



# 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 main V-Dem Research Program funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond with Director of the V-Dem Institute Staffan I. Lindberg as main PI and where Ellen Lust’s program on Governance and Local Development (GLD) 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 Deputy Director Anna Lührmann as well as Program Manager Josefine Pernes (currently substitute Program Manager Garry Hindle). 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: Allen Hicken).

## Principal Investigators (PIs)

Coppedge, Gerring, Knutsen, Lindberg, 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, Lund 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 PMs for:

- Causal Inference (Adam Glynn, Emory University)
- Computational Infrastructure (Steven Wilson, University of Nevada)
- Evolutionary Models (Patrik Lindenfors, Institute for Future Studies & V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg)
- Experiments (Brigitte Zimmerman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
- Measurement Methods (Daniel Pemstein, North Dakota State University & Kyle Marquardt, Higher School of Economics)

- Exclusion and State Capacity (Rachel Sigman, Postgraduate Naval School)
- Varieties of Autocracy/Autocratization (Anna Lührmann, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg)
- Forecasting (Richard Morgan, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg)

**Regional Managers** are responsible for identifying possible 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** gather type B data for their country and assist Regional Managers with identification of possible Country Experts. In the first rounds of data collection, they cross-checked A\* data (see the *V-Dem Methodology document*)

**Country Experts** code type C indicators (see the *V-Dem Methodology document*). The experts are generally academics and often hold a PhD, and are usually citizens or residents of the country they are coding. They have verifiable, specialized knowledge in at least one of the thematic sections of the V-Dem survey. 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 includes 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, and Assistant Professor Anna Lührmann is the Deputy 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. Anna Lührmann leads the work with the annual Democracy Report from the Institute, and is also taking the lead on the emerging policy unit at the V-Dem Institute. 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.

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:

- Assistant Professor Anna Lührmann (PhD Humboldt University of Berlin, 2015). Anna currently works on several research projects such as varieties of autocracy and autocratization, allocation and effect of democracy aid, evolution and measurement of accountability and public trust in elections.
- Assistant Professor Seraphine F. Maerz (PhD Central European University, 2017). Her current research concentrates on the rhetoric and language used by (authoritarian) political leaders.
- *Program and Financial Manager* Garry Hindle (substituting for Josefine Pernes) coordinates all activities taking place at the V-Dem Institute. He also oversees the expert coded data collection procedure.
- *Operations and Outreach Manager* Nazifa Alizada (substituting for Natalia Stepanova) is responsible for outreach and communications, coordination of institute activities as well as organization of conferences. She also oversees the expert coded data collection procedure;
- *Analyst and Data Operations Manager* Lisa Gastaldi is responsible for the overall coordination of the factual data collection as well as processing and quality controls of factual data. She is also involved in research projects related to democratic resilience, elections and democracy aid.
- *Data Manager* Nina Illchenko assists with the processing of the data, developing and running the Measurement Model, and compiling the dataset.
- *Senior Data Manager* Johannes von Römer is in charge of the processing of the data, developing and running the Measurement Model, and compiling the dataset.

**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:

- Vanessa Boese (PhD Humboldt University of Berlin, 2019) is primarily associated with the ERC-funded FASDEM research program. Her research broadly focuses on political economy, peace economics, conflict research, democratization and development economics.
- Amanda Edgell (PhD University of Florida, 2019) is primarily associated with the ERC-funded FASDEM research program. Her research broadly focuses on political institutions in authoritarian settings, as well as, international norms, foreign aid, and gender politics.
- Sebastian Hellmeier (PhD University of Konstanz, 2019) is primarily associated with the Varieties of Autocracy (V-Aut) project led by Anna Lührmann. His research pertains to political mobilization and protest, as well as the comparison of non-democratic regimes using quantitative methods.

- Jean Lachapelle (PhD University of Toronto, 2017) is primarily associated with the Varieties of Autocracy (V-Aut) project led by Anna Lührmann. His research broadly focuses on issues of repression, military coups, revolutions, and the relationship between violence and political order, with a regional focus on the Middle East and North Africa.
- 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.

