



BACKGROUND NOTE: CIVICUS ENABLING ENVIRONMENT INDEX (EEI)

September 2013

About the Enabling Environment Index (EEI)

The EEI measures conditions that affect the capacity of citizens (whether individually or collectively) to participate and engage in civil society. CIVICUS includes non-organised forms of civil society as well as civil society organisations in the EEI. The EEI uses the capability approach, which emphasises the underlying conditions that make individuals ‘capable’ of fulfilling their own goals. Therefore, the EEI does not only measure the governance and policy factors that directly affect civil society, but it also looks at the socio-economic and socio-cultural conditions.

Why it’s useful

The Enabling Environment Index is the first index that attempts to measure the long-term conditions that affect the potential of citizens to participate in civil society. We hope that the EEI will be used as a tool that will generate debate on the space for civil society and raise awareness about the importance of enabling conditions for civil society.

Where the data comes from

The EEI is made up of 71 secondary statistical data sources. Over 70% of the sources are from the years 2010 and 2011. All the data in the socio-economic and governance dimensions are from 2010 onwards. Data from 2005 to 2011 are used in the socio-cultural dimension because social-cultural trends tend to evolve slowly over time.

How countries are selected for inclusion

The EEI covers 109 countries. The number of countries included in the EEI is determined by data availability. Only countries that have scores in at least 14 out of 17 sub-dimensions have been included in the ranking.

How the EEI is calculated

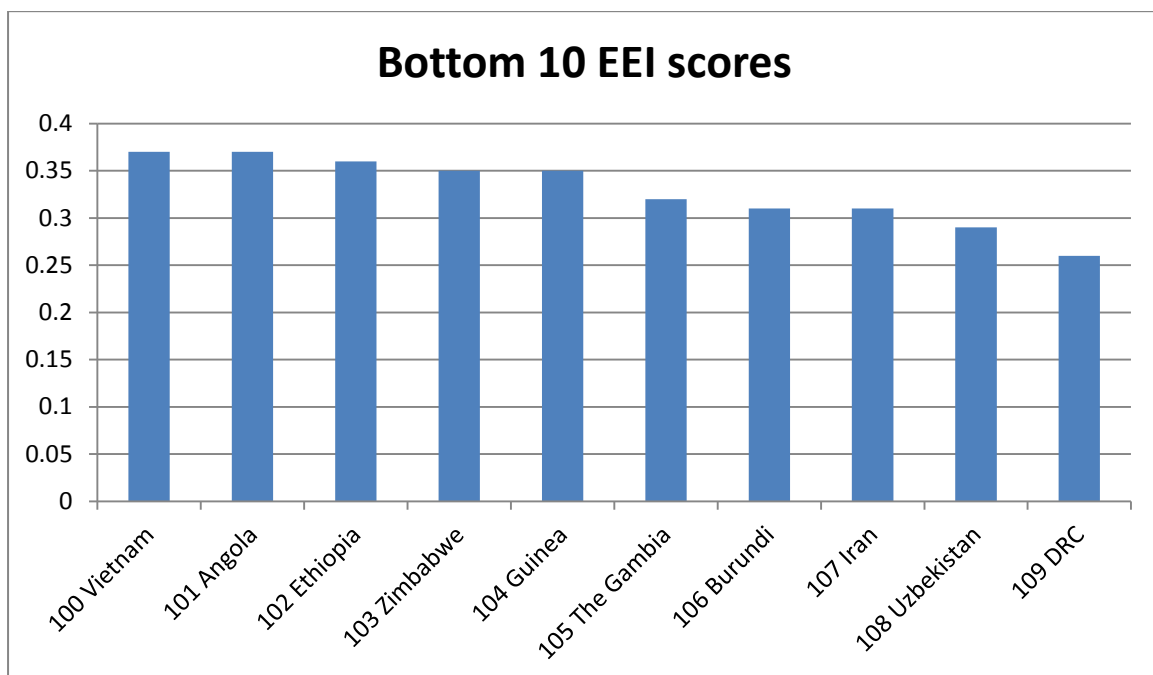
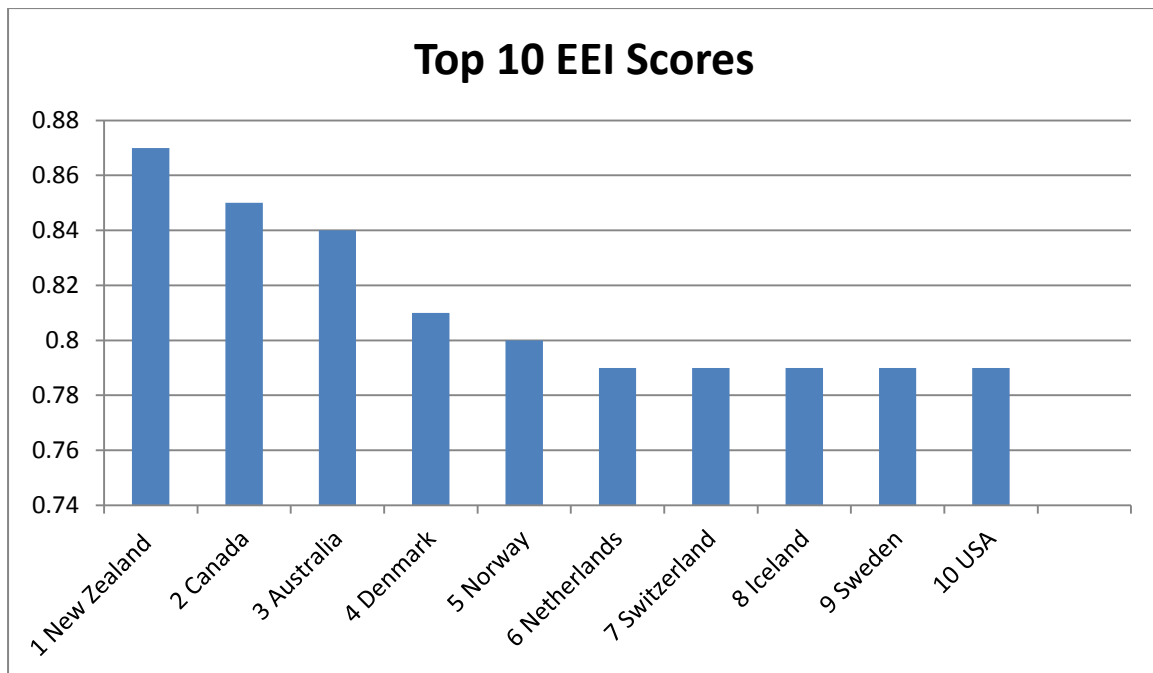
The EEI is a global composite index developed using secondary data that seeks to understand the propensity of citizens to participate in civil society. The 71 data points are clustered into 53 indicators. The indicators that are part of the EEI have different units and scales. In order to be incorporated into the EEI, they are re-weighted on a

