

Testing the Validity of Expert-assessment Based Measurements of Civil Society

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Abstract

Current arsenal of empirical assessments of civil society includes a number of measurements, produced using proxy measurements and expert assessment based approaches. There is a need to systematically assess how various measurements of civil society capture (or fail to reflect) empirical reality. This paper evaluates validity of four measurements of civil society using “interim association” (Johnson, Joslyn, and Reynolds 2001) type of validity check. The paper uses correlation analysis to determine whether and to what extent various civil society measurements are interrelated. The analysis of four measurements of civil society for some 70 countries shows that these measurements have a considerable amount of overlap, suggesting that they converge as they capture the same empirical reality. There are, however, important differences between the measurements: CIVICUS Civil Society Index seems to play a ‘linking’ role between the three other measurements of civil society, analyzed in this study.

Key words: civil society, measurements, comparative, World Values Survey, CIVICUS

State of Affairs

Civil society is generally defined as a sphere of social activities and organisations outside the state, the market and the private sphere that is based on principles of voluntarism, pluralism and tolerance (Anheier 2004; Diamond 1999; Salamon, Sokolowski, and List 2003). The concept

of civil society has a long history;¹ it has been developed and used in various ways by generations of scholars, acquiring a plethora of meanings and interpretations.

Over the past two decades civil society has become a popular topic of numerous studies and lively debates. Despite challenges in defining and operationalising it, various approaches to measuring civil society have been developed, aiming at creating cross-country comparative data. They can be grouped into proxy measures and expert assessment based measurements. The first approach is based on the assumption that civil society can be measured through some indicators of its existence and functioning, which serve as proxy measures. The second approach is based on the assumption that experts are able to assess various aspects of civil society in their given countries, thereby producing scores that reflect state of civil societies across the world.

Proxy Measurements of Civil Society

Proxy measurements approach is used in most of the empirical studies of civil society. Since there is no such thing as ‘civil society’ that could be measured directly (in a way similar to recording attitudes or observing behavior) researchers focus on other phenomena that are believed to be closely linked with, or signal the existence (scope, quality) of civil society in a given polity. Among most commonly used proxy measurements for comparative analysis of civil society are membership in voluntary associations (Bernhard and Karakoc 2007; Howard 2003), doing voluntary work (Pichler and Wallace 2007), and economic indicators, for instance expenditures of the third sector (Salamon, Sokolowski, and List 2003). Elite challenging behavior such as participation in demonstrations, boycotts and petitions (Anheier, Katz, and Lam 2008; Bernhard and Karakoc 2007; Welzel, Inglehart, and Deutsch 2005) and informal social networks (Gibson 2001) are also used as proxy measurements, though less often. Using numbers of voluntary organizations /associations as a proxy measurement for civil society is an approach that is mostly discarded by now, since most researchers agree that a simple count of organizations in a given country/region is not very meaningful. The sheer numbers of civil society organizations (CSOs) can present a misleading picture of a vibrant civil society, particularly in developing countries. Relying only on numbers of registered CSOs is problematic, because there can be numerous organizations with very small membership, short life span, and almost negligible levels of activity. Also, civil society in developing countries often contains a significant number of “pretender” CSOs (Fowler 1997; Holloway 2006), or what Luong and Weinthal (1999) call NGIs – non-governmental individuals.

Proxy measures can be used separately, or combined into aggregate scores, such as the Global Civil Society Index by Anheier and Stares (2002)².

¹ Some authors trace it back to works of ancient Greek and Roman philosophers (Cohen and Arato 1994; Ellis 2000)

² This measurement of civil society is discussed in more detail in the *Limitations of the Study* section of the paper.

The strength of proxy measures approach is the rigorous use of empirical data. The challenges are:

- Choice of measurements that serve as good proxies (theoretically convincing);
- Obtaining empirical data of good quality;
- Obtaining empirical data that is comparable across nations. For example, membership in voluntary associations, as recorded by World Values Survey, can mean different things in different societies.

Another potential problem with using proxy measures to assess civil society is that one can legitimately ask why talk about civil society at all, instead of talking simply about numbers of organizations, networks, values, etc. If the researcher looks at membership in associations, can the researcher then say something about civil society? Or is it just membership in associations? In other words, do we learn something new about a complex phenomenon that is civil society, by looking at some of its components?

