

Codebook for the European QoG Index: 2010 and 2013

Please cite the use of any of these data as follows:

Charron, Nicholas, Lewis Dijkstra & Victor Lapuente. 2014. "Regional governance matters: quality of government within European Union member states." *Regional Studies*, 48(1), 68-90.

For the 2013 data, please cite:

Charron, Nicholas, Lewis Dijkstra and Victor Lapuente. 'Mapping the Regional Divide in Europe: A Measure for Assessing Quality of Government in 206 European Regions'. *Social Indicators Research*. doi: 10.1007/s11205-014-0702-y

Overview

Data for the European QoG Index (EQI). was constructed from a report sponsored by the EU Commission for Regional Policy titled "Measuring Quality of Government and Sub-National Variation" (Charron, Nicholas; Victor Lapuente and Bo Rothstein eds.), 2010.

The full EU policy report can be located at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/study_en.htm

Further and more detailed information about the data can be found in the following published book:

Charron, Nicholas, Victor Lapuente and Bo Rothstein, eds.. 2013. 'Quality of Government and Corruption Form a European Perspective: A Comparative Study of Good Government in EU Regions' Edward Elgar Publishing

Summary

In this document, we present the latest version of the European Quality of Government Index ('EQI'). The data builds on previously published data from 2010 (Charron, Lapuente and Rothstein 2013; Charron, Dijkstra and Lapuente 2014)¹. Based on the largest regionally-focused survey to date, collected in the spring of 2013, the EQI 2013 is draws on over 84,000 respondents in 212 NUTS 1 and NUTS 2 regions in 24 countries². Together with national estimates from the World Bank Governance Indicators (Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi 2009), we report data on Quality of Government ('QoG') for all EU 28 countries, Turkey and Serbia, for a total of 236 political units²³

¹ Data was originally funded by the EU Commission (REGIO) and published in a report by Charron, Lapuente and Rothstein (2010). Report can be found here: <http://nicholascharron.wordpress.com/current-projects/regional-qog-in-the-european-union/>

² NUTS stands for 'Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics' and more can be read about this at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/nuts_nomenclature/introduction

In addition, we provide slightly revised 2010 data that covers all 28 EU countries as well as 179 NUTS 1 and NUTS 2 regions within 18 of the 28 countries, thus the data is given for 181 separate units. The data for regions was collected via a large survey of roughly 34,000 respondents in Europe in December of 2009.

In both 2013 and 2010, the regional estimates are comprised of 16 separate indicators, each described below and included in the data set. The method and formula for constructing the index is also described here so that replication and further sensitivity tests can be done by outside scholars. All underlying indicators are included for purposes of replication and other research along with several other variables from the EU report cited above.

Unit of Analysis - 2013:

I. REGIONAL LEVEL -

In 23 countries, we include data at both the national and the regional levels

-NUTS 1 level regions are employed for the following countries:

Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Sweden and Turkey

-NUTS 2 level regions are employed in the following countries:

Austria, Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Poland, Croatia, Serbia (including Kosovo), Ireland, Finland and Bulgaria.

II. NATIONAL LEVEL

-In 7 countries, we include data at the national level only:

Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta and Cyprus. It is worth noting that in several of the countries, the unit of analysis is not the primary administrative level, as several countries such as Romania or Slovakia are highly centralized. The NUTS region is thus a planning region constructed by the EU Commission. Therefore, any analysis using variables to account for regional level party systems or electoral institutions would only be available for 'politically-administratively relevant' regions, such as those in Germany or Spain for example.

Primary Adjustments since 2010 & retrospective changes to 2010 EQI for comparability between 2013 and 2010.

TWO PRIMARY ADJUSTMENTS

I. adding the new countries and their regions retrospectively to 2010 EQI

Kosovo is included, and because it is technically still a region in Serbia according to the EU, it is coded as such here as well.

³ The 2013 round of survey data and research was funded by the EU Commission via ANTICORRP, a large collaborative research group of scholars across Europe. For more information on ANTICORRP and its research, see: <http://anticorrrp.eu/>

-The new countries added to the 2013 regional survey, giving them regional estimates, were Finland, Ireland, Serbia*, Turkey, and Croatia**. For Serbia, Croatia, Turkey (which were not included in the 2010 data), we give the regions the national level score for 2010 for calculation purposes (not to be compared with 2013 data at the regional level). The same was done with Finland and Ireland, which had national level estimates in 2010, but not NUTS 2 estimates.

