



Organization and Management

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The Team

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) was created in 2014 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, Staffan I. Lindberg, and Svend-Erik Skaaning; 2) Historical V-Dem led by PIs Jan Teorell and Carl Henrik Knutsen; 3) the main V-Dem Research Program funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond with Staffan I. Lindberg as main PI and where Ellen Lust’s program funded by the Swedish Research Council plays an important supportive role; 4) 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; 5) and the consolidation of a coherent and permanent V-Dem research infrastructure for data collection, processing, dissemination and outreach with the V-Dem Institute’s Program Manager Josefine Pernes in the lead. All the above-mentioned individuals are members of the SC. It generally functions by consensus but may also make decisions by a qualified (3/4) majority rule.

Principal Investigators (PIs) – Coppedge, Gerring, Knutsen, Lindberg, Skaaning, Teorell – constitute the V-Dem PI Board. Before 2018, the PI Board had four members. This is the highest decision-making body and generally functions by consensus but may also make decisions by a qualified (3/4) majority rule. The PIs began their work in 2008.

Project Managers (PMs), along with the PIs, 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 themes covered by the Project Managers are: Direct Democracy (David Altman, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), Civil Society (Michael Bernhard, University of Florida), Sovereignty (Michael Bernhard, University of Florida), Legislatures (M. Steven Fish, UC Berkeley), Parties and Party Systems (Allen Hicken, University of Michigan), Subnational Government (Kelly McMann, Case Western University), Formal and Descriptive Representation (Pamela Paxton, University of Texas, Austin), Elections (Staffan I. Lindberg, University of Gothenburg), Media (Michael Coppedge, University of Notre Dame), Civil Liberty (Svend-Erik Skaaning, Aarhus

University), Judiciary (Jeffrey Staton, Emory University), Executives (Jan Teorell, Lund University), Political Equality (John Gerring, University of Texas, Austin). After the initial phase, V-Dem recruited additional PMs for Experiments (Brigitte Zimmerman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Evolutionary Models (Patrik Lindenfors, Stockholm University), Causal Inference (Adam Glynn, Emory University), Measurement Methods (Daniel Pemstein, North Dakota State University), and Computational Infrastructure (Steven Wilson, University of Nevada). The diverse specialization of the team and the division of labor enable 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 allows for a decentralized system of informal consultation among experts (academics and practitioners) in these areas. Project Managers are also responsible for assuring cross-country equivalence for their indicators, so that a given question is not interpreted differently in varying country contexts.

Regional Managers are responsible for identifying 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 as a *Country Managers*. The first Regional Managers were recruited in fall 2011 and there are currently 28 of them.

A *Country Coordinator* is selected by the Regional Manager for each country to gather the type B data for that country. In the first rounds of data collection, they cross-checked A* data (see *Methodology* document) and assisted the Regional Manager with the identification of Country Experts.

Country Experts code type C indicators (see *Methodology* document). The experts are generally holders of a PhD and usually residents or citizens of the country they are coding. They also have specialized knowledge in at least one of the thematic sections of the V-Dem survey. The Country Experts have been recruited on a rolling basis since the start of the pilot study in Spring 2011.

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

The V-Dem Headquarter

The V-Dem Institute, hosted by the Department of Political Science at University of Gothenburg (Sweden), is the headquarter 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. In addition to Prof. Lindberg, the following team is based at the V-Dem Institute:

Program and Financial Manager Josefine Pernes has worked at the V-Dem Institute since September 2012. She coordinates and oversees all activities taking place at the V-Dem Institute. This includes among other things: the data collection infrastructure, general project management, financial management, fundraising, policy work, external relations and, human resources. Josefine is a member of the Steering Committee and sits in on the Principal Investigator board meetings where she acts as the executive link between the high-level decision-making and the daily operations.

Operations and Outreach Manager Natalia Stepanova has worked at the V-Dem Institute since its inception in January 2012. She is coordinating many of the daily operations at the Institute. Her main focus is outreach and communications, policy-related work, organization of workshops and conferences. She is also in charge of IT developments, web-sites development and maintenance, and the development of the coding management system. Together, Josefine and Natalia are also coordinating all activities relating to data collection involving some three thousand country experts, and handle most coordination and collaboration with Regional Managers and Country Coordinators around the world.