Expert Assessment Based Measurements of Civil Society

Alternatively to employing proxy measures, an expert assessment, based on a set of more or less elaborated criteria, is used to measure civil society. As a result, civil society as a whole receives a score that is supposed to reflect its level of development. Examples include Freedom House “Nations in Transit” civil society score (Freedom House 2011), United States Agency for International Development NGO Sustainability Index (USAID 2011a, 2011b), and CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CIVICUS 2011b).

While expert-assessment based measurements of complex social science concepts are not new (Freedom House has been producing its *Freedom in the World* reports since 1972 based on this methodology) this approach is often criticized by social scientists. See for example debates about validity and reliability of CIVICUS SCI (Anheier 2005; Howard 2005; Malena and Heinrich 2007; Salamon and Sokolowski 2005).

Main problems of expert-assessment based measurements are:

- Reliance on scores (more or less intuitive assessments within a given scale) instead of reliance on empirical data;
- Reliance on local experts that might not have the ability to objectively assess the situation, being part of the society they are supposed to evaluate.

Those defending the expert-assessment based approach point out that civil society is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. To assess it in a holistic manner, a multi-dimensional approach is needed (Malena and Heinrich 2007). Expert assessment produces a measurement of civil society that takes into account its various aspects.

Interim Association Validity Check

The question of choosing the right type of measurement for a cross-country comparative analysis of civil society is at least partially that of validity. Literature on social science research methods identifies various types of validity and ways of testing it. This paper analyses the validity of four measurements of civil society by exploring how these measurements relate to each other. The assumption is that if these measurements are valid estimates of civil society in a given country, they should be converging, as they capture the same phenomenon by different means. This is a type of validity test that Johnson, Joslyn and Reynolds (2001) call “interim association” i.e. a way to demonstrate the validity of the system of measurements of a given concept that produce similar outcomes, as expected.

The analysis presented in this paper builds upon previous work (Paturyan 2011), which has demonstrated a strong relationship between expert-assessment based measurements of civil society. The paper expands the original analysis by adding proxy measurements and a longer time frame. However, this is just another small step in exploring how various measurements of civil society are related to each other; much remains to be done, as discussed in the *Limitations of the Study* section of the paper.

Data Sources Used in the Analysis

The study uses three expert-assessment based (Freedom House Nations in Transit civil society score, USAID NGO Sustainability Index and CIVICUS Civil Society Index) and one proxy (World Values Survey membership in associations) measurement of civil society.

Freedom House (FH) is a US-based non-governmental organization that is, according to its mission statement, committed to support and expansion of freedom in the world. *Nations in Transit* is one of its cross-country longitudinal comparative study projects, covering 29 post-communist countries and administrative areas. Experts produce narrative reports for each country, as well as score seven areas, including civil society, on a scale from one to seven, where one represents most democratic achievement. Data for 1996-2011 is available as of today. For the purpose of coherence and readability of results of the analysis presented in this paper the scores were re-calculated, so that zero means weak civil society and six means strong civil society³.

USAID NGO Sustainability Index focuses on post-communist countries and has recently expanded to include Sub-Saharan Africa. The data is available for 29 countries and regions for the years 1997-2008 and 48 countries for 2009-2010. Experts assign scores to seven

³ The formula for re-calculating the scores is $\text{new value} = 7 - \text{FH civil society score}$

dimensions of civil society, these are then averaged to produce a score from seven (low or poor level of development) to one (very advanced NGO sector). Similarly to FH scores, the USAID NGO SI scores were re-calculated in this study, so that zero means low levels of development and six means high levels of development of an NGO sector⁴.

A possible drawback to the use of this data source as a measurement of civil society is that the concept of civil society is broader than that of the NGO sector. Nevertheless voluntary associations are often considered to be the ‘backbone’ of civil society; hence it is assumed that NGO Sustainability Index provides valuable information on the state of civil society in a given country.

The Civil Society Index (CSI) Program is one of the projects, implemented by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, an international alliance of over 1000 organizations and individuals from 105 countries. The goal of the CSI project is to assess the state of civil society in countries around the world.

