QoG

THE EUROPEAN QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT INDEX 2024

CODEBOOK

Please reference the following citation when using the EQI 2024 dataset:

Nicholas Charron, Victor Lapuente and Monika Bauhr (2024). "The Geography of Quality of Government in Europe. Subnational variations in the 2024 European Quality of Government Index and Comparisons with Previous Rounds". QoG Working Paper Series 2024:2. Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg. ISSN: 1653-8919.

If you also use data from EQI 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2021; please check this document's "Suggestion Citation for Previous Waves" section for further reference.

UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 The Quality of Government Institute

The QoG Institute was founded in 2004 by Professor Bo Rothstein and Professor Sören Holmberg. It is an independent research institute within the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg. The institute conducts research on the causes, consequences and nature of Good Governance and the Quality of Government (QoG) - that is, trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted, and competent government institutions.

The main objective of the research is to address the theoretical and empirical problems of how political institutions of high quality can be created and maintained. A second objective is to study the effects of Quality of Government on a number of policy areas, such as health, environment, social policy, and poverty. While Quality of Government is the common intellectual focal point of the research institute, a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives are applied.

1.2 The QoG Data

The Quality of Government Data is a collection of different types of datasets that are related to the concept of Quality of Government. These data are open-source tools created to facilitate the access of the academic community to high quality information.

There are three main types of datasets: the first one is the compilation datasets (Standard, Basic and OECD) which gather other sources variables into a comprehensive time-series spanning more than 200 countries and more than 70 year data points. There are also researchers' datasets (e.g. Swedish Municipalities Dataset), which are QoG researchers' efforts to contribute to their field with specialized data at different observation levels (country, region, individual etc.). Last but not least, there are the original datasets such as the European Quality of Government Index.

The most updated versions of QoG datasets can be accessed from Data Downloads section on the QoG Website: https://qog.pol.gu.se/data/datadownloads. Previous versions of all our datasets are also available in the Data Archive: https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/qog-data/data-downloads/data-archive

1.3 QoG European Quality of Government Index Survey Dataset

This codebook provides information on the EQI survey data, which is intended to provide scholars and policy makers with metrics about citizens' perceptions and experiences with governance in Europe. The survey has been thus far done in five rounds – 2010, 2013, 2017, 2021 and 2024. This codebook refers to the dataset of 2024.

The EQI survey data was originally funded by the EU Commission (REGIO) and published in a report by Charron, Lapuente and Rothstein (2010) and later by Charron, Dijkstra and Lapuente (2014) in Regional Studies. In 2013, the survey was re-done; this time funded by the EU Commission via ANTICORRP, a large collaborative research group of scholars across Europe[1].In 2017 and 2021, the survey was once again launched with the support of DG REGIO at the EU Commission[2].

The survey provides unique data for researchers and policymakers in that it is mainly concerned with the governance of public sector institutions at the sub-national level. Questions are posed to respondents about perceived and experience with corruption, impartiality of services, and quality of public services in several public service sectors.

1.3.1 Background and Sample

The fieldwork for the full sample began in September 2023 and concluded in March 2024. The interviews were conducted in the local majority language in each country/region. The results were returned to the Quality of Government Institute in March 2024. The chosen sampling method for this data was simple random sampling, and the sampling unit was individuals 18 years or older. Rather than a fixed number of respondents per country, the NUTS 2 (or NUTS 1) region within countries is the primary political sampling unit and thus the countries in the sample can have an uneven amount of respondents, as seen in Table 1. In previous waves, the number of respondents per region in 2010 was 195, and there were 400 respondents per region in 2014. This number was between 400 and 450 per region in 2017, and it varied between 500 and 1000 in 2021.

The E.U. regional survey was undertaken by Efficience 3 (E3), a French market research, Survey Company specializing in public opinion throughout Europe for researchers, politicians and advertising firms. E3 has also conducted the 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2021 rounds of the EQI and was thus familiar with the question format and goals of the survey. E3 conducted the interviews themselves in several countries and used sub-contracting partners in others. The respondents, from 18 years of age or older, were contacted randomly via telephone in the local language. Computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) were conducted via both landlines and mobile phones, with both methods being used in most countries. Decisions about whether to contact residents more often via land or mobile lines were based on the local expertise of market research firms in each country. Online interviews were also included this year as a compliment to the traditional CATI interviews, thus increasing access to certain demographic groups (namely younger people) and increasing the sample size significantly compared to previous years. Moreover, for the first time, all EU countries, including even the smaller member states, are included in the survey. For purposes of regional placement, respondents were asked for the postcode of their address to verify the area/ region of residence, if mobile phones were used, or if they were online respondents.

Ideally, a survey would be a mirror image of actual societal demographics – gender, income, education, rural-urban, ethnicity, etc. However, we are not privy to exact demographic distributions; in particular at the regional level in most cases, thus imposing artificial demographic lines might lead to even more problems than benefits. For our CATI sample, we thus sought the next best solution. Based on their expert advice, to achieve a random sample, we used what was known in survey research as the 'next birthday method'. The next birthday method is an alternative to the so-called quotas method. When using the quota method for instance, one obtains a (near) perfectly representative sample – e.g. a near exact proportion of the amount of men, women, certain minority groups, people of a certain age, income, etc. However, as one searches for certain demographics within the population, one might end up with only 'available' respondents, or those that are more 'eager' to respond to surveys, which can lead to less variation in the responses or even bias in the results. The 'next-birthday' method, which simply requires the interviewer to ask the person who answers the phone who in their household will have the next birthday, still obtains a reasonably representative sample of the population. The interviewer must take the person who has the next coming birthday in

---

[1]For more information on ANTICORRP and its research, see: http://anticorrp.eu/

[2]See the EQI homepage at the Commission website and more visual tools here: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_-policy/en/information/maps/quality_of_governance

the household (if this person is not available, the interviewer makes an appointment), thus not relying on whomever might simply be available to respond in the household. So, where the quota method is stronger in terms of a more even demographic spread in the sample, the next-birthday method is stronger at ensuring a better range of opinions. The next-birthday method was thus chosen because we felt that what we might have lost in demographic representation in the sample would be made up for by a better distribution of opinion. With respect to the online sample, for reasons of access, a random sample is not possible, thus the standard quota method was employed, based on gender, age, and education demographics at the NUTS 2 regional level.

For the 2024 EQI survey, we continued the approach initiated in the 2021 wave by incorporating online respondents alongside the CATI sample, maintaining the diverse input from various participants. In addition to the added value of lower costs and reaching a wider group of younger respondents that would not otherwise answer their mobile phones, the online administration is of particular interest for a topic such as the EQI, where sensitive questions about perceptions and experiences with corruption, for example, could be affected by social desirability biases from interviewer-administered surveys, such as face-to-face or over a telephone. In other words, respondents are more likely to answer truthfully about such sensitive topics when taking self-administered surveys, thus providing more accurate data (Kreuter et al, 2008; Heerwegh, 2009). In contrast to the telephone interviews where respondents are randomly contacted, these respondents participate voluntarily. To increase the online sample, E3 worked with local partners to create a multi-channel communication of online and offline networks to recruit potential respondents. These channels include using banners on various portals and websites, email recruitment via panel owner's databases, newsletters, brand communications, loyalty websites, and social media platforms. The firm also actively recruited via telephone and face-to-face interactions. All survey email invitations included a general description of the survey, confidentiality and anonymity statements, for panel members, the opportunity to unsubscribe or opt out of future research; and an appropriate privacy policy or statement. As randomization via this administration was not possible as with CATI, the quota system was employed, based on the age, gender, and education characteristics of each region.

In addition, to compensate for some key demographic over/under-representation upon receiving the final sample, E3 provides weights based on age, gender, and education for each region, comparing the sample drawn to actual demographic statistics from the latest figures provided by Eurostat. This is done for both the CATI and online sample, which we could use to calculate an individual weight for each individual in the sample. In the end, we find variation in response and refusal rates by country, which could have to do with many factors including the sensitivity of one of the primary topics at hand – corruption. A breakdown of the sample is listed in Table 1 below by country.

