This note describes revisions to the source data used in the 2021 update of the Worldwide Governance Indicators, covering the period 1996-2020.

**New Data Sources**

This year the WGI includes data from the **European Quality of Governance Index (EQI)** as a new data source. This index is produced at the Quality of Governance Institute at the University of Gothenburg, and is based on a household survey covering 27 EU member states, which asks questions about corruption perceptions, corruption experiences, satisfaction with public services, and confidence in government. The survey has been carried out approximately every three years since 2010. We use national averages of selected questions from the survey underlying the index as components of Voice and Accountability, Government Effectiveness, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption for 2010-2020. More information on this data source is available [here](#).

This year the WGI includes data from the **Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRM)** as a new data source. This dataset is produced by Motu Economic and Public Policy Research in New Zealand. It is an expert assessment measuring the extent to which a variety of civil liberties and political rights are respected in practice. This data source is annual starting in 2017, and currently covers 39 countries. We use data from this source as components of Voice and Accountability, and Political Stability/Absence of Violence for 2017-2020. More information on this data source is available [here](#).

The WGI have included the **Media Sustainability Index (MSI)** produced by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), a US-based NGO, as a component of Voice and Accountability since 2000. The 2019 update of MSI (referring to 2018) was the final update of MSI, which has been discontinued by IREX. In the 2020 update of the WGI we did not include any data from this source. However, in 2021 IREX has published a new indicator, the Vibrant Information Barometer (VIBE), that it plans to update regularly. Component 2 of VIBE, “Multiple Channels: How Information Flows” is conceptually similar to the original MSI. We use this new indicator as a continuation of MSI for 2020 (and we continue to refer to this data source as MSI in our documentation). In addition, we have carried forward the 2018 MSI data for 2019 to eliminate the gap in coverage between these two indicators.

**Dropped Data Sources**

The WGI have included the **Institutional Profiles Database (IPD)** since 2006 as a component of all six aggregate WGI measures. The last update of this data source was in 2017 with data for 2016, which was used in the WGI for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. As of August 2021, it is unclear whether there will be any updates of this data source. For this reason, this source has been dropped from the WGI starting in 2020 (but the data remains part of the WGI for 2006 through 2019).
Revisions to Data From Previous Years

1. We have made two changes to the data for the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) which serves as a component for Control of Corruption.
   - First, we have corrected the GCB data for 2019 and 2018 to report the average responses to the bribery experience questions only for those respondents who reported contact with the relevant agency, in order to make the data for these years consistent with previous years. This introduces minor changes to Control of Corruption for 2018 and 2019.
   - Second, we have exceptionally carried forward data from the 2016 round of the Global Corruption Barometer (covering primarily countries in Europe and Asia) through 2019. While ordinarily in the WGI we carry forward data from at most two previous years if current year data are not available, in this case we carried forward the data one additional year to eliminate the break in coverage for these countries. This results in data in 2019 for 118 countries (as opposed to 56 countries in last year’s dataset), and introduces minor changes to Control of Corruption for 2019.

2. We have made the following revisions to the data from the World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (PIA) data:
   - PIA data were produced annually for all World Bank client countries through 2014. Starting in 2015, the frequency of this data source fell to every two, and then every three years, for countries not eligible for concessional lending (data for these countries is included in the calculation of the aggregate WGI measures, but is not disclosed separately as this data is not publicly available). Because of these changes in frequency, not every country has been covered every three years since 2015. This introduced some gaps in the coverage, since the normal practice in the WGI is to include data from up to two previous years if current year data is unavailable. To reduce these gaps in coverage, for the years 2017 to 2020, we now include data from up to three previous years if current year data is not available. This has minor effects on Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption in 2017, 2018, and 2019.
   - We have corrected a minor error in the data for Serbia in 2017 for Government Effectiveness, which was due to an error in merging the data from this source into the WGI database. This affects Government Effectiveness for 2017.

3. At the time of the 2020 WGI update, data from the Political Terror Scale (HUM) was only available through 2018, and so we used the 2018 data for 2018 and 2019. At the time of the 2021 WGI update, data from this source for 2019 is available. We use this data for 2019, and also carry it forward for 2020. This revision affects only the Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism indicator for 2019.

Because of these revisions to data from previous years, this update of the entire WGI dataset supersedes previous versions for all years – as is the case with each annual update of the WGI. These data revisions have on minor effects on the aggregate indicators for the affected indicators and years.
For reference, previous years’ versions of the full WGI dataset can be downloaded at www.govindicators.org (Documentation tab, section on WGI data sources).

The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) are a research dataset summarizing the views on the quality of governance provided by a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries. These data are gathered from a number of survey institutes, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and private sector firms. The WGI do not reflect the official views of the World Bank, its Executive Directors, or the countries they represent. The WGI are not used by the World Bank Group to allocate resources. For questions about the 2021 WGI Update, please contact Aart Kraay (akraay@worldbank.org).