



VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY

Organization and Management

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1 The Team

The V-Dem Institute is headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden but has a large team spanning the globe. A complex undertaking like V-Dem requires coordinating the work of many individuals, each contributing with unique skills and knowledge. The core team is listed below.

The Steering Committee (SC)

The committee was created in 2015 for the purposes of overall guidance and decision-making connecting the various “branches” of V-Dem: 1) the original V-Dem data collection effort mainly led by Principal Investigators (PIs) Michael Coppedge, John Gerring, and Staffan I. Lindberg; 2) Historical V-Dem led by PIs Jan Teorell and Carl Henrik Knutsen; 3) the experiment and vignettes part mainly funded by Lindberg’s Wallenberg Academy Fellowship and where V-Dem’s main methodologist Daniel Pemstein plays a key role; 4) and the consolidation of a coherent and permanent V-Dem research infrastructure for data collection, processing, dissemination and outreach with the Director of the V-Dem Institute, Staffan I. Lindberg, as well as Executive Officer Josefine Pernes. All the above-mentioned individuals are members of the SC. In addition, the V-Dem Project Managers with responsibilities for various thematic areas of the data collection, has a representative on the SC (currently: Svend Erik Skanning). A representative for the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Johannes Lindvall, is also a member of the committee.

Principal Investigators (PIs)

Michael Coppedge, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, Staffan I. Lindberg, and Jan Teorell constitute the V-Dem PI Board, the highest decision-making body. The PIs began their work in 2008.

Project Managers (PMs)

Along with the PIs, the Project Managers were instrumental in the development of survey questions and the preparation of the collection of data in specific substantive areas. Most of the Project Managers have been part of V-Dem since 2009. The diverse specialization of the team and the division of labor enabled us to define concepts, identify existing data sources, and create survey questions that reflect the wide-ranging work and accumulated knowledge on these topics. It also created a decentralized system of informal consultation among experts (academics and practitioners) in these areas. In addition, Project Managers are responsible for assuring cross-country equivalence for their indicators, so that a given question is not interpreted differently in varying country contexts.

The themes covered by the original set of Project Managers are:

- Direct Democracy (David Altman, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)
- Civil Liberty (Svend-Erik Skaaning, Aarhus University)
- Civil Society (Michael Bernhard, University of Florida)
- Elections (Staffan I. Lindberg, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg)
- Executives (Jan Teorell, Stockholm University)
- Formal and Descriptive Representation (Pamela Paxton, University of Texas, Austin)
- Judiciary (Jeffrey Staton, Emory University)
- Media (Michael Coppedge, University of Notre Dame)
- Legislatures (M. Steven Fish, UC Berkeley)
- Parties and Party Systems (Allen Hicken, University of Michigan)
- Political Equality (John Gerring, University of Texas, Austin)
- Sovereignty (Michael Bernhard, University of Florida)
- Subnational Government (Kelly McMann, Case Western University)

After the initial phase, V-Dem recruited additional Project Managers for:

- Causal Inference (Adam Glynn, Emory University)
- Forecasting (Richard Morgan, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg)
- Computational Infrastructure (Steven Wilson, Brandeis University)
- Experiments (Brigitte Zimmerman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
- Statistical Computing (Juraj Medzihorsky, Durham University)
- Measurement Methods (Daniel Pemstein, North Dakota State University & Kyle Marquardt, Higher School of Economics)

- Exclusion and State Capacity (Rachel Sigman, Postgraduate Naval School)
- Evolutionary Theory (Patrik Lindenfors, Institute for Future Studies & V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg)
- Civic and Academic Space (Katrín Kinzelbach, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Regional Managers are responsible for identifying potential Country Experts, and inspecting for problems of validity at regional level. Occasionally, Regional Managers manage only a single country, in which case they are referred to as Country Managers. The first Regional Managers were recruited in fall 2011.

Country Coordinators cross-checked A* data (see the *V-Dem Methodology document*) and coded type B data for their country in the first rounds of data collection. They mainly assist Regional Managers with identification of possible country experts.

Country Experts code type C indicators (see the *V-Dem Methodology document*). The experts are usually academics or professionals with specialist and evidenced knowledge in one or more domains. Approximately two-thirds are nationals or residents of the country they provide information on. Country Experts have been recruited on a rolling basis since the start of the pilot study in spring 2011 (see the *V-Dem Methodology document* for details about the protocol for recruitment of country experts).