Country	NUTS regions	Target sample per NUTS	Total respondents	% of sample
Germany	16	600	9951	7.36%
Romania	8	600	4959	3.67%
Italy	21	600	13220	9.78%
Austria	9	600	5484	4.05%
Poland	17	600	10460	7.73%
Spain	17	600	10429	7.71%
Sweden	8	600	5011	3.71%
Finland	5	600	2848	2.11%
Denmark	5	600	3128	2.31%
Ireland	3	600	1824	1.35%
Belgium	11 (3)	600	6760	5.00%
Netherlands	12	600	7382	5.46%
Hungary	8	600	4947	3.66%
Slovakia	4	600	2450	1.81%
Croatia	2	600	2502	1.85%
Bulgaria	6	600	3687	2.73%
France	27	600	15648	11.57%
Republic	8	600	5060	3.74%
Portugal	7	600	4394	3.25%
Greece	13	600	8246	6.10%
Luxembourg	1	700	739	0.55%
Estonia	1	1000	1078	0.80%
Latvia	1	1000	1051	0.78%
Lithuania	2	600	1233	0.91%
Slovenia	2	600	1273	0.94%
Malta	1	700	746	0.55%
Cyprus	1	700	732	0.54%
Total			135242	100.0

Note: Belgium is sampled at NUTS 2, yet are aggregated to NUTS1 for the EQI regional time-series data.

1.3.2 Retrospective changes from the previous years to compare with 2024 data

The 2024 EQI data largely builds on the work of previous rounds, although there are several differences from the previous rounds.

For the second consecutive time, the survey uses a hybrid administration approach. Whereas in rounds 1-3, the EQI relied on computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) via mobile and landline telephones, we now utilize online survey administration for 50% of the respondents. There are several reasons for this change. First, the online administration is of particular interest for a topic such as the EQI, where sensitive questions about perceptions and experiences with corruption, for example, could be affected by social desirability biases from intervieweradministered surveys, such as face-to-face or over a telephone. Second, the costs and flexibility of online administration are superior to CATI: interviews are considerably cheaper, and respondents can answer questions at their own pace without the time constraints of telephone interview. Third, previous rounds of the CATI interviews showed that certain sub-groups of respondents, such as the youngest cohorts, were consistently undersampled, due to lack of owning a landline and lower rates of response via mobile phones. The use of online administration has led to a greater proportion of the sample containing such groups. Finally, analyses from comparing the CATI and CAWI samples from round 4 show that in the aggregate, the regional estimates for the EQI items are indistinguishable for roughly 90% of the regions in the sample.

Second, the number of NUTS 2 regions in Croatia has expanded from 2 to 4 since the round 4 of the EQI data was collected. The former region of HR04 (Kontinentalna Hrvatska) has since split into three smaller regions of HR02 (Panonska Hrvatska), HR05 (Grad Zagreb) and HR06 (Sjeverna Hrvatska). The region HR03 (Jadranska Hrvatska) remains unchanged. For purposes of over time comparisons, retrospective changes were made to previous rounds whereby the four regions are accounted for in each

year, with the previous scores of HR04 being applied to HR02, HR05 and HR06, a methodological approach that has been taken in previous rounds when other regional splits have occurred.

Third, we sought to buttress the 'experience' measures within the index that in the past have inquired about petty corruption experiences (both being approached and having paid) for public service. As perceived electoral integrity is also included in the index, the EQI now provides an additional item on reported experiences with electoral clientelism, namely 'vote buying' – e.g. being offered money or a gift in exchange for one's vote by a political party in the latest election.

Finally, as per round 4 of the EQI, we have again offered increased linguistic flexibility for the respondents, with a focus on offering the survey in multiple languages in regions where there are sizable linguistic minority communities. In Spain, the EQI is offered in Catalan and Basque in addition to Spanish; in Italy, respondents in the northern regions may answer in German, if at the border with Austria, or French, if at the border with France; Romanian respondents in several regions are offered the survey in Hungarian, and respondents in Latvia and Estonia have the option of Russian in addition to their main respective languages. Belgians anywhere may answer in Dutch or French as in all the previous rounds, as with Luxembourg residents with French and German. New to round 5, respondents in all regions are offered Swedish along with Finnish in Finland.

1.3.3 Suggested Citation for Previous Waves

The suggested suggestion on the cover page only refers to the fifth wave of EQI, conducted between September 2023 and March 2024. If you would like to use data from the previous waves of EQI for a time-series analysis, we kindly ask you to cite our related publications for EQI 2010, 2013, 2017, and 2021. To access the data and codebooks of previous waves, you can visit the QoG website by clicking on here.

If you use this dataset along with EQI 2010 & 2013, please cite the following article:

> Charron, Nicholas, Lewis Dijkstra & Victor Lapuente. 2014. 'Regional Governance Matters: Quality of Government within European Union Member States.' Regional Studies, 48(1), 68-90. DOI:10.1080/00343404.2013.770141

If you also use data from EQI 2017, please also cite the following article:

> Charron, Nicholas, Victor Lapuente & Paola Annoni. 2019. 'Measuring Quality of Government in EU Regions Across Space and Time.' Papers in Regional Science. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12437

If you benefit from EQI 2021 data, please also cite the following article:

> Charron, Nicholas, Victor Lapuente, Monika Bauhr & Paola Annoni. 2022. Change and Continuity in Quality of Government: Trends in subnational quality of government in EU member states. Investigaciones Regionales-Journal of Regional Research, 2022(53), 5-23.

1.4 Further description: Design, Population and Post-Stratification Weights of EQI Survey Data

1.4.1 Design weights (*Dweight*)

Design weights are included to compensate for the fact that certain people have a higher or lower likelihood of being selected for the survey than others. As the EQI survey is one that draws an equal number of respondents from each NUTS 2 (or NUTS 1 region in some cases), respondents do not have the same likelihood of selection within countries; where people living in less populated regions have a greater likelihood of being included in the survey. There are an uneven amount of regions across countries and the design weights are country-centric, and are equal to the inverse of the size of a region's population within each country, so that more (less) populous regions receive greater (lesser) weights than rural ones to compensate for the fact that their sample size is equal in the survey data. Although for all analyses it is important to use the *Dweight*, it is especially important

for country comparisons, means, proportions, etc. to use the design weights, otherwise results will likely be biased.

$$Dweight = \frac{Population\ size\ aged\ 18\ years\ and\ above\ in\ region_x\ in\ country_y}{Net\ sample\ size\ of\ region_x\ in\ country_y}$$

It therefore has a mean value of '1' in each country.

1.4.2 Population weight (*Pweight*)

The population weight is included for comparisons across countries and is included to adjust for a country's proportion in the sample relative to its actual population of the total population of all countries in the survey. The weights are thus at the country level and do not need to be included for single country, regional level analyses or analyses where comparing country averages of certain survey items are of interest where the country-level is the primary unit of comparison. However, in obtaining sample-wide (or EU-wide) means or proportions, it is recommended to use the population weights.

The *Pweight* helps to correct for any potential bias in obtaining means, proportion, etc when combining data from two or more countries. Without the Pweight, the researcher risks (most often) over-represent smaller countries at the expense of larger ones. The Pweight thus is included to adjust so that every country is represented in relative proportion to its population size of the countries in the sample for each year.

$$Pweight = \frac{Population\ size\ aged\ 18\ years\ and\ above}{Net\ sample\ size\ in\ country}$$

1.4.3 Post-stratification weights (*PSweight*)

Within the targeted NUTS region, the EQI employs a random sampling technique that does not involve quotas for CATI respondents or stratification on demographic categories across individuals, such as gender. For online respondents, the samples uses quotas on age, gender and education (and region) by regional characteristics. The individual post stratification ('*PSweight*') weights thus help to adjust the sample to better match the population on general demographic characteristics. In this case, gender, education and age are included. Population data is taken from Eurostat for all countries, and the weights are calculated specifically for each region. Cross-tabulations from the population data were then collected and put together for each country at the targeted NUTS region (either NUTS 1 or NUTS 2) and were compared with that of the cross tabulations in the sample. The *PSweight* were calculated based on differences between the sample and population statistics, such that demographic groups (older, lower educated, males for example) that were over (under) sampled relative to the population receive a lower (higher) weight.

In EQI 2021 and 2024 due to the introduction of online sampling, we provide the PSweight both by survey administration (*PSweight_a*) as well as for the overall sample (*PSweight_o*).The *PSweight_a* are calculated separately by survey administration (online sample and CATI sample).

