

Contribution to Beyond GDP „Virtual Indicator Expo“

<http://www.beyond-gdp.eu>

Name of the indicator/method: **National Integrity Systems (NIS) Scoring System**

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What is the NIS scoring system?

The NIS scoring system is a new tool that is being developed by Transparency International. The NIS scoring system will provide a quick summary look at the strengths and weaknesses in a country and will facilitate comparisons within a country over time. It will not produce a ranking of countries, nor will it replace the NIS narrative Country Studies; instead, it will provide complementary information that, in conjunction with the narratives, will be an even more effective tool for advocacy and awareness raising.

Why create an NIS scoring system?

Since TI began producing NIS Country Studies in 2001, the TI Secretariat and many chapters have considered developing an NIS scoring system of some kind. While the current NIS Country Studies provide important benchmarks for the success of anti-corruption efforts, they offer only narrative analysis that can be specialised and cumbersome to absorb. Scores that rate the different NIS pillars in a country will provide clear, understandable information that will improve the use of narrative NIS studies.

Other organisations already produce quantitative indicators on governance at the country level. Examples include the World Bank governance indicators, Global Integrity's integrity indicators and Freedom House's Countries at the Crossroads. However, TI's network of National Chapters and our focus on anti-corruption gives us a unique niche in this field. We have the opportunity to produce a scoring system that is generated by and for the countries under consideration, focused on the aspects of a governance system that make it most vulnerable to corruption.

In addition, TI will be responding to the interest among donors in governance assessments. NIS studies are already used by donors in their development work, but countries such as Britain and the Netherlands have recently been commissioning their own governance assessments to meet their own needs. Moreover, donors are increasingly interested in quantitative assessments that enable

comparative work and help target reform programmes. In order to stay relevant in this changing landscape, TI needs to capitalise on our knowledge and experience to produce a useful tool that brings our important perspective to the governance debate.

Process for Development

The process for development of the NIS scoring system began in 2006 with consultation across the TI movement. Responses confirmed that Chapters have interest in such a tool, but that the scoring system should be limited to comparisons within a region and avoid a new international ranking. Chapters also stressed that the scores should not be divorced from the narrative reports; the scores and the reports should complement each other.

Building on this baseline, TI-S is working with National Chapters, external experts and a scoring consultant to design a robust scoring methodology that also reflects the priorities and needs of the TI National Chapters. In the latest stage of the process, consultants from the Madagascar office of Pact – an NGO based in Washington DC committed to capacity building of local leaders and organisations – worked with TI to produce the initial draft of the scoring model. The draft will be reviewed by a methodology committee, bringing together scoring and issue experts.

The model will then be piloted in Guatemala and Panama. Subsequent modifications will be made before the scoring system is launched in 2008.

Overview of the Scoring Model

Those who implement the scoring system will use the same methods to obtain the data that are used to prepare traditional NIS Country Studies: a combination of desk research, individual consultation and focus groups. Experience has shown that the very process of doing research in this participatory way can generate the kind of communication and cooperation that in itself can improve the system under evaluation. This process will be enhanced by the introduction of the scoring system, which presents an added opportunity for engaging stakeholders.

The scoring model under development will have two components. First, a standard model will be developed, comprised of broad categories (a derivation of the NIS pillars) that can be applied in any country. Second, a unique country (or regional) model will contain the individual questions for gathering data in the country under examination. Detailed guidelines will help Chapters to develop their own country model according to their national situation. The researchers will assess the country model questions, which in turn will provide the data points necessary to calculate scores in the standard model. Quality control will be done at the TI-Secretariat.

Chapters will also have the option of going further than the guidelines proposed and adapting the country model in a number of different ways. Chapters can include different information and local data sources in their country model, as well as different questions or even new NIS pillars.

The data collected from each country will be stored in an electronic database that will be made public upon completion. This can be utilised to present the data in different ways, such as charts or graphs. It will also facilitate exchange of information.

For more information

For more information on the NIS scoring system, please contact Sarah Repucci at the TI Secretariat at srepubbi@transparency.org or +49 30 34 38 20 661.