

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

Contextual Factors

This section 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 2014 and 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. GDP data are from OECD National Accounts Statistics. Population data are from OECD Population Statistics except for Colombia and Latvia (data from National Statistical Offices, June 2015).

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 1994 and 31 December 2014. 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 (or regarding only part of the Constitution).

Table 1. Australia

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	23524
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1089.0
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	8
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	565
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 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	20
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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

Table 2. Austria

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	8503.0
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	389.1
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	9
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	2102
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 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	13
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	13
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	5 to 6
Size - number of seats	61
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 3. Belgium

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	11283.7
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	477.8
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	3
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	10
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	7
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	14
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	14
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size - number of seats	4
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 4. Canada

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	35711.7
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1575.1
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	Not applicable
Provincial	13
Local	3643
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	0
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	3
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	39
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	30
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
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)	4
Size - number of seats	308
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

Table 5. Chile¹

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	17711.0
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	399.9
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	15
Provincial	54
Local	345
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	6
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	21
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	22
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

1. 345 municipalities and 346 communes since the municipality of Cabo de Hornos is administrated by the communes of Cabo de Hornos and Antártica.

Table 6. Czech Republic

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	10526.9
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	315.2
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	14
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	6253
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	11
Number of coalition governments	10
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	11
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	14
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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 7. Denmark

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	5524.5
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	251.9
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	10
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	3
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	19
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	19
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 8. Estonia

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	1315.8
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	35.4
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	15
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	213
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	12
Number of coalition governments	12
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	9
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	13
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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	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 9. Finland¹

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	5465.0
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	219.5
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	19
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	317
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)	12
Governments at the central level between 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	16
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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

1. Data on ministers and ministries refers to figures previous to June 2015.

Table 10. France

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	64062.3
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	2514.7
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	27
Provincial	101
Local	36681
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	15
Number of coalition governments	8
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	11
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	16
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	16
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	6
Size - number of seats	348
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

Table 11. Germany

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	80920
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	3641.6
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	16
Provincial	295
Local	11116
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 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	15
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	15
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not elected
Size - number of seats	69
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi-Member - Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size - number of seats	631
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table 12. Greece

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	11380.9
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	288.3
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	13
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	325
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	2
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	7
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	13
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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 - Semi-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 13. Hungary

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	9843.0
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	244.9
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	20
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	3194
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	8
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	7
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	9
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	9
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 - Majoritarian
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size - number of seats	199
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table 14. Iceland

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	325.0
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	14.5
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	8
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	74
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 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	7
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	9
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 15. Ireland

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	4609.6
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	225.7
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	Not applicable
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	31
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	7
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	15
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	16
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

Table 16. Israel

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	8186.2
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	273.9
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	6
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	251
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	10
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	7
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	24
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	24
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 17. Italy¹

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	61417.6
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	2144.9
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	20
Provincial	110
Local	8047
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	14
Number of coalition governments	14
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	12
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	16
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	16
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size - number of seats	322
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

1. The provincial tier of government is no longer elected. Italy has 110 provinces and 10 Metropolitan Cities.

Table 18. Japan

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	126948.8
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	4686.3
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	47
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	1719
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	19
Number of coalition governments	19
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	14
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	18
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	11
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	475
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table 19. Korea

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	50424.0
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1742.0
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	Not applicable
Provincial	17
Local	227
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)	5
Governments at the central level between 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	16
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	16
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	300
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table 20. Luxembourg

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	496.5
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	51.8
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	3
Provincial	12
Local	105
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	8
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	3
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	27
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	20
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 21. Mexico

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	119713.2
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	2065.3
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	32
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	2445
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 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	17
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	17
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 22. Netherlands

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	16918.5
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	795.2
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	Not applicable
Provincial	12
Local	393
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	9
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	4
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	13
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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 23. New Zealand

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	4388.1
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	164.6
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	16
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 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	20
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	27
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 24. Norway

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	4874.8
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	344.9
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	19
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	428
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	4
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	7
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	17
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	17
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 25. Poland

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	38037.1
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	952.9
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	16
Provincial	314
Local	2478
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	12
Number of coalition governments	12
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	10
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	17
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	17
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 26. Portugal

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	10741.0
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	295.8
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	21
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	3
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	6
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	12
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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	230
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review

Table 27. Slovak Republic

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	5416.0
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	149.5
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	8
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	2890
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	8
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	7
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	13
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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 28. Slovenia

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	2096.1
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	62.1
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	Not applicable
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	212
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	11
Number of coalition governments	11
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	10
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	16
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	16
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No directly elected
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
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 29. Spain¹

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	45943.3
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1579.1
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	See note
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	19
Provincial	50
Local	8122
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	0
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	4
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	12
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	12
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size - number of seats	257
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 30. Sweden

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	9699
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	445.0
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	21
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	3
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	5
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	23
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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	349
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

Table 31. Switzerland

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	8074.9
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	476.1
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	26
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	2324
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 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	7
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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 32. Turkey

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	76902.9
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	1483.6
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	Not applicable
Provincial	81
Local	957
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	13
Number of coalition governments	6
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	8
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	22
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	22
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 33. United Kingdom¹

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	64090.6
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	2552.2
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	4
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	433
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	1
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	4
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	24
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	120
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	Not elected
Size - number of seats	779
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Single - first Past the Post
Frequency of elections (in years)	5
Size - number of seats	650
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review

1. Data on ministers and ministries refers to figures previous to 7th May 2015 elections

Table 34. United States¹

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	318892.1
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	17419.0
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	56
Provincial	3031
Local	35879
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 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	3
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	15
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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. United States consists of 50 states, 1 Federal District and 5 territories: Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Marian Island, American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands.

Table 35. Colombia

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	47661.8
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	598.2
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	Not applicable
Provincial	33
Local	1101
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 1994 and 2014	
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 (2015)	16
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	16
Upper House (central government)	
Existence	Yes
Membership based on regional considerations?	No
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size - number of seats	102
Lower House (central government)	
Electoral system	Multi member - Proportional
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size - number of seats	166
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review

Table 36. Latvia

Population 2014 (inhabitants in thousands)	1987.2
GDP in 2014 (PPP in USD billion at current prices)	46.9
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Number of tiers of government	
State/regional	26
Provincial	Not applicable
Local	119
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)	8
Governments at the central level between 1994 and 2014	
Total number of governments	18
Number of coalition governments	13
Number of executives serving non-consecutive terms	18
Number of Ministers at the central level of government (2015)	13
Number of Ministries or Departments at the central level of government (2015)	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	100
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review