

Variables Used to Construct the Open Government Index

This table lists the individual variables used to construct the dimensions of the WJP Open Government Index. The table consists of four columns. The first column lists the variable's identification number. The second column lists the individual questionnaires in which a variable was included. For variables included in the Qualified Respondent Questionnaires (QRQ) the following abbreviations are used: CC for the Civil and Commercial Law questionnaire, CJ for the Criminal Law questionnaire, LB for the Labor Law questionnaire, and PH for the Public Health questionnaire. The third column lists the qualitative and quantitative scales for each variable. The fourth column states the survey text of the variable. The formulas used to calculate the sub-dimensions, dimensions and the WJP Open Government Index are presented next to each composite indicator.

Open Government Index AVERAGE(1, 2, 3, 4)			
1 Publicized laws and government data AVERAGE(1.1, 1.2)			
1.1 Information in plain language and in all official languages AVERAGE(GPP1,AVERAGE(GPP2:QRQ1),AVERAGE(GPP3:QRQ2),QRQ3)			
GPP1	GPP	Very Well (1), Fairly Well (.667), Fairly Badly (.333), Very Badly (0)	Could you please tell us how well or badly you think your local government is performing in the following procedures? Providing information in plain language about people's legal rights, so that everybody can understand them?
GPP2	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, the basic laws of [COUNTRY] are explained in plain language, so that people can understand them.
QRQ1	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Almost Always (1), In Most Cases (.667), In Some Cases (.333), Almost Never (0)	In practice, the local government provides easy-to-understand information on people's legal rights (criminal suspects' rights; workers' basic rights; public health issues).
GPP3	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, the basic laws of [COUNTRY] are available in all official languages
QRQ2	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Almost Always (1), In Most Cases (.667), In Some Cases (.333), Almost Never (0)	The basic laws are publicly available in all official languages.
QRQ3	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Almost Always (1), In Most Cases (.667), In Some Cases (.333), Almost Never (0)	In practice, the government strives to make the laws accessible in languages spoken by significant segments of the population, even if they are not "official" language.
1.2 Publicized laws and government data AVERAGE(GPP4:QRQ8)			
GPP4	GPP	Very Well (1), Fairly Well (.667), Fairly Badly (.333), Very Badly (0)	Could you please tell us how well or badly you think your local government is performing in the following procedures? Providing citizens information about the government expenditures?

GPP5	GPP	Very good (1), Good (2), Bad (3), Very bad (4)	How would you rate the information published by the government in print or on the web in terms of quality of the information?
GPP6	GPP	Very good (1), Good (2), Bad (3), Very bad (4)	How would you rate the information published by the government in print or on the web in terms of quantity of the information?
GPP7	GPP	Very good (1), Good (2), Bad (3), Very bad (4)	How would you rate the information published by the government in print or on the web in terms of accessibility of the information?
GPP8	GPP	Very good (1), Good (2), Bad (3), Very bad (4)	How would you rate the information published by the government in print or on the web in terms of reliability of the information?
GPP9	GPP	Very good (1), Good (2), Bad (3), Very bad (4)	How would you rate the information published by the government in print or on the web in terms of format of the information?
QRQ4	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Almost Always (1), In Most Cases (.667), In Some Cases (.333), Almost Never (0)	In practice, national regulations are published on a timely basis (i.e. within the timelines mandated by the applicable law or regulation).
QRQ5	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Almost Always (1), In Most Cases (.667), In Some Cases (.333), Almost Never (0)	In practice, administrative regulations can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or online.
QRQ6	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Almost Always (1), In Most Cases (.667), In Some Cases (.333), Almost Never (0)	In practice, judicial decisions of the highest court are published on a timely basis.
QRQ7	QRQ(CC)	Almost Always (1), In Most Cases (.667), In Some Cases (.333), Almost Never (0)	In practice, drafts of legislation (bills) to be discussed in the legislative body are made available to the public on a timely basis.
QRQ8	QRQ(CC)	Almost Always (1), In Most Cases (.667), In Some Cases (.333), Almost Never (0)	In practice, legislative proceedings (e.g. bills submitted or presented before the legislature for consideration or approval) are broadcast to the public by radio or TV.
2 Right to Information AVERAGE (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)			
2.1 Awareness of right to information AVERAGE(GPP10:GPP11)			
GPP10	GPP	Yes (1), No (0)	Are you aware of any laws that are intended to provide individuals with the right to access information held by government agencies?
GPP11	GPP	Yes (1), No (0)	Have you not requested information from a government agency because you did not know you can ask the government for information?
2.2 Information requests - responsiveness AVERAGE(GPP12:QRQ10)			
GPP12	GPP	Yes (1), No (0)	Did you receive the information from the official or government agency from which you requested it?
GPP13	GPP	Yes (1), No (0)	Were you satisfied with the reasons given for not granting the information that you requested?
GPP14	GPP	Very satisfied (1), satisfied (.667), dissatisfied (.333), very dissatisfied (0)	How satisfied were you with the process of requesting the information?
GPP15	GPP	Yes (1), No (0)	Have you not requested information from a government agency because you didn't think the government would give it to you?
GPP16	GPP	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	If you could request to have access to information held by a government agency, how likely do you think it is that the agency will grant it, assuming the information is both public and properly requested?
QRQ9	QRQ(CC)	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	If the residents request a copy of the project design documentation prior to the initiation of the construction project, how likely are the relevant government authorities to provide them with such a copy?