An **International Advisory Board** provided guidance (the board is not responsible for the content or conduct of V-Dem) primarily in the early phase. The Board included a mix of academics, jurists, and practitioners from around the world.

2 The V-Dem Headquarters

The V-Dem Institute, hosted by the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden), is the headquarters of V-Dem. Professor Staffan I. Lindberg is the Institute's Director. The V-Dem Institute is the executive management arm of V-Dem with responsibility for most aspects of the data collection efforts, management and coordination of several large research programs, and for most of the outreach, dissemination, and collaborations with policy/practitioners' organizations. The Institute is actively engaged with partner organizations such as the World Bank, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, International IDEA, the European Commission, ministries of foreign affairs and aid organizations in several countries, UNDP, Article 19, Open Society Foundation, Our World in Data, and many universities around the world.

The V-Dem Institute also hosts the national research e-infrastructure Demscore, led by Professor Staffan I. Lindberg as Director and Josefine Pernes as Deputy Director and Executive Officer. Demscore integrates data from six data collection projects in Sweden, with core operations managed by Data Analyst and Program Manager Lisa Gastaldi and Data Engineer and Data Manager Melina Liethmann, both based at the V-Dem Institute.

One of the partnering institutions is the Regional Center in North America run by Professor Michael Coppedge and located at Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame (USA). In the early years of Varieties of Democracy, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame was one of the two founding institutional homes for the project. The Kellogg Institute was instrumental in building and establishing V-Dem. It was initially responsible for data collection in the Western Hemisphere, hosted workshops, and funded many students who worked on the project, as well as one of the Project Coordinators. In addition, the Center for Research Computing at Notre Dame developed the early versions of the research database and web interfaces used from 2011 to fall 2014. As the project grew, the V-Dem Institute at University of Gothenburg progressively assumed responsibility for these functions and became, in effect, the headquarters for the project. Recognizing the shifting roles, in 2018 the Kellogg Institute formalized its current role as the V-Dem Regional Center in North America, which supports research projects using V-Dem data and hosts speakers and occasional conferences and workshops.

In addition to Prof. Lindberg, the following core team is based at the V-Dem Institute:

- *Administration and Finance Officer* Susanna Burmeister administers the country expert data collection, conducts financial administration, and organizes conferences and the visiting scholar program.
- *V-Dem Data Manager and Data Engineer* Linnea Fox is responsible for maintaining and developing the V-Dem infrastructures, and the construction of the annual V-Dem dataset.
- *Demscore Data Analyst and Program Manager* Lisa Gastaldi is responsible for program planning, coordination, funding applications, and outreach activities such as website development and conferences, for Demscore. She also contributes to research and policy outreach at the Institute.
- *Research and Data Analyst* Ana Good God is working with A and A* data and is part of the research and policy programs, as well as other tasks.
- *Data Collection Coordinator* Sandra Grahn is responsible for the yearly project of collecting A and A* data, including planning, coordination, execution, and quality control.
- *Communications Officer* Sara Haug Andersson manages V-Dem's outreach, including the website, social media, newsletters, press, conferences, and other events.
- *Demscore Data Engineer and Data Manager* Melina Liethmann is responsible for the biannual data updates, and among other things, the data harmonization, processing, and developing the Demscore data pipeline.
- *Project Coordinator and Analyst* Natalia Natsika is co-responsible for the coordination, development, and execution of the annual V-Dem country expert data collection cycle. Natalia also works with policy-related activities and projects.
- *Research and Policy Analyst* Evie Papada works on policy related activities, networking and collaborations.
- *Executive Officer* Josefine Pernes coordinates all activities at the V-Dem Institute. She also has responsibility for the strategic, operational and financial planning at the Institute. Josefine is also the Deputy Director.
- *Program Manager* Maria Verkhovtseva is co-responsible for the coordination, development, and execution of the annual country expert data collection cycle.

Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, located at the University of Gothenburg, assist with various aspects of constructing the final measurement model, data validation, aggregation, policy-analysis, and training. The Institute has had almost 20 postdocs and research fellows over the years and most stay involved in various

capacities as project managers, research associates, or participating scholars. The current post-doctoral research fellows are:

- Fabio Angiolillo (PhD, University of Hong Kong) performs research centered on comparative politics, political institutions, authoritarian regimes, and political behaviour, combining quantitative methods, panel data, and natural experimental research designs. He co-organizes the Authoritarian Political Systems Group.
- Marina Nord (PhD, University of Governance in Berlin) works with research that lies at the intersection of international political economy and regime transformation, and primarily focuses on the economic underpinnings of autocratic regime (in)stability.

Over 20 postdocs have previously been at the institute for one to four years each, and some of them are now Project Managers while others often continue to participate in research affiliated with the Institute. The current research associates are:

- Abdalhadi Alijla (Co-Leader, Global Young Academy)
- Vanessa Boese-Schlosser (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, WZB Berlin Social Science Center)
- Amanda Edgell (Assistant Professor, University of Alabama)
- Sebastian Hellmeier (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, WZB Berlin Social Science Center)
- Jean Lachapelle (Assistant Professor, University of Montreal)
- Lars Lott (Postdoctoral Researcher, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg)
- Seraphine Maerz (Research Fellow, Goethe University Frankfurt)
- Valeriya Mechkova (Assistant Professor, University of Gothenburg)
- Juraj Medzihorsky (Assistant Professor, Durham University)
- Kelly Morrison (Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee)
- Yuko Sato (Assistant Professor, Waseda University)
- Eitan Tzelgov (Associate Professor, University of East Anglia)
- Yi-Ting Wang (Associate Professor, National Cheng Kung University)
- Felix Wiebrecht (Lecturer, University of Liverpool)
- Matthew Wilson (Associate Professor, University of South Carolina)

3 Historical V-Dem

The project Historical V-Dem extends the data back in time and is also adding a number of indicators. The project collects both type (A) and (C) data. The historical data extends the coding of almost 200 V-Dem indicators (including about 130 Country Expert coded indicators) from 1789 to 1900 supplementing the current V-Dem coverage. Further, the Historical V-Dem data adds a number of new indicators, mostly covering the years 1789-1920. Some of these indicators might be extended forward in time, to the present, for future iterations of the V-Dem dataset. The Historical data collection mainly took place between 2015 and 2020, but with an additional round of data collection for several countries in 2023. Almost 90 countries are covered.

Historical V-Dem is led from the two Centers for Historical V-Dem located at University of Oslo and Stockholm University. They are led by Prof. Carl Henrik Knutsen (Oslo) and Prof. Jan Teorell (Stockholm). In addition to the two Principal Investigators, Knutsen and Teorell, there are four Project Managers for Historical V-Dem: Dr. Agnes Cornell (Aarhus University), Prof. John Gerring (University of Texas at Austin), Prof. Svend-Erik Skaaning (Aarhus University), and Prof. Daniel Ziblatt (Harvard University).

Four researchers, all recruited at the University of Oslo during the initial round of Historical V-Dem coding, have also been part of the Historical V-Dem team:

- Haakon Gjerløw (as PhD Student), has been mainly responsible for following up with Historical Country Experts, constructing scripts/automated routines for streamlining tasks related to consistency checking and cleaning the data, alongside various other tasks.
- Tore Wig (as Post-doc, and later as Researcher), has been mainly responsible for validation of the expert data and subsequently following up with experts, and for instructing various RAs collecting data on particular indicators.
- Sirianne Dahlum (as Researcher), handled various automated and manual reliability and validity checks on the data.
- Luca J. Uberti (as Researcher), has been involved in working with the documentation of the data set, especially the codebook.

Several individuals, at different institutions, contributed to the coding of historical A variables or helped manage the data collection process. While not an exhaustive list (see the Codebook and website), Selemon Negash, Lee Cojocaru, Vlad Ciobanu, Vilde Lunnan Djuve, Swaantje Marten, Sune Orloff Hellegard Bernardo Isola, Cem Mert Dalli, and Katarina Sibbers have been instrumental in the data collection, Vilde Lunnan Djuve and Solveig Bjørkholt in the outreach and contact with experts, and Sindre Haugen in the management and cleaning of data.