The weights have the following property:

$$\sum_{i \in s} \frac{w_i x_i}{\sum_{i \in s} w_i} = \bar{x}$$

Where 's' is the net sample, 'w_i' is the post-stratification weight and 'x_i' is the observation of adjustment variable 'x', e.g. age, gender, or education, of the i-th element in 's'. Finally, $\bar{x}$ the population mean of x. The weights are then divided by their arithmetic mean to have a mean of '1' by year and by country.

1.4.4 Partisanship weights (*Party_W*)

The variable *Party_W* indicates a respondent's weight for their preferred political party (asked in each EQI survey in a closed question with a specific list of sitting parties and any new parties expected to reach parliament) in the sample in relation to their party's proportional support in the population.

The population statistics are taken from two sources: First, we use the election results for same year as the EQI fieldwork as population anchors – e.g. 2023 in the case of round 5. For countries that had earlier elections than the year in which the EQI was fielded, we rely on the 'poll of polls' provided by Politico[3]. as a proxy for the partisan preferences of the population. We take the midpoint day of when the survey was in the field as the population anchor for each country.

Aside from respondents who identify a mainstream parliamentary party, there are supporters of smaller parties and non-partisans to deal with. To weight non-partisans, we consider 'don't know or refuse' answers on the voting question to imply non-voters. To calculate their sample proportion relative to the population, we use the voter turnout statistics from the closest election to the EQI survey and subtract from 100 (e.g. the 'non turnout' rate.). As per voters of smaller parties, these are grouped together in an 'other' category and compared to the population estimate of support for 'other' parties (e.g. those that failed to reach the electoral threshold in an election, or the total support for existing parties in a poll of polls subtracted from 100. This can obviously be problematic, because smaller parties can represent very different ideological preferences, yet the category 'other' is generally quite small (mean =6.9%), and thus any negative effects from this choice are expected to be minimal.

Similarly to the *PSweight* weights, we compare the sample proportions to the population proportion for all parties and non-partisans (e.g. non-voters).

1.4.5 Weighting truncations and re-scaling

To avoid extreme weighting values, we follow the practice used by the European Social Survey (ESS) and truncate extreme values at the 99th percentile of the distribution of the originally calculated *PSweight* post-stratification weight values. This truncates the weights at the high end at about a value of '5', which affected, for example, 144 cases in the 2017 data, and 904 cases in 2021. The same procedure is done for extremely low weights (e.g., below 0.2). In this wave, 149 cases were affected by the high truncation of '5', and at the low end, none were affected.

Weights are then divided by the mean value of the sample to adjust for the sample size, giving the mean weight a value of '1'. This is repeated until done by each year.

As per the *Party_W*, we provide the raw weighs (unadjusted) and the truncated version, which constrains the values to 0.2 to 5 with a mean of '1' (*Party_W_truc*). As a result, 408 cases were affected by the high truncation, and 3,716 were affected by the low truncation.

1.4.6 Missing data

In the case of missing data, this outcome is coded '99' in the dataset. On the the post-stratification control variables (gender, age and education) in no case do we find that any country exceeds 1% of the total observations as missing values, thus we follow the standard practice of MCAR (missing completely at random assumption) and simply drop these observations from the weighting scheme.

---

[3]https://www.politico.eu/europe-poll-of-polls/

2 Individual Level Dataset

2.1 Identification Variables

2.1.1 typeinterview - Type of interview

How was the interview conducted?

1. Computer assisted telephone interview (CATI)
2. Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI)

2.1.2 typetel - Type of Interview for CATI

whether mobile or landline was used in the interview for CATI respondents.

1. Landline
2. Mobil Phone

2.1.3 country - Country of respondents

Unique country code, numeric.

Country	Country Code	Country	Country Code	Country	Country Code
Germany	1	Ireland	10	Portugal	20
Romania	2	Belgium	11	Greece	21
Italy	3	Netherlands	13	Luxembourg	22
Austria	4	Hungary	14	Estonia	23
Poland	5	Slovakia	15	Latvia	24
Spain	6	Croatia	16	Lithuania	25
Sweden	7	Bulgaria	17	Slovenia	26
Finland	8	France	18	Malta	27
Denmark	9	Czechia	19	Cyprus	28

2.1.4 language - Language of interview

The language in which the interview was conducted, numeric.

Language	Language Code	Language	Language Code	Language	Language Code
English	1	Latvian	10	Polish	19
French	2	Maltese	11	Danish	20
German	3	Romanian	12	Portuguese	21
Dutch	4	Hungarian	13	Slovakian	22
Estonian	5	Spanish	14	Croatian	23
Russian	6	Basque	15	Slovenian	24
Finnish	7	Catalan	16	Lithuanian	25
Swedish	8	Luxembourgish	17	Bulgarian	26
Greek	9	Italian	18	Czech	27

2.1.5 EQIregion - EQI regional code

Regional identifier at the level of EQI data.

2.1.6 NUTS1_code - NUTS1 abbreviation code

Abbreviation code of NUTS1-level region to which the observation belongs. The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, (NUTS), is a geocode standard for referencing the administrative divisions of countries for statistical purposes. NUTS 1: major socio-economic regions.

2.1.7 NUTS2_code - NUTS2 abbreviation Code

Abbreviation code of NUTS2-level region to which the observation belongs. The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, (NUTS), is a geocode standard for referencing the administrative divisions of countries for statistical purposes. NUTS 2: basic regions for the application of regional policies.

2.1.8 NUTS3_code - NUTS3 abbreviation Code

Abbreviation code of NUTS3-level region to which the observation belongs. The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, (NUTS), is a geocode standard for referencing the administrative divisions of countries for statistical purposes. NUTS 3: small regions for specific diagnoses.

2.1.9 NUTS1_name - NUTS1 region name

Name of NUTS1 region that the respondent resides.

2.1.10 NUTS2_name - NUTS2 region name

Name of NUTS2 region that the respondent resides.

2.1.11 NUTS3_name - NUTS3 region name

Name of NUTS3 region that the respondent resides.

2.2 Demographic Variables

2.2.1 d1 - Gender of respondent

> (1) Male
> (2) Female

2.2.2 d2 - Age of respondent (recoded categories)

> (1) 18-29
> (2) 30-49
> (3) 50-64
> (4) 65 and above
> (99) Don't know/Refused

2.2.3 d3 - Education of respondent

D3. What is the highest level in school you have completed?

> (1) Elementary (primary) school or less (no diploma)
> (2) High (secondary) school (but did not graduated from it)
> (3) Graduation from high (secondary) school
> (4) Graduation from college, university or other third-level institute
> (5) Post-graduate degree (Masters, PHD) beyond your initial college degree
> (99) Don't know/Refused

2.2.4   d3recode - Education of respondent, recoded

D3. What is the highest level in school you have completed?

(1) Elementary
(2) Secondary
(3) Third level

2.2.5   d4 - Household income

Total household net income per month, after taxes, stated in local currencies.

2.2.6   recoded4 – Categorical re-code of d4(income)

Country-specific, categorical recode of household income, in local currencies. "Don't know/Refused" is coded as 999.

2.2.7   d5a - Occupation by sector

As far as your current occupation is concerned, would you say you work in the public sector (a public sector organization is either wholly owned by the public authorities or they have a majority share), the private sector or would you say that you are without a professional activity?

(1) Public sector
(2) Private sector
(3) Without professional employment
(99) Don't know/Refused

2.2.8   d5b - Occupation detailed

If d5a=1		If d5a=2	
(1)	Military, soldier	(6)	Self-employed, small business owner, freelancer
(2)	Law enforcement, police, fire-fighter	(7)	Other private sector employee
(3)	Healthcare worker, doctor	(99)	Don't know/Refused
(4)	Teacher, academic, researcher		
(5)	Other government agency		
(99)	Don't know/Refused		

If d5a=3	
(8)	Currently unemployed
(9)	Housewife, houseman
(10)	Pensioner, retired
(11)	Pupil, student, trainee
(12)	Other
(99)	Don't know/Refused

2.2.9   d6 - Practice of religion

Apart from special occasions such as weddings and funerals, which of the following best describes how often do you attend religious services nowadays?

(1)   At least once a week
(2)   At least once a month
(3)   Only on special holy days
(4)   Hardly ever/never
(99) Don't know / Refused

2.2.10   d7 - Usage of social media

On average, how many hours do you usually spend on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube and others in one day?