Analyst and Data Operation Manager Moa Olin has the overall responsibility for the management of the V-Dem data. She is responsible for coding factual (A) type data; leads and performs quality control of the data collected with the expert surveys by carrying out systematic checks for discrepancies; making necessary revisions; and, developing and implementing scripts and protocols to clean the data¹. Moa is also involved in the policy-

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To read more on the cleaning process and protocols, please refer to the V-Dem Methodology document.

related work of V-Dem in terms of producing thematic and country reports and policy briefs based on V-Dem data and working papers. In addition, Moa is in charge of updating the codebook and other reference documents, as well as managing data in the V-Dem online database and the website online graphing tools. Moa is involved with tasks related to the online analysis tools, producing V-Dem's Graph of the Week and activities relating to data collection involving country experts.

Data Manager Joshua Krusell is in charge of the processing of the data and is involved in a number of tasks related to preparation and release of the data. The data manager is largely involved in the work of developing and running the Measurement Model and works closely with the measurement model-team. He is also in charge of compiling the dataset and creating the V-Dem indices, developing and implementing scripts and protocols to clean the data².

Assisting Data Manager Johannes von Römer works closely with Joshua in all data related tasks concerning cleaning, preparation and release of the V-Dem data.

Researcher Matthew Wilson (PhD Pennsylvania State University, 2015) is primarily associated with the ERC-funded research program "Failing and Successful Sequences of Democratization" (FASDEM). Matthew's research focuses on the timing and success of political institutions in non-democracies. His methodological focus includes time-series and models of sequencing, influenced in part by sequence analysis and methods outside of political science. Matthew received his PhD in Political Science from Pennsylvania State University in 2015 and comes to V-Dem as an Assistant Professor at West Virginia University. At V-Dem, Matthew is developing methods for characterizing and comparing sequences of political development, one of the central themes of the FASDEM project.

Researcher Laura Maxwell (PhD Emory University, exp. 2018) is primarily associated with the ERC-funded research program "Failing and Successful Sequences of Democratization" (FASDEM) works with Prof. Lindberg and the team developing the conceptualization of failing and successful democratization episodes, as well as contributing to the development and implementation of scripts to detect such episodes in the V-Dem

dataset, among other things. For more information about FASDEM click [here](#).

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 current post-doctoral research fellows are:

- Sirianne Dahlum (PhD University of Oslo, 2017) who besides her research on democratization and mass protest is a part of the policy unit, with particular responsibility for our work with the B-Team on economic outcomes of civil liberties violations.
- Anna Lührmann (PhD Humboldt University, 2015) who is also taking the lead on the emerging policy unit at the V-Dem Institute together with Valeriya Mechkova (presented below). They are actively engaged in the V-Dem collaboration with partner organizations such as the World Bank, Int. IDEA, the European Commission, Foreign Ministries, and UNDP. Holding capacity-building trainings on quantitative research methods and the V-Dem online analysis tools are other tasks of this team.
- Kyle Marquardt (PhD Wisconsin-Madison, 2015) who besides research works with Daniel Pemstein on developments of the IRT-based measurement model V-Dem uses to aggregate Country Expert ratings, as well as assists with the experiments and vignettes project.
- Juraj Medzihorsky (PhD Central European University, 2015) who besides his research works primarily with the ERC research program FASDEM on applying categorical data analysis techniques and IRT to better understand democratization sequences.
- Richard Morgan (PhD Emory University) works on insurgents and civil conflict and prediction models, is primarily associated with the ERC-funded FASDEM research program.
- Constanza Sanhueza Petrarca (PhD University of Mannheim, 2016) who besides her research with PM Brigitte Zimmerman assumes responsibility for design and implementation of the experiments and vignettes projects.

PhD Students are also located at the University of Gothenburg and funded by Lust's Swedish Research Council grant, also assist with various aspects of data collection, validation, aggregation, policy-analysis, and outreach. The current PhD students are:

- Felix Dwinger, studies origins of dictatorships and democracy, and is also assisting with data collection and quality checks and is part of the emerging Varieties of Autocracies project.
- Berker Kavasoglu studies political parties and party systems, analyzing the variation in level of institutionalization in new democracies. He is also assisting with A data collection.
- Valeriya Mechkova, formerly employed as analyst and data processing manager, now conducts research on causes, sequences as well as effects of accountability and is active in the policy unit with particular responsibility for our work with measuring the Sustainable Development Goal 16;
- Marcus Tannenbergh, studies legitimacy in autocratic regimes and is also assisting with data collection and quality checks and is part of the emerging Varieties of Autocracies project.