4 Demscore

Demscore (acronym for "research infrastructure for Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social policy, Conflict, and Representation") brings together some of the world's leading research infrastructures and databases. The University of Gothenburg and V-Dem Institute hosts the consortium which also includes Stockholm-, Uppsala-, and Umeå universities. Together the consortium partners are building a world-leading hub for contextual data with free and user-friendly access to data, documentation, and online visualization tools.

Beyond providing access to high-quality contextual data, Demscore addresses the longstanding challenge of inconsistent and incompatible datasets in the social sciences. Through an innovative approach to open access and real-time customized data merging, Demscore ensures seamless integration between all member datasets. By applying principles of functional data engineering, it optimizes data merging processes and enhances usability, making it easier to analyze 25,000 original variables covering nearly all countries from the early 1700s to the present. This not only streamlines data collection, management, and distribution but also delivers significant time- and cost-saving benefits for researchers and the broader scientific community.

Demscore harmonizes data from its partnering research institutes, each specializing in different areas of the social sciences:

- **Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)**, University of Gothenburg.
The world's largest dataset on Democracy.
- **Quality of Government (QoG)**, University of Gothenburg.
QoG's award-winning datasets focus on concepts related to quality of government, transparency, and public administration.
- **Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP)/Violence Early-Warning System (VIEWS)**, Uppsala University.
UCDP is the world's main provider of data on organized violence and the oldest ongoing data collection project for civil war. VIEWS offers a novel integration of isolated causal factors into a theoretically and methodologically consistent forecasting system.
- **Comparative Policy Laboratory (COMPLAB)** Stockholm University and Uppsala University.
COMPLAB provides vital policy data across three different policy strands: environmental-, social-, and migration policy.
- **Representative Democracy (REPDEM)**, Umeå University.
REPDEM provides unique data on governments, parliaments, political parties, length of government formation periods, bargain rounds, as well as procedures and mechanism for intra-coalition governance.
- **Historical Data Archive (H-DATA)**, Stockholm University
Up until the end of 2024 H-DATA was also a Demscore module, and provided extensive country-level data dating back to before the French Revolution. Following the completion of the project at the end of 2024, H-DATA is no longer active, but its historical data remains accessible through Demscore.

The interdisciplinary nature of Demscore data enables large-scale comparative analyses necessary to advance adequate policy responses to complex societal challenges associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) facing Sweden, Europe, and the world. The joint infrastructure ensures data integrity and quality at the highest international standards. As a collaborative effort between leading Swedish universities, Demscore elevates the scale of social science data to a new level, offering unprecedented opportunities for interdisciplinary research and knowledge advancement.

Demscore is funded by the Swedish Research Council, University of Gothenburg, Stockholm University, Uppsala University and Umeå University.

To learn more about our Demscore, please visit: <https://www.demscore.se>

5 The V-Dem Infrastructure

Being the executive arm of V-Dem, the staff at the V-Dem Institute is responsible for many of the V-Dem data operations. Most importantly, the Institute hosts the data collection process and has over the last years built a complex, custom-designed research infrastructure. For more details, please see the V-Dem Methodology document. The research infrastructure consists of six interrelated parts:

- The network of more than 4,200 Country Experts across the world providing the raw data, as well as the staff operating and maintaining the infrastructure is the very core of the infrastructure.
- A management software with some 50 custom-designed interfaces built in FileMakerPro on top of a relational database. This is the “heart” of the operations and through which the Country Expert data collection can be managed. In a simplified description, the management software handles a large roster of potential experts, and the multifaceted management of more than 4,200 Country Experts coding various combinations of 180 countries and 15 surveys, and is connected to the Postgres database and the online surveys. Note that none of the public data carries confidential or identifying information about the Country Experts. All personal identifying information (PII) is kept on encrypted servers behind several layers of protection, separately from the ratings submitted.
- A Postgres database that contains all the raw data, experts’ ratings, indices and related data and includes a large set of tables that relates to the data collection.
- A complex, parallel data processing pipeline (PDPP) consisting of some 6,800 scripts in over 50 interrelated modules that are programmed to operate interactively. Running the C-coded data in the custom-designed IRT-measurement model(s) on computers hosted by the National Academic Infrastructure for Supercomputing in Sweden (NAISS), is part of the PDPP.
- A set of online surveys and administrative interfaces through which the experts submit their ratings. The coding interfaces consist of a series of web-based functions that in combination allow experts to log in to the system using their individual (randomized) username and access the surveys assigned to them. They are able to submit ratings for each question in each survey over long series of years. The coding interface combines features such as allowing for many types of questions (binomial, ordinal, multiple selection, etc.), country-specific and question-specific year masks (for example to allow coding only for elections years). Question-specific instructions and clarifications are offered for each question in the survey, and the survey interface also features coder self-assessed confidence levels for each rating submitted.
- A public website with information about V-Dem and access to download the data free of charge.
- A set of online tools for analyzing the data (also available on the website). This is the most used section of the website, including the graphing tools which have been specifically designed for V-Dem. You find the online tools and information on how to use them *here*.

