

INDICATOR FRAMEWORK ON CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY

Investigating the link between culture
and a democratic, open and trusting society



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The Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy

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The hypothetical link made in recent years between a strong, well-functioning democracy and an abundance of cultural opportunities for citizens can now, for the first time, be tried and tested with a novel, comparative dataset. Observations once consigned to theory or too difficult to test now have a statistical basis.

When citizens have easy access to a wide range of cultural activities, and when participation in these activities is high, societies are likely to be open, trusting and politically engaged, providing citizens with a greater level of life satisfaction.

37 European countries, 17 components, 41 indicators

Over 170 variables covering a wide range of concerns in 37 European countries are summarised by 17 components and 41 indicators which enable policy makers and other interested parties to examine their country's position in terms of culture and democracy and thereby identify opportunities for policy intervention.

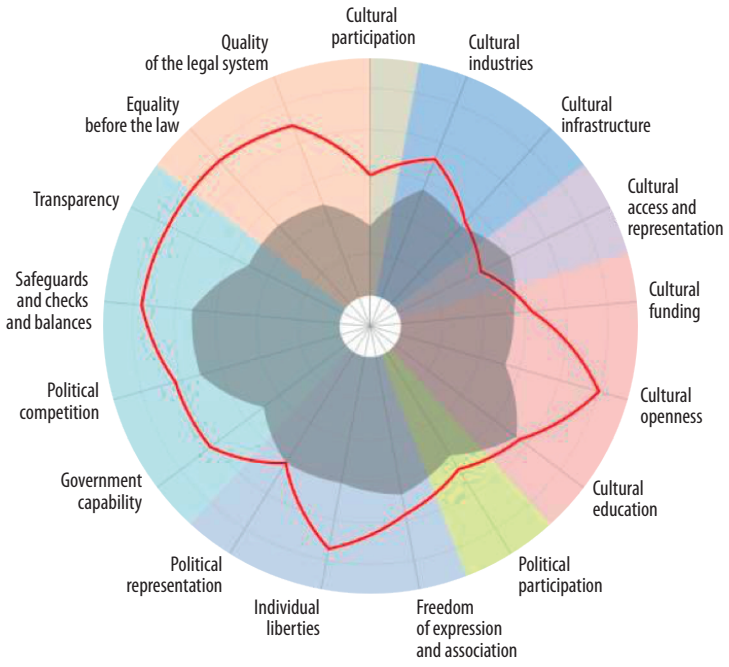
The Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy

The Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy (IFCD) has been developed by the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the Hertie School of Governance (Germany) and the European Cultural Foundation and member states. It will be publicly available from 2017.

Online interactive data explorer

An online interactive data explorer enables users to explore IFCD data, test theories on the relationship between democratic and cultural components, examine specific countries' relative performance and discover opportunities for improvement within them. A collection of visual aids allows users to interactively select items of interest and examine relationships between the data in the IFCD.

The radar plot



DIMENSIONS							
 Culture: Civic	 Culture: Economic	 Culture: Freedom and equality	 Culture: Policy	 Democracy: Civic	 Democracy: Freedom and equality	 Democracy: Policy	 Democracy: Rule of law

A radar plot provides a quick assessment of a country’s overall performance across the different dimensions of culture and democracy. The easy-to-read, interactive interface enables users to contrast a country’s performance in terms of a diverse set of components with other peer countries.

The opportunity table

Choose a component

Individual Liberties ▼



■ An opportunity table shows the cultural components that might be the most appropriate targets for policy intervention. The opportunity scores combine information on the relevance of components and indicators with a country's performance in terms of a selected democratic component. In the above example, individual liberties has been selected as the reference component (top left). Performance is low in cultural participation (first column), a component that is relevant (second column) for individual liberties (the selected component). This suggests a potential opportunity for policy action (third column) that could improve cultural participation, and thereby possibly improve individual liberties. Other components marked by a low country performance that are less relevant for individual liberties, such as cultural infrastructure, receive a lower opportunity score.

Downloadable dataset

■ The data is available in various formats (including CSV, XLSX, and DTA) for direct download and further exploration or combination with other data offline.

Guidebook

■ A guidebook helps policy makers and researchers understand what can (and cannot) be tested and explored using the IFCD. It describes the framework's purpose and concepts and provides detailed information on the indicators and data sources. It also provides concrete examples of a variety of policy-relevant analyses.

IFCD project impacts to date

- ▶ The IFCD's findings on the vibrancy of cultural participation in Council of Europe member states were quoted in the Secretary General's latest annual report entitled *State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe*, published in May 2016.
- ▶ The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe referred to the IFCD's insights in a report entitled "Culture and democracy" (Doc. 14070), which highlighted the framework's importance as a tool for measuring cultural vitality and promoting political commitment and investments in the cultural sphere.
- ▶ A first thematic report for the Council of Europe on cultural participation and building trust in society is being prepared using IFCD findings, among others, for publication by the end of 2016.

IFCD launch conference in Brussels

With the support of the European Union, the Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy will be launched in Brussels on 14 October 2016. Senior cultural policy makers from member states, parliamentarians, leading European cultural policy researchers and representatives from interested international bodies will attend this event. They will discuss plans for the IFCD's future application, in line with the Council of Europe's priorities for democratic participation and building inclusive societies.

Project partners

- ▶ Council of Europe
- ▶ European Cultural Foundation
- ▶ Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
- ▶ Member states

Further information:

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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