CSI pilot phase was implemented in 2000-2002 (data from the pilot phase is not included in this study). The first phase was carried out in 2003-2006 in 54 countries⁵. During this phase four parameters of civil society were scored: Structure, Impact, Values and Environment. Each dimension had a score varying from zero (weak civil society) to three (strong or well developed civil society). These four scores were the outcome of expert assessment of 24 measurements with some 70+ sub-dimensions that captured various aspects of civil society.

After the first phase the methodology was revised. The second phase of research was implemented in 2008-2011 in 27 countries. Civil society was scored along five dimensions (Level of Organisation, Perception of Impact, Civic Engagement, Practice of Values and External Environment) each on a scale from 0 to 100. The scores for the dimensions were plotted in a form of a diamond (see Figure 1).

⁴ The formula for re-calculating the scores is $\text{new value} = 7 - \text{NGO Sustainability Index}$

⁵ In some countries the study was implemented much later, but according to “phase one” methodology, therefore these countries are grouped together with the rest of phase one countries.

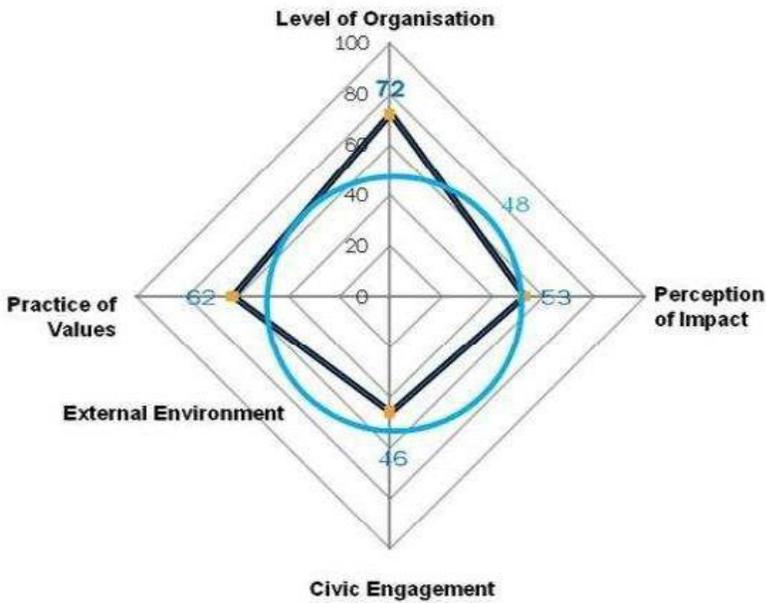


Figure 1: The Civil Society Diamond.

Source: <http://www.civicus.org>

In addition to considering the four (in the first phase) and five (in the second phase) dimensions of the CSI, the average of the four and five dimensions of CSI for the respective phases were created and used in the analysis.

Integrated **World Values Survey (WVS) and European Values Study (EVS)**⁶ survey data is the only non-expert assessment based measurement used in this analysis. WVS and EVS are surveys that include a broad range of socio-cultural and political topics and have been periodically conducted by a worldwide network of social scientists. A total of five waves have been carried out since 1981, consisting of nationally representative samples of the public of more than 80 societies. Variables measuring active membership in various associations were included in the analysis⁷.

Timeframe of the Analysis

The four measurements of civil society cover a time period from 1981 to 2011, however there is only partial overlap (see Table 1 in the Appendix). The analysis presented in this paper

⁶ Referred to as WVS throughout the paper.

⁷ The question wording is the following: “Now I am going to read out a list of voluntary organizations; for each one, could you tell me whether you are a member, an active member, an inactive member or not a member of that type of organization?” Data for active membership in organizations was selected for this analysis.

focuses on years 1997-2010, as for these years at least three measurements are available. In addition to that the analysis focuses on two specific years: 2005 and 2008. In year 2005 CSI phase one was about to end, WVS wave five started and both FH and USAID NGO SI were routinely recorded, making it a good year for an overall analysis of all four measures. Similarly, in 2008 CSI phase two started, and WVS wave five was about to end. While for projects like CSI and WVS the data for one particular country might not come exactly from year 2005 or 2008, given relative stability in civil society in a given country and a slow pace of change, we can still choose these two years as focal points of analysis.