scale of 0-1, with 0 being least enabling and 1 being most enabling. These 53 indicators are clustered into 17 sub-dimensions, which are then averaged and sorted into 3 dimensions. The governance dimension is 50% of the final EEI score, while the socio-economic and the socio-cultural dimensions are each 25% of the EEI score.

EEI limitations

A key limitation of the EEI is that there is a lack of statistical data on the legal environment for civil society. One lesson we have learned in the course of developing the EEI is the need for gathering in-depth primary data at the country level. CIVICUS acknowledges that there is a significant shortage of research and reporting on civil society and its environment that, on the one hand, is detailed enough to monitor country-specific events and changes in a systematic manner and that, on the other hand, is comprehensive enough to highlight emerging global trends. CIVICUS will be working with partners over the coming years to build such a comparative knowledge base, drawing on a variety of methods that have been used to assess civil society.

THE DATA



FULL EEI RANKING

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
1	New Zealand	0.87	35	Trinidad and Tobago	0.64
2	Canada	0.85	36	Italy	0.63
3	Australia	0.84	37	Argentina	0.61
4	Denmark	0.81	38	Bulgaria	0.61
5	Norway	0.80	39	Croatia	0.60
6	Netherlands	0.79	40	South Africa	0.59
7	Switzerland	0.79	41	Romania	0.59
8	Iceland	0.79	42	Brazil	0.59
9	Sweden	0.79	43	Botswana	0.58
10	United States of America	0.79	44	Panama	0.57
11	Finland	0.78	45	Peru	0.57
12	Ireland	0.76	46	Ukraine	0.56
13	Luxembourg	0.76	47	El Salvador	0.56
14	Austria	0.76	48	Ghana	0.56
15	United Kingdom	0.75	49	Montenegro	0.55
16	Belgium	0.75	50	Macedonia	0.55
17	Estonia	0.73	51	Mexico	0.55
18	Uruguay	0.73	52	Albania	0.55
19	France	0.72	53	Guatemala	0.54
20	Cyprus	0.71	54	Serbia	0.54
21	Chile	0.71	55	Namibia	0.53
22	Spain	0.70	56	Colombia	0.52
23	South Korea	0.70	57	Bolivia	0.52

