

ANNEX H

Contextual Factors

This annex provides data on administrative and institutional features of each country, including: the composition and electoral system of the legislature, the structure of the executive branch, the division of power between one central and several regional or local governments, and key characteristics of the judicial system. It also provides basic data on population and GDP for 2009. Compared to *Government at a Glance 2009*, this annex includes data for the Russian Federation (currently in the process of accession to the OECD) and Brazil. It also provides data on the number of municipalities, provinces, states and/or regions.

Political and institutional frameworks influence who formulates and implements policy responses to the challenges currently facing governments. For example, the type of electoral system employed has a number of potential consequences on the nature and tenure of government, including the diversity of views represented and the ability of the legislature to create and amend laws. Major differences in legislative institutions can affect the way a country's bureaucratic system works. The extent that power is shared between the legislative and executive branches, exemplified by the system of executive power (parliamentary, presidential or dual executive), the frequency of elections and term limits, the ease of constitutional amendments, and the ability of the judiciary to review the constitutionality of laws and actions, set the constraints within which policies and reforms can be enacted and implemented. The way that governments are structured, including the division of responsibilities vertically (across levels of governments) and horizontally (between Departments or Ministries), is a key factor underlying the organisational capacity of government. Different structures and responsibilities require different sets of competencies, including oversight, monitoring and evaluation and co-ordination.

While many contextual factors are products of a country's historical development and cannot be easily changed by policy makers, they can be used to identify countries with similar political and administrative structures for comparison and benchmarking purposes. In addition, for countries considering different policies and reforms, the indicators can illustrate structural differences that may affect their passage and implementation.

Methodology and definitions

With the exception of data on population and GDP, all information is from member country constitutions and websites and is current as of 31 December 2010. GDP data are from *OECD National Accounts Statistics* except for data for Brazil (data from IMF, *World Economic Outlook Database*, October 2010). Population data are from OECD Population Statistics, except for Estonia and Slovenia (data from Eurostat), and Brazil (data from IMF, *World Economic Outlook Database*, October 2010).

Federal states have a constitutionally delineated division of political authority between one central and several regional or state autonomous governments. While unitary states often include multiple levels of government (such as local and provincial or regional), these administrative divisions are not constitutionally defined.

Under the parliamentary form of executive power, the executive is usually the head of the dominant party in the legislature and appoints members of that party or coalition parties to serve as Ministers. The executive is accountable to Parliament, who can end the executive's term through a vote of no confidence. Several countries with parliamentary systems also have a president, whose powers are predominately ceremonial in nature. Under the presidential system, the executive and members of the legislature seek election independently of one another. Ministers are not elected members of the legislature but are nominated by the president and may be approved by the legislature. The dual executive system combines a powerful president with an executive responsible to the legislature, both responsible for the day-to-day activities of the state. It differs from the presidential system in that the cabinet (although named by the president) is responsible to the legislature, which may force the cabinet to resign through a motion of no confidence.

Data on the frequency of governments cover the period between 1 January 1990 and 31 December 2010, except for the Czech Republic (1992), Poland (1991) and the Slovak Republic (1993). A coalition government is defined as the joint rule of executive functions by two or more political parties. The number of governments is determined by the number of terms served by the head of the executive branch (where a term is either defined by a change in the executive or an election that renewed support for the current government). Data on the frequency of coalition governments are only applicable for countries that have a parliamentary or dual executive.

A Ministry is an organisation in the executive branch that is responsible for a sector of public administration. In some countries, such as the United States and Norway, Ministries are called "Departments". Common examples include the Ministries of Health, Education and Finance. While sub-national governments may also be organised into Ministries, the data only refer to central government. Ministers advise the executive and are in charge of either one or more Ministries, or a portfolio of government duties. In most parliamentary systems, Ministers are drawn from the legislature and keep their seats. In most presidential systems, Ministers are not elected officials and are appointed by the president. The data refer to the number of Ministers that comprise the cabinet at the central level of government and exclude Deputy Ministers.

Bicameral legislatures have two chambers (usually an Upper House and a Lower House), whereas unicameral legislatures are composed of only a Lower House. Electoral systems are usually characterised as single member (First Past the Post or Preferential and Two-Round) or multi member (Proportional Representation or Semi-Proportional Representation). The types of electoral systems are defined as follows:

- Under First Past the Post, the winner is the candidate with the most votes but not necessarily an absolute majority of votes.
- Under Preferential and Two-Round, the winner is the candidate who receives an absolute majority (i.e. over 50%) of votes. If no candidate receives over 50% of votes during the first round of voting, the Preferential system makes use of voters' second preferences while the Two-Round system uses a second round of voting to produce a winner.
- Proportional Representation (PR) systems allocate parliamentary seats based on a party's share of national votes.

