Govdirectory
Add your country!
How to get started collecting and structuring all public organizations in a country on Wikidata.

1. Get familiarized

The aim of the WikiProject is to get all public organizations, like ministries and agencies, of all administrative levels and in all countries onto Wikidata. Modelling these can sometimes be tricky, so learn from what other administrators have done.

Do browse some of the already started countries that have come some way, like Sweden or the Netherlands, to get a sense of how your country page could look like in the future. Copy the concepts and be inspired by their queries. Take advantage of the videos and presentations of the project to quickly learn more.

2. Create a country page

Use the form on the project page to start a new country. It prefills the page with templates, categories, commons sections and other information that might be good to collect.

Remember to add the country name in all the places on that page. Then add the country to the main list on the project page. If you choose to use pages on different types of organizations, make use of categories so that the pages get easier to find later. Once you are a bit into step 3, start creating integrality dashboards and Wikidata lists to include on the page.

Add the country page, all dashboards and Wikidata lists to your watchlist to keep track of all changes.

3. Model and query

It is often a good tip to create country specific items for certain types of organizations. Often, they are already implied by other Wikidata items, as there might be lists of categories for items of that type, for example, “ministries of Sweden”. By creating items like this, it is often quite easy to create a query for them.

It might be worth to check out the queries of other countries to be inspired or to see tricks that can be used when agencies have complicated history.

Notability is generally not a problem for public organizations, it should be fairly easy to find “serious and publicly available references” to support them, but also remember to add those references to the item when you edit.

4. Add contact points

All contact points are good to add, so just add away. Usually, the website has links to the others and general information, so adding that brings both immediate value and enables others to contribute too.

If you find social media accounts, these are good to add as they can be very helpful for those looking to make contact. Common ones are YouTube channel ID [P2397], Facebook username [P2593], X username [P2002], Instagram username [P2003] and LinkedIn company or organization ID [P4264]. But others that they are active on (that have properties in Wikidata) are also good to add.

5. Publish to govdirectory.org

When you have been doing some work on a country, perhaps you also want to get it to show up on https://govdirectory.org/countries. We don’t have any strict rules for how many stars it needs to have before it is suitable to do it, but there are some things we use as a guide.

First, it has to provide some meaningful value to a reader. This could for example be done by having completed a group of organizations that cover the entire country (like all municipalities) or have a smaller group, but that is very rich with information (for example all the ministries and where each of them also has all public contact details added).

If you are unsure, you can either ask on the talk page of the country or create an issue on the GitHub repository. When you have decided to move forward, follow the ADD A COUNTRY guide.

6. Monitor changes

We recommend that you create a subpage with a Template:Wikidata list with the same organizations that get selected in the country query to make it easier to follow changes that the public view. You can for example look at the one for Sweden to be inspired or any other in that category.

Another useful tool is Integrality lists. They can help watch for changes of the total numbers and see progress or changes on a higher level, but it may sometimes be harder to figure out what happened. One way that might be useful for detective work is to plug the query used for integrality into the SPARQL recent changes tool to combine them with regular Wikidata lists.

Join the project!

Join Wikidata:WikiProject Govdirectory by adding yourself to the participants page and discuss general modelling questions and be inspired by the ongoing work. Help out in the themed collaboration weeks and chat with other project members in the weekly collab hours. Together we can achieve the goal to have all public organizations on all levels from all countries, in Wikidata.