negative externalities (e.g., by taxing environmentally harmful behavior)?
- To what extent are taxes and subsidies introduced to internalize positive externalities (e.g., by providing subsidies for basic research that benefits the public)?

The tax system is fully aligned with the goal of internalizing externalities.	10 9
The tax system is largely aligned with the goal of internalizing externalities.	8 7 6
The tax system is only somewhat aligned with the goal of internalizing externalities.	5 4 3
The tax system is not at all aligned with the goal of internalizing externalities.	2 1

Useful Data Sources:

Output Indicators:

- Share of environmental taxes in total tax revenues
- Tax administration capacity
- Average rate of income tax and employees' social security contributions
- Effective average tax rate for businesses¹⁵

Comparative Databases:

[Tax Justice Network](#)

¹⁵ Not available for AUS, ISR, NZL

How effective is budgetary policy in realizing sustainable budgeting goals?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Gross interest payments by general government
- Government external debt-to-GDP
- Debt-to-GDP
- Debt per child

Sustainable Budgeting Policies

To what extent do existing budgetary institutions and procedures support or hinder sustainable budgeting?

A country's budgetary policy aims to achieve at least three major objectives, including:

1. Establishing budgetary rules that ensure fiscal resilience.
2. Implementing budgetary procedures that ensure transparency.
3. Setting budgetary priorities that reflect future well-being.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of sustainable budgeting.

- Does the implementation of fiscal rules (e.g., a debt brake) effectively compel policymakers to provide public goods efficiently and prevent a continuous increase in government debt?
- To what extent do budgetary rules mandate the accumulation of financial reserves during economic expansions to enhance financial capacity during times of crisis?
- To what extent do budgetary rules prioritize public investment and safeguard future investment opportunities?
- To what extent does the government incorporate long-term planning and conduct systematic, forward-looking assessments of the budget's impact?
- How transparent or opaque is the budgetary process? Are there numerous subsidiary budgets outside the normal budget?
- Do the national budget or specific budget lines explicitly address the SDGs or other transformation goals?
- Are there target values associated with expenditures for economic and social development?

Budgetary institutions and policies are fully aligned with the goals of sustainable budgeting.	10
	9
	8
Budgetary institutions and policies are largely aligned with the goals of sustainable budgeting.	7
	6
	5
Budgetary institutions and policies are only somewhat aligned with the goals of sustainable budgeting.	4
	3
	2
Budgetary institutions and policies are not at all aligned with the goals of sustainable budgeting.	1

Useful Data Sources:

Output Indicators:

- Budget consolidation
- Primary balance
- Government Budget Allocations for R & D

P 7 Sustainability-oriented Research and Innovation

Category: Economic Sustainability

To what extent does research and innovation support the transition to a sustainable economy and society?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Intellectual property licenses
- Patents in environment-related technologies
- High-tech exports¹⁶
- Patents related to recycling and secondary raw materials¹⁷

Research and Innovation Policy

How committed is the government to utilizing research and innovation as drivers for the transition to a sustainable economy and society?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of research and innovation policy.

- Is there a national research and innovation strategy and roadmap in place for achieving a transition to a sustainable economy and society, with clearly defined goals? To what extent is it binding?
- Has the strategy been broken down into sector-specific action plans? If so, please illustrate with examples. How aligned are these sector-specific targets with the overall targets?
- Does the government foster an innovation-friendly environment, thereby enabling startups (companies) to effectively translate scientific advancements into more resource-efficient products? Are there any bureaucratic obstacles hindering this process? How easy is rising venture capital for start-ups?
- Is there a lead unit, if so, which unit is that? If there are multiple units, which units are involved in research and innovation policy? And are there effective coordination mechanisms to facilitate interministerial policy coordination?
- How often does the government monitor the progress of research and innovation outcomes?
- If policy implementation is delegated in some manner to bureaucracies and executive agencies, to what extent do federal and sub-national ministries monitor the activities of these bodies to ensure the effective implementation of government policies?

The government is clearly committed to utilizing research and innovation as drivers for the transition to a sustainable economy and society.	10
	9
	8
The government is largely committed to utilizing research and innovation as drivers for the transition toward a sustainable economy and society.	7
	6
	5
The government is somewhat committed to utilizing research and innovation as drivers for the transition toward a sustainable economy and society.	4
	3
	2
The government is not at all committed to utilizing research and innovation as drivers for the transition toward a sustainable economy and society.	1

Useful Data Sources:

Output Indicators:

Total researchers
Public R&D expenditure
Private R&D expenditure

Comparative Databases:

[Eco Innovation reports](#)

16 Not available for AUS, CAN, GBR, ISR, JPN, NZL, NOR, USA

17 Not available for AUS, CAN, CHE, ISR, JPN, NZL, NOR, USA

How do fiscal policies, financial regulations and the government's international activities contribute to effectively regulating and supervising the international financial architecture?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Banks non-performing loans
- External debts to exports