Former Post-Doctoral Research Fellows are Rachel Sigman (PhD Syracuse University, 2015), Steven Wilson (PhD University of Wisconsin, 2016), Eitan Tzelgov (PhD Penn State University, 2013), Brigitte Zimmerman (PhD University of California, San Diego, 2014) and Yi-ting Wang, (PhD Duke University), who are all still involved by conducting research.

Former Data Manager, Analyst and Data Operation Managers and Data Officers are Laura Saxer, Farhad Miri, Valeriya Mechkova, Frida Andersson and Vlad Ciobanu. A number of graduate students at University of Notre Dame, Boston University, University of Gothenburg and Lund University have also provided research assistance in the past, including Talib Jabbar, Lucia Tiscornia, Fernando Bizzarro Neto, Lee Cojocar, Matthew Maguire, Sandra Botero, Chad Kiewiet de Jonge, Cecilia Lero, Krystin Krause, Claudia Maier, Tove Ahlbom, Tove Selnes, Ole Martin Laegreid, Ammar Kamalaldin and, Rodrigo Castro Cornejo. More than 30 Notre Dame undergraduate students have also helped in various ways.

One of the main partnering institutions is the Regional Center in North America located at Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame (USA), run by Professor Michael Coppedge. 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 institutions and institutional homes for the project. The Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame was an instrumental part 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 research database and the web interfaces that were used from 2011 to fall 2014. As the project grew, the V-Dem Institute in 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.

Historical V-Dem

The project Historical V-Dem extends the data back in time and is also adding a number of new 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 in order to supplement 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 started in December 2015 and is completed for the majority of 80 polities. However, coding is ongoing for a few additional countries, and these data will be added in the future. Further, some countries included in this version of the dataset will be coded by additional Historical Country Experts, going forward.

Historical V-Dem is led from the two Centers for Historical V-Dem located at University of Oslo and Lund University. They are led by Prof. Jan Teorell (Lund) and Prof. Carl

Henrik Knutsen (Oslo). 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, are also part of the Historical V-Dem team:

- Haakon Gjerløw (as PhD Student, from 2015), who has, for example, been main responsible for following up Historical CEs, constructing scripts/automated routines for streamlining tasks related to consistency checking and cleaning the data, alongside various other tasks.
- Tore Wig (as Post-doc from 2015-2017, and later as Researcher), who has, for example, been the main responsible for validation of the expert data and subsequently following up experts, and for instructing various RAs collecting data on particular indicators.
- Sirianne Dahlum (as Researcher during 2017), who, for example, handled various automated and manual reliability and validity checks on the data.
- Luca J. Uberti (as Researcher from late 2017), who, for example, has been involved in working with the documentation of the data set, especially the codebook.

Several people, located at different institutions, contributed to the coding of A variables for the historical part of the time series and otherwise helped manage the data collection process. While not an exhaustive list (see the Codebook and webpage), Selemon Negash, Lee Cojocar, Vlad Ciobanu, Vilde Lunnan Djuve, Swaantje Marten, Sune Orloff Hellegard Bernardo Isola, 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.

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. The V-Dem research infrastructure is described in more detail in the document *V-Dem Methodology*. The infrastructure consists of six interrelated parts, below each part of the infrastructure is briefly elaborated on.

1) The network of more than 3,000 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.

2) A software for managing Data Collection and Country Experts. The Institute is hosting the management software that is the “heart” of the operations of the infrastructure. It is connected to the Postgres database and the web-based coding interfaces and it is primarily used to manage the update of the data and management of Country Experts. In a simplified description, the management software handles a roster of potential experts numbering some 20,000 individuals, and for the more than 3,000 Country Experts. To be able to manage the data collection in an efficient, professional and secure way, a lot of information is tied to each Country Expert. For instance: information on qualifications, country-expertise, surveys, affiliation, emails sent, coding progress, payment forms and payment status, coding conducted, just to mention a few. The coder management tool is just one out of many features and tools in this database. Connected to this software is also a web-interface portal which makes it possible for Regional Managers to securely upload Country Expert rosters, without having to share confidential information via email.