Analysis of Expert-Assessment Based Measurements of Civil Society

FH civil society scores and USAID NGO SI are very closely related to each other. The number of countries for which both measurements are available varies from 14 (in 1997) to 29 (2004 and later). The correlations between the two measurements for all of the years included in the analysis are significant at $p < 0.01$, the lowest Pearson's r correlation coefficient is 0.75 for the year 1998; the highest is 0.9 for years 2008 and 2009. See Table 2 for the correlation matrix. The existence of strong significant correlation between these two variables means that the two measurements produce almost identical assessments of civil society in the 29 countries they cover. Hence, we can state that these two expert-assessment measurements of civil society capture the same reality.

Before adding CIVICUS CSI to the analysis, it is worth taking a look at the CSI phases one and two, to see if there is continuity in the measurement, despite methodology change. There are a total of 14 countries for which both first and second phase scores are available. Despite the low N , there is a statistically significant correlation (Pearson $r = 0.61$, $p < 0.05$) between the scores of the countries which were included in both phases, which is a testimony to a relative stability in the state of civil society in the given countries on one hand, and continuity in assessing it, despite the changes in methodology on the other hand.

How does CSI relate to two other expert-assessment based measurements of civil society? CSI for 2003-2005 (phase one) correlates strongly with FH civil society scores and USAID NGO SI scores for the corresponding years (see Table 3). CSI for 2008-2011 (phase two) correlates with FH civil society scores for years 2008-2010 (which is remarkable, taking into consideration a very small N of ten countries for which both measurements are available) but shows no significant correlation with USAID NGO SI scores (see Table 4).

Correlation analysis of expert-assessment measurements of civil society demonstrates that the three measurements are interrelated, although CIVICUS CSI phase two scores stand somewhat apart. This difference of phase two measurement becomes even more pronounced with expanding the analysis to include the next measurement of civil society, as described below.

Adding Proxy Measurements to the Analysis

Next step in the analysis of the interrelation of various measurements of civil society is adding the WVS data on membership in association to the calculations. Performing a correlation analysis for all four types of measurements available for the year 2005, it becomes clear that CSI has almost no relationship to the proxy measurement of membership in associations: the only type of membership that shows a significant correlation is membership in sport or recreation organizations. The other two expert-assessment based measurements show no relationship with active membership in associations. See Table 5 for the correlation matrix.

For the year 2008 the results are similar for the relationship between WVS data on one hand and FH and NGO SI data on the other hand: no correlation between the two expert-assessment based measurements with the proxy measure. For CIVICUS CSI phase two however, the picture is somewhat different: it demonstrates more links with membership in associations as compared to CIVICUS CSI phase one. There is significant correlation with membership in a) sports or recreational organizations, b) art, music or educational organizations, and c) professional organizations. See Table 6 for the correlation matrix.

Thus, proxy measurement of civil society, used in this analysis, is to some extent related to one of the expert-assessment based measurements, CIVICUS CSI, and that relationship is stronger for the second phase of CSI implementation, which employed a refined methodology.

Conclusion

The four measurements of civil society analyzed in this paper are by and large related to each other. They do seem to converge and measure something similar, thus satisfying the requirement for interim association type of validity. However, the measurements are not fully compatible: some are closer to each other while others are only indirectly connected. USAID NGO SI and WVS seem to be the two opposite ‘poles’ with the other measurements located somewhere in between. CIVICUS CSI (with its phases one and two) is the measurement of civil society that is linked both to WVS and to the other two expert assessment based measurements. It is interesting to note that as CIVICUS CSI reworked its methodology for phase two, the link to membership based proxy measure deepened, while the link to one of expert assessment based measurements, which focuses specifically on NGO sector, disappeared.

The relationship between the four measurements is graphically represented in Figure 2. Arrows between measurements show existence of statistically significant correlations, with Pearson’s r coefficients written above or next to the corresponding arrows. For cases where a number of correlations were found (for example between NGO SI and FH there is a significant

correlation for each of the 14 years that were entered into the analysis) the lowest observed Pearson's r is presented.