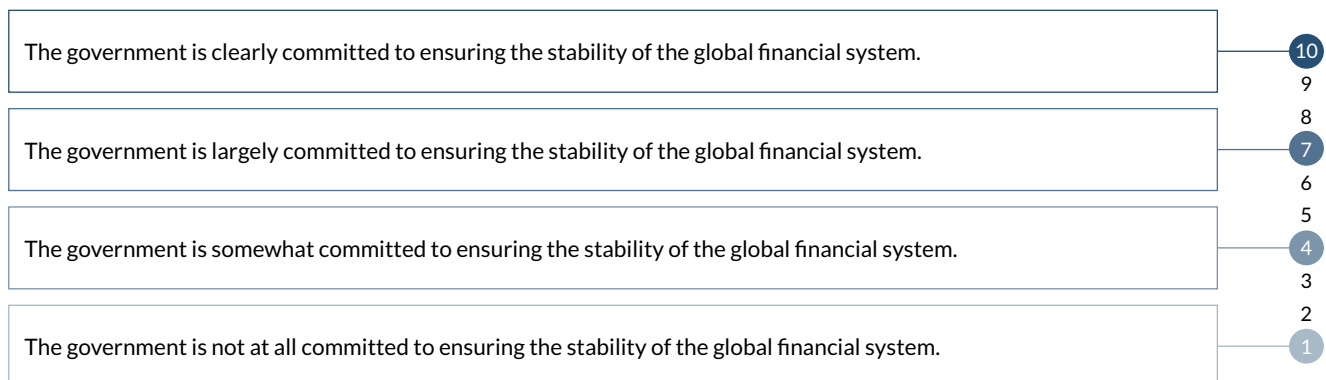
Global Financial Policies

How committed and credible is the government in its activities to guide the effective regulation and supervision of the international financial architecture?

This question explores how ambitious and credible the government is in implementing international agreements and treaties, as well as formulating new policies to govern global financial markets and transactions, with the goal of ensuring a stable financial system. The regulation of international financial markets has a direct impact on various institution, including banks and financial service providers (e.g., stock exchanges, credit rating agencies and institutional investors).

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of a country's commitment to a stable global financial system. In addition to policies and regulations, please comment on the effectiveness of the work carried out by financial supervisory authorities.

- To what extent has the government effectively and credibly implemented relevant international agreements to prevent and combat high-risk financial activities that pose systemic risks?
- To what extent has the government taken action to enhance information transparency in international financial markets, particularly regarding nonbank financial intermediaries, and strengthen consumer protection?
- To what extent has the government argued in favor of coordinated, international steps to reform the global financial system and to eliminate tax and regulatory havens?



Useful Data Sources:

Output Indicators:

- Tier 1 capital ratio
- Financial Secrecy Score
- International legal cooperation
- Non-performing loans of government¹⁸

Comparative Databases:

[Tax Justice Network](#)

18 Not available for AUS, CHE, CAN, GBR, ISR, JPN, NOR, NZL, USA

To what extent does education policy in your country succeed in realizing a sustainable education system?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Upper secondary attainment
- Tertiary attainment
- Early childhood education > 3 years
- PISA results
- PISA socioeconomic background
- PISA low achievers in all subjects
- Early leavers from education or training¹⁹
- Digital skills²⁰

Policies Targeting Quality Education

To what extent do policies and regulations in the education system hinder or facilitate high-quality education and training?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of quality within the education system.

- To what extent do policies and regulations ensure the provision of necessary financial and human resources, even during times of economic crisis or government transitions?
- To what extent do policies and regulations ensure the continuous monitoring of labor market demands, enabling the adaptation of education and training programs (also in different regions) to provide relevant hands-on skills?
- To what extent do individuals have access to lifelong learning opportunities?
- To what extent do the framework conditions of the education system facilitate the recruitment of highly skilled educators?
- To what extent is education for sustainable development integrated into the curricula of all school levels?

Education policies are fully aligned with the goal of ensuring high-quality education and training.	10 9
Education policies are largely aligned with the goal of ensuring high-quality education and training.	8 7 6
Education policies are only somewhat aligned with the goal of ensuring high-quality education and training.	5 4 3
Education policies are not at all aligned with the goal of ensuring high-quality education and training.	2 1

¹⁹ Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

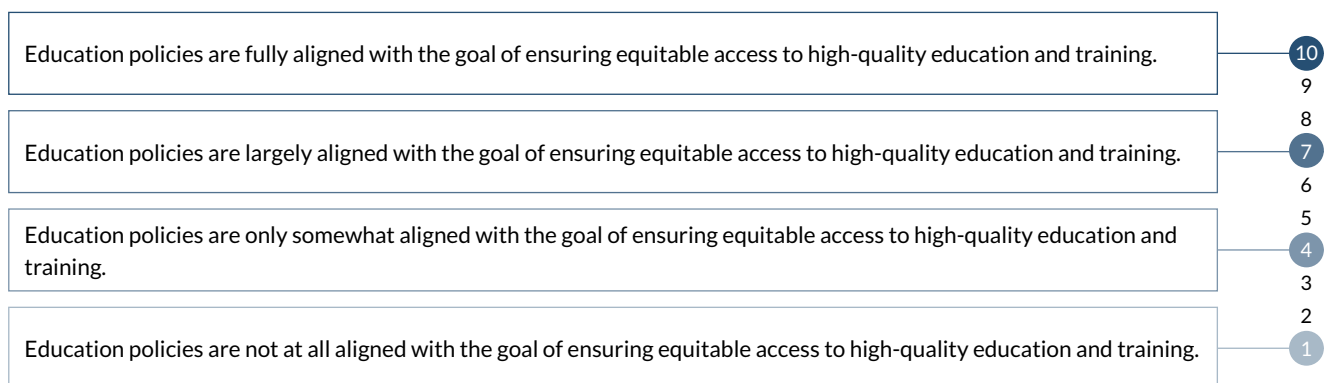
²⁰ Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NOR, NZL, UK, USA

Policies Targeting Equitable Access to Education

To what extent does the current policy approach in the education system hinder or facilitate equitable access to high-quality education and training?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of equitable access to education:

- To what extent do policies and regulations de facto ensure equal access to early childhood development, care and preprimary education, thereby preparing children for primary education?
- To what extent does the education system ensure equitable access to all levels of education for all, regardless of socioeconomic background?
- To what extent does the education system provide second-chance education opportunities for individuals with very low levels of skills upon leaving education?