QRQ10	QRQ(CC)	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	Assume that you request to have access to information held by the Ministry of Education about how the budget of that agency is spent. How likely is it that the government agency in charge will grant such information, assuming it is properly requested?
2.3 Information requests - quality AVERAGE(GPP17:QRQ11)			
GPP17	GPP	Pertinent and Complete (1), Incomplete (.667), Vague/unclear (.333), evasive/doubtful (0)	In terms of the specifics of the information you requested, would you describe the information that was supplied to you as being:
QRQ11	QRQ(CC)	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	Assume that you request to have access to information held by the Ministry of Education about how the budget of that agency is spent. How likely is it that the information provided is pertinent and complete?
2.4 Information requests - timeliness AVERAGE(GPP18:QRQ12)			
GPP18	GPP	Less than a week (1), between one week and one month (.75), between one month and three months (.5), between three months and six months (.25), more than six months (0)	Approximately how long did it take to obtain the information that you requested?
QRQ12	QRQ(CC)	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	Assume that you request to have access to information held by the Ministry of Education about how the budget of that agency is spent. How likely is it that the government agency will grant such information within a reasonable time period?
2.5 Information requests - affordability and trust AVERAGE(GPP19:QRQ14)			
GPP19	GPP	Open response	If you had to pay a fee to the official to obtain the information, what was the amount of that fee?
GPP20	GPP	Yes (1), No (0)	Did you have to pay a bribe (or money above that required by law) in order to obtain the information?
GPP21	GPP	Yes (1), No (0)	Have you not requested information from a government agency because you don't trust the government as a source for this type of information?
QRQ13	QRQ(CC)	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	Assume that you request to have access to information held by the Ministry of Education about how the budget of that agency is spent. How likely is it that the government agency will grant such information at a reasonable cost?
QRQ14	QRQ(CC)	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	Assume that you request to have access to information held by the Ministry of Education about how the budget of that agency is spent. How likely is it that the government agency will grant such information without having to pay a bribe?
2.6 Information requests - general accessibility of information AVERAGE(QRQ15:QRQ22)			
QRQ15	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very accessible (1), slightly accessible (.5), not accessible at all (0)	How accessible are budget figures of government agencies in your country?
QRQ16	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very accessible (1), slightly accessible (.5), not accessible at all (0)	How accessible are copies of government contracts in your country?
QRQ17	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very accessible (1), slightly accessible (.5), not accessible at all (0)	How accessible are sources of campaign financing of elected officials and legislators in your country?
QRQ18	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very accessible (1), slightly accessible (.5), not accessible at all (0)	How accessible are disclosure records of senior government officials in your country?
QRQ19	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very accessible (1), slightly accessible (.5), not accessible at all (0)	How accessible are reports of the national human rights institution in your country?
QRQ20	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very accessible (1), slightly accessible (.5), not accessible at all (0)	How accessible are copies of administrative decisions made by national government agencies in your country?
QRQ21	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very accessible (1), slightly accessible (.5), not accessible at all (0)	How accessible are copies of administrative decisions made by local government agencies in your country?