- Semi-proportional systems feature attributes of both single-member and PR systems. They allow two votes per person: one for a candidate running in the voter's district and one for a party. As in PR, party seats are allocated proportional to the party's share of national votes.

Data on the frequency of elections reflect statutory requirements. In reality, elections may be held more frequently in parliamentary systems if governments collapse.

Judicial review refers to the ability of the courts or a separate body to review the constitutionality of laws and actions. It is usually enshrined in the constitution. In countries with limited judicial review, the courts only have the ability to review the constitutionality of specific types of laws or actions or under specific circumstances.

Table H.1. **Australia**¹

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	22.0
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	876.5
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	6 + 2
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	717
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	4
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	20
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	20
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	76
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Single – preferential
Frequency of elections (in years)	3
Size – number of seats	150
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

1. Australia has 6 states and 2 territories. The Australian Constitution recognises two levels of government: 565 local governing bodies operate under the six states and the Northern Territory.

Table H.2. **Austria**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	8.4
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	324.7
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	9
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	2 357
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Chancellor
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	12
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	9
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	13
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	13
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not elected
Size – number of seats	62
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	183
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.3. **Belgium**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	10.6
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	391.8
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	6
Provincial	10
Local	589
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	9
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	6
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	14
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	14
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	71
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	150
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

Table H.4. **Canada**¹

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	33.7
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1 275.6
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	Not applicable
Provincial	10 + 3
Local	3 700
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	0
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	38
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	32
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not elected
Size – number of seats	105
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Single – First Past the Post
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	308
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

1. Canada has 10 provinces and 3 territories.

Table H.5. **Chile**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	17.0
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	242.9
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	15
Provincial	53
Local	346
System of executive power	Presidential
Head of state	President
Head of government	President
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	4
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	5
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	22
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	20
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	8
Size – number of seats	38
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Single – First Past the Post
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	120
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

Table H.6. **Czech Republic**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	10.5
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	268.2
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	14
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	6 249
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	11
Number of coalition governments	9
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	9
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	15
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	14
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	81
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	200
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.7. **Denmark**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	5.5
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	208.1
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	5
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	98
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	10
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	4
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	19
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	18
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	179
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.8. **Estonia**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	1.3
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	26.6
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	15
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	227
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	12
Number of coalition governments	4
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	10
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	13
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	11
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Single – First Past the Post
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	101
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.9. **Finland**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	5.3
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	188.1
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	20
Provincial	74
Local	416
System of executive power	Dual executive
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	12
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	8
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	6
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	20
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	12
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	200
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review

Table H.10. **France**¹

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	62.6
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	2 173.3
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	26
Provincial	100
Local	36 683
System of executive power	Dual executive
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	3
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	9
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	21
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	16
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	343
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Single – Two rounds
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	577
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

1. The number of coalition governments represents periods of cohabitation. The number of governments represents the number of Prime Ministers.

Table H.11. **Germany**¹

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	81.9
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	2 975.3
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	16
Provincial	323
Local	12 312
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Chancellor
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	7
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	3
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	16
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	14
Bundesrat	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not elected
Size – number of seats	69
Bundestag	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Semi-proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	622
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

1. The German legislature is composed of the Bundestag and the Bundesrat. Members of the Bundesrat are members of state governments and are indirectly chosen by the electorate through state elections.

Table H.12. **Greece**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	11.2
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	330.7
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	50
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	1 034
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	0
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	6
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	18
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	15
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	300
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.13. **Hungary**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	10.0
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	203.3
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	19
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	3 175
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	9
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	8
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	10
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	8
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Semi-proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	386
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.14. **Iceland**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	0.3
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	11.7
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	8
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	76
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	No term limit
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	10
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	10
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	10
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	63
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.15. **Ireland**¹

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	4.5
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	176.8
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	8
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	114
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	14
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	8
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	7
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	15
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	60
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	166
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

1. Members of the Upper House are elected indirectly by universities and panels composed of members of the Lower House and elected country officials.