Useful Data Sources:

Output indicators:

Public education expenditure²¹

Ratio of pupils and students to teachers²²

Comparative Databases:

[Education at a glance](#)

21 Not available for CAN, JPN

22 Not available for AUS, CAN, CHE, EST, IRL, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

P 10 Sustainable Institutions Supporting Basic Human Needs

Category: Social Sustainability

To what extent do essential public services and basic income support systems meet basic human needs?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Poverty Rate
- NEET Rate
- Life satisfaction
- Adequacy of Guaranteed Minimum Income benefits
- At risk of poverty or social exclusion²³
- Severe material and social deprivation²⁴
- Persistent at risk of poverty rates²⁵
- Population unable to keep home adequately warm²⁶
- Digital poverty²⁷
- Impact of social transfers (excluding pensions) on poverty reduction²⁸

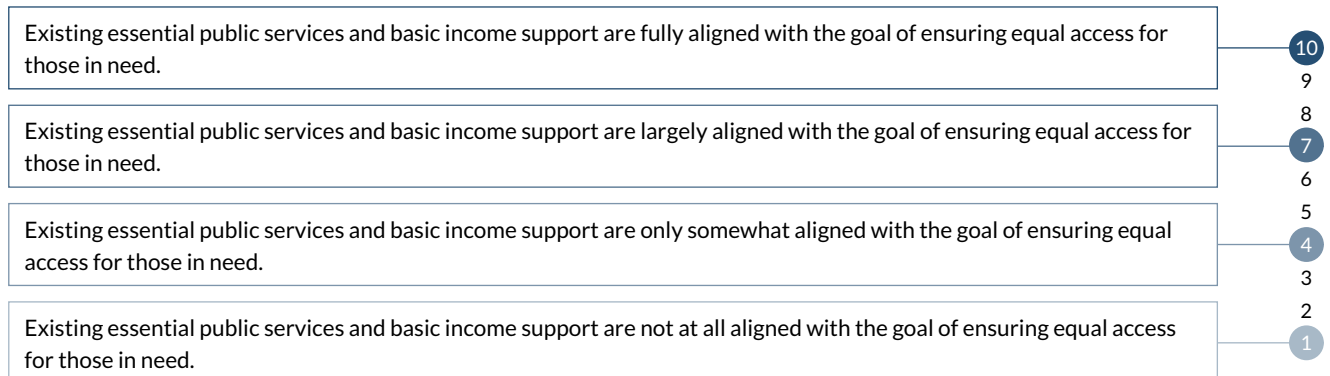
Policies Targeting Equal Access to Essential Services and Basic Income Support

To what extent do existing institutions ensure equal access to essential services and basic income support for those in need?

Essential public services help satisfy the basic human needs required to survive and function in society. These services encompass equal access to (a) housing, water, sanitation, (b) energy, c) public transport, d) digital infrastructure and (e) financial services. Access to these essential services is vital for social and labor market inclusion and significantly impacts well-being, particularly that of disadvantaged groups. Additionally, minimum income benefits are means-tested support provided by governments as a last resort to combat poverty and social exclusion. Minimum income schemes are part of the wider welfare state system. These benefits are usually available for people of working age and aim to ensure a minimum standard of living for individuals and their dependents when they lack sufficient financial support.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects concerning equal access. Additionally, please comment on the effectiveness of the agencies responsible for providing these essential services.

- To what extent do institutions inform eligible individuals about their rights to access essential services and basic income support?
- To what extent do institutions provide facilitated access to essential services and basic income support?
- To what extent do national policies ensure that everyone in need has access to cash transfers, subsidies, earmarked financial support or benefits-in-kind in the following areas:
 - Housing, water and sanitation
 - Energy
 - Public transport
 - Digital infrastructure
 - Financial services (e.g., banking, debt relief services)



23 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 24 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 25 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 26 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 27 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 28 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

P 10 Sustainable Institutions Supporting Basic Human Needs

Category: Social Sustainability

Policies Targeting Quality of Essential Services and Basic Income Support

To what extent do existing institutions and policies ensure high-quality services and basic income support?

Essential public services help satisfy the basic human needs required to survive and function in society. These services encompass (a) housing, water, sanitation, (b) energy, (c) public transport, (d) digital infrastructure and (e) financial services. Additionally, minimum income benefits are means-tested support provided by governments as a last resort to combat poverty and social exclusion. Minimum income schemes are part of the wider welfare state system.

A sustainable system of essential public services and basic income support should guarantee support levels that enables everyone to meet his/her basic needs. To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of ensuring high-quality services and basic income support. Additionally, please comment on the effectiveness of the agencies responsible for providing these essential services.