QRQ22	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very accessible (1), slightly accessible (.5), not accessible at all (0)	How accessible are transcripts of administrative proceedings in your country?
3 Civic participation AVERAGE (3.1, 3.2)			
3.1 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed AVERAGE(QRQ23, QRQ24, GPP22)			
3.1 A People are free to express political opinions alone or in peaceful association with others AVERAGE(AVERAGE(QRQ23:QRQ24),GPP22)			
QRQ23	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very Likely (0), Likely (.333), Unlikely (.667), Very Unlikely (1)	How likely is a citizen to be beaten by the police, without justification, for participating in a non-violent public demonstration in [COUNTRY]?
QRQ24	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, people in [COUNTRY] can freely hold public non-violent demonstrations without fear of reprisal.
GPP22	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In [COUNTRY], people can freely express opinions against the government.
3.1 B Freedom of the media is respected AVERAGE(AVERAGE(QRQ25:QRQ29),AVERAGE(GPP23:GPP24))			
QRQ25	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, the media (TV, radio, newspapers) in [COUNTRY] can freely expose cases of corruption by high-ranking government officers without fear of retaliation.
QRQ26	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, the media (TV, radio, newspapers) in [COUNTRY] can freely express opinions against government policies without fear of retaliation.
QRQ27	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Very Likely (0), Likely (.333), Unlikely (.667), Very Unlikely (1)	How likely is a journalist to be attacked by the police, without justification, for covering a non-violent public demonstration in [COUNTRY]?
QRQ28	QRQ (CJ)	Very Likely (0), Likely (.333), Unlikely (.667), Very Unlikely (1)	How likely is the newspaper reporter to be threatened, imprisoned, or punished (either through official or unofficial means), either by the police or by the organized criminal organization?
QRQ29	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice in [COUNTRY], the government does not prevent citizens from accessing content published online.
GPP23	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In [COUNTRY], the media (TV, radio, newspapers) can freely expose cases of corruption by high-ranking government officers without fear of retaliation.
GPP24	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In [COUNTRY], the media (TV, radio, newspapers) can freely express opinions against government policies and actions without fear of retaliation.
3.1 C Freedom of civil and political organization is respected (NGOs and political parties) AVERAGE(AVERAGE(QRQ30:GPP25),AVERAGE(QRQ31:GPP26))			
QRQ30	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, civil society organizations in [COUNTRY] can freely express opinions against government policies and actions without fear of retaliation.
GPP25	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In [COUNTRY], civil society organizations can freely express opinions against government policies and actions without fear of retaliation.
GPP26	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In [COUNTRY], political parties can freely express opinions against government policies and actions without fear of retaliation.
QRQ31	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice in [COUNTRY], opposition parties can freely express opinions against government policies without fear of retaliation.
QRQ32	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, opposing factions within the dominant party can freely express opinions in public without fear of facing substantial negative consequences.
3.2 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed AVERAGE(AVERAGE(QRQ33:QRQ36),AVERAGE(GPP27:GPP29))			
QRQ33	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, civil society organizations in [COUNTRY] can freely express opinions against government policies and actions without fear of retaliation.
QRQ34	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, people in [COUNTRY] can freely join together with others to draw attention to an issue or sign a petition.
QRQ35	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, people can freely join any political organization they want.

QRQ36	QRQ (CC, CJ, LB, PH)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, people in [COUNTRY] can freely hold public nonviolent demonstrations without fear of reprisal.
GPP27	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In [COUNTRY], people can freely attend community meetings.
GPP28	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In [COUNTRY], people can freely join together with others to draw attention to an issue or sign a petition.
GPP29	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In [COUNTRY], people can freely join any (unforbidden) political organization they want.
3.3 Right to petition and civic engagement AVERAGE(GPP30:QRQ39)			
GPP30	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, people in this neighborhood can get together with others and present their concerns to members of Congress.
GPP31	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, people in this neighborhood can get together with others and present their concerns to local government officials.
GPP32	GPP	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In [COUNTRY], people can freely join together with others to draw attention to an issue or sign a petition.
GPP33	GPP	Very Well (1), Fairly Well (.667), Fairly Badly (.333), Very Badly (0)	When talking to people about their local government, we often find important differences in how well local governments perform their duties. Could you please tell us how well or badly you think your local government (Metropolitan, Municipal, or District administration) is performing in the following procedures? Responding to people's concerns about community matters.
GPP34	GPP	Very Well (1), Fairly Well (.667), Fairly Badly (.333), Very Badly (0)	When talking to people about their local government, we often find important differences in how well local governments perform their duties. Could you please tell us how well or badly you think your local government (Metropolitan, Municipal, or District administration) is performing in the following procedures? Consulting traditional, civil, and community leaders before making decisions.
GPP35	GPP	Yes (1), No (0)	Now, here is a list of actions that people sometimes do. For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past 12 months? Attend a community meeting.
QRQ37	QRQ (CC)	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	In practice, how likely are local residents to receive sufficient advance notice of the impending construction project?
QRQ38	QRQ (CC)	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	In practice, if a large number of residents file an urgent petition proposing an alternative construction plan before the relevant administrative or judicial authority, how likely is the relevant administrative or judicial authority to suspend the project until the residents' alternative construction plan can be considered?
QRQ39	QRQ (CC)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, people in [COUNTRY] can get together with others and present their concerns to local government officials
4 Complaint mechanisms AVERAGE(GPP29:QRQ28)			
GPP36	GPP	Very Well (1), Fairly Well (.667), Fairly Badly (.333), Very Badly (0)	Could you please tell us how well or badly you think your local government is performing in providing effective ways to make complaints about public services?
GPP37	GPP	Very Well (1), Fairly Well (.667), Fairly Badly (.333), Very Badly (0)	Could you please tell us how well or badly you think your local government is performing in providing effective ways to handle complaints against local government officials
QRQ40	QRQ(CC)	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	In practice, how likely are the residents to be given the opportunity to present their objections or comments to the relevant government authorities prior to the start of the construction project?
QRQ41	QRQ(CC)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	To what extent do you agree with the following statements: By law, if a government agency denies a citizens' request for information, citizens have the right to challenge this decision before another government agency or a judge
QRQ42	QRQ(CC)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, if a government agency denies a citizens' request for information, citizens can effectively challenge this decision before another government agency or a judge