

POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

1. Basic concepts

The domain is based on the consideration that the trust expressed by the citizens to the institutions, as well as civic and political participation facilitate cooperation and social cohesion while allowing greater efficiency of public policies and a lower cost of transactions. Starting from this assumption a reflection has been carried out on the information needed to measure issues and problems - such as trust, participation, equity and social cohesion - the importance of which has been further highlighted by the current economic crisis.

2. Dimensions considered to represent the domain

Firstly, a set of indicators has been identified to provide an initial measure of the components of social capital relating to the political and institutional framework. The indicators are based on the data available at present in official statistics (with a deficit of information regarding the compliance with the rules). Secondly, in an attempt to overcome at least in part the inadequacy of available statistical information, the document contains recommendations to design of a specific survey on the subject of civiness. The proposed indicators refer to the institutional sphere of the state as drivers of well-being of individuals, families and social groups in the local and national contexts. The dimensions considered to represent the domain are:

1. Civic and political participation;
2. Trust in institutions and social cohesion;
3. Shared values and norms. This aspect although relevant it is not measurable for lack of indicators of good quality. In particular, it would be essential to have objective and subjective measures of corruption.

Equity is a cross-cutting aspect across which is analyzed in the other domains by using appropriate breakdowns for reading the indicators from this perspective, with particular reference to gender and age. In the domain "policy and institutions" appeared, however, of particular importance to give a particular relevance to equity with respect to gender and age introducing some specific indicators.

3. List of Bes indicators

1. Electoral participation: *Percentage of people who voted in the last European Parliament elections on the total number of electors.*
The indicator of voter turnout, although it may highlight the limits for the use in the case of our country, it is certainly an indicator widely used internationally (including the OECD).
2. Civic and political participation: *People aged 14 and over who perform at least one of the activities of civic and political participation on the total number of persons aged 14 and more.* The activities in question are: to speak about politics at least once a week; to inform of the facts of Italian politics at least once a week; to attend online consultation or voting on social issues (civic) or political (e.g. urban planning, sign a petition) at least once in the 3 months prior to the interview, to read and to post opinions on social or political issues on the web at least once in the 3 months preceding the interview.
The proposed indicators allow you to record political participation both passive and active, in the latter case detected through questions introduced only recently relating to new forms of participation related to the increasingly widespread use of the internet. The purpose of this indicator is to provide a measure that allows us to capture the level of civic and political participation of individuals of different ages.

3. Confidence in the Italian Parliament: *Average rating of confidence in the Italian Parliament (on a scale from 0 to 10) expressed by the persons aged 14 and over.*
The indicator expresses the degree of trust that citizens have in relation to the Italian Parliament.
4. Confidence in the judicial system: *Average rating of trust in the judicial system (on a scale from 0 to 10) expressed by persons aged 14 and over.*
The indicator expresses the degree of trust that citizens have in relation to the judicial system.
5. Trust in political parties: *Average rating of trust in political parties (on a scale from 0 to 10) expressed by the persons aged 14 and over.*
The indicator expresses the degree of trust that citizens have in relation to the parties.
6. Trust in local institutions: *Average rating of confidence in the regional government, provincial and municipal level (on a scale from 0 to 10) expressed by persons aged 14 and over.*
The indicator expresses the degree of confidence that citizens have against the major institutions at the level local.
7. Trust in other types of institutions: *Average rating of confidence in the police and fire department (on a scale from 0 to 10) expressed by the persons aged 14 and over.*
The indicator expresses the degree of confidence that citizens have for two services that protect the social order and public safety in the area.
8. Women and political representation in Parliament: *Percentage of women elected to the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies on the total of the elect.*
The indicator, which measures the percentage of women in the Senate and in the Chamber of Deputies, is a first important indicator of equity in representation.
9. Women and political representation at the local level: *Percentage of women elected to the total number of elected in regional councils.*
The indicator, which measures the percentage of women elected to the Regional Councils, is an indicator of equity in representation.
10. Women in decision-making bodies: *Percentage of women in senior positions in decision-making on the total of the components. Organs considered are: Constitutional Court Council; Authority warranty and regulation (Antitrust, Communications Authority, Authority Privacy), Consob; Ambassadors.*
The indicator expresses the ability of a society to empower women.
11. Women on boards of directors of companies listed in the Italian stock exchange: *Percentage of women on boards of directors of listed companies on the total of the components.*
Recent documents of the European Commission have highlighted the importance of women's empowerment in the economic sphere (European Commission, 2010).
12. Average age of the Italian Parliament: *Average age of parliamentarians in the Senate and the House*
The measure provides information on the age of parliamentary representatives. This indicator provides a measure of generational change in the Italian political representation.
13. Length of civil proceedings: *Average duration in days of civil proceedings defined by a judgment*
The indicator is an indirect measure of the efficiency of the justice system.