- To what extent does the generosity of basic income benefits enable the fulfillment of basic human needs?
- To what extent do policies and services ensure that the level of cash transfers, subsidies, earmarked financial support or benefits-in-kind meet basic human needs in the areas of:
 - Housing, water and sanitation
 - Energy
 - Public transport
 - Digital infrastructure
 - Financial services

Existing essential public services and basic income support are fully aligned with the goal of satisfying basic human needs.	10 9
Existing essential public services and basic income support are largely aligned with the goal of satisfying basic human needs.	8 7 6
Existing essential public services and basic income support are only somewhat aligned with the goal of satisfying basic human needs.	5 4 3
Existing essential public services and basic income support are not at all aligned with the goal of satisfying basic human needs.	2 1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[Access to essential services for people on low incomes in Europe](#)
[OECD Better Life Index](#)

To what extent does health policy in your country succeed in realizing a sustainable health system?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Healthy life expectancy
- Infant mortality
- Perceived health status
- Avoidable mortality²⁹
- Unmet need for medical care³⁰

Policies Targeting Health System Resilience

To what extent does current health policy hinder or facilitate health system resilience?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of resilience in the healthcare system.

- To what extent do policies and regulations foster investment in digital infrastructure and utilize health data to monitor emerging threats and accurately assess public health matters?
- To what extent do policies and regulations ensure the availability of health products and services when and where they are needed, even in times of crisis?
- To what extent is the government implementing measures to offset the rising costs caused by an aging population, advancements in medical technology, and systemic disincentives by utilizing potential efficiencies (e.g., through increasing transparency of health services)?

Health policies are fully aligned with the goal of achieving a resilient health system.	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Health policies are largely aligned with the goal of achieving a resilient health system.	7
Health policies are only somewhat aligned with the goal of achieving a resilient health system.	4
Health policies are not at all aligned with the goal of achieving a resilient health system.	1

²⁹ Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

³⁰ Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

Policies Targeting High-Quality Healthcare

To what extent does current health policy hinder or facilitate achieving high-quality healthcare?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of ensuring high-quality healthcare.

- To what extent do policies and regulations foster preventive healthcare, including detection and treatment, as well as the adoption of a healthy lifestyle?
- To what extent are policies and regulations effective in providing timely and quality services?
- To what extent do policies and regulations (in particular organization and financing structures) ensure that individuals receive the right care at the right place in the right time (integrated care)?

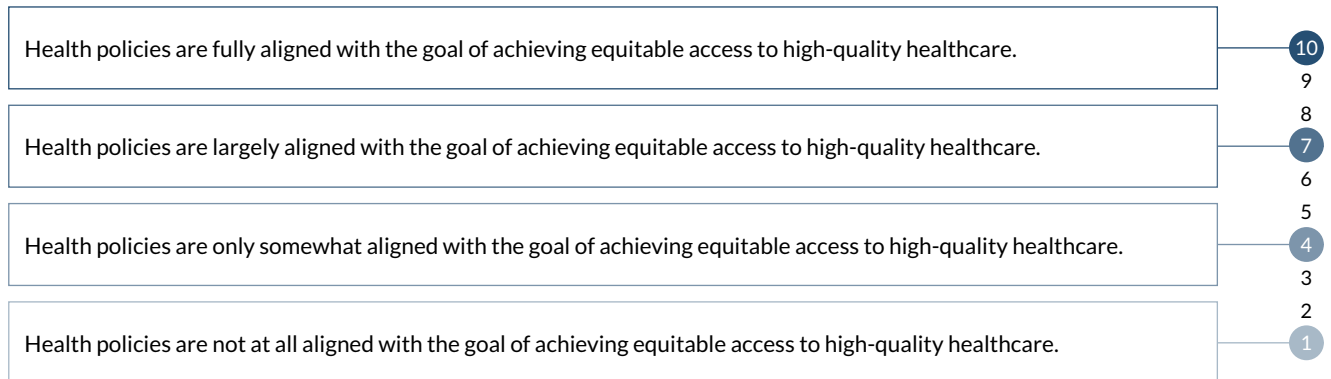
Health policies are fully aligned with the goal of achieving high-quality healthcare.	10 9
Health policies are largely aligned with the goal of achieving high-quality healthcare.	8 7 6
Health policies are only somewhat aligned with the goal of achieving high-quality healthcare.	5 4 3
Health policies are not at all aligned with the goal of achieving high-quality healthcare.	2 1

Policies Targeting Equitable Access To Healthcare

To what extent does current health policy hinder or facilitate equitable access to high-quality healthcare?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of equity in the healthcare system.

- To what extent do policies and regulations ensure equitable access to healthcare in terms of timeliness, quality and scope, regardless of socioeconomic status, age, gender, ethnicity etc.?
- To what extent is essential healthcare equally guaranteed in all regions of the country?



Useful Data Sources:

Output Indicators:

- Spending on preventive healthcare
- Physicians per 1,000 inhabitants
- Healthcare expenditure in % of GDP
- Hospital beds per 1,000 inhabitants
- Computed tomography scanners per 100,000 inhabitants³¹

Comparative Databases:

- [Health Systems Resilience – OECD](#)
- [Healthcare Quality and Outcomes OECD Country Profiles](#)

31 Not available for PRT

How effectively do policies and regulations in your country support gender equality?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Tertiary education by gender
- Gender pay gap (unadjusted)
- Poverty Rate (men/women)³²
- Women in national parliaments
- Poverty and social exclusion (men/women)³³
- Unmet need for medical care (men/women)³⁴
- Gender pension gap³⁵
- Early leavers from education or training (male/female)³⁶
- Women in senior management positions³⁷

Policy Efforts and Commitment to Achieving Gender Equality

How committed is the government to ensuring gender equality in all respects?