(1)   None
(2)   1-2 hours
(3)   3-4 hours
(4)   5-6 hours
(5)   7 or more hours
(99) Don't know / Refused

2.2.11   d8 - Country of the respondent was born

Were you born in (COUNTRY)?

(1)   Yes
(2)   No
(99) Don't know/Refused

2.2.12   d9 - Population

About how many people live in the place the interview was conducted?

(1) Less than 10,000 (rural)
(2) 10,000 - 100,000 (small town or city)
(3) 100,000 - 1,000,000 (large city or urban area)
(4) More than 1,000,000 (very large city or urban area)
(99) Don't know/Refused

2.2.13   Poland_elec - Dummy variable for changed wording post-election Polish respondent

Did the wording of Q20 change after Poland's election? (only Polish respondents)

(0) No
(1) Yes

2.3 Survey Questions

2.3.1 q1 - Have you or any of your immediate family been enrolled or employed in the public school system in your area in the past 12 months?

    (1)   Yes
    (2)   No
    (99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.2 q2 - Have you or any of your immediate family used public health care services in your area in the past 12 months?

    (1)   Yes
    (2)   No
    (99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.3 q3 - Have you or anyone in your immediate family had any recent contact (positive or negative) with the security or police forces in your area in the past 12 months?

    (1)   Yes
    (2)   No
    (99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.4 q4 - How would you rate the quality of public education in your area?

Very poor									Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.5 q5 - How would you rate the quality of the public health care system in your area?

Very poor									Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.6 q6 - How would you rate the quality of the police force in your area?

Very poor									Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.7 q7 - Certain people are given special advantages in the public education system in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.8 q8 - Certain people are given special advantages in the public health care system in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.9 q9 - The police force gives special advantages to certain people in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.10 q10 - All citizens are treated equally in the public education system in my area.

Agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Disagree
1	2	3	4

2.3.11 q11 - All citizens are treated equally in the public health care system in my area.

Agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Disagree
1	2	3	4

2.3.12 q12 - All citizens are treated equally by the police force in my area.

Agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Disagree
1	2	3	4

2.3.13 q13 - In the area where I live, elections are conducted freely and fairly.

Agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Disagree
1	2	3	4

In this survey, we define corruption to mean 'the abuse of entrusted public power for private gain'. This 'abuse' could be by any public employee or politician and the 'private gain' might include money, gifts or other benefits.
With this in mind, please respond to the following questions on corruption with a scale of 1 to 10, with '1' being "strongly disagree" and '10' being "strongly agree".

2.3.14 q14 - Corruption is prevalent in my area's local public school system.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.15 q15 - Corruption is prevalent in the public health care system in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.16 q16 - Corruption is prevalent in the police force in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

> **Question 17**: People engage in corruption for different reasons. Thinking about the reasons why people engage in corruption in your area, again, using the same scale of 1 to 10, with '1' being "strongly disagree" and '10' being "strongly agree", how much do you agree with the following?

2.3.17 q17_1 - People in my area must use some form of corruption to just to get some basic public services.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.18 q17_2 - Corruption in my area is used to get access to special unfair privileges and wealth.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.19 q18_1 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe in schools and other education services?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Don't know/Refused

2.3.20 q18_2 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe in health or medical services?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Don't know/Refused

2.3.21 q18_3 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe in police authorities?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Don't know/Refused

2.3.22 q18_4 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe in utilities (e.g. electric, water, trash collection, etc.)?

      (1)   Yes
      (2)   No
     (99)   Don't know/Refused

> **i** In previous waves of the EQI Survey, the questions regarding *utilities (such as electric, water, trash collection, etc.)* were not included. Consequently, the questions regarding a*ny other government-run agency* (q18_5 and q19_5 of EQI 2024) were named q18_4 and q19_4, respectively. Therefore, please note that the content of q18_4 and q19_4 differs from previous waves this time, if you intend to make any time-series comparisons.

2.3.23 q18_5 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe to any other government-run agency?

      (1)   Yes
      (2)   No
     (99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.24 q19_1 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family given an informal gift or bribe to schools or other education services?

      (1)   Yes
      (2)   No
     (99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.25 q19_2 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family given an informal gift or bribe to health or medical services?

      (1)   Yes
      (2)   No
     (99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.26 q19_3 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family given an informal gift or bribe to police?

      (1)   Yes
      (2)   No
     (99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.27 q19_4 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family given an informal gift or bribe inutilities (such as electric, water, trash collection, etc.)?

(1)   Yes
(2)   No
(99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.28 q19_5 - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family given an informal gift or bribe to any other government-run agency?

(1)   Yes
(2)   No
(99)   Don't know/Refused

Due to the addition of new questions for the EQI 2024 survey, please note that the question numbers below may not correspond to those of previous waves of the EQI survey. Take this into consideration if you intend to make any time-series comparisons.

2.3.29 q20 - From what you remember, in the run-up to the last parliamentary election on *(insert country specific month/year - see adjusted question for Poland, Slovakia and Luxembourg)*, did anyone offer you or anyone in your family a gift, money or personal favor in return for your vote in the election?

(1)   Yes
(2)   No
(99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.30 q21 - Changing topics a bit, how would you judge the current state of the economy in the area where you live?

(1)   Very good
(2)   Somewhat good
(3)   Somewhat bad
(4)   Very bad
(99)   Don't know/Refused

2.3.31 q22 - What political party would you vote for if the national parliamentary election were today?

Each respondent hears a pre-coded list of all actual political parties, including an "other" (not specified [Volunteer – Do Not Read]) and a "DK/refused" [Volunteer – Do Not Read]).

2.3.32 q23_1 - On a 1 to 10 scale, with '1' being 'no confidence at all', and '10' being 'complete confidence' to do the right thing, how much confidence do you personally have in (COUNTRY's) parliament?

No confidence at all									Complete confidence
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.33 q23_2 - On a 1 to 10 scale, with '1' being 'no confidence at all', and '10' being 'complete confidence' to do the right thing, how much confidence do you personally have in other people in your area?

No confidence at all									Complete confidence
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.34 q23_3 - On a 1 to 10 scale, with '1' being 'no confidence at all', and '10' being 'complete confidence' to do the right thing, how much confidence do you personally have in the European Union?

No confidence at all									Complete confidence
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.35 q24_1 - People might feel different levels of attachment to where they live and to Europe, on a scale of 1-10 with '1' being 'not at all' and '10' being 'very attached', how closely attached do you feel about (COUNTRY)?

Not at all									Very attached
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.36 q24_2 - People might feel different levels of attachment to where they live and to Europe, on a scale of 1-10 with '1' being 'not at all' and '10' being 'very attached', how closely attached do you feel about your region within (COUNTRY)?

Not at all									Very attached
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.37 q24_3 - People might feel different levels of attachment to where they live and to Europe, on a scale of 1-10 with '1' being 'not at all' and '10' being 'very attached', how closely attached do you feel about Europe?

Not at all									Very attached
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.38 q25 - The government in (COUNTRY) should reduce differences in peoples' incomes by taxing wealthier people and then providing welfare to the poor.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.39 q26 - Discrimination against women is no longer a problem in [COUNTRY].

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.40 q27 - On whole, (COUNTRY) is worse-off by people coming to live here from other countries.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.41 q28 - Gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry legally.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.42 q29 - Advancing women's and girls' rights has gone too far, because it threatens men's and boys' opportunities.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2.3.43 length - Length of survey

Length of survey in seconds.

2.4 Weights

2.4.1 Dweight – The design weight

Design weights are included to compensate for the fact that certain people have a higher or lower likelihood of being selected for the survey than others. Please check section 1.4 of this codebook for detailed information on design weights.

2.4.2 Pweight – The population weight (country)

The population weight is included for comparisons across countries and is included to adjust for a country's proportion in the sample relative to its actual population of the total population of all countries in the survey. Please check section 1.4 of this codebook for detailed information on population weights.

2.4.3 PSweight_a – The post-stratification weight by survey admin(age, gender, education)

The individual post stratification weights help to adjust the sample to better match the population on general demographic characteristics. Please check section 1.4 of this codebook for detailed information on stratification weights.

2.4.4 PSweight_o – The post-stratification weight overall(age, gender, education)

The individual post stratification weights help to adjust the sample to better match the population on general demographic characteristics. Please check section 1.4 of this codebook for detailed information on stratification weights.