**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:

- Berker Yaman 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, 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 Tannenbergs, 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.
- Oskar Rydén, is associated with both the CeCAR and the V-Dem Institute and focuses primarily on political consequences to and effects of natural disasters.
- Adea Gafuri, is mainly interested in democratization, democracy aid, illiberal regimes, and political methodology.

**Research Assistants** support the Institute with research tasks, outreach and and dissemination. The current Research Assistants are:

- Sandra Grahn is employed within the Failing and Successful Sequences of Democratization project (FASDEM). Her primary tasks include collecting, coding, and compiling literature and data.
- Dominik Hirndorf's primary tasks include coding factual data, as well as compiling information and literature on Democratic resilience in relation to civic education.

### 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 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 future datasets.

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. Carl Henrik Knutsen (Oslo) and Prof. Jan Teorell (Lund). 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), 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 from 2015-2017, 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 during 2017), handled various automated and manual reliability and validity checks on the data.
- Luca J. Uberti (as Researcher from late 2017), 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), Selemone 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 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. It is described in more detail in the document V-Dem Methodology but consists of six interrelated parts briefly described below.

- 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.
- 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 roster of potential experts numbering some 20,000 individuals, and for the more than 3,000 Country Experts and is connected to the Postgres database and the online surveys. Note that all data made public excludes confidential information about the Country Experts. Also, all personal identifying information 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 set of online surveys and administrative interfaces through which the experts submit their ratings. 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 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 (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.
- A public website with information about the V-Dem and access to download of 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 has 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*. The website, survey interfaces and underlying relational database were originally designed by the Center for Research Computing (CRC) at the University of Notre Dame, 2011-2013. The independent company Imaginary Landscape developed the platform 2013-2016. By fall 2016, Dr. Steven Wilson (V-Dem Post-Doc) assumed the role as Project Manager for Computational Infrastructure and now is in charge of the V-Dem IT infrastructure together with Nazifa Alizada (substitute for Natalia Stepanova) at the V-Dem Institute.

At present, there are 13 tools for **online analysis**:

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. **Interactive Maps:** enable users to quickly generate a world map of any V-Dem indicator for any year.
4. **Motion Charts:** enable users to explore how the relationship between two variables changes over time.
5. **Variable Radar Chart:** displays multiple variables and/or indices for one country over time in a form of a radar chart.
6. **Country Radar Chart:** displays multiple countries for one indicator/index in a radar chart.
7. **Scatter Chart:** displays one indicator/index in a scatter plot.
8. **Thematic Comparison:** two-year comparison for selected component and country.
9. **Regional Comparison:** two-year regional comparison for an indicator/index.
10. **Heat Map:** displays one indicator/index on a heat map.
11. **Contingency Tables:** sequencing relationships between indicators in a selected category.
12. **Low Hanging Fruit Tool:** an advanced sequencing tool useful for data-driven decision making.
13. **Forecasting Tool:** provides an interactive dashboard for the V-Forecast: Predicting Adverse Regime Transition project.

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.

## 4.1 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 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. Since the V8 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 202. The V-Dem database now contains more than 28 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 new versions of the datasets are launched each year during spring.

## 4.2 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 in detail are presented *here*.

### 4.3 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, more than 123,118 users downloaded the dataset.

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 2015-2019, the Institute hosted 90+ 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 is 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 2020, 97 V-Dem Working Papers have been published on the V-Dem website covering a wide range of topics that have been downloaded over 70,000 times.

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 66 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), and "Democracy Facing Global Challenges" (2019). The reports were covered by newspapers as CNN, The Financial Times, NYT, the Washington Post, The Guardian and Open Democracy. The 2020 Democracy Report is titled "Autocratization Surge - People Resist".

### 4.4 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 2014-2016. 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.
- The use of V-Dem data as complementary indicators for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 16 has been the focus of two V-Dem policy briefs and various seminars at the UN headquarter, the German Development Institute and the Community of Democracies, to name a few. In the report resulting from

UNDP's 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.
- 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 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, USA, Zambia, and Japan and is evolving in Burkina Faso (forthcoming).