This question explores a government’s commitment and regulatory framework to promote gender equality in all aspects of private and public life. To ensure equal rights and opportunities, governments must adopt policies and regulations targeting the following goals:

1. Protect women and girls from all forms of physical and psychological violence.
2. Promote women’s and girls’ participation, equal opportunities and empowerment in education, labor market participation and healthcare.
3. Ensure women’s participation and equal opportunities at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
4. Ensure men’s participation and equal opportunities in caregiving.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects.

- Is there a strategy for ensuring gender equality with clearly defined goals? Are these goals linked to specific target values? To what extent is the strategy binding?
- Has the strategy been broken down into concrete action plans? If so, please illustrate with a few examples.
- How comprehensive are the policies addressing the aforementioned goals?
- To what extent do existing policies support or undermine recent policy efforts targeting gender equality in the areas specified above?
- Is there a lead unit, if so, which unit is it? If there are multiple units, which units are involved in gender equality policy? And are there effective coordination mechanisms to facilitate interministerial policy coordination?
- How many indicators are used to measure the outcomes related to the aforementioned goals? What steps, if any, is the government taking to continually expand and improve these indicators?

The government is clearly committed to the goal of ensuring gender equality.	10 9 8
The government is largely committed to the goal of ensuring gender equality.	7 6 5
The government is only somewhat committed to the goal of ensuring gender equality.	4 3 2
The government is not at all committed to the goal of ensuring gender equality.	1

32 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 33 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 34 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 35 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 36 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 37 Not available for CAN, NZL

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[Country Specific Information on Gender Equality](#)

To what extent does family policy effectively recognize and value unpaid family care work?

Past Policy Outcomes

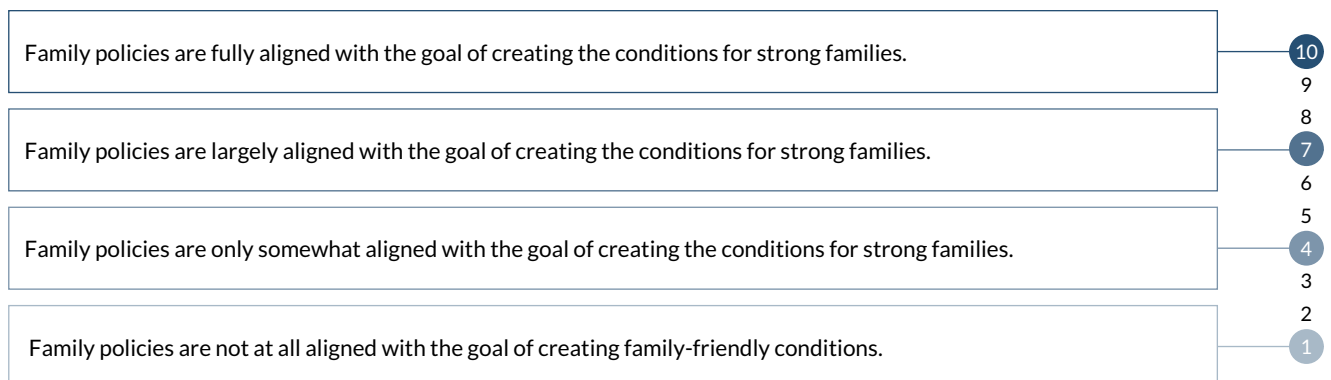
- Child poverty rate
- Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion³⁸
- Persons outside the labor force due to caring responsibilities by sex³⁹

Family Policies

To what extent does the current family policy approach support or hinder unpaid family care work?

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects of recognizing the value of unpaid family care work in both traditional and non-traditional households (e.g., single-parent, unmarried parent, same-sex and blended households). If policy implementation is delegated in some manner to bureaucracies and executive agencies, please comment on their effectiveness.

- To what extent does the family support system include maternity leave systems that provide job protection and adequate wage replacement schemes in line with the WHO guidelines of 6 months?
- To what extent does the family support system provide parents with paid leave to care for sick children and elderly family members in need of assistance?
- To what extent do parental leave policies promote shared responsibility within households and the families?
- To what extent does the family support system ensure universal access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality childcare for children below school age?
- To what extent do policies and regulations provide financial support (e.g., child benefits, child supplements, tax-free allowances for children) that maintain economic stability for families, ensure basic financial security, and support individuals in their decision to have children?



Useful Data Sources:

Output Indicators:

- Length of maternity, parental and home care leave women
- Length of paid father-specific leave
- Children in formal childcare or education (age 0-2, 30 hours or more)⁴⁰
- Children in formal childcare or education (age>3, 30 hours or more)⁴¹

Comparative Databases:

- [Country reports \(leavenetwork.org\)](http://leavenetwork.org)
- Betterlifeindex/work-life-balance

38 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 39 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 40 Not available for AUS, CAN, GBR, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA
 41 Not available for AUS, CAN, GBR, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

To what extent do pension policies in your country succeed in realizing a sustainable pension system?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Older employment (55 – 64)
- Senior citizen poverty
- Senior poverty and social exclusion⁴²

Policies Aimed at Old-Age Poverty Prevention

To what extent does the current pension policy approach prevent poverty among senior citizens?

A sustainable pension system should provide an adequate level of retirement income to prevent elderly people from falling into poverty after retiring. To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects.

- To what extent does the pension system ensure an adequate old-age income for individuals in non-standard employment or with interrupted employment biographies (e.g., low-skilled, self-employed individuals, long-term unemployed, single parents, chronically ill individuals, or those with a migration background)?
- To what extent does the pension system provide an old-age income that enables all citizens to meet their basic needs?