3) A Postgres database that contains all the raw data, experts coding, indices and related data and consists of some 18 million data points and includes a large set of tables that relates to the data collection.

4) A set of web-based coding and administrative interfaces through which the experts submit the data.

5) A public website with information about the V-Dem and access to download of the data free of charge.

6) A set of online tools for analyzing the data for example in terms of graphing tools and motion charts (also available on the website),

The three latter parts of the infrastructure are connected to the V-Dem website which can be viewed at www.v-dem.net. The website, survey interfaces and underlying relational database was originally designed following the PIs guidance, by the Center for Research Computing (CRC) at the University of Notre Dame 2011-2013. It was then partly overhauled by the independent company Imaginary Landscape in a process directed from Natalia Stepanova at the V-Dem Institute. During fall 2016 Dr. Steven Wilson (V-Dem Post-Doc) re-wrote many parts of the operational system, the survey and administrative interfaces.

Most importantly, the website hosts the coding interface where Country 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 self-assigned (secret password) 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 interfaces combines features such as allowing for many types of questions (binominal, 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. All data except confidential information about the coders is made public. All personal identifying information is kept separately from the raw data on encrypted servers behind several layers of protection.

The most used section of the website is the section including the Online Analysis tools which has been specifically designed for V-Dem. At present, there are four tools for online analysis.

- Country Graphs: This tool can be used to display multiple variables and/or indices for one country over time. It compares multiple question results, allowing for several design features such as varying time period, as well as “drilling down” into the

components of indices at the will of the users, and allows for free download of graphs in pdf or another selected format.

- Variable Graph: This tool is used to compare multiple countries for one index or one variable at a time. A user can choose a single question and compare multiple country results. Data is aggregated by year.
- Motion Chart: This tool enables users to explore how the relationship between two variables changes over time, with control/illustration of a third variable, using the same type of software Hans Rosling has used for the Gapminder initiative.
- Radar Chart: This tool can be used to display multiple variables and/or indices for one country in a radar chart.

Sequencing and mapping tools are currently under development and are the forth-coming features.

Progress to Date

The progress of the V-Dem data collection may 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 countries in each region that, in the team's judgment, would be fairly easy, and fairly hard, to code. (For example, in the Americas it was anticipated that Mexico would be fairly easy and Suriname fairly difficult.)

Almost 100 experts submitted 461,000 country-date-question-expert ratings. Preliminary analyses indicate that the methodology was sound and worked as intended to collect data of highest quality. For example, preliminary analyses showed that aggregated

scores discriminated well not only across countries and over time, but also across components. For example, a country could do well with respect to civil society but less well on administration of elections or legislative strength. 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/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/territories existing today were included, this required the involvement of some 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. The full V-Dem dataset was first released on January 4th, 2016. During this phase, several grants made it possible for the team to begin 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.

By December 2014, V-Dem entered into a **third** phase by the very first yearly update of the data. With this year's (2018) data update, we have concluded the fourth annual update which includes updated data for 181 countries from 1900 to 2017, including four new countries.

By the launch of the historical data we are entering into a **fourth** phase. For the very first time and with the 8th version of the dataset, the Historical V-Dem data is now part of the publicly released datasets. When including (no longer existing) countries that are only covered in Historical V-Dem, such as Bavaria and the Two Sicilies, the total number of countries covered in the dataset is 201. The V-Dem database now contains more than 18

million data points. We hope to be able to update the data on an annual or biannual basis for all/as many countries as possible. The datasets are launched each year during spring; thus, the next dataset will be launched spring 2019.

Funding

The funding for data collection cover all costs associated with collection of A/B/C/D data, 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.

The **first** phase/pilot study: the principal funding for the pilot phase of the program came from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Sweden, supplemented by a small grant from the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.