II. Adding additional regions to already existing countries in the 2010 data

-for the Netherlands, we sampled on NUTS 1 in 2010, yet on the NUTS 2 level in 2013. We thus impose the NUTS 1 level data on the NUTS 2 regions for the previous round for comparability (e.g. NL11, NL12 & NL13 all get the score of NL1 for 2010).

-for Finland and Ireland, the national average is simply used for each of the region NUTS 2 regions for the 2010 round.

*Serbia's regional population weights come from 2011. We also include Kosovo as a region in Serbia, as the EU has not officially recognized Kosovo as an independent state at the time of the survey.

***Croatia's 3 Nuts 2 regions have been merged into 2 – HR1 and HR2 now make up what is called HR4, and the data prior to 2012 will combine these two using population weighted averages. H3 remains the same.

Construction of the EQI:

We start by taking the country average from the WGI data for four indicators: 'control of corruption', 'government effectiveness', 'rule of law' and 'voice and accountability' and combine the four into one composite index (equal weighting)⁴. Then, the combined WGI data is standardized for the EU sample. This figure is used as country's mean score in the EQI for all 30 countries⁴

⁴ In addition, we underwent extensive sensitivity testing of each of these 4 pillars of QoG from the World Bank and found the data to be highly robust. For a closer look at the sensitivity tests and results for the EU sample of countries see Charron, Nicholas. 2010. "Assessing The Quality of the Quality of Government Data: A Sensitivity Test of the World Bank Government Indicators." QoG Working paper.

The regional data itself combines 16 survey questions about QOG in the region. The services in question are public education, public health care and law enforcement. The questions are centered on three QoG concepts: ‘quality’, ‘impartiality’ and ‘corruption’. In building the regional index, we aggregated the 16 questions/indicators to three pillars based on factor analysis; labeled ‘quality’, ‘impartiality’ and ‘corruption’, then we averaged these three pillars together to form the final index figure for each region. After each stage of aggregation, the data are standardized. For the nine countries outside of the regional survey, there is nothing to add to the WGI Country score, thus the WGI data is used as the QoG estimate alone, and regional variation is unobserved. With respect to countries with the regional data, we set the national average using the WGI and explain the within-country variance using the regional-level data. Simply speaking, we aggregate the regional QoG score for each of the 23 countries in the survey, weighting for each region’s score by their share of the national population. We then subtract this mean score from each region’s individual QoG score from the regional study, which shows if the region is above or below its national average and by how much. This figure is then added to the national level, WGI data, so each region has an adjusted score, centered on the WGI. In equation 1, ‘EQI’ is the final score from each region or country in the EQI, ‘WGI’ is the World Bank’s national average for each country, ‘Rqog’ is each region’s score from the regional survey and ‘CRqog’ is the country average (weighted by regional population) of all regions within the country from the regional survey. The EQI is standardized so that the mean is ‘0’ with a standard deviation of ‘1’. Extensive sensitivity testing has been done for both the WGI national level data as well as the regional data within the index to show that the data is robust to several specification alterations in weighting scheme, aggregation and individual indicators among other changes. With regard to the 2010 data, a more detailed version of this description can be found in Charron, Lapuente and Rothstein (2010). The results of the sensitivity test can be found in a working paper by Charron (2011)⁵

In addition, users of the data can see for themselves the steps taken in the aggregation process in the ‘Construct EQI2013’ tab in the Excel file for the EQI data.

The formula employed is the following:

$$EQI_{regionX \text{ in country } Y} = WGI_{countryY} + (Rqog_{regionX \text{ in country } Y} - CRqog_{countryY}) \quad (1)$$

Description of Variables used to construct the EQI Variable Name Description in the Datafile

NUTS	Name of country or regional NUTS code
Name	Name of country or region
number	Number assigned to country or region in the dataset

⁵ ”The Quality of the Quality of Government Data” presented at APSA, 2010.