Pension policies are fully aligned with the goal of preventing old-age poverty.	10
	9
	8
Pension policies are largely aligned with the goal of preventing old-age poverty.	7
	6
	5
Pension policies are only somewhat aligned with the goal of preventing old-age poverty.	4
	3
	2
Pension policies are not at all aligned with the goal of preventing old-age poverty.	1

42 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

Policies Targeting Intergenerational Equity

To what extent does the current pension policy approach hinder or promote intergenerational equity?

To safeguard intergenerational equity, the burden of financing the pension system and the benefits paid should be fairly distributed among (successive) generations.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects concerning intergenerational equity.

- To what extent does the pension system provide incentives for individuals to work longer and to exit if work capability is low?
- To what extent is the pension system funded in a manner that guarantees an adequate old-age income in the future?

Pension policies are fully aligned with the goal of achieving intergenerational equity.	10 9
Pension policies are largely aligned with the goal of achieving intergenerational equity.	8 7 6
Pension policies are only somewhat aligned with the goal of achieving intergenerational equity.	5 4 3
Pension policies are not at all aligned with the goal of achieving intergenerational equity.	2 1

Useful Data Sources

Output Indicators:

Public expenditure on pensions

Comparative Databases:

[Pensions at a Glance 2021](#)

[Mercer Global Pension Index Report – 2022](#)

How effectively do policies and initiatives in your country facilitate the inclusion of migrants into society and the labor market?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Fb-Nb tertiary attainment
- Fb-Nb upper secondary attainment
- Fb-Nb employment
- Fb-Nb unemployment
- Fb-Nb severe material deprivation⁴³
- Fb-Nb unmet needs for medical help⁴⁴

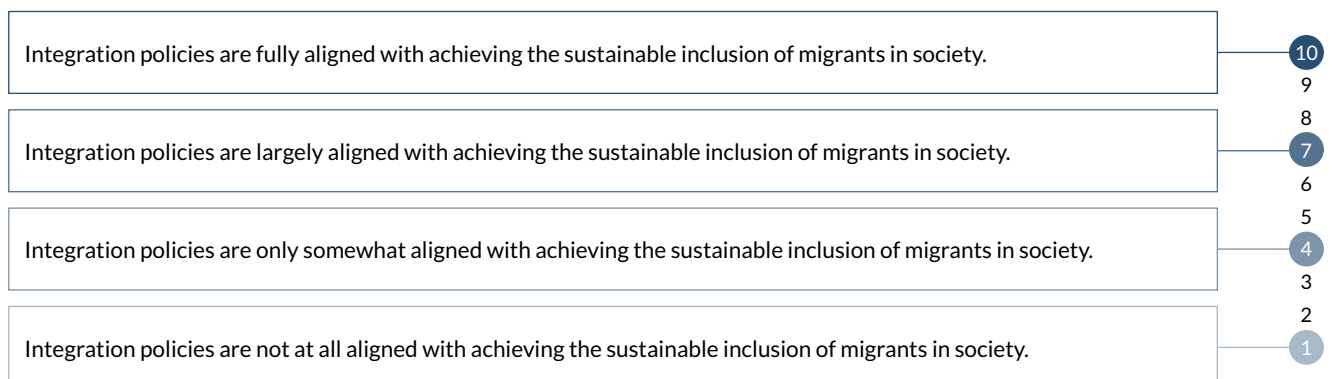
Integration Policy

To what extent does the current policy approach hinder or facilitate the inclusion of migrants into society and the labor market?

This question encompasses policies related to integration that have a broad impact on the status of migrants or migrant communities within society. Effective policies for migrant integration should ensure equal access to the labor market, education, health services, housing, social security and assistance. Additionally, they should provide opportunities for family reunion and political participation, the right to long-term residence, and establish effective pathways to nationality.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects concerning the inclusion of migrants.

- To what extent do immigrants have equal and full access to the labor market? To what extent do recognition procedures for skills and qualifications effectively facilitate the integration of migrants into the labor market?
- To what extent are language courses provided early on?
- To what extent are professional training programs, mentoring or employer incentives available for migrants?
- To what extent do integration policies provide opportunities for family reunion?
- To what extent do integration policies provide opportunities for political participation?
- How streamlined is the process for immigrants to obtain citizenship?
- As migrants have unique personal circumstances, objectives, skills and needs, how well do integration measures target and provide tailored support to individuals rather than treating migrants as a homogenous group? E.g., to what extent do immigrants receive tailored support to complete preschool, vocational and, in particular, higher education?
- Has the government established specific target values for addressing the needs of migrants and offering tailored support to them? How many indicators are used to measure outcomes related to the inclusion of migrants?
- Is there a lead unit, if so, which unit is it? If there are multiple units, which units are involved in migration policy? And are there effective coordination mechanisms to facilitate interministerial policy coordination?



43 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

44 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, USA

Useful Data Sources:

Output Indicators:

Obstacles for getting a job (language skills)⁴⁵

Comparative Databases:

[Migrant Integration Policy Index 2020](#)

45 Not available for AUS, CAN, ISR, JPN, NZL, POL, PRT, SVK, GBR, USA

P 16 Effective Capacity-Building for Global Poverty Reduction

Category: Social Sustainability

To what extent does national development cooperation effectively contribute to building the capacity to reduce poverty and provide social protection in low- and middle-income countries?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Official development assistance

Management of Development Cooperation by Partner Country

How committed is the government to helping build the capacity to reduce poverty and provide social protection in low- and middle-income countries?

