

ANNEX E

Contextual Factors

This annex provides data on several 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 2007.

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 term limits for presidents or prime ministers, 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 and is current as of 31 December 2008. Population data are from OECD Population Statistics and GDP data are from OECD National Account Statistics.

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. Data on the frequency of coalition governments cover the period between 1 January 1988 and 31 December 2008, except for the Czech Republic (1992), Hungary (1990), Poland (1991) and the Slovak Republic (1993).

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). These data are only applicable for countries that have a parliamentary or dual executive system.

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 in the cabinet. 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 usually 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.

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-central 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.

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.

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.

Australia

Lower House	
Electoral system	Single – Preferential
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	3
Size – number of seats	150
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	76
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	4
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	20
Number of departments or ministries	19
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	21.1
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	794.6

Austria

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	183
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	62
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	9
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Chancellor
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	12
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	13
Number of departments or ministries	14
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Federal
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	8.3
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	308.6

1. Upper House is appointed every 5 years.

Belgium

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	150
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	71
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	8
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	15
Number of departments or ministries	15
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Federal
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	10.6
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	375.8

Canada

Lower House	
Electoral system	Single – First Past the Post
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	308
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Non Elected
Size – number of seats	105
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	0
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	27
Number of departments or ministries	25
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	32.9
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	1 269.6

Czech Republic

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	200
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	81
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	6
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	10
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	18
Number of departments or ministries	17
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	10.3
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	248.0

Denmark

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	179
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	9
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	19
Number of departments or ministries	18
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	5.5
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	196.3

Finland

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	200
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	7
System of executive power	Dual executive
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	12
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	20
Number of departments or ministries	12
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	5.3
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	183.5

France

Lower House	
Electoral system	Single – Two Rounds
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	577
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	343
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	3
System of executive power	Dual executive
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	10
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	17
Number of departments or ministries	16
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	61.9
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	2 080.6

1. The number of coalition governments represents periods of cohabitation. The number of governments represents the number of prime ministers.

Germany

Bundestag	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Semi-Proportional Representation
Frequency of elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	614
Bundesrat	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of elections (in years)	Non Elected
Size – number of seats	69
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	6
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Chancellor
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	10
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	16
Number of departments or ministries	14
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Federal
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	82.3
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	2 829.1

1. The German legislature is composed of the Bundestag and the Bundesrat. Members of the Bundesrat are members of state governments and are indirectly chosen by the electorate through state elections.

Greece

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	300
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	10
Number of coalition governments	1
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	10
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	16
Number of departments or ministries	16
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	11.2
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	318.1

Hungary

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Semi-Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	386
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	7
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	10
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	16
Number of departments or ministries	13
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	10.1
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	189.0

Iceland

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	63
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	9
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	No term limit
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	12
Number of departments or ministries	12
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	0.3
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	11.3

Ireland

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	166
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	60
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	9
Number of coalition governments	8
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	14
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	15
Number of departments or ministries	15
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	4.3
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	196.2

- Members of the Upper House are elected indirectly by universities and panels composed of members of the Lower House and elected county officials.

Italy

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Semi-Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	630
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	315
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	15
Number of coalition governments	14
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	No term limit
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	21
Number of departments or ministries	21
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	58.9
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	1 813.2

Japan

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Semi-Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	480
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	242
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	20
Number of coalition governments	15
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	18
Number of departments or ministries	11
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	127.8
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	4 293.5

Korea

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Semi-Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	299
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
System of executive power	Presidential
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	5
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	16
Number of departments or ministries	15
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	48.5
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	1 300.2

Luxembourg

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	60
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	6
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	15
Number of departments or ministries	19
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	0.5
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	38.4

Mexico

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Semi-Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	3
Size – number of seats	500
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	128
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	5
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
System of executive power	Presidential
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	President
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	6
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	19
Number of departments or ministries	18
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	105.8
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	1 479.9

Netherlands

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	150
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	75
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	8
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	18
Number of departments or ministries	14
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	16.4
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	642.4

A corrigendum has been issued for this page. See: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/28/44251675.pdf>

New Zealand

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Semi-Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	3
Size – number of seats	120
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	11
Number of coalition governments	5
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	20
Number of departments or ministries	35
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	4.2
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	114.7

Norway

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	169
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	4
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	19
Number of departments or ministries	18
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	4.7
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	251.7

Poland

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	460
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	100
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	14
Number of coalition governments	12
System of executive power	Dual executive
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	10
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	18
Number of departments or ministries	17
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	38.1
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	613.3

Portugal

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	230
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	2
System of executive power	Dual executive
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	10
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	19
Number of departments or ministries	16
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	10.6
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	242.1

A corrigendum has been issued for this page. See: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/28/44251675.pdf>

Slovak Republic

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	150
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	6
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	10
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	16
Number of departments or ministries	15
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	5.4
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	108.4

Spain

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	350
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	264
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	1
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	President of Government (Prime Minister equivalent)
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	18
Number of departments or ministries	16
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	44.9
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	1 417.4

A corrigendum has been issued for this page. See: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/28/44251675.pdf>

Sweden

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	349
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	8
Number of coalition governments	2
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	22
Number of departments or ministries	13
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	9.1
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	335.1

Switzerland

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Semi-Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	200
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	46
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	Not applicable
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	President
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	1
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	7
Number of departments or ministries	7
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	7.6
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	314.0

1. An agreement dictates the composition of the government, which is always a coalition of four parties. The head of this Swiss government, called the President, is elected annually by the legislature but is not a member of Parliament.

Turkey

Lower House	
Electoral system	Multi Member – Proportional Representation
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	4
Size – number of seats	550
Upper House	
Existence	No
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Not applicable
Size – number of seats	Not applicable
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	15
Number of coalition governments	7
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	10
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	25
Number of departments or ministries	17
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	70.6
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	960.3

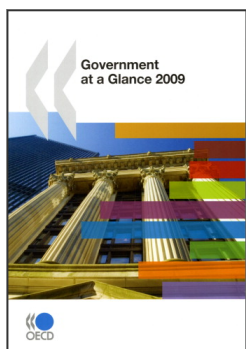
United Kingdom

Lower House	
Electoral system	Single – First Past the Post
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	5
Size – number of seats	646
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	Non Elected
Size – number of seats	618
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	7
Number of coalition governments	0
System of executive power	Parliamentary
Head of the state	Monarch
Head of the government	Prime Minister
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	No
Term limit	Not applicable
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	23
Number of departments or ministries	26
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	No judicial review
Member of the EU	Yes
State structure	Unitary
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	61.0
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	2 167.3

A corrigendum has been issued for this page. See: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/28/44251675.pdf>

United States

Lower House	
Electoral system	Single – First Past the Post
Frequency of Lower House elections (in years)	2
Size – number of seats	435
Upper House	
Existence	Yes
Frequency of Upper House elections (in years)	6
Size – number of seats	100
Frequency of coalition governments at the central level between 1988 and 2008	
Total number of governments	6
Number of coalition governments	Not applicable
System of executive power	Presidential
Head of the state	President
Head of the government	President
Existence of term limits for presidents	
Is there a President?	Yes
Term limit	8
Number of ministers and departments or ministries at the central level of government (2008)	
Number of ministers	16
Number of departments or ministries	15
Existence of system of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and actions	Limited judicial review
Member of the EU	No
State structure	Federal
Population mid-2007 estimate (in millions)	301.3
GDP in 2007 (purchasing power parity in USD billions at current prices)	13 741.6



From:
Government at a Glance 2009

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264075061-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2009), "Contextual Factors", in *Government at a Glance 2009*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264061651-40-en>

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