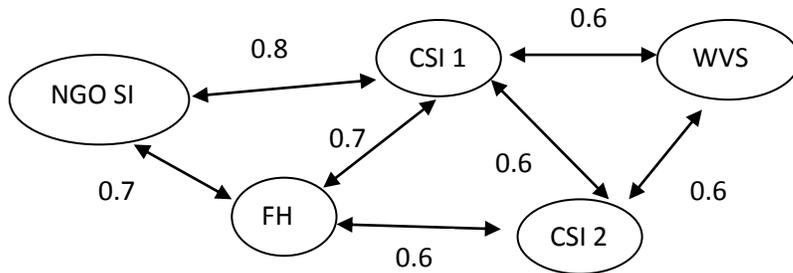


Figure 2: Correlations between measurements of civil society

The conclusion that can be drawn at this stage is that expert-assessment based measurements of civil society, including CIVICUS SCI, have a merit as methods of empirically capturing the complexities of civil society and producing measurements that perform reasonably well in cross-country comparative analysis. However, rigorous empirical analysis of civil society requires using a variety of tools, including proxy measures, which have been successfully employed in the past.

Limitations of the Study

Some important sources of data for civil society are not utilized in this research. One of such measurements, not included in this analysis is compiled by Karatnycky and Ackerman (2005). In their work the authors provide data on strength of non-violent civic coalitions for 67 countries in their respective years of transition (or an attempt at transition) from authoritarian rule to democracy. The reason why this paper fails to include Karatnycky and Ackerman data into the analysis is that it does not easily fit into the current research design, which focuses on a relatively recent state of affairs. The Karatnycky and Ackerman data assesses the strength of civic non-violent coalitions at different points in time, whenever the country in question underwent the transition. The dates vary from 1973 (Greece) to 1999 (Ghana). Most of the data comes from late 80es, whereas the analysis presented in this paper focuses on late 90es and the first decade of the 21st century.

Another measurement of civil society that does not enter the analysis presented in this paper is the Global Civil Society Index (H. Anheier and Stares 2002). It is calculated based on several proxy measures and combines two levels of measurement: the individual and the organizational. The individual level consists of the participation aspect (political participation and membership in associations concerned with common good) and “civility” measured by levels of tolerance in the population of a given country. The organizational level refers to the density of International NGOs and associations over a given population. The data on civil society

scores for 33 countries for the year 2000 is available. The reason why this data is not included in the analysis presented in this paper is that it partially overlaps with World Values Survey: a source included in the analysis⁸.

The analysis would certainly benefit from including more survey based measurements of civil society, in addition to WVS data. Another important source that needs to be included in the further analysis is the data from Center for Civil Society Studies at the Johns-Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies.

Another limitation of the study is that only correlation analysis is used to assess the level of inter-relation between various measurements of civil society. Other methods, such as factor analysis and regression analysis are planned as further steps in exploring this issue.

These limitations point out both the need and the direction of further research that would enable further improvements in measurements of civil society.

Methodology Notes

FH civil society scores for Yugoslavia 1998-2002 were used for Serbia and for Montenegro.

Southern (Greek) and Northern (Turkish) Cyprus are treated as separate entities by CIVICUS SCI and were entered separately into the analysis presented in this paper.

For CIVICUS CSI 2003-2006 phase CSI Indicator Database (CIVICUS 2009) was used (there were discrepancies between database scores and country report scores in some cases, such as Germany). For 2008-2011 phase interactive web page of the 2011 report (CIVICUS 2011a) was used.

⁸ In (Paturyan 2011) the relationship between GCSI, FH civil society scores, USAID NGO SI and CIVICUS CSI was analyzed; it was demonstrated that it is related to these measurements to some extent, though factor analysis sets it apart from the other three measurements.

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Appendix A

Table 1: Availability of civil society measurements by year

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
World Values Survey	Wave 2			Wave 3						Wave 4						
FH civil society score																
USAID NGO SI																
CIVICUS CSI								Phase 1					Phase 2			

Note: the Table starts from 1996, since that is a year from which at least two measurements included in this analysis are available. WVS is available from 1981.