This question addresses a government's overall strategy to strengthen capacity-building in poverty reduction.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects.

- Is there a development strategy and roadmap with clearly defined capacity-building targets for recipient countries? To what extent is it binding?
- How (and how often) does the government monitor progress in capacity-building in recipient countries? How many indicators are used to measure the outcomes related to capacity-building? What steps is the government taking to continually expand and improve these indicators?
- To what extent do existing cooperation policies align with or undermine policy efforts aimed at capacity-building for poverty reduction? Are there binding standards for developing actions for global poverty reduction in collaboration with recipient countries and local actors?
- To what extent are official development assistance flows for poverty eradication predictable?
- To what extent does the government improve access to technology and (scientific) knowledge to facilitate knowledge-sharing and foster innovation in developing countries?
- To what extent does the government provide access to affordable essential medicines, vaccines and healthcare services, including efforts to recruit, train and retain a sufficient health workforce?

The government's development cooperation strategy is fully aligned with the goal of improving capacity-building for poverty reduction in low- and middle-income countries.	10
	9
	8
The government's development cooperation strategy is largely aligned with the goal of improving capacity-building for poverty reduction in low- and middle-income countries.	7
	6
	5
The government's development cooperation strategy is only somewhat aligned with the goal of improving capacity-building in poverty reduction in low- and middle-income countries.	4
	3
	2
The government's development cooperation strategy is not all aligned with the goal of improving capacity-building for poverty reduction in low- and middle-income countries.	1

To what extent does environmental policy succeed in creating effective framework conditions and regulations for achieving climate neutrality by 2050?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Projected GHG Emissions in 2050
- Adjusted emissions growth rate for carbon dioxide
- Adjusted emissions growth rate for methane
- Growth rate in carbon dioxide emissions from land cover
- Greenhouse gas intensity growth rate

Policy Efforts and Commitment to Achieving Climate Neutrality by 2050

How committed is the government to the goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050?

This question addresses a government’s broader strategy and corresponding regulatory framework aimed at mitigating ongoing global warming, which creates a variety of threats to human health and safety through rising sea levels, desertification, flooding, forest fires and extreme weather events. Given that climate change primarily results from the emission of climate-damaging gases (e.g., carbon dioxide, ozone, methane, hydrofluorocarbons, nitrous oxide), achieving net zero emissions by 2050 is crucial. Governments must therefore adopt policies, regulations and incentives to achieve the following goals:

1. Reduce or eliminate the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, by companies and private households
2. Decrease consumption of climate-damaging goods
3. Preserve and expand natural greenhouse gas sinks (e.g., increasing afforestation and reforestation)

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects.

- Is there a strategy to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 with clearly defined goals? To what extent is it binding?
- Has the strategy been broken down into sector-specific action plans (e.g., energy, transport, industry, agriculture)? If so, please illustrate with a few examples. To what extent are sector-specific targets aligned with the overall targets?
- How comprehensive are the strategy and designated policies regarding the aforementioned goals?
- How do existing policies either support or undermine climate action efforts?
- To what extent is public procurement aligned with the climate action strategy?
- How (and how often) does the government monitor progress? How many indicators are used to measure outcomes regarding the aforementioned goals? What steps is the government taking to continually expand and improve these indicators?
- To what extent do independent climate councils exist that regularly monitor the achievement of climate targets and advise the government and parliament on appropriate strategies?
- To what extent do courts review the achievement of climate targets?
- If policy implementation is delegated in some manner to bureaucracies and executive agencies, to what extent do federal and sub-national ministries monitor the activities of these bodies to ensure effective implementation of government policies? Can central government ministries intervene at lower political levels if effective implementation is endangered?

The government is clearly committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
The government is largely committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.	7
The government is only somewhat committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.	4
The government is not at all committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.	1

Useful Data Sources:

Comparative Databases:

[Climate Change Performance Index \(CCPI\)](#)

[European Environment Agency's country reports](#)

P 18 Effective Environmental Health Protection

Category: Environmental Sustainability

To what extent does environmental policy succeed in creating effective framework conditions and regulations to prevent pollution and minimize environmental health risks?

Past Policy Outcomes

- PM2.5 exposure
- Household solid fuels
- Ozone exposure
- Unsafe drinking water
- Unsafe sanitation
- Controlled solid waste
- Lead exposure

Policy Efforts and Commitment to Minimizing Environmental Health Risks

How committed is the government to protecting the public from environmental health risks?

This question addresses a government's broader strategy and corresponding regulatory framework to reduce and prevent environmental pollution and thereby safeguard the population from environment-related health risks. Environmental health preservation requires governments to adopt policies, regulations and incentives targeting the following goals:

1. Reduce and prevent air pollution (e.g., household solid fuels, ozone exposure, nitrogen oxides exposure, sulfur dioxide exposure and carbon monoxide exposure)
2. Reduce and prevent water pollution by eliminating dumping and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials
3. Reduce and prevent soil pollution resulting from the accumulation of persistent toxic compounds, chemicals, salts and radioactive materials (e.g., petroleum hydrocarbons, heavy metals, pesticides and solvents)

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects:

- Is there a strategy in place to prevent environmental pollution and associated health risks, with clearly defined goals? To what extent is it binding?
- Has the overall strategy been broken down into individual action plans targeting specific ecosystems in the air, water and soil? If so, please illustrate with a few examples.
- How comprehensive are the strategy and designated policies regarding the aforementioned goals?
- To what extent do existing policies support or undermine policy efforts targeting the protection of environmental health?
- How (and how often) does the government monitor progress? How many indicators are used to measure outcomes regarding the aforementioned goals? What steps is the government taking to continually expand and improve these indicators?
- If policy implementation is delegated in some manner to bureaucracies and executive agencies, to what extent do federal and sub-national ministries monitor the activities of these bodies and ensure the effective implementation of government policies? Can central government ministries intervene at lower political levels if effective implementation is endangered?