2.4.5 Party_W – Partisanship weight)

This variable indicates a respondent's weight for their preferred political party (asked in each EQI survey in a closed question with a specific list of sitting parties and any new parties expected to reach parliament) in the sample in relation to their party's proportional support in the population. Please check section 1.4 of this codebook for detailed information on partisanship weights.

2.4.6 Party_W_truc – Partisanship weight, truncated)

This variable indicates a respondent's weight for their preferred political party (asked in each EQI survey in a closed question with a specific list of sitting parties and any new parties expected to reach parliament) in the sample in relation to their party's proportional support in the population. Please check section 1.4 of this codebook for detailed information on partisanship weights.

3 Regional Level Dataset

3.1 Identification Variables

3.1.1 cname – Name of the country

Name of the country where the region is located in English.

3.1.2 region_code – NUTS code of region

Numerical code of the region to which the observation belongs. The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, (NUTS), is a geocode standard for referencing the administrative divisions of countries for statistical purposes. See appendix of this document for each region's code.

3.1.3 name – Name of region

Name of the region in English.

3.1.4 year – Year

Year of observation. If you are using data from previous waves (2010, 2013 and 2017), please also check "Suggestion Citation for Previous Waves".

3.1.5 EQIregion – EQI region code

EQI region code. See appendix of this document for each region's code.

3.1.6 nuts_level – NUTS Level

To what level of NUTS belong observation. The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, (NUTS), is a geocode standard for referencing the administrative divisions of countries for statistical purposes.

(0) Country level
(1) Major socio-economic regions
(2) Basic regions for the application of regional policies

3.1.7 nuts0_code – NUTS0 abbreviation code

Code of NUTS0 level region to which the observation belongs. The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, (NUTS), is a geocode standard for referencing the administrative divisions of countries for statistical purposes. NUTS 0: country level.

3.1.8 nuts1_code – NUTS1 abbreviation code

Code of NUTS1 level region to which the observation belongs. The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, (NUTS), is a geocode standard for referencing the administrative divisions of countries for statistical purposes. NUTS 1: major socio-economic regions.

3.1.9 nuts2_code – NUTS2 abbreviation code

Code of NUTS2 level region to which the observation belongs. The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, (NUTS), is a geocode standard for referencing the administrative divisions of countries for statistical purposes. NUTS 2: basic regions for the application of regional policies.

3.1.10 nuts0 – NUTS0 region name

Name of NUTS0 level region to which the observation belongs.

3.1.11   nuts1 – NUTS1 region name

Name of NUTS1 level region to which the observation belongs.

3.1.12   nuts2 – NUTS2 region name

Name of NUTS2 level region to which the observation belongs.

3.2   Regional level variables

3.2.1   EQI – European Quality Index (EQI)

Final EQI index (centered around WGI), all units. The construction of EQI Index starts 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). 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 countries[4].

In previous rounds, we then took the standardized sample mean for 2015 WGI data and set each country's national average as such. A key difference in this round (and retrospectively in other two rounds) we now aggregate to the WGI at the pillar levels of corruption impartiality and quality in order to better make use of these three distinct concepts empirically.

The regional data itself combines 18 survey questions about QoG in the region. In building the regional index, we re-score each variable so that higher numbers equate to higher QoG and then the 18 questions/indicators to three pillars based on factor analysis, 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 data for the regional pillars' score for each of the countries included in the 2017 regional survey, weighting each region's score by their share of the national population. This figure is thus used to explain regional variation only within each country included (not absolute levels of QoG). We then subtract this mean score from each region's individual pillar 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 for each of the three pillars, centered on the respective WGI indicators. It is worth mentioning that none of the regional variation from the regional index is lost during this merging process; the country mean of all regional scores is simply adjusted. The formula employed is the following:

$$EQI_{regionX\ in\ countryY} = WGI_{countryY} + (Rqog_{regionX\ in\ countryY} - CRqog_{countryY})$$

where 'EQI' is the final score from each region or country in each pillar –corruption, impartiality and quality - of the EQI. 'WGI' is the World Bank's national average for each country for each pillar, while '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 for each pillar. The EQI pillars are standardized so that the mean is '0' with a standard deviation of '1'. The three pillar scores are then aggregated using equal weighting.

---

[4]For a closer look at the sensitivity tests and results for the EU sample of countries see Rothstein, Bo, Victor Lapuente, and Nicholas Charron, 2019. "Measuring the quality of Government at the subnational level and comparing results with previous studies". European Commission.

Figure 1: Roadmap to EQI
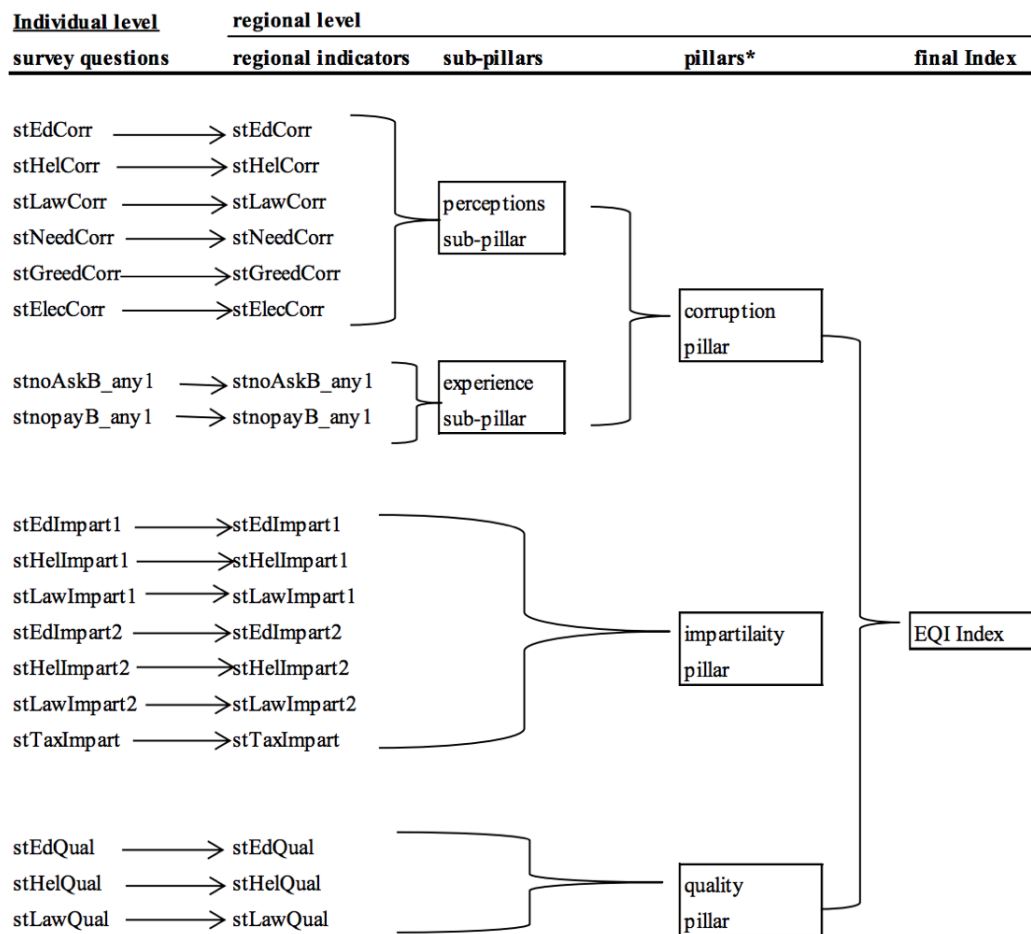
Note: * represents the stage at which the regional data is centered on the national level WGI data.

<div align="right">(Charron, Lapuente, Rothstein, 2019, p. 19)</div>

3.2.2   EQI__me - 95% margin of error for EQI score

95% margin of error for EQI score.

3.2.3   EQI_low_me - Lower boundary of margin of error, EQI

Lower boundary of margin of error for EQI score.

3.2.4   EQI_high_me - Upper boundary of margin of error, EQI

Upper boundary of margin of error for EQI score.

3.2.5   qualityp – Quality pillar

Quality pillar, country centered and z-score standardized. We aggregate the individual scores ('survey question') to the corresponding regional level, so that each of question on the quality of public services is now a regional 'indicator'. After normalizing each of quality indicators (through z-score standardization) so that they share a common range, the quality indicators are aggregated into 'quality pillar'.