24	Malta	0.70	58	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.52
25	Germany	0.70	59	Indonesia	0.52
26	Slovenia	0.69	60	Kosovo	0.52
27	Hungary	0.69	61	Moldova	0.52
28	Czech Republic	0.69	62	Mali	0.51
29	Poland	0.68	63	Dominican Republic	0.51
30	Portugal	0.68	64	Burkina Faso	0.50
31	Costa Rica	0.66	65	Thailand	0.50
32	Latvia	0.65	66	Georgia	0.50
33	Lithuania	0.65			
34	Slovakia	0.65			
67	India	0.50	93	Belarus	0.41
68	Malaysia	0.50	94	Egypt	0.40
69	Benin	0.49	95	Gabon	0.40
70	Ecuador	0.48	96	Iraq	0.40
71	Tanzania	0.47	97	Madagascar	0.39
72	Turkey	0.47	98	Nigeria	0.38
73	Armenia	0.47	99	Tajikistan	0.38
74	Malawi	0.46	100	Vietnam	0.37
75	Russia	0.45	101	Angola	0.37
77	Honduras	0.45	102	Ethiopia	0.36
78	Nicaragua	0.44	103	Zimbabwe	0.35
79	Kazakhstan	0.43	104	Guinea	0.35
80	Kyrgyzstan	0.43	105	The Gambia	0.32
81	Venezuela	0.43	106	Burundi	0.31

82	Senegal	0.43	107	Iran	0.31
83	Azerbaijan	0.43	108	Uzbekistan	0.29
84	Kenya	0.43	109	Democratic Republic of Congo	0.26
85	Mozambique	0.43			
86	Rwanda	0.42			
87	Uganda	0.42			
88	Liberia	0.41			
89	China	0.41			
90	Morocco	0.41			
91	Jordan	0.41			
92	Sierra Leone	0.41			

A FEW NOTABLE FINDINGS

Europe

- The European country with the highest score in this dimension is Denmark (0.56), which is ranked 27th out of 109 countries.
- The sub-average countries in Europe are Macedonia, Montenegro, Georgia and Kosovo whose low results can be attributed to a failure to tackle gender inequality. The lowest ranking European country is Kosovo (0.51).
- Germany only ranks 25th - lower than Cyprus and Spain, two of the bailout countries.

The Americas

- Five of the countries that are ranked in the top ten in the socio-cultural dimension are from the Americas (Canada, United States of America, Colombia, Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago).
- Due to limited trust in people and infrequent giving and volunteering, Ecuador (0.44) has the lowest socio-cultural score in the Americas.
- The country with the least enabling governance conditions in the region is Venezuela (0.38), which ranks 88 out of 109 countries globally.

Asia-Pacific

- The Asia-Pacific region has the lowest regional average for governance, which at 0.43 is only slightly lower than the African average.
- New Zealand is the only country that is consistently in the top 5 countries in all three dimensions.
- India (0.32) is the country which is considered to have the worst socio-economic conditions for civil society in the region.

Africa

- Burkina Faso, ranked 9th out of 109 countries globally, is the nation with the best socio-cultural environment for civil society on the African continent.
- Donor darling Ethiopia ranks very poorly and is 102 out of 109 countries with an overall score of 0.36. Their governance score is very low at 0.25.

Regional Trends

- Europe scores relatively low in terms of trust, solidarity and participation trends, while their governance scores are on average quite good.
- Post-soviet states score particularly low in the socio-cultural dimension, where the Americas score much better in this dimension.

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)

South Africa and Brazil have similar scores and trends, and score overall best in the BRICS group. Their governance dimension is higher than the global and regional average, but they score low in the socio-economic dimension (equality, gender equality, education and communication).

China is the country within the BRICS with the least enabling environment. While they score better than the other BRICS in the area of socio-cultural dimension (tolerance, trust, participation trends), they have a very low score on the governance dimension (0.20) as does Russia (0.34).

For a copy of the full report and supporting documentation please visit the [CIVICUS website](#) (available from 10h00 GMT, Sunday 22 Sept) or for more information email the co-author ciana-marie.pegus@civicus.org