Second phase: funding was secured funding for the data collection in 173 of the countries in the world with a total funding of about USD 4 mn. This was funded by (not in order of magnitude):

- Canadian International Development Agency
- Danish National Research Council
- European Commission/DEVCO
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Denmark/Danida
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Sweden
- Swedish National Research Council
- Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Sweden)
- Research Council of Norway
- Quality of Government Institute

Third phase: the following funders have, and some still are, contributing to updating the data for 177 countries as well as the addition of vignettes, and enhancing processing and quality control 2014-2019 (not in order of magnitude):

- Aarhus University
- European Commission/DEVCO
- Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos
- International IDEA
- Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation
- Mo Ibrahim Foundation

- Riksbanken Jubileumsfond (Sweden)
- Swedish National Research Council (PI: Lindberg)
- Swedish National Research Council (PI: Lust)
- Swedish National Research Council (PI: Teorell)
- University of Gothenburg
- Wallenberg Academy Fellowship (Lindberg/Knut & Alice Wallenberg Foundation)

Fourth phase: the Historical data collection has received funding from:

- Research Council Norway (PI: Knutsen)
- Swedish National Research Council (PI: Teorell)

Kellogg Institute of Notre Dame and the University of Gothenburg, have provided substantial funds for the pilot phase and both institutions have committed additional co-funding for the data collection: University of Notre Dame at USD 500,000 and University of Gothenburg at about USD 4,200,000. In addition, Historical V-Dem has received funding from Aarhus University (Skaaning), Riksbankens jubileumsfond (Teorell), Harvard University (Ziblatt), and University of Oslo (Knutsen).

The V-Dem Research Program on Democratization is primarily funded by a grant to Staffan I. Lindberg and Jan Teorell from the Swedish Research Council (USD 0.9mn, 2012-2016); by a grant from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (USD 5.8mn, 2014-2019) co-funded by the University of Gothenburg at USD 2mn; a grant to Staffan I. Lindberg from Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation as a Wallenberg Academy Fellow (USD 1.15mn, 2014-2018) co-funded by the University of Gothenburg at USD 0.5mn; a grant from the European Research Council to Staffan I. Lindberg (€ 2mn, 2017-2021) co-funded by the University of Gothenburg at € 1mn.

Outreach and Communications

Numerous projects and papers based on V-Dem data are being produced by academics and professionals. In future decades, the team anticipate that the V-Dem database and web site will become even more of a focal point for policymakers,

practitioners, students, and scholars across the social sciences that are interested in democracy. The V-Dem team is working hard to make V-Dem a useful and accessible source for as many as possible, to put V-Dem on the agenda for policy makers, researchers, students, and media around the world. To facilitate this a broad range of activities have been taken on, some of them are elaborated on below.

V-Dem Institute has a **visiting scholar program** for individuals who are leading international scholars in the field of research on democracy. The scholar gets to spend a week at the V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, to present their work and work on a research theme related to V-Dem. The V-Dem Institute is on a regular basis organizing seminars focusing on topics such as democratization, effects of democratization, electoral violence, persistence of inequality in new democracies etc. The seminars are open for the general public. During 2015-2017, the Institute hosted 55 visiting scholars.

The V-Dem Institute hosts an **annual conference at 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 conference bridges the gap between analysis and practice and aims to shed light on questions relating to democracy support and governance. The conference serves as a meeting platform for practitioners, policy makers, and academics and is usually attended by 100-120 external participants. During the 2015, 2016, 2017 conferences, participants from organizations such as International IDEA, CIDE, Dialogue and Peace, DIFD, ECES, European Association for Local Democracy, Forum Syd, ICLD, Göteborg & CO, Sida, NIMD, Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Transparency International, OECD, IFES, and others were present.

- May 18, 2016: V-Dem/Anticorrp Policy Dialogue Conference 2016 was jointly-organized by V-Dem and Anticorrp (the QoG Institute).
- May 10, 2017: Policy Dialogue Day 2017 "From Knowledge to Action: Current Insights on Democracy, Governance and Armed Conflict" was jointly-organized by the V-Dem Institute, the QoG Institute, GLD-Gothenburg (Program for Governance and Local Development) and UCPD (Uppsala Conflict Data Program).

- May 30, 2018: Policy Dialogue Day 2018 “New Research = Better Policies Insights on Democracy, Governance, and Armed Conflict” is jointly-organized by the V-Dem Institute, the QoG Institute, GLD-Gothenburg, UCPD, and ViEWS (a Political Violence Early-Warning System).

V-Dem is introduced at social science conferences throughout the world. This includes all leading international political science associations’ meetings, at workshops organized with by 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 2018, 61 **V-Dem Working Papers** have been published on the V-Dem website covering a wide range of topics.

