

What Businesses Experience

Insights from the Latest 50
Enterprise Surveys

Jorge Rodriguez Meza
Manager, Enterprise Analysis Unit





**What are
the World Bank
Enterprise Surveys?**

Transparency

Publicly available granular data,
creating a global public good

Nationally Representative

Interviews with private firms' top
managers or owners

Comparable

Consistent questionnaire and
methodology since 2006, data are
comparable across economies and time

Business Environment

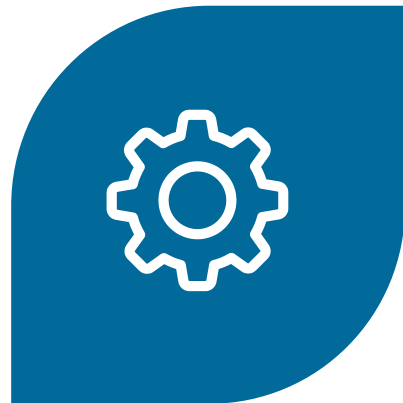
Measures of the business
environment, firm characteristics
and outcomes

How Are They Implemented?



SURVEY DESIGN

Questionnaire design
Sampling frame and universe



SAMPLING

Representative at size,
industry, location level



FIELDWORK

Local private contractor
Close monitoring



DATA QUALITY CONTROL

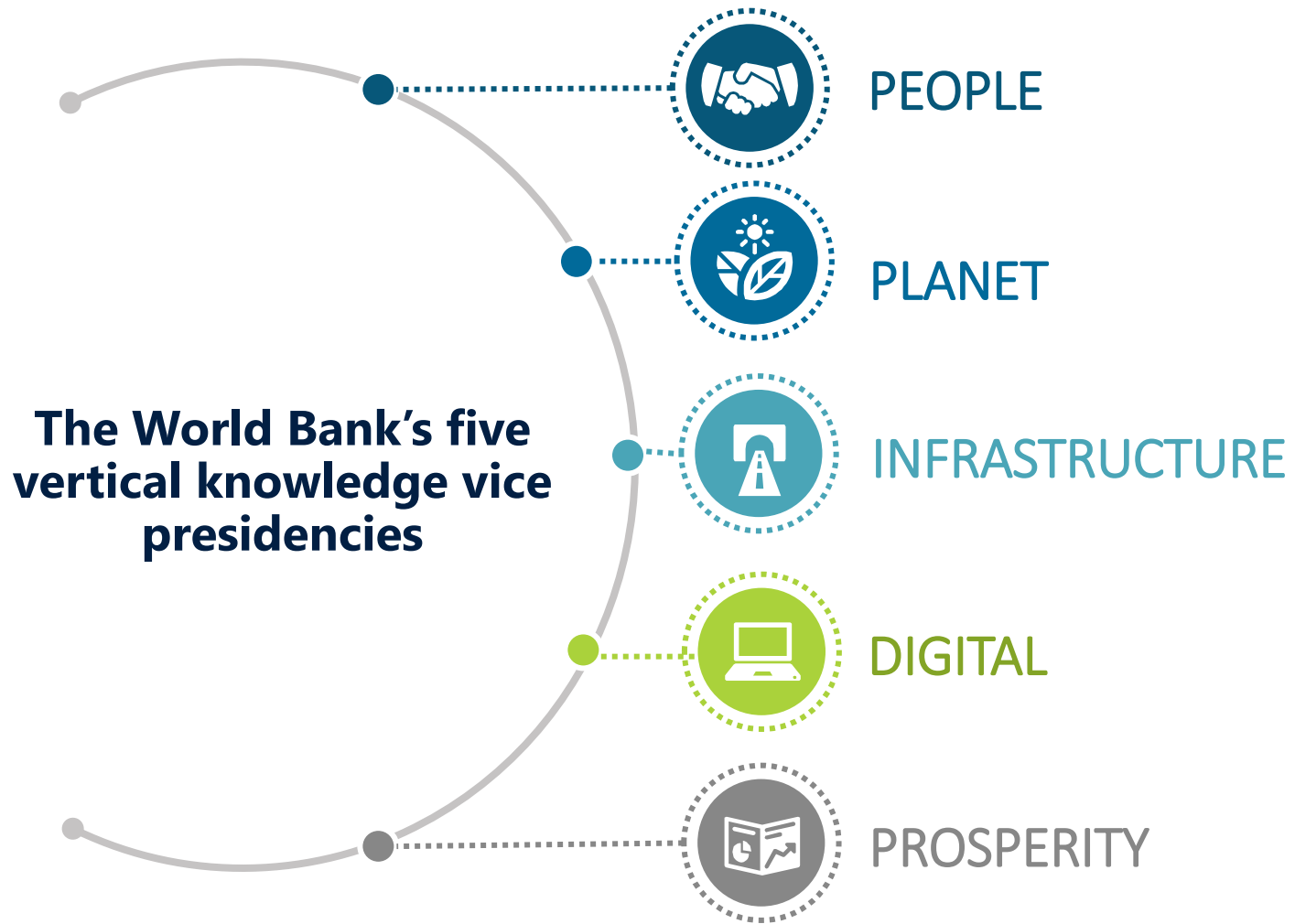
Regular and
consistent checks



PUBLICATION

Data published right
after all checks

Surveys are directly relevant to all five verticals

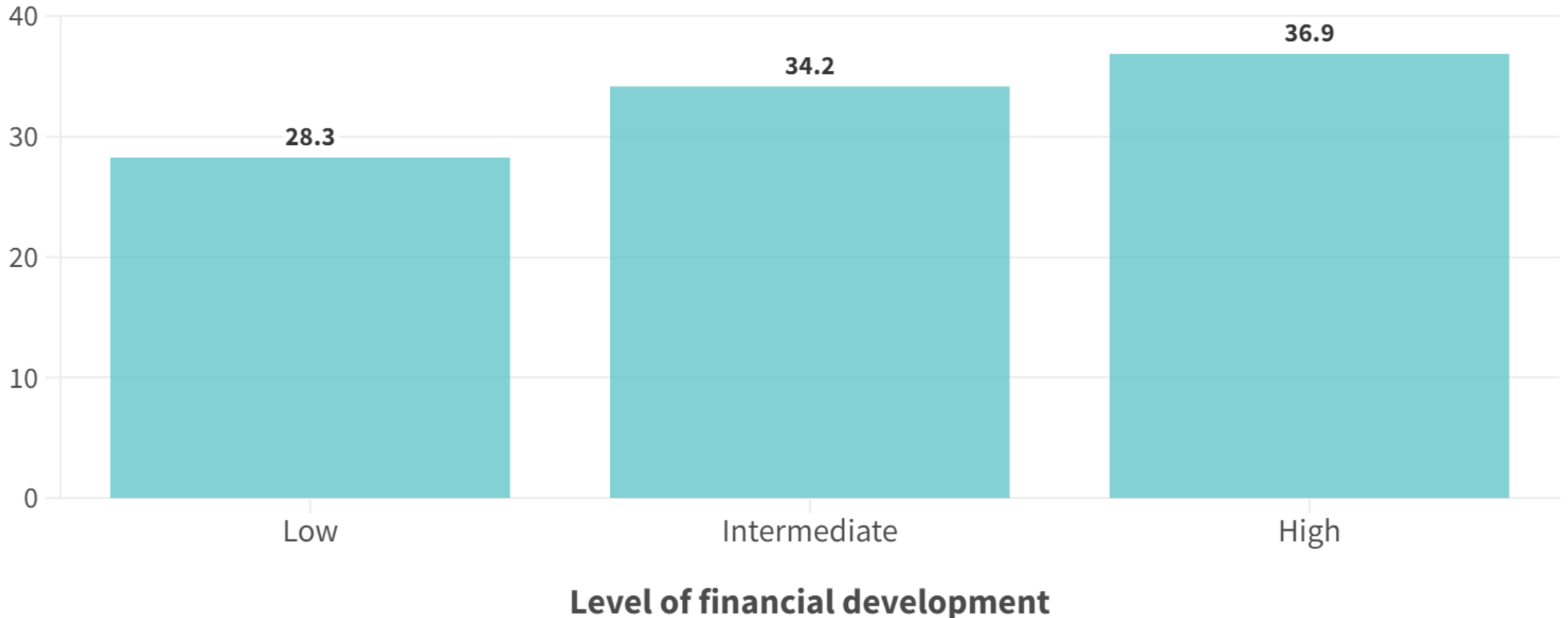




PEOPLE

Women's participation in the workforce is higher with better financial development