The three latter parts of the infrastructure are connected to the V-Dem website which can be viewed at www.v-dem.net. Early versions of the website, survey interfaces and underlying relational database were created by the Center for Research Computing (CRC) at the University of Notre Dame, 2011-2013. The independent company Imaginary Landscape developed the webplatform 2013-2016. By fall 2016, Dr. Steven Wilson (previous V-Dem Post-Doc) assumed the role as Project Manager for Computational Infrastructure, rebuilt the entire back-end of the infrastructure, and now is in charge of the V-Dem IT infrastructure. Previous Data Scientist Johannes von Römer built the PDPP 2019-2021. The V-Dem website was rebuilt and developed on new servers in 2021 by Lisa Gastaldi and Steven Wilson.

At present, there are 15 online analysis tools available on the website:

1. **Variable Graph:** compares multiple countries for one index or one variable at a time.
2. **Country Graph:** displays multiple variables and/or indices for one country over time.
3. **Mapping Tool:** enable users to quickly generate a world map of any V-Dem indicator for any year.
4. **Variable Radar Chart:** displays multiple variables and/or indices for one country over time in a form of a radar chart.
5. **Country Radar Chart:** displays multiple countries for one indicator/index in a radar chart.
6. **Scatter Chart:** displays one indicator/index in a scatter plot.

7. **Thematic Comparison:** two-year comparison for selected component and country.
8. **Regional Comparison:** two-year regional comparison for an indicator/index.
9. **Heat Map:** displays one indicator/index on a heat map.
10. **Contingency Tables:** sequencing relationships between indicators in a selected category.
11. **Low Hanging Fruit Tool:** an advanced sequencing tool useful for data-driven decision making.
12. **V-Forecast:** PART and DemSpace are the two tools providing an interactive dashboard for the V-Forecast: Predicting Adverse Regime Transition project.
13. **Demspace:** The Democratic Space Barometer estimates the probability that a country will experience a shift towards more democratic or more autocratic governance.
14. **Pandemic Backsliding Dashboard:** The Pandemic Backsliding dashboard helps to track state responses to Covid-19 and their potential effect on the overall quality of democracy within the country in an interactive way.
15. **V-Party Explorer:** Varieties of Party Identity and Organization (V-Party) examines the policy positions and organizational structures of political parties across the world.

The Sequence and Contingency Tools (i.e. the Contingency Tables and the Low Hanging Fruit Tool) are recommended for advanced users who are keen to learn more about sequencing mechanisms and contingency conditions.

5.1 Data Collection Phases and Progress to Date

The V-Dem data collection can be summarized in four phases:

First, there is the conception and management, including the pilot study. This phase was completed in October 2011. With the support of Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Sweden), the Vice-Chancellor's Office, the College of social Sciences, and the Department of Political Science at University of Gothenburg, and the Kellogg Institute and other bodies at the University of Notre Dame, a pilot study was conducted in twelve countries from May to December 2011. These included two countries from each of six regions: Mexico and Suriname in the Americas, Japan and Burma in Asia, Russia and Albania in the post-Communist region, South Africa and Ghana in Africa, Egypt and Yemen (North and South) in the Middle East, and Sweden and Switzerland in Europe. These pairs were chosen to represent two countries in each region that in the team's judgment would respectively be fairly easy and fairly difficult to code (for example, in the Americas it was anticipated that Mexico would be fairly easy and Suriname fairly difficult to code).