Table H.16. **Israel**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	7.3
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	205.8
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	6
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	252
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	7
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	10
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	8
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	37
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	30
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	120
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review

Table H.17. **Italy**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	59.8
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1 953
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	20
Provincial	103
Local	8 101
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	No term limit
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	14
Number of coalition governments	13
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	11
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	21
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	23
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	315
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Semi-proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	630
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.18. **Japan**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	127.5
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	4 135.2
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	47
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	1 727
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	19
Number of coalition governments	15
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	14
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	17
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	13
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	242
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Semi-proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	480
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.19. **Korea**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	48.7
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1 321
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	16
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	Not available
System of executive power	Presidential
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	5
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	5
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	16
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	15
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Semi-proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	299
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.20. Luxembourg

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	0.5
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	42.2
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	3
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	116
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	6
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	4
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	19
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	15
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	60
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.21. **Mexico**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	107.6
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1 540.4
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	31
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	2 438
System of executive power	Presidential
Head of state	President
Head of government	President
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	6
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	4
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	4
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	19
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	18
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	128
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Semi-proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	3
Size – number of seats	500
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.22. **Netherlands**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	16.5
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	674.5
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	12
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	443
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	8
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	4
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	12
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	11
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	75
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	150
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review

Table H.23. **New Zealand**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	4.3
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	124.6
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	16 + 1
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	67
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	5
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	6
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	20
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	32
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Semi-proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	3
Size – number of seats	120
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review

Table H.24. **Norway**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	4.8
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	269.1
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	19
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	435
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	5
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	7
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	20
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	18
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	169
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.25. **Poland**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	38.2
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	722.2
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	16
Provincial	314
Local	2 478
System of executive power	Dual executive
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	14
Number of coalition governments	12
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	14
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	18
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	18
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	100
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	460
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.26. **Portugal**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	10.6
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	265.6
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	2
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	308
System of executive power	Dual executive
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	2
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	17
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	14
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	230
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.27. **Slovak Republic**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	5.4
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	123.9
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	8
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	2 928
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	7
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	6
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	13
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	13
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	150
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.28. **Slovenia**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	2.0
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	56.2
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	Not applicable
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	210
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	9
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	7
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	19
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	15
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not directly elected
Size – number of seats	40
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	90
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table H.29. **Spain**¹

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	45.9
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1 481.4
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	See note
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	17
Provincial	50
Local	8 111
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	President of the Government (Prime Minister equivalent)
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	1
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	3
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	12
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	15
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	264
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	350
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

1. Spain is a strongly decentralised state with 17 autonomous communities and 2 autonomous cities.

Table H.30. **Sweden**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	9.3
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	345.6
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	18 + 2
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	290
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	3
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	24
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	11
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	349
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

Table H.31. **Switzerland**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	7.7
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	349.6
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	26
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	2 889
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	President
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	Not applicable
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	Not applicable
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	7
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	7
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	46
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Semi-proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	200
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

Table H.32. **Turkey**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	71.9
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1 024
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	7
Provincial	81
Local	923
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	10
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	13
Number of coalition governments	7
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	11
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	27
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	15
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	No
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not applicable
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	550
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

Table H.33. **United Kingdom**

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	60.9
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	2 172.5
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	3
Provincial	34 + 1
Local	434
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of state	Monarch
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	No
Term limit (years)	Not applicable
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	1
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	23
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	17
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Not elected
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not elected
Size – number of seats	618
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Single – First Past the Post
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	646
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review

Table H.34. **United States**¹

Population mid-2009 estimate (in millions)	307.0
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	14 043.9
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	50 + 1 + 5
Provincial	3 143
Local	19 429
System of executive power	Presidential
Head of state	President
Head of government	President
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	8
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	4
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	16
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	15
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	100
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Single – First Past the Post
Frequency of elections (in years)	2
Size – number of seats	435
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

1. The United States consists of 50 states, the District of Columbia and 5 territories: Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands.

Table H.35. **Brazil**¹

Population 2009 estimate (in millions)	191.5
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billions at current prices)	2 010.3
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	26 + 1
Provincial	n.a.
Local	5 564
System of executive power	Presidential
Head of state	President
Head of government	President
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	8
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	37
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	38
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Electoral system based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	8
Size – number of seats	81
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	513
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

1. 26 States and 1 Federal District.

Table H.36. **Russian Federation**

Population 2008 estimate (in millions)	141.4
GDP in 2009 (PPP in USD billions at current prices)	2 685.5
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	83
Provincial	
Local	
System of executive power	Dual executive
Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a president?	Yes
Term limit (years)	12
Governments at the central level between 1990 and 2010	
Total number of governments	5
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	3
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2010)	26
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2010)	18
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Electoral system based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not elected
Size – number of seats	166
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-member – Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	450
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review