Share of women workers

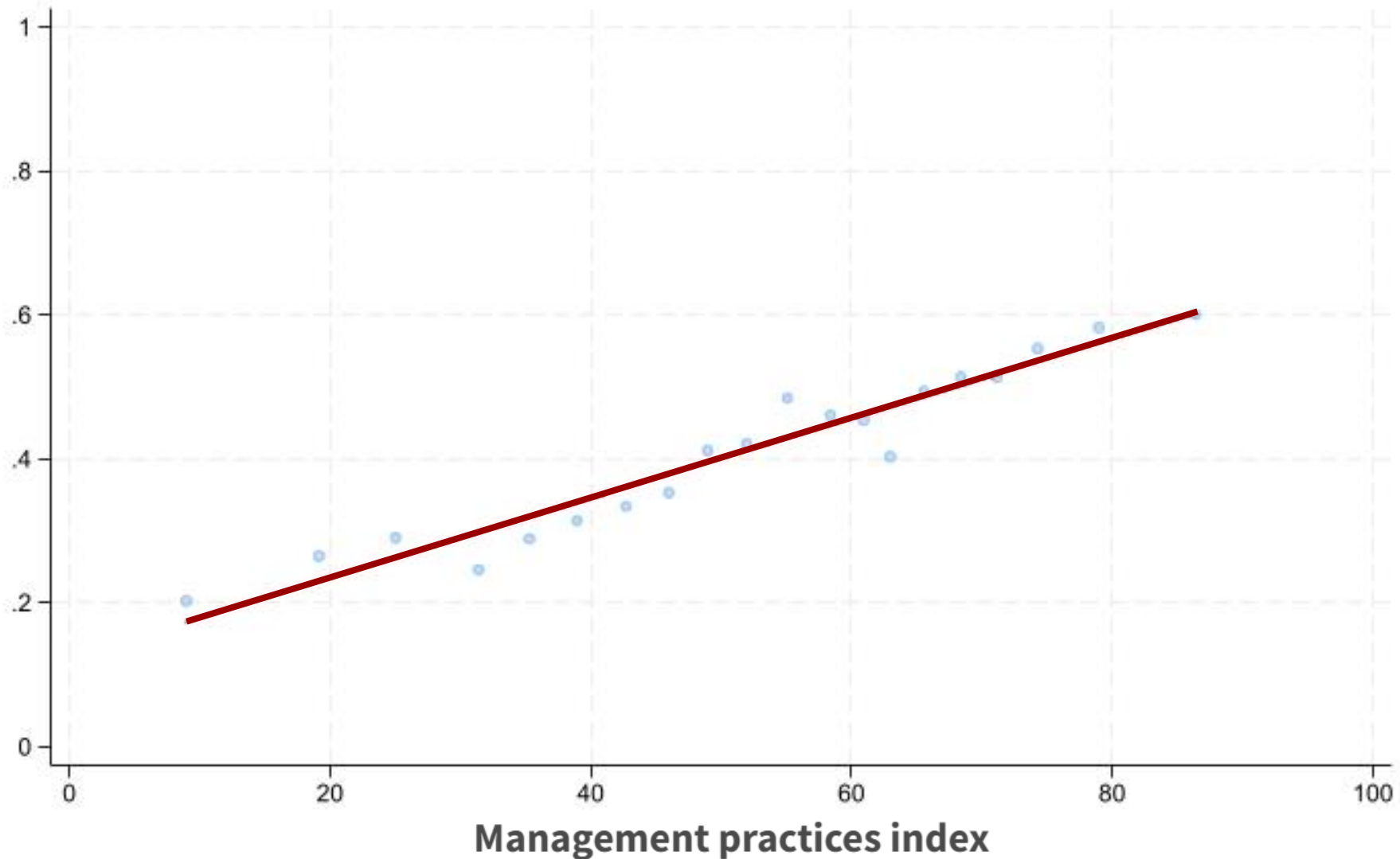




PLANET

Measures to reduce emissions, waste, or pollution are adopted more by better-managed firms