3.2.6 impartialityp – Impartiality pillar

Impartiality pillar, country centered and z-score standardized. We aggregate the individual scores ('survey question') to the corresponding regional level, so that each of question assessing impartiality in the provision of public services is now a regional 'indicator'. After normalizing each of impartiality indicators (through z-score standardization) so that they share a common range, the impartiality indicators are aggregated into 'impartiality pillar'.

3.2.7 corruptionp – Corruption pillar

Corruption pillar, country centered and z-score standardized. We aggregate the individual scores ('survey question') to the corresponding regional level, so that each of question assessing corruption in the provision of public services is now a regional 'indicator'. After normalizing each of corruption indicators (through z-score standardization) so that they share a common range, the corruption indicators are aggregated into two sub-pillars, called 'experience' and 'perceptions. They respectively represent question items reflecting personal experience with petty corruption versus perception of corruption in various other areas. These two sub-pillars are aggregated using equal weighting.

3.2.8 corruption_subPer – Corruption perception sub-pillar

Corruption perceptions index, z-score standardized. It constitutes one of the sub-pillars of corruption pillar.

3.2.9 corruption_subExp – Corruption experience sub-pillar

Corruption experiences index, z-score standardized. It constitutes one of the sub-pillars of corruption pillar.

4 EQI CATI - Country Level Dataset

This data shows the aggregated country-level estimates for each of the individual items in the EQI by year (2010, 2013, 2017, 2021 and 2024). Each item is a simple national average of responses to the corresponding EQI survey question. The data are not standardized in any way, or adjusted/ rescaled to the WGI (as per regional level EQI and EQI pillar estimates). Several of these country level estimates are currently used in the World Governance Indicators indices[5].

In total, 28 country level estimates from the EQI survey data are provided. In addition to the main EQI items used to construct the regional index, we also provide country level estimates on the self-reported experiences with petty corruption by sector. In addition, we include estimates of confidence in national parliament.

All estimates are aggregated from the raw data using post-stratification and design weights . For purposes of comparison of the country estimates over time, **we include only telephone (CATI) respondents in the aggregation from the micro to country level, which means the online sample from 2021 and 2024 is not used in these calculations**.

4.1 Identification Variables

4.1.1 cname – Name of the country

Name of the country where the region is located in English.

4.1.2 year – Year

Year of observation. If you are using data from previous waves (2010, 2013 and 2017), please also check "Suggestion Citation for Previous Waves".

4.1.3 ccode – Country Code

Numeric country code based on the ISO-3166-1 standard. All the numeric country codes are unique and this is thus the variable best suitable to use when merging les (in combination with year for time-series data). (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1_numeric)

4.1.4 ccodealp – 3-letter Country Code

A three-letter country code based on the ISO-3166-1 alpha3 standard. Please note that the ccodealp variable does not uniquely identify all countries.

4.1.5 ccodecow – Country Code COW

Country code from the Correlates of War.

4.1.6 ccodewb – Country Code World Bank

Country code from the World Bank.

4.2 Country Level Variables

4.2.1 Ed_qual - How would you rate the quality of public education in your area?

Very poor									Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

---

[5]https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/

4.2.2 Hel_qual - How would you rate the quality of the public health care system in your area?

Very poor									Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.3 Law_qual - How would you rate the quality of the police force in your area?

Very poor									Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.4 Edimpart1 - Certain people are given special advantages in the public education system in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.5 Helimpart1 - Certain people are given special advantages in the public health care system in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.6 Lawimpart1 - The police force gives special advantages to certain people in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.7 Edimpart1 - All citizens are treated equally in the public education system in my area.

Agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Disagree
1	2	3	4

4.2.8 Helimpart2 - All citizens are treated equally in the public health care system in my area.

Agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Disagree
1	2	3	4

4.2.9 Lawimpart2 - All citizens are treated equally by the police force in my area.

Agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Disagree
1	2	3	4

4.2.10 EdCorr - Corruption is prevalent in my area's local public school system.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.11 HelCorr - Corruption is prevalent in the public health care system in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.12 LawCorr - Corruption is prevalent in the police force in my area.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.13 Need_cor - People in my area must use some form of corruption to just to get some basic public services.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.14 Greed_cor - Corruption in my area is used to get access to special unfair privileges and wealth.

Strongly disagree									Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.15 Ed_ask - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe in health or medical services?

Share of population who said "Yes" to above-stated question (q18_1 of individual-level dataset)[6].

4.2.16 Hel_ask - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe in health or medical services?

Share of population who said "Yes" to above-stated question (q18_2 of individual-level dataset).

4.2.17 Law_ask - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe in police authorities?

Share of population who said "Yes" to above-stated question (q18_3 of individual-level dataset).

4.2.18 Other_ask - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe in any other government-run agency?

Share of population who said "Yes" to above-stated question (q18_4 of individual-level dataset).

---

[6]DK/ref dropped from all corruption experience question estimates. Thus, the estimates are the proportion of *'yes'/* *('yes' + 'no')* responses.

4.2.19 Ask_any - Asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe at any public agency in the last 12 months

Share of population who have been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe at any public agency in the last 12 months. For this variable, each respondent answered 'yes' to any of the 4 services above (*Ed_ask, Hel_ask, Law_ask, Other_ask*) is coded as '1', and '0' if otherwise.

4.2.20 Ed_pay - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family given an informal gift or bribe to schools or other education services?

Share of population who said "Yes" to above-stated question (q19_1 of individual-level dataset).

4.2.21 Hel_pay - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family given an informal gift or bribe to health or medical services?

Share of population who said "Yes" to above-stated question (q19_2 of individual-level dataset).

4.2.22 Law_pay - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family given an informal gift or bribe to police?

Share of population who said "Yes" to above-stated question (q19_3 of individual-level dataset).

4.2.23 Other_pay - In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family given an informal gift or bribe to any other government-run agency?

Share of population who said "Yes" to above-stated question (q19_4 of individual-level dataset).

4.2.24 Any_bribe - Give an informal gift or bribe at any public agency in the last 12 months

Share of population who have been asked by a public official to give an informal gift or bribe at any public agency in the last 12 months. For this variable, each respondent answered 'yes' to any of the 4 services above (*Ed_pay, Hel_pay, Law_pay, Other_pay*) is coded as '1', and '0' if otherwise.

4.2.25 elec_not_free - In the area where I live, elections are conducted freely and fairly.

Agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Disagree
1	2	3	4

4.2.26 Parl_conf - On a 1 to 10 scale, with '1' being 'no confidence at all', and '10' being 'complete confidence' to do the right thing, how much confidence do you personally have in (COUNTRY's) parliament?

No confidence at all									Complete confidence
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4.2.27 Vote_buy_ask - Give an informal gift or bribe at any public agency in the last 12 months

Share of the population who have been offered a gift, money or personal favor in return for their vote in the election.

5 References

- Rothstein, B., Charron, N., & Lapuente, V. (2013). Quality of government and corruption from a European perspective: a comparative study on the quality of government in EU regions. Edward Elgar Publishing.

- Charron, N., Dijkstra, L., & Lapuente, V. (2014). Regional governance matters: Quality of government within European Union member states. Regional Studies, 48(1), 68-90.

- Charron, N., Dijkstra, L., & Lapuente, V. (2015). Mapping the regional divide in Europe: A measure for assessing quality of government in 206 European regions. Social Indicators Research, 122(2), 315-346.

- Charron, N., Lapuente, V., & Rothstein, B.(2019). Measuring the quality of Government at the subnational level and comparing results with previous studies, European Commission.

- Charron, Nicholas, Victor Lapuente, Monika Bauhr & Paola Annoni. 2022. Change and Continuity in Quality of Government: Trends in subnational quality of government in EU member states. Investigaciones Regionales-Journal of Regional Research, 2022(53), 5-23.

6 Appendix: Further political unit sample details

Tables 2 provides further information about the countries, nuts codes and regions, along with the survey code for each NUTS region in the sample.