Table 2: Correlations Between USAID NGO Sustainability Index and Freedom House Civil Society Score

		FH 1997	FH 1998	FH 1999	FH 2000	FH 2001	FH 2002	FH 2003	FH 2004	FH 2005	FH 2006	FH 2007	FH 2008	FH 2009	FH 2010
NGO SI 1997	Pearson Correlation	0.792	0.802	0.844	0.802	0.768	0.71	0.685	0.655	0.615	0.583	0.528	0.533	0.471	0.459
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.001	0	0	0	0.001	0.003	0.005	0.008	0.015	0.023	0.043	0.041	0.076	0.085
	N	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
NGO SI 1998	Pearson Correlation	0.728	0.752	0.749	0.736	0.686	0.635	0.609	0.618	0.601	0.588	0.557	0.578	0.561	0.559
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0.001	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.005	0.009	0.006	0.008	0.008
	N	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
NGO SI 1999	Pearson Correlation	0.864	0.878	0.885	0.866	0.856	0.809	0.795	0.793	0.776	0.765	0.735	0.745	0.723	0.712
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	19	22	22	22	22	22	22	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
NGO SI 2000	Pearson Correlation	0.871	0.894	0.896	0.885	0.9	0.879	0.87	0.867	0.847	0.839	0.818	0.827	0.81	0.792
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	24	27	27	27	27	27	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
NGO SI 2001	Pearson Correlation	0.85	0.877	0.874	0.869	0.882	0.852	0.848	0.848	0.826	0.818	0.802	0.811	0.8	0.783
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	24	27	27	27	27	27	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
NGO SI 2002	Pearson Correlation	0.874	0.903	0.897	0.891	0.902	0.87	0.861	0.86	0.844	0.838	0.824	0.828	0.815	0.796
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	24	27	27	27	27	27	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
NGO SI 2003	Pearson Correlation	0.867	0.894	0.877	0.876	0.893	0.861	0.855	0.864	0.86	0.857	0.851	0.858	0.851	0.834
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	25	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
NGO SI 2004	Pearson Correlation	0.865	0.893	0.885	0.885	0.901	0.867	0.859	0.866	0.871	0.87	0.865	0.873	0.862	0.845
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	25	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
NGO SI 2005	Pearson Correlation	0.871	0.892	0.886	0.887	0.91	0.88	0.873	0.878	0.888	0.89	0.887	0.895	0.885	0.867
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	25	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
NGO SI 2006	Pearson Correlation	0.857	0.877	0.871	0.873	0.895	0.865	0.859	0.866	0.875	0.876	0.873	0.881	0.871	0.852
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	25	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
NGO SI 2007	Pearson Correlation	0.861	0.877	0.877	0.88	0.905	0.875	0.871	0.88	0.891	0.893	0.89	0.898	0.889	0.869
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	25	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
NGO SI 2008	Pearson Correlation	0.861	0.876	0.875	0.879	0.908	0.88	0.878	0.885	0.896	0.898	0.897	0.906	0.898	0.879
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	25	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
NGO SI 2009	Pearson Correlation	0.861	0.87	0.87	0.874	0.907	0.881	0.88	0.886	0.898	0.9	0.899	0.908	0.9	0.879
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	25	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
NGO SI 2010	Pearson Correlation	0.869	0.88	0.879	0.884	0.915	0.888	0.886	0.887	0.897	0.899	0.896	0.906	0.897	0.878
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N	25	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29

Table 3: Correlation matrix for CIVICUS CSI phase 1

		CIVICUS CSI average score phase I	NGO Sustainability Index 2003 recoded	NGO Sustainability Index 2004 recoded	NGO Sustainability Index 2005 recoded	Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2003 recoded	Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2004 recoded	Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2005 recoded
CIVICUS CSI average score phase I	Pearson Correlation	1	.819**	.772**	.790**	.691**	.759**	.835**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.001	.001	.006	.002	.000
	N	54	14	14	14	14	14	14
NGO Sustainability Index 2003 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.819**	1	.967**	.953**	.855**	.864**	.860**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	14	29	29	29	28	29	29
NGO Sustainability Index 2004 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.772**	.967**	1	.994**	.859**	.866**	.871**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	14	29	29	29	28	29	29
NGO Sustainability Index 2005 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.790**	.953**	.994**	1	.873**	.878**	.888**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	N	14	29	29	29	28	29	29
Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2003 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.691**	.855**	.859**	.873**	1	.993**	.985**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.000
	N	14	28	28	28	28	28	28
Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2004 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.759**	.864**	.866**	.878**	.993**	1	.993**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	N	14	29	29	29	28	29	29
Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2005 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.835**	.860**	.871**	.888**	.985**	.993**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.
	N	14	29	29	29	28	29	29

