

HERTIE SCHOOL–OECD GLOBAL EXPERT SURVEY ON PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH REPORT 17 JULY 2015

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

The Global Expert Survey on Public Infrastructure, coordinated by the Hertie School of Governance Berlin, is part of a joint Hertie School-OECD initiative to contribute to the debate in the field of governance of infrastructure. The survey results are intended to contribute to the OECD/G20 work on the governance of infrastructure, as well as to the Hertie School's *Governance Report 2016*, which focuses on infrastructure. The goal of the survey is to provide an assessment of international trends, challenges, and potential solutions in the planning, funding, implementation, and monitoring of public infrastructure projects, as seen from the particular perspective of infrastructure experts in OECD countries and beyond. Being complementary to the *CoR-OECD 2015 Consultation on the Governance of Infrastructure Investment across Levels of Government*, the expert survey has a similar thematic focus.

TARGET GROUP

The survey population was defined as experts in the key infrastructure areas of transportation, energy, water, waste and sanitation, IT/communications, building, and defense, and working in a broad array of organizations: national government, academia and research institutions, media, or the private sector (consultancy, infrastructure providing companies).

The experts were identified through systematic desktop research of various online sources (media, academic journals, relevant events platforms) and based on several criteria, such as their position in relevant public infrastructure-related organizations, their publications on topics of public infrastructure, or their participation in national and international public infrastructure events.

All 34 OECD member countries were covered, as well as ten non-OECD states of particular size and significance within their respective regions (Romania and Russia in Europe; Brazil and Venezuela in Latin America; China, India, and Indonesia in Asia; Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa in Africa).

Building on the experience of other international expert surveys and their response rates (see Curry et al. 2014, Dahlström et al. 2015) and in order to reach a sufficiently large sample for a valid statistical analysis, we aimed at addressing a minimum of 1300 respondents across the countries covered (or around 30 per country). Considering also relative availability of relevant contacts, we therefore identified around 30 experts for each target country, and up to 50 in larger countries (Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, the USA, the UK).

SURVEY CONTENT

The questionnaire included 23 questions regarding developments in their country of expertise, in four key areas of public infrastructure governance: planning, funding, implementation, and monitoring. Respondents were asked to provide their opinions and perceptions based on their expertise with

developments at the country level. Each respondent could select their country of expertise, based on a drop down menu (see here also Dahlström et al. 2015).

The questionnaire was based on and replicated items from the *CoR-OECD 2015 Consultation on the Governance of Infrastructure Investment across Levels of Government*, which was conducted in spring 2015; as well as on the *OECD Regional Survey 'Effectiveness of public investment at sub-national level in times of fiscal constraints'* (2012) and on the *OECD Framework for Governance of Infrastructure* (2014).

Survey questions were designed and ordered in order to minimize bias and maximize response rates. Socio-demographic information was considered to be of lesser relevance for the goals of the survey and was therefore addressed in only a limited number of items.

DATA COLLECTION

The survey was conducted online in the English language. The online survey platform was built using the survey research software Unipark. The participation of respondents in the survey was voluntary.

The survey was launched on 27 May 2015, when each respondent received a personalized email invitation. Apart from the original invitation, two email reminders were sent to all participants, each one week and a half apart. Respondents were also encouraged to forward the survey link to other relevant public infrastructure experts in their country. As a measure to enhance response rates, additional invitations were sent after the launch in countries with low response rates (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Mexico, Slovakia, South Korea, Turkey). The survey was active for six weeks and closed on 9 July.

DATA CLEANING AND RESPONSES

Based on the contacts collected online, a total of 1485 email invitations were sent to respondents in 44 countries. Of these, 231 emails bounced back (due to firewalls, invalid or old addresses, etc). In the final dataset, all observations were kept, with the exception of those where responses to the first three (identifier) questions (the type of organization, country of expertise, and policy sector) were missing, making the respective observations unfit for analysis. Countries where less than three respondents had answered were also dropped from the data set. Variation between the number of responses per country is relatively high, with seven countries having more than ten respondents and all others between three and ten. In total, of the 1254 respondents who received the invitation, 301 started the survey, and of these 251 were kept as valid observations after data cleaning. With a response rate of 20% (based on the number of respondents who have received the invitation and the final number of valid observations), the survey is well within the response framework of similar cross-country expert studies (Curry et al. 2014, Dahlström et al. 2015). As part of the cleaning process, the data was anonymized in order to guarantee the protection of respondents' identities.

The final dataset contains 251 observations from 36 countries, with respondents from all regions and a broad geographical coverage. Furthermore, the data provides a perspective beyond OECD member states, offering expert assessments from seven non-OECD countries (see table below).

Hertie School–OECD Global Expert Survey on Public Infrastructure Country Response Rates

	Country	No. of respondents	Percent
		OECD	
1	Australia	6	2.4
2	Austria	4	1.6
3	Belgium	5	2
4	Canada	11	4.4
5	Chile	3	1.2
6	Denmark	7	2.8
7	Estonia	6	2.4
8	Finland	5	2
9	France	4	1.6
10	Germany	16	6.4
11	Greece	7	2.8
12	Hungary	9	3.6
13	Iceland	5	2
14	Ireland	8	3.2
15	Israel	3	1.2
16	Italy	14	5.6
17	Japan	4	1.2
18	Mexico	9	3.6
19	Netherlands	5	2
20	Norway	4	1.6
21	Poland	3	1.2
22	Portugal	7	2.8
23	Slovak Republic	5	2
24	Slovenia	12	4.8
25	Sweden	6	2.4
26	Switzerland	3	1.2
27	Turkey	5	2
28	United Kingdom	21	8.4
29	United States	11	4.4
		non-OECD	
30	Brazil	6	2.4
31	China	5	2
32	Egypt	3	1.2
33	Indonesia	5	2
34	Nigeria	6	2.4
35	Romania	13	5.2
36	South Africa	5	2
	Total	251	100

REFERENCES

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