Since 2015 V-Dem is a part of **SSRN (Social Science Research network)** where the V-Dem Working Paper Series is published. SSRN is a worldwide collaborative of over 352,400 authors and more than 2.2 million users. SSRN's objective is to provide rapid worldwide distribution of research and to facilitate communication between researchers at the lowest possible cost.

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, over 20 articles have been published in international, peer-reviewed journals.

In addition to article-length 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-relevant research findings on topics like accountability, legislative strengthening, and executive corruption.

Downloads of V-Dem Publications:

- 61 V-Dem Working Papers: 4,137 downloads from SSRN and 18,000 through the V-Dem website
- 26 Country Briefs/Report: 2,600
- 15 Briefing Papers: 2,500

V-Dem Outreach in numbers:

- Website: 132,500 unique visitors from 195 countries, and 1,720,000 page views in total
- “Graph of the Week”: 2,000 views
- Facebook and Twitter posts: reaches 15,000+ people/week
- Presentations at academic conferences and policy forums since 2009: 450+
- Visiting scholars at V-Dem Institute since 2014: 55+

Policy Relevance and Collaborations

As part of its policy outreach program, V-Dem is cooperating with a number of international organizations that work in the sphere of democracy and development. V-Dem scholars have published and contributed to a number of publications, organized and participated in conferences, workshops, and capacity-building trainings. Below a selection of policy collaborations are listed:

- V-Dem and International IDEA have collaborated since 2014. This has generated funding from multiple sources as well as a set of joint activities for instance the development of an Index on the Global State of Democracy.
- The use of V-Dem data as complementary indicators for the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 16 has been the focus of two V-Dem policy briefs and various seminars for instance at the UN headquarter, the German Development Institute and the Community of Democracies. In the report resulting from UNDPs Virtual Network expert group on the topic, 60 V-Dem indicators are included.

- 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.
- Community of Democracies (CoD) is also using V-Dem data to operationalize and measure the 19 core principles of democracy stated in the CoD Warsaw Declaration, 2000. The Declaration is the founding document of CoD and defines the essential practices and norms for the effective establishment and consolidation of democracy. V-Dem data will also be used in the annual report on the state of democracy in the world.
- V-Dem has collaborated with the World Bank in the drafting of the World Development Report 2017. V-Dem data is used throughout the report – both from V6 of the data set as well as expert-coded data specifically collected for the purpose of the World Development Report. Furthermore, the V-Dem team drafted a background paper on sequences of accountability.
- The V-Dem team has developed an index on political participation, based on V-Dem data, for the Council of Europe. In addition, the V-Dem team has developed a custom made index based on V-Dem data to Resource Governance Index as well as the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.
- V-Dem data is being 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 is producing a concept paper on Civil liberties and economic outcomes for the B-team, which is a not-for-profit 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 will be launched at Davos 2018.

- Each May, V-Dem organizes a policy dialogue conference to enhance the cooperation between researchers and democracy practitioners. The conference is typically attended by over 150 leading experts on democratization, democracy, good government and corruption from over 50 organizations. The 2018 Policy Day is organized by the V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute together with the QoG (Quality of Government) Institute, GLD-Gothenburg (Program for Governance and Local Development) and UCPD (Uppsala Conflict Data Program), and ViEWS (a Political Violence Early-Warning System).
- Capacity building trainings for NGOs, young researchers and partner organizations are being conducted 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 and often substantial exchange with for example: the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 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 to this, V-Dem centers all around the world are being established. These centers will bring V-Dem closer to the local and regional levels, and will further enhance regional research and the involvement of regional scholars. Regional Centers have been already established in Estonia, Portugal, Kyrgyzstan, Chile and Egypt, and are evolving in the Philippines, South Africa, Zambia and Burkina Faso.

Sustainability

V-Dem must continually be revised and updated in order to remain useful for scholars, practitioners, and citizens. Most importantly, the V-Dem data needs to be updated on an annual or semiannual basis in order for the data to stay relevant. These updates should be used as opportunities to re-code prior years (e.g., the 5 years prior to the update), offering a further check on inter-coder (or intra-coder) reliability. The same Country Experts are employed whenever possible, further enhancing the efficiency of each update (since coders would be already familiar with the database and the online coding system). At present, there is funding for full updates for 2019 and 2020. The V-Dem team is discussing continued funding of (bi-)annual updates with existing funders and other interested parties for the period from 2019 and onwards.