country	country-number
region	Equals '1' if a unit is a region and '0' if a unit is a country.
Popwight09 & Popweight11	Proportion of a country's population in a region – used to calculate population-weighted averages. Calculated with population data from Eurostat.
WGI2008st & WGI2011st	The country's adjusted combined WGI score from the latest publication year, 2011
RegScore2010 & RegScore2013	Un-centered regional aggregated score of the 16 indicators, regions only
EQI2010 & EQI2013	Final EQI index (centered around WGI), all units
margin10 & margin2013	margin of error for EQI regional estimates
eqi1002010 & eqi1002013	re-scaled EQI from 0-100
rank10 & rank13	a unit's relative EQI sample rank by year

16 Individual indicators used to construct the index:

Pillar	Indicator	description (all variables standardized, mean=0, standard dev. = 1)
Quality	zedqual	quality of public education in respondent's area
	zhelqual	quality of public health care system in respondent's area
	zlawqual	quality of law enforcement in respondent's area
	zelections	perceived fairness of elections in respondent's area
	zMedia	perceived fairness and ability to report political corruption of media in respondent's area
Impartiality	zRedimpart1	impartiality of public education in respondent's area
	zRhelimpart1	impartiality of public health care system in respondent's area
	zRlawimpart1	impartiality of law enforcement in respondent's area
	zRedimpart2	impartiality of public education in respondent's area (alternative question formulation)
	zRhelimpart2	impartiality of public health care system in respondent's area (alternative question formulation)
Corruption	zRlawimpart2	impartiality of law enforcement in respondent's area (alternative question formulation)
	zRedcorr	perceived corruption of public education in respondent's area
	zRhelcorr	perceived corruption of public health care system in respondent's area
	zRlawcorr	perceived corruption of law enforcement in respondent's area
	zRothercorr	amount of perceived bribery by others in respondent's area
	zRbribe	respondent's own experience with bribery in public sector

Sample and NUTS code by country and region

- i. Countries with EQI estimates at country and regional level

Austria

AT	Austria
AT11	Burgenland
AT12	Niederösterreich
AT13	Wien
AT21	Kärnten
AT22	Steiermark
AT31	Oberösterreich
AT32	Salzburg
AT33	Tirol
AT34	Voralberg

Belgium

BE	Belgium
BE1	Brussels
BE2	Vlaams Gewest
BE3	Wallonie

Bulgaria

BG	Bulgaria
BG31	Severozapaden
BG32	Severen Tsentralen
BG33	Severoiztochen
BG34	Yugoiztochen
BG41	Yugozapaden
BG42	Yuzhen Tsentralen

Czech Republic

CZ	Czech Rep.
CZ01	Praha
CZ02	Stredni Cechy
CZ03	Jihozapad

CZ04	Severozapad
CZ05	Severovýchod
CZ06	Jihovýchod
CZ07	Stedni Morava
CZ08	Moravskoslezsko

Germany

DE	Germany
DE1	Baden Wuttemberg
DE2	Bavaria
DE3	Berlin
DE4	Brandenburg
DE5	Bremen
DE6	Hamburg
DE7	Hessen
DE8	Mecklenburg-Vorpommen
DE9	Lower Saxony
DEA	North Rhine Westphalia
DEB	Rhineland-Palatinate
DEC	Saarland
DED	Saxony
DEE	Saxony-Anhalt
DEF	Schleswig-Holstein
DEG	Thuringia

Denmark

DK	Denmark
DK01	Hovedstaden
DK02	Sjaelland
DK03	Syddanmark
DK04	Midtylland
DK05	Nordjylland

Spain

ES	Spain
----	-------

ES11	Galicia
ES12	Principado de Asturias
ES13	Cantabria
ES21	Pais Vasco
ES22	Comunidad Foral de Navarra
ES23	La Rioja
ES24	Aragón
ES30	Comunidad de Madrid
ES41	Castilla y León
ES42	Castilla-La Mancha
ES43	Extremadura
ES51	Cataluña
ES52	Comunidad Valenciana
ES53	Illes Balears
ES61	Andalucia
ES62	Región de Murcia
ES63	Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta (ES)
ES64	Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla (ES)
ES70	Canarias (ES)

Finland

FI	Finland
FI13	Itä-Suomi
FI18	Etelä-Suomi
FI19	Länsi-Suomi
FI1A	Pohjois-Suomi
FI20	Åland

France

FR	France
FR10	Ile-de-France
FR21	Champagne-Ardenne
FR22	Picardie
FR23	Haute-Normandie
FR24	Centre
FR25	Basse-Normandie
FR26	Bourgogne
FR30	Nord - Pas-de-Calais
FR41	Lorraine
FR42	Alsace

