

National Integrity System Assessment

Methodology and approach

The NIS assessments offer a comprehensive evaluation of the integrity system in a given country. They are conducted by local in-country organizations, generally TI national chapters.

At the outset of the project, the lead organization defines a brief project purpose statement, which guides its planning and the overall implementation of the project. The organisation sets up an advisory group which provides guidance on the NIS assessment. It also works with an individual researcher (or a group of researchers), who is an expert on political-institutional analysis and transparency, accountability and integrity issues, in carrying out the NIS assessment. The researcher is responsible for collecting the data, scoring the indicators and drafting the NIS report.

The research exercise focuses on an evaluation of the key public institutions and non-state actors in a country's governance system with regard to (1) their overall capacity, (2), their internal governance systems and procedures, and (3) their role in the overall integrity system. These institutions are:

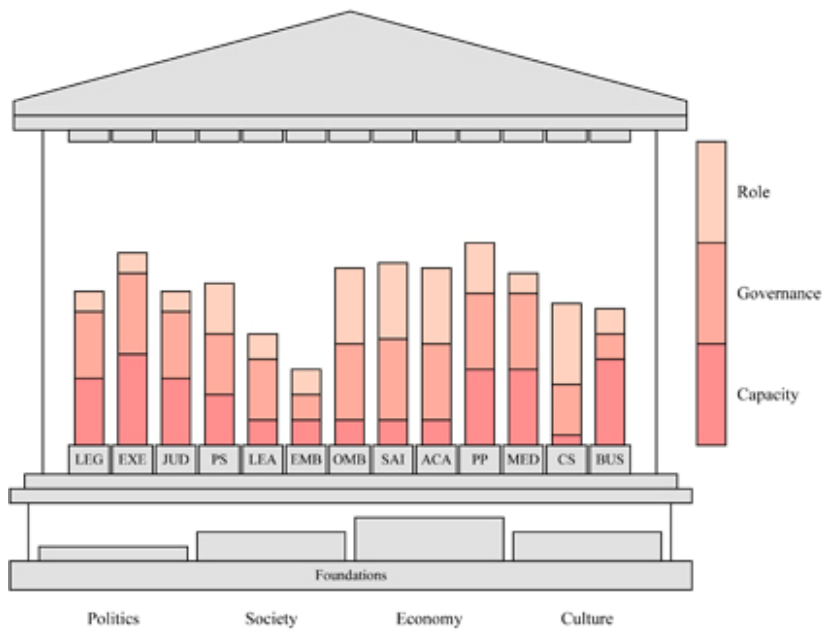
- Legislature
- Executive
- Judiciary
- Public Sector
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Electoral Management Bodies
- Ombudsman
- Supreme Audit Institution
- Anti-corruption agencies
- Political Parties
- Media
- Civil Society
- Business

The assessment examines both the formal framework of each institution, as well as the actual institutional practice, highlighting discrepancies between the formal provisions and reality on the ground. This in-depth investigation of the relevant governance institutions is embedded in a concise context analysis of the overall political, socio-economic and socio-cultural conditions in which these governance institutions operate.

A thorough review of laws, policies and existing research studies constitutes the main data source for the assessment for the formal framework and the context analysis. To collect information on the practice of the relevant institutions, a number of key informant interviews are conducted with knowledgeable persons from the public sector, civil society, academia and other sectors. In addition, wherever feasible, field tests are conducted. This data is used by the researcher to score the NIS indicators, which provide a quick quantitative summary of the qualitative information assembled in the NIS report.

The overall results of the NIS assessment can be presented in summary form via the '*NIS temple*', as shown in the example below. The temple is made up of the NIS pillars, which are composed of their composite scores for the dimensions of capacity, governance and role within the system.

National Integrity System



LEG.	Legislature	SAI.	Supreme Audit Institution
EXE.	Executive	ACA.	Anti Corruption Agencies
JUD.	Judiciary	PP.	Political Parties
PS.	Public Sector	MED.	Media
LEA.	Law Enforcement Agencies	CS.	Civil Society
EMB.	Electoral Management Body	BUS.	Business
OMB.	Ombudsman		

The draft NIS report and scores form the basis for a consultative National Integrity Workshop convened by the national chapter to discuss and validate the NIS findings, and, most importantly, to identify recommendations and priority actions for policy and advocacy activities. Participants include anti-corruption and governance experts drawn from government (including donors, where relevant), the private sector, the professions (e.g. lawyers, accountants), media and civil society.

The outcomes of the consultative workshop are added to the draft NIS report, which is then published by the national chapter as well as TI-S as a NIS country report. Most importantly, the outcomes of the consultative workshop are used to inform advocacy activities by the TI national chapter as well as other anti-corruption stakeholders in the country.

Source: http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/nis/methodology