The government is clearly committed to the goal of protecting environmental health.	10
	9
	8
The government is largely committed to the goal of protecting environmental health.	7
	6
	5
The government is only somewhat committed to the goal of protecting environmental health.	4
	3
	2
The government is not at all committed to the goal of protecting environmental health.	1

Useful Data Sources

Comparative Databases:

[European Environment Agency's country reports](#)

To what extent does environmental policy succeed in creating effective framework conditions and regulations to preserve, protect and strengthen ecosystems and biodiversity?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Adjusted emissions growth rate for sulfur dioxide
- Adjusted emissions growth rate for nitrous oxides
- Tree cover loss
- Wetland loss
- Grassland loss
- Sustainable Pesticide Use
- Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index
- Terrestrial biome protection (national weights)
- Terrestrial biome protection (national weights)
- Species Protection Index
- Biodiversity Habitat Index
- Marine protected areas⁴⁶

Policy Efforts and Commitment to Preserving Ecosystems and Protecting Biodiversity

How committed is the government to preserving ecosystems and protecting biodiversity?

This question addresses a government's broader strategy and corresponding regulatory framework aimed at preserving national ecosystems and reducing the degradation of natural habitats in order to prevent the extinction of threatened species. Ensuring a vital ecosystem requires governments to adopt policies, regulations and incentives targeting the following goals:

1. Restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods
2. Halting deforestation and increasing afforestation and reforestation
3. Ensuring sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices to increase productivity and improve land and soil quality
4. Strengthening the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and taking action to restore them
5. Ensuring the conservation and restoration of terrestrial freshwater ecosystems, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in accordance with international agreements
6. Preventing poaching and trafficking of protected flora and fauna species
7. Preventing overfishing practices and restoring fish stocks

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects.

- Is there a strategy to safeguard ecosystem vitality and prevent biodiversity loss, with clearly formulated goals? To what extent is it binding?
- Has the overall strategy been broken down into individual action plans targeting specific ecosystems in the air, water and on land? If so, please illustrate with a few examples.
- How comprehensive are the strategy and designated policies regarding the aforementioned goals?
- To what extent do existing policies support or undermine policy efforts targeting the protection of ecosystems vitality?
- How (and how often) does the government monitor progress? How many indicators are used to measure outcomes regarding the aforementioned goals? What steps is the government taking to continually expand and improve these indicators?
- If policy implementation is delegated in some manner to bureaucracies and executive agencies, to what extent do federal and sub-national ministries monitor the activities of these bodies to ensure the effective implementation of government policies? Can central government ministries intervene at lower political levels if effective implementation is endangered?

46 Not available for AUT, CHE, CZE, HUN, SVK

The government is clearly committed to protecting ecosystems and biodiversity.	10
	9
The government is largely committed to protecting ecosystems and biodiversity.	8
	7
	6
The government is only somewhat committed to protecting ecosystems and biodiversity.	5
	4
	3
The government is not at all committed to protecting ecosystems and biodiversity.	2
	1

P 20 Effective Contributions to Global Environmental Protection

Category: Environmental Sustainability

To what extent do the government's policies/regulations and international activities contribute to effective global environmental protection?

Past Policy Outcomes

- Net greenhouse gas emissions
- Terrestrial biome protection (global weights)
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Effective Contributions to Green Climate Fund

Policy Efforts and Commitment to a Global Environmental Policy

To what extent is the government committed and credible in designing and promoting global environmental protection regimes and policies?

Successful protection of the climate, prevention of environmental pollution, and conservation of forests, oceans and soils to prevent global biodiversity loss relies on effective collective action at the global level. This question examines whether the government actively contributes, within its capacity, to international efforts aimed at fostering and shaping environmental sustainability in other countries and on a global scale. Examples of active engagement include demonstrating leadership within international frameworks and providing direct assistance to other countries in promoting ecological sustainability.

To ensure optimal comparability of score values across countries, please provide a summary evaluation of the following aspects.

- Is there an environmental cooperation strategy and roadmap with clearly defined capacity-building targets in recipient countries? To what extent is it binding?
- To what extent does the government assess and address the spillover effects of its national environmental policies/regulatory regimes on the environment outside its borders and adapt national policies accordingly?
- To what extent do existing cooperation policies support or undermine policy efforts aimed at capacity-building for global environment protection?
- To what extent does the government contribute, within its means, to capacity-building and skills development in developing countries to assist them in formulating and implementing sustainable environmental plans?
- To what extent does the government, within its means, engage in the development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favorable terms?
- How (and how often) does the government monitor progress in capacity-building in recipient countries? How many indicators are used to measure outcomes regarding capacity-building? What steps is the government taking to continually expand and improve these indicators?

Government policy and institutions are fully aligned with efforts to achieve global environmental sustainability.	10 9
Government policy and institutions are largely aligned with efforts to achieve global environmental sustainability.	8 7 6
Government policy and institutions are somewhat aligned with efforts to achieve global environmental sustainability.	5 4 3
Government policy and institutions are not at all aligned with efforts to achieve global environmental sustainability.	2 1

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