Table 2: Country and Regional Sample, NUTS and EQIregion codes

NUTS country	Country name	NUTS region	Region name	EQIregion	EQIregionN2
AT	Austria	AT11	Burgenland (AT)	401	401
AT	Austria	AT12	Niederösterreic	402	402
AT	Austria	AT13	Wien	403	403
AT	Austria	AT21	Kärnte	404	404
AT	Austria	AT22	Steiermark	405	405
AT	Austria	AT31	Oberösterreic	406	406
AT	Austria	AT32	Salzburg	407	407
AT	Austria	AT33	Tirol	408	408
AT	Austria	AT34	Vorarlberg	409	409
BE	Belgium	BE1	Region Brussels	1101	
BE	Belgium	BE2	Flanders	1102	
BE	Belgium	BE3	Wallonie	1103	
BE	Belgium	BE10	Region Brussels		1101
BE	Belgium	BE21	Antwerpen		1111
BE	Belgium	BE22	Limburg (BE)		1112
BE	Belgium	BE23	Oost-Vlaanderen		1113
BE	Belgium	BE23	Vlaams-Brabant		1114
BE	Belgium	BE25	West-Vlaanderen		1115
BE	Belgium	BE31	Brabant Wallon		1121
BE	Belgium	BE32	Hainaut		1122
BE	Belgium	BE33	Lièg		1123
BE	Belgium	BE34	Luxembourg (BE)		1124
BE	Belgium	BE35	Namur		1125
BG	Bulgaria	BG31	Severozapaden	1701	1701
BG	Bulgaria	BG32	Severen tsentralen	1702	1702
BG	Bulgaria	BG33	Severoiztochen	1703	1703
BG	Bulgaria	BG34	Yugoiztochen	1704	1704
BG	Bulgaria	BG41	Yugozapaden	1705	1705
BG	Bulgaria	BG42	Yuzhen tsentralen	1706	1706
CY	Cyprus	CY	Cyprus	2801	2801
CZ	Czech Republic	CZ01	Praha	1901	1901
CZ	Czech Republic	CZ02	Strední Cech	1902	1902
CZ	Czech Republic	CZ03	Jihozápa	1903	1903
CZ	Czech Republic	CZ04	Severozápa	1904	1904
CZ	Czech Republic	CZ05	Severovýcho	1905	1905
CZ	Czech Republic	CZ06	Jihovýcho	1906	1906
CZ	Czech Republic	CZ07	Strední Morav	1907	1907
CZ	Czech Republic	CZ08	Moravskoslezsko	1908	1908
DE	Germany	DE1	Baden-Württember	101	
DE	Germany	DE2	Bayern	102	
DE	Germany	DE3	Berlin	103	
DE	Germany	DE4	Brandenburg	104	
DE	Germany	DE5	Bremen	105	
DE	Germany	DE6	Hamburg	106	
DE	Germany	DE7	Hessen	107	
DE	Germany	DE8	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	108	
DE	Germany	DE9	Niedersachsen	109	
DE	Germany	DEA	Nordrhein-Westfalen	110	
DE	Germany	DEB	Rheinland-Pfalz	111	

NUTS country	Country name	NUTS region	Region name	EQIregion	EQIregionN2
DE	Germany	DEC	Saarland	112	
DE	Germany	DED	Sachsen	113	
DE	Germany	DEE	Sachsen-Anhalt	114	
DE	Germany	DEF	Schleswig-Holstein	115	
DE	Germany	DEG	Thüringe	116	
DE	Germany	DE11	Stuttgart		121
DE	Germany	DE12	Karlsruhe		122
DE	Germany	DE13	Freiburg		123
DE	Germany	DE14	Tübinge		124
DE	Germany	DE21	Oberbayern		131
DE	Germany	DE22	Niederbayern		132
DE	Germany	DE23	Oberpfalz		133
DE	Germany	DE24	Oberfranken		134
DE	Germany	DE25	Mittelfranken		135
DE	Germany	DE26	Unterfranken		136
DE	Germany	DE27	Schwaben		137
DE	Germany	DE30	Berlin		103
DE	Germany	DE40	Brandenburg		104
DE	Germany	DE50	Bremen		105
DE	Germany	DE60	Hamburg		106
DE	Germany	DE71	Darmstadt		141
DE	Germany	DE72	Gieße		142
DE	Germany	DE73	Kassel		143
DE	Germany	DE80	Niedersachsen		109
DE	Germany	DE91	Braunschweig		151
DE	Germany	DE92	Hannover		152
DE	Germany	DE93	Lünebur		153
DE	Germany	DE94	Weser-Ems		154
DE	Germany	DEA1	Düsseldor		161
DE	Germany	DEA2	Köl		162
DE	Germany	DEA3	Münste		163
DE	Germany	DEA4	Detmold		164
DE	Germany	DEA5	Arnsberg		165
DE	Germany	DEB1	Koblenz		171
DE	Germany	DEB2	Trier		172
DE	Germany	DEB3	Rheinhessen-Pfalz		173
DE	Germany	DEC0	Saarland		112
DE	Germany	DED2	Dresden		181
DE	Germany	DED4	Chemnitz		182
DE	Germany	DED5	Leipzig		183
DE	Germany	DEE0	Sachsen-Anhalt		114
DE	Germany	DEF0	Schleswig-Holstein		115
DE	Germany	DEG0	Thüringe		116
DK	Denmark	DK01	Hovedstaden	901	901
DK	Denmark	DK02	Sjællan	902	902
DK	Denmark	DK03	Syddanmark	903	903
DK	Denmark	DK04	Midtjylland	904	904
DK	Denmark	DK05	Nordjylland	905	905
EE	Estonia	EE	Estonia	2301	2301
EL	Greece	EL30	Attiki	2101	2101
EL	Greece	EL41	Voreio Aigaio	2102	2102
EL	Greece	EL42	Notio Aigaio	2103	2103
EL	Greece	EL43	Kriti	2104	2104
EL	Greece	EL51	Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	2105	2105
EL	Greece	EL52	Kentriki Makedonia	2106	2106
EL	Greece	EL53	Dytiki Makedonia	2107	2107

NUTS country	Country name	NUTS region	Region name	EQIregion	EQIregionN2
EL	Greece	EL54	Ipeiros	2108	2108
EL	Greece	EL61	Thessalia	2109	2109
EL	Greece	EL62	Ionia Nisia	2110	2110
EL	Greece	EL63	Dytiki Ellada	2111	2111
EL	Greece	EL64	Sterea Ellada	2112	2112
EL	Greece	EL65	Peloponnisos	2113	2113
ES	Spain	ES11	Galicia	501	501
ES	Spain	ES12	Principado de Asturias	502	502
ES	Spain	ES13	Cantabria	503	503
ES	Spain	ES21	País Vasc	504	504
ES	Spain	ES22	Comunidad Foral de Navarra	505	505
ES	Spain	ES23	La Rioja	506	506
ES	Spain	ES24	Aragó	507	507
ES	Spain	ES30	Comunidad de Madrid	508	508
ES	Spain	ES41	Castilla y Leó	509	509
ES	Spain	ES42	Castilla-la Mancha	510	510
ES	Spain	ES43	Extremadura	511	511
ES	Spain	ES51	Cataluñ	512	512
ES	Spain	ES52	Comunitat Valenciana	513	513
ES	Spain	ES53	Illes Balears	514	514
ES	Spain	ES61	Andalucí	515	515
ES	Spain	ES62	Región de Murci	516	516
ES	Spain	ES70	Canarias	517	517
FI	Finland	FI19	Länsi-Suom	801	801
FI	Finland	FI1B	Helsinki-Uusimaa	802	802
FI	Finland	FI1C	Etelä-Suom	803	803
FI	Finland	FI1D	Pohjois- ja Itä-Suom	804	804
FI	Finland	FI20	Åland	805	805
FR	France	FR10	Ile de France	1801	1801
FR	France	FRB0	Centre - Val de Loire	1802	1802
FR	France	FRC1	Bourgogne	1803	1803
FR	France	FRC2	Franche-Comté	1804	1804
FR	France	FRD1	Basse-Normandie	1805	1805
FR	France	FRD2	Haute-Normandie	1806	1806
FR	France	FRE1	Nord-Pas-de-Calais	1807	1807
FR	France	FRE2	Picardie	1808	1808
FR	France	FRF1	Alsace	1809	1809
FR	France	FRF2	Champagne-Ardenne	1810	1810
FR	France	FRF3	Lorraine	1811	1811
FR	France	FRG0	Pays-de-la-Loire	1812	1812
FR	France	FRH0	Bretagne	1813	1813
FR	France	FRI1	Aquitaine	1814	1814
FR	France	FRI2	Limousin	1815	1815
FR	France	FRI3	Poitou-Charentes	1816	1816
FR	France	FRJ1	Languedoc-Roussillon	1817	1817
FR	France	FRJ2	Midi-Pyréné	1818	1818
FR	France	FRK1	Auvergne	1819	1819
FR	France	FRK2	Rhône-Alpe	1820	1820
FR	France	FRL0	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azu	1821	1821
FR	France	FRM0	Corse	1822	1822
FR	France	FRY1	Guadeloupe	1823	1823
FR	France	FRY2	Martinique	1824	1824
FR	France	FRY3	Guyane	1825	1825
FR	France	FRY4	La Réunio	1826	1826

