FSD2140 Sukupuolella painotettu demokratisoitumisindeksi 1995-2010

FSD2140 Gender-Weighted Index of Democratization 1995-2010

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Gender-Weighted Index of Democratization (GID)

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The existing measures of democracy are gender-blind. They do not take into account the sexual dimension of democracy, in other words, the fact that women's representation in national decision-making bodies varies greatly. Traditionally women have been seriously under-represented in all national decision-making bodies, including parliaments and governments, and they are still completely excluded from some parliaments.

The new Gender-Weighted Index of Democratization (GID) is intended to correct that shortage of Vanhanen's Index of Democratization (ID) (see Vanhanen, 2003; FSD1289 Measures of Democracy 1810-2010). GID is based on the idea that, at the same level of ID, a country with a high level of women's representation is more democratic than a country with a low level of women's representation in national decision-making bodies. In this index, women's percentage share of seats in parliament (W) is used to indicate differences in women's representation. Data on women's percentage share of seats in parliament have been publiched in Inter-Parliamentary Union's Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections since 1969, but these data lack from many countries up to the first years of the 1990s. Therefore, the calculation of GID values is limited to the period 1995-2010 in this dataset. The data on women's representation in parliaments over the period from 1995 to 2010 are presentaed in a separate dataset on women's percentage shares of seats in parliaments (W) over the period 1995-2010 (Appendix 1, Appendix 2). In Appendix 1, women's representation is assumed to be zero in countries without parliament. Nearly all data on women's representation in parliaments are from Inter-Parliamentary Union's Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections (Geneva: Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1969-2009) and from IPU PARLINE dataset 2010 (www.ipu.org).

GID is a combination of ID and W (women's representation in parliament). The Weighted Index of Democratization is calculated by the formula: GID = ID x [1 + (W/100)]. In this formula, W = women's percentage share of seats in parliament. The formula is such that the calculated GID value will always be higher than ID if the values of both ID and W are higher than zero. The W value increases the GID value up to the full sexual equality in representation (50-50%). In the extreme case, when the value of W has risen to 50 percent or higher, the GID value will be 50 percent higher than the ID value. However, the absolute increase in GID depends not only on W but also on ID. At a low level of ID, the increase in GID remains small even though women's representation were high. At a high level of ID, a high level of women's representation (W) adds the absolute value of GID much more than at a low level of ID, although the percentage increases are the same.

The dataset on the Gender-Weighted Index of Democratization (GID) covers 186 independent countries of the period 1995-2010. The group includes all countries that were independent already in 1995 and whose population was at least 40,000 inhabitants in 2000. East Timor is included since 2002 and Montenegro since 2003. Serbia covers data on the former Yugoslavia over the period 1995-2002. The dataset provides data on the values of ID, W, and GID for each country and for each year from 1995 to 2010.