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4: CIVICUS CSI correlation matrix for phase 2

		CIVICUS CSI average score phase II	NGO Sustainability Index 2008 recoded	NGO Sustainability Index 2009 recoded	NGO Sustainability Index 2010 recoded	Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2008 recoded	Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2009 recoded	Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2010 recoded
CIVICUS CSI average score phase II	Pearson Correlation	1	.496	.163	.094	.645*	.690*	.701*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.145	.631	.784	.044	.027	.024
	N	27	10	11	11	10	10	10
NGO Sustainability Index 2008 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.496	1	.998**	.997**	.906**	.898**	.879**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.145	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	10	29	29	29	29	29	29
NGO Sustainability Index 2009 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.163	.998**	1	.999**	.908**	.900**	.879**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.631	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	11	29	48	48	29	29	29
NGO Sustainability Index 2010 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.094	.997**	.999**	1	.906**	.897**	.878**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.784	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	N	11	29	48	48	29	29	29
Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2008 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.645*	.906**	.908**	.906**	1	.997**	.990**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.044	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.000
	N	10	29	29	29	29	29	29
Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2009 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.690*	.898**	.900**	.897**	.997**	1	.997**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.027	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	N	10	29	29	29	29	29	29
Freedom House Nations in Transit Civil Society Score 2010 recoded	Pearson Correlation	.701*	.879**	.879**	.878**	.990**	.997**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.024	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.
	N	10	29	29	29	29	29	29

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 5: Correlations between four measurements of civil society for year 2005

		NGO SI 2005	FH 2005	CSI Phase I
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Church or Religious Organization	Pearson Correlation	0.261	0.438	0.343
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.498	0.239	0.086
	N	9	9	26
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Sport or Recreation Organization	Pearson Correlation	-0.293	0.216	0.628
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.445	0.577	0.001
	N	9	9	26
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Art, Music or Educational Organization	Pearson Correlation	-0.168	0.052	0.358
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.666	0.894	0.072
	N	9	9	26
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Labour Union	Pearson Correlation	0.039	0.297	0.105
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.92	0.438	0.609
	N	9	9	26
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Environmental Organization	Pearson Correlation	0.044	0.392	0.009
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.911	0.297	0.966
	N	9	9	26
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Professional Organization	Pearson Correlation	-0.177	0.077	0.191
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.648	0.844	0.35
	N	9	9	26
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Charitable or Humanitarian Organization	Pearson Correlation	0.061	0.486	0.324
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.876	0.185	0.106
	N	9	9	26

Table 6: Correlations between four measurements of civil society for year 2008

		NGO SI 2008	FH 2008	CSI Phase II
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Church or Religious Organization	Pearson Correlation	0.296	0.43	0.445
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.439	0.248	0.084
	N	9	9	16
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Sport or Recreation Organization	Pearson Correlation	-0.232	0.096	0.632
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.548	0.806	0.009
	N	9	9	16
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Art, Music or Educational Organization	Pearson Correlation	-0.115	0.007	0.616
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.767	0.986	0.011
	N	9	9	16
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Labour Union	Pearson Correlation	0.12	0.264	0.37
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.758	0.493	0.158
	N	9	9	16
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Environmental Organization	Pearson Correlation	0.103	0.358	0.49
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.791	0.344	0.054
	N	9	9	16
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Professional Organization	Pearson Correlation	-0.118	0.082	0.6
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.762	0.833	0.014
	N	9	9	16
WVS 2005-2007 Active Member of Charitable or Humanitarian Organization	Pearson Correlation	0.122	0.389	0.37
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.755	0.301	0.158
	N	9	9	16