Almost 100 experts submitted 461,000 country-date-question-expert ratings. Preliminary analyses indicated that the methodology was sound and working as intended in collecting high quality data. For example, aggregated scores discriminated well across countries and over time, but also across components; a country may perform e.g. well with regards to civil society but under-perform in administration of elections. Such distinctions are among the most important contributions of V-Dem's approach. The pilot study was also used to pinpoint the weakest questions and modify or drop them, and this information was used to revise the questionnaire extensively in order to improve reliability before the current phase of data collection. In addition, the pilot study demonstrated the need for having more coders per country-question, a better system for standardize instructions and management, as well as the need for an expanded post-survey questionnaire allowing for systematic assessment of potential biases in coding.

The **second** phase of V-Dem, comprising of data collection for the entire world from 1900 to 2012, began in March 2012 and was concluded in fall 2013. 167 countries and territories that exist today were included, which required the involvement of about 2,000 Country Experts. In preparation of the release of the first V-Dem dataset, this phase also involved cleaning of the data, conducting extensive quality control and measures for correcting for errors, and development of the custom-designed Bayesian IRT-model for aggregation of raw country expert data to point estimates for each indicator-country-year, with associated measures of uncertainty. On January 4th, 2016, the first full V-Dem dataset was finally released. Supported by several grants, the research team initiated a large scale research program addressing the issues of democratization both in terms of endogenous processes of sequencing and diffusion, and the role of various exogenous factors in explaining transitions to and development of various types of democracies.

The **third** phase began in December 2014, with the very first annual update of the data. The new versions of the datasets are now launched each year during spring.

By the launch of the historical data, the data collection entered a **fourth** phase. The V-Dem dataset has included Historical data since version 8. By reaching further back in time and including several previously existing countries, the V-Dem database was expanded to more than 31 million data points, covering a total of 202 countries and 236 years.

5.2 Funding

The funding for data collection covers all costs associated with collection of all types of indicators, this includes fees for Country Experts, Country Coordinators, and Regional Managers as well as staff costs to maintain the competencies and organization at the V-Dem Institute. It also includes development of the unique and highly complex research infrastructure that has been built over the course of this project and which is the foundation on which V-Dem rests. We would like to point out that Kellogg Institute of Notre Dame provided important contributions in the early phases of the project, and that the University of Gothenburg has provided substantial co-funding during all phases of the project and continues to do so. We are very grateful to all our funders, which are presented in more detail on the Funders list on the V-Dem website [here](#).

5.3 Outreach and Communications

Numerous projects and papers based on V-Dem data are being produced by academics and professionals. The V-Dem team is working hard to make V-Dem a useful and accessible source for as many as possible and to facilitate usage of V-Dem data for policy makers, researchers, students, and media around the world. As of today, the datasets have been downloaded more than 360,000 times by users from over 200 countries.

V-Dem Institute has a **visiting scholar program** for leading international scholars in the field of democracy research. The scholars generally spend a week at the V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, to present their work on a V-Dem related theme, such as democratization, effects of democratization, electoral violence, persistence of inequality in new democracies etc. The seminars are open for the general public. During 2015-2024, the Institute hosted over 100 visiting scholars.

The V-Dem Institute hosts **conferences at the University of Gothenburg**, as well as smaller workshops, as means to further stimulate innovative collaborations and as additional venues for generating new ideas and publicizing the results of research conducted with V-Dem data. The annual policy dialogue conferences from 2015-2019 aimed to bridge the gap between analysis and practice and to shed light on questions relating to democracy support and governance. The conferences served as a meeting platform for practitioners, policy makers, and academics and were usually attended by 100-120 external participants.

V-Dem is introduced at social science conferences throughout the world. This includes the leading international political science associations' meetings, workshops organized by V-Dem Regional Managers in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, and at meetings of regional political science associations (Africa, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, Latin America, the United States).

One of V-Dem's core activities is producing high-quality research that provides insights into crucial questions such as the relationship between democracy and development, the conditions that make democracies endure, and the determinants of women's political empowerment. As of January 2025, 151 V-Dem Working Papers have been published on the V-Dem website, covering a wide range of topics. The Working Papers have been downloaded over 181,000 times.

Peer-reviewed publications in high-profile academic journals and press outlets of a more popular nature will ensure that all relevant communities of interest are informed of the availability of V-Dem and how it can be used to help them do their work better. At the time of writing, 191 articles have been published in international, peer-reviewed journals.