FR43	Franche-Comte
FR51	Pays de la Loire
FR52	Bretagne
FR53	Poitou-Charentes
FR61	Aquitaine
FR62	Midi-Pyrenees
FR63	Limousin
FR71	Rhone-Alpes
FR72	Auvergne
FR81	Languedoc-Roussillon
FR82	Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur
FR83	Corse
FR91	Guadeloupe
FR92	Martinique
FR93	Guyane
FR94	Reunion

Greece

GR	Greece
GR1	Voreia Ellada
GR2	Kentriki Ellada
GR3	Attica
GR4	Nisia Aigaiou-Kriti

Croatia

HR	Croatia
HR03	Jadranska Hrvatska
HR04	Kontinentalna Hrvatska

Ireland

IE	Ireland
IE01	Border, Midland and Western
IE02	Southern and Eastern

Italy

IT	Italy
----	-------

ITC1	Piemonte
ITC2	Valle d'Acosta
ITC3	Liguria
ITC4	Lombardia
ITD1	Bolzano
ITD2	Trento
ITD3	Veneto
ITD4	Friuli-Venezia Giulia
ITD5	Emilia-Romagna
ITE1	Toscana
ITE2	Umbria
ITE3	Marche
ITE4	Lazio
ITF1	Abruzzo
ITF2	Molise
ITF3	Campania
ITF4	Puglia
ITF5	Basilicata
ITF6	Calabria
ITG1	Sicilia
ITG2	Sardegna

Netherlands

NL	Netherlands
NL11	Groningen
NL12	Friesland (NL)
NL13	Drenthe
NL21	Overijssel
NL22	Gelderland
NL23	Flevoland
NL31	Utrecht
NL32	Noord-Holland
NL33	Zuid-Holland
NL34	Zeeland
NL41	Noord-Brabant
NL42	Limburg (NL)

Poland

PL	Poland
PL11	Lodzkie

PL12	Mazowieckie
PL21	Malopolskie
PL22	Slaskie
PL31	Lubelskie
PL32	Podkarpackie
PL33	Swietokrzyskie
PL34	Podlaskie
PL41	Wielkopolskie
PL42	Zachodniopomorskie
PL43	Lubuskie
PL51	Dolnoslaskie
PL52	Opolskie
PL61	Kujawsko-Pomorskie
PL62	Warminsko-Mazurskie
PL63	Pomorskie

Portugal

PT	Portugal
PT11	Norte
PT15	Algarve
PT16	Centro
PT17	Lisboa
PT18	Alentejo
PT20	Região Autónoma dos Açores
PT30	Região Autónoma da Madeira

Romania

RO	Romania
RO11	Nord-Vest
RO12	Centru
RO21	Nord-Est
RO22	Sud-Est
RO31	Sud-Muntenia
RO32	Bucuresti-Ilfov
RO41	Sud-Vest Oltenia
RO42	Vest

Serbia

RS	Serbia
RS11	Belgrade
RS21	Šumadija and Western Serbia
RS22	Vojvodina
RS22	Southern and Eastern Serbia
RS23	Kosovo and Metohija

Sweden

SE	Sweden
SE1	Östra Sverige
SE2	Södra Sverige
SE3	Norra Sverige

Slovakia

SK01	Bratislavský kraj
SK02	Západné Slovensko
SK03	Stredné Slovensko
SK04	Východné Slovensko

Turkey

TR	Turkey
TR1	Istanbul
TR2	Bati Marmara
TR3	Ege
TR4	Dogu Marmara
TR5	Bati Anadolu
TR6	Akdeniz
TR7	Orta Anadolu
TR8	Bati Karadeniz
TR9	Dogu Karadeniz
TRA	Kuzeydogu Anadolu
TRB	Ortadogu Anadolu
TRC	Güneydogu Anadolu

United Kingdom

UK	United Kingdom
----	----------------

UKC	Northeast England
UKD	Northwest England
UKE	Yorkshire-Humber
UKF	East Midland England
UKG	West Midland England
UKH	East of England
UKI	London
UKJ	South East England
UKK	South West England
UKL	Wales
UKM	Scotland
UKN	N. Ireland

ii. Countries with national level estimate only

CY	Cyprus
EE	Estonia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
MT	Malta
SI	Slovenia