

# Corruption Perceptions Index 2021: Short Methodology Note

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) aggregates data from a number of different sources that provide perceptions by business people and country experts of the level of corruption in the public sector.

The following steps are followed to calculate the CPI:

- 1. Select data sources:** Each data source that is used to construct the CPI must fulfil the following criteria to qualify as a valid source:
  - Quantifies perceptions of corruption in the public sector
  - Be based on a reliable and valid methodology, which scores and ranks multiple countries on the same scale
  - Performed by a credible institution
  - Allow for sufficient variation of scores to distinguish between countries
  - Gives ratings to a substantial number of countries
  - The rating is given by a country expert or business person
  - The institution repeats their assessment at least every two years

The CPI 2021 is calculated using 13 different data sources from 12 different institutions that capture perceptions of corruption within the past two years. These sources are described in detail in the accompanying [source description document](#).

- 2. Standardise data sources** to a scale of 0-100 where a 0 equals the highest level of perceived corruption and 100 equals the lowest level of perceived corruption. This standardisation is done by subtracting the mean of each source in the baseline year from each country score and then dividing by the standard deviation of that source in the baseline year. This subtraction and division using the baseline year parameters ensures that the CPI scores are comparable year on year since 2012. After this procedure, the standardised scores are transformed to the CPI scale by multiplying with the value of the CPI standard deviation in 2012 (20) and adding the mean of CPI in 2012 (45), so that the data set fits the CPI's 0-100 scale.
- 3. Calculate the average:** For a country or territory to be included in the CPI, a minimum of three sources must assess that country. A country's CPI score is then calculated as the average of all standardised scores available for that country. Scores are rounded to whole numbers.
- 4. Report a measure of uncertainty:** The CPI is accompanied by a standard error and confidence interval associated with the score, which captures the variation in scores of the data sources available for that country/territory.