NUTS country	Country name	NUTS region	Region name	EQIregion	EQIregionN2
FR	France	FRY5	Mayotte	1827	1827
HR	Croatia	HR03	Jadranska Hrvatska	1601	1601
HR	Croatia	HR04	Kontinentalna Hrvatska	1602	1602
HU	Hungary	HU11	Budapest	1401	1401
HU	Hungary	HU12	Pest	1402	1402
HU	Hungary	HU21	Közép-Dunán	1403	1403
HU	Hungary	HU22	Nyugat-Dunántul	1404	1404
HU	Hungary	HU23	Dél-Dunánt	1405	1405
HU	Hungary	HU31	Eszak-Magyarorszag	1406	1406
HU	Hungary	HU32	Eszak-Alföld	1407	1407
HU	Hungary	HU33	Dél-Alfö	1408	1408
IE	Ireland	IE04	Northern and Western	1001	1001
IE	Ireland	IE05	Southern	1002	1002
IE	Ireland	IE06	Eastern and Midland	1003	1003
IT	Italy	ITC1	Piemonte	301	301
IT	Italy	ITC2	Valle d'Aos	302	302
IT	Italy	ITC3	Liguria	303	303
IT	Italy	ITC4	Lombardia	304	304
IT	Italy	ITF1	Abruzzo	314	314
IT	Italy	ITF2	Molise	315	315
IT	Italy	ITF3	Campania	316	316
IT	Italy	ITF4	Puglia	317	317
IT	Italy	ITF5	Basilicata	318	318
IT	Italy	ITF6	Calabria	319	319
IT	Italy	ITG1	Sicilia	320	320
IT	Italy	ITG2	Sardegna	321	321
IT	Italy	ITH1	Bolzano/Bozen	305	305
IT	Italy	ITH2	Trento	306	306
IT	Italy	ITH3	Veneto	307	307
IT	Italy	ITH4	Friuli-Venezia Giulia	308	308
IT	Italy	ITH5	Emilia-Romagna	309	309
IT	Italy	ITI1	Toscana	310	310
IT	Italy	ITI2	Umbria	311	311
IT	Italy	ITI3	Marche	312	312
IT	Italy	ITI4	Lazio	313	313
LT	Lithuania	LT01	Sostines regionas	2501	2501
LT	Lithuania	LT02	Vidurio ir vakaru Lietuvos regionas	2502	2502
LU	Luxembourg	LU	Luxembourg	2201	2201
LV	Latvia	LV	Latvia	2401	2401
MT	Malta	MT	Malta	2701	2701
NL	Netherlands	NL11	Groningen	1301	1301
NL	Netherlands	NL12	Friesland (NL)	1302	1302
NL	Netherlands	NL13	Drenthe	1303	1303
NL	Netherlands	NL21	Overijssel	1304	1304
NL	Netherlands	NL22	Gelderland	1305	1305
NL	Netherlands	NL23	Flevoland	1306	1306
NL	Netherlands	NL31	Utrecht	1307	1307
NL	Netherlands	NL32	Noord-Holland	1308	1308
NL	Netherlands	NL33	Zuid-Holland	1309	1309
NL	Netherlands	NL34	Zeeland	1310	1310
NL	Netherlands	NL41	Noord-Brabant	1311	1311
NL	Netherlands	NL42	Limburg (NL)	1312	1312
PL	Poland	PL21	Malopolskie	601	601
PL	Poland	PL22	Slaskie	602	602
PL	Poland	PL41	Wielkopolskie	603	603

NUTS country	Country name	NUTS region	Region name	EQIregion	EQIregionN2
PL	Poland	PL42	Zachodniopomorskie	604	604
PL	Poland	PL43	Lubuskie	605	605
PL	Poland	PL51	Dolnoslaskie	606	606
PL	Poland	PL52	Opolskie	607	607
PL	Poland	PL61	Kujawsko-Pomorskie	608	608
PL	Poland	PL62	Warminsko-Mazurskie	609	609
PL	Poland	PL63	Pomorskie	610	610
PL	Poland	PL71	Lódzki	611	611
PL	Poland	PL72	Swietokrzyskie	612	612
PL	Poland	PL81	Lubelskie	613	613
PL	Poland	PL82	Podkarpackie	614	614
PL	Poland	PL84	Podlaskie	615	615
PL	Poland	PL91	Warszawski stoleczny	616	616
PL	Poland	PL92	Mazowiecki regionalny	619	619
PT	Portugal	PT11	Norte	2001	2001
PT	Portugal	PT15	Algarve	2002	2002
PT	Portugal	PT16	Centro (PT)	2003	2003
PT	Portugal	PT17	Area Metropolitana de Lisboa	2004	2004
PT	Portugal	PT18	Alentejo	2005	2005
PT	Portugal	PT20	Região Autónoma dos Aço	2006	2006
PT	Portugal	PT30	Região Autónoma da Madei	2007	2007
RO	Romania	RO11	Nord-Vest	201	201
RO	Romania	RO12	Centru	202	202
RO	Romania	RO21	Nord-Est	203	203
RO	Romania	RO22	Sud-Est	204	204
RO	Romania	RO31	Sud - Muntenia	205	205
RO	Romania	RO32	Bucuresti - Ilfov	206	206
RO	Romania	RO41	Sud-Vest Oltenia	207	207
RO	Romania	RO42	Vest	208	208
SE	Sweden	SE11	Stockholm	701	701
SE	Sweden	SE12	Östra Mellansverige	702	702
SE	Sweden	SE21	Småland med öar	703	703
SE	Sweden	SE22	Sydsverige	704	704
SE	Sweden	SE23	Västsverig	705	705
SE	Sweden	SE31	Norra Mellansverige	706	706
SE	Sweden	SE32	Mellersta Norrland	707	707
SE	Sweden	SE33	vre Norrland	708	708
SI	Slovenia	SI03	Vzhodna Slovenija	2601	2601
SI	Slovenia	SI04	Zahodna Slovenija	2602	2602
SK	Slovakia	SK01	Bratislavský kra	1501	1501
SK	Slovakia	SK02	Západné Slovens	1502	1502
SK	Slovakia	SK03	Stredné Slovensk	1503	1503
SK	Slovakia	SK04	Východné Slovens	1504	1504

Table 3: Availability of indicators over time

EQI item	Time series	Note
stEdCorr	2010-2024	
stHelCorr	2010-2024	
stLawCorr	2010-2024	
stNeedCorr	2017-2024	
stGreedCorr	2017-2024	
stElecCorr	2010-2024	Slight change in formulation between 2010 & 2013/2017. 2020 seperate column variable.
stnoAskB_any1	2017-2024	Added in 2017
stnopayB_any1	2010-2024	
stEdImpart1	2010-2024	
stHelImpart1	2010-2024	
stLawImpart1	2010-2024	
stEdImpart2	2010-2024	
stHelImpart2	2010-2024	
stLawImpart2	2010-2024	
stEdQual	2010-2024	
stHelQual	2010-2024	
stLawQual	2010-2024	
taximpart	2017	Only in 2017
otherscorrupt	2010-2013	Only available in 2010-2013, changed to 'need/greed' in 2017
media	2010-2013	Question formulation change between 2010 & 2013
gender	2010-2024	
age (4 category)	2010-2024	
education (5 level)	2010-2024	
income (absolute)	2010-2024	
income (recoded, Euros)	2010-2020	
income (3 level)	2010-2024	
occupation (3 sector)	2010-2024	
occupation (specific)	2010-2040	
population (4 category)	2010-2024	
unemployed	2010-2024	
Preferred party	2013-2024	It was not asked in 2010
economic satisfaction	2010-2024	
vote-buying	2024	
trust in government	2013, 2017-2024	2013 is binary, 2017 slight difference from 2020 ('trust' vs. 'confidence')