In addition to the Working Papers, V-Dem regularly produces a range of publications targeting a wider audience. The V-Dem Country Briefs outline the most important political trends in a specific country. The Policy Briefs summarize policy-related research on topics like accountability, legislative strengthening, and executive corruption.

Since 2017, V-Dem has been publishing Democracy Reports on an annual basis. The previous reports covered topics on "Democracy at Dusk?" (2017), "Democracy for All?" (2018), "Democracy Facing Global Challenges" (2019), "Autocratization Surges - Resistance Grows" (2020), "Autocratization Turns Viral" (2021), "Autocratization Changing Nature?" (2022), "Defiance in the Face of Autocratization" (2023), "Democracy Winning

and Losing at the Ballot” (2024), and TO BE ADDED (2025). The reports were featured internationally by newspapers such as CNN, The Financial Times, NYT, the Washington Post, The Guardian, BBC and Times, to name a few.

The V-Dem website is an integral part of the outreach, and since 2012, the website has had more than 9 million page views from 227 countries/territories. Apart from datasets and publications, the V-Dem website contains information on for example methodology and research programs. In addition, the website offers graphing tools, which have been used to create more than 29 million graphs in total.

The V-Dem Institute is active on several social media platforms, where the posts generate thousands of impressions each week, and lead traffic back to the website. Combined, the V-Dem social media channels have 32,000 followers. The V-Dem Newsletter currently has more than 12,000 subscribers.

5.4 Policy Relevance and Collaborations

V-Dem is cooperating with a number of international organizations that work in the sphere of democracy and development. A selection of policy collaborations are listed below:

- V-Dem and International IDEA collaborated from 2014 to 2016. This generated funding from multiple sources as well as a set of joint activities such as the development of an Index on the Global State of Democracy.
- V-Dem collaboration also include working with UNDP on formulation and measurement of Goal 16 of the SDGs, as well as with reconceptualizing “human development” for the upcoming 2021 Human Development Report.
- V-Dem collaborates with EC/INTPA and EEAS to help EU’s delegations that are required to use V-Dem data for their annual Risk Framework Assessments.
- V-Dem collaborates and offers policy advice and support to Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Sweden.
- V-Dem data on corruption is now included in Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index (CPI). The first CPI measure that includes V-Dem data was released in January 2017.
- V-Dem collaborated with the World Bank in drafting parts of the World Development Report 2017. V-Dem data is used throughout the report – the V6 dataset as well as expert-coded data specifically collected for the World Development Report. Furthermore, the V-Dem team drafted a background paper on sequences of accountability.
- The V-Dem team developed a custom made index based on V-Dem data to Resource Governance Index.
- The V-Dem team helped the Mo. Ibrahim Foundation to selected a number of indicators and indices that are now used in the Ibrahim Index of African Governance.
- V-Dem data is used for Article 19’s report on Freedom of Expression. The V-Dem team is also assisting with creating indices on different aspects of Freedom of Expression.
- V-Dem produced a concept paper on Civil Liberties and economic outcomes for the B-team, which is a nonprofit initiative to promote social responsibility in the private sector, formed by a global group of business leaders such as Dr. Mo Ibrahim, Arianna Huffington and Mohammad Yunus. V-Dem will conduct research based on V-Dem data that will be used by the B-Team to develop a campaign to promote business commitment to civil liberties. This initiative was launched at Davos 2018.
- V-Dem also conducts capacity building events for NGOs, young researchers and partner organizations as well as statistical trainings on quantitative research methods and how to use the V-Dem online analysis tools.

- The team has also had direct interaction with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), OECD / DAC, Fordi, UNDP, UN Democracy Fund, USAID, the European Endowment for Democracy, Transparency International, Global Integrity, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the World Bank Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA), The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Australian Aid, Zambia National Women's Lobby, Foundation for Democratic Process / Zambia, Swisspeace Foundation, the International Forum for Democratic Studies, German Development Institute, GIZ, CARE / DK, IBIS / DK, ONE, and many more.
- In addition, V-Dem Regional Centers all around the world are being established. These centers bring V-Dem closer to the local and regional levels, and further enhance regional research and the involvement of regional scholars. Regional Centers exists in Estonia, Portugal, Kyrgyzstan, USA, Zambia, Japan, and Chile.
- Together with five other data collection projects in Sweden, V-Dem constitutes the national research infrastructure Demscore.