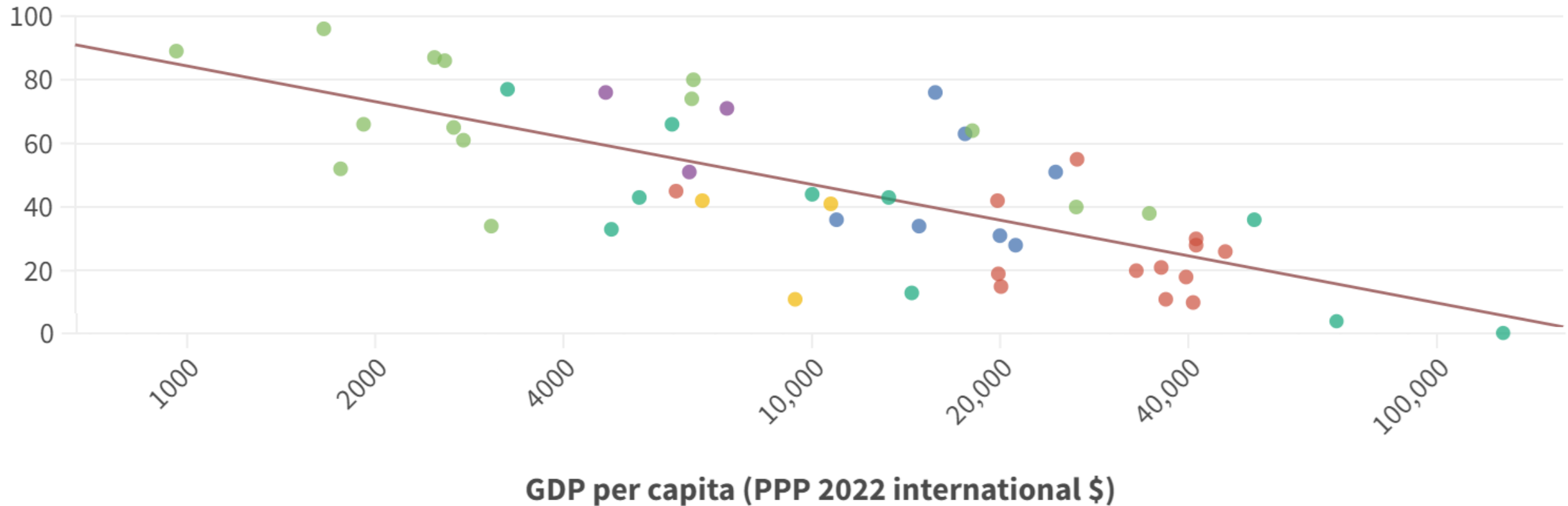
Adoption of energy efficiency measures (probability)





Infrastructure improves with the level of development

Share of firms experiencing electricity outages

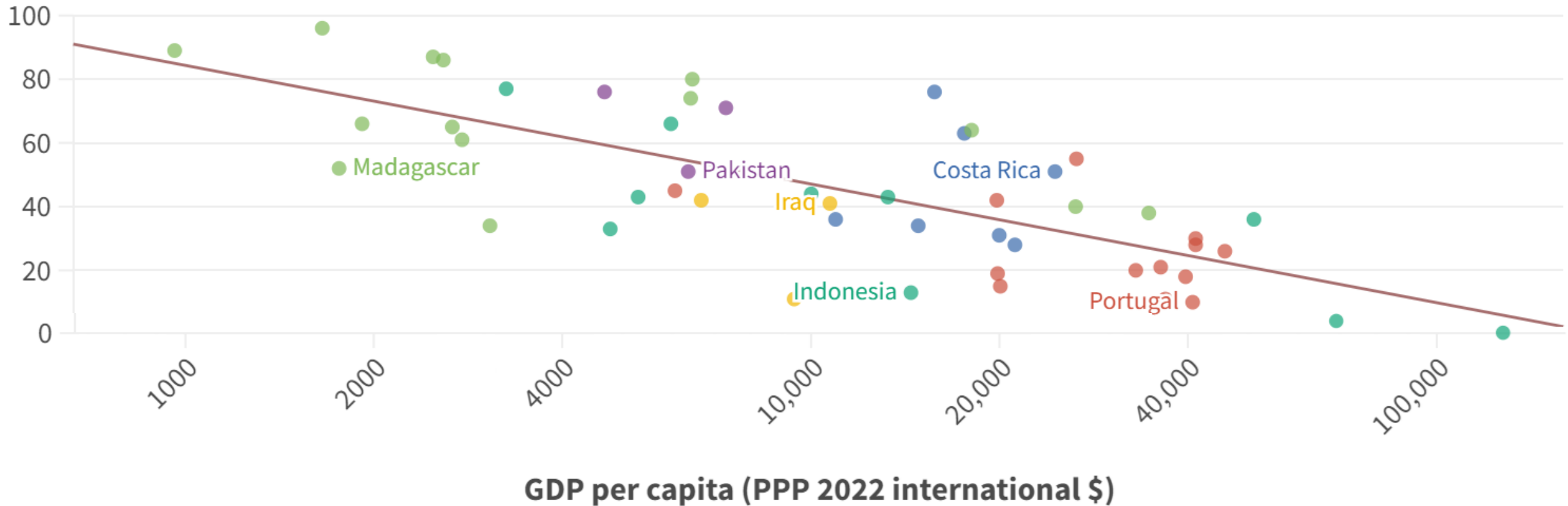


Region ● East Asia & Pacific ● Europe & Central Asia ● Latin America & Caribbean ● Middle East & North Africa
● South Asia ● Sub-Saharan Africa



Infrastructure improves with the level of development

Share of firms experiencing electricity outages

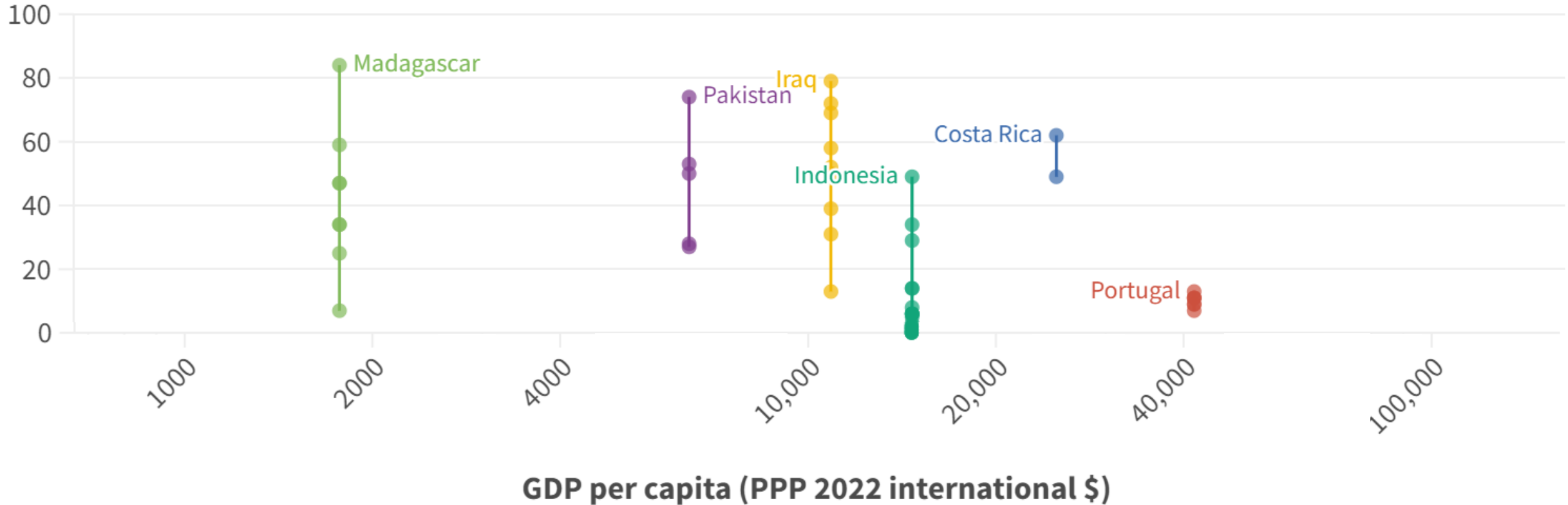


- Region**
- East Asia & Pacific
 - Europe & Central Asia
 - Latin America & Caribbean
 - Middle East & North Africa
 - South Asia
 - Sub-Saharan Africa



... but differences within economies are substantial

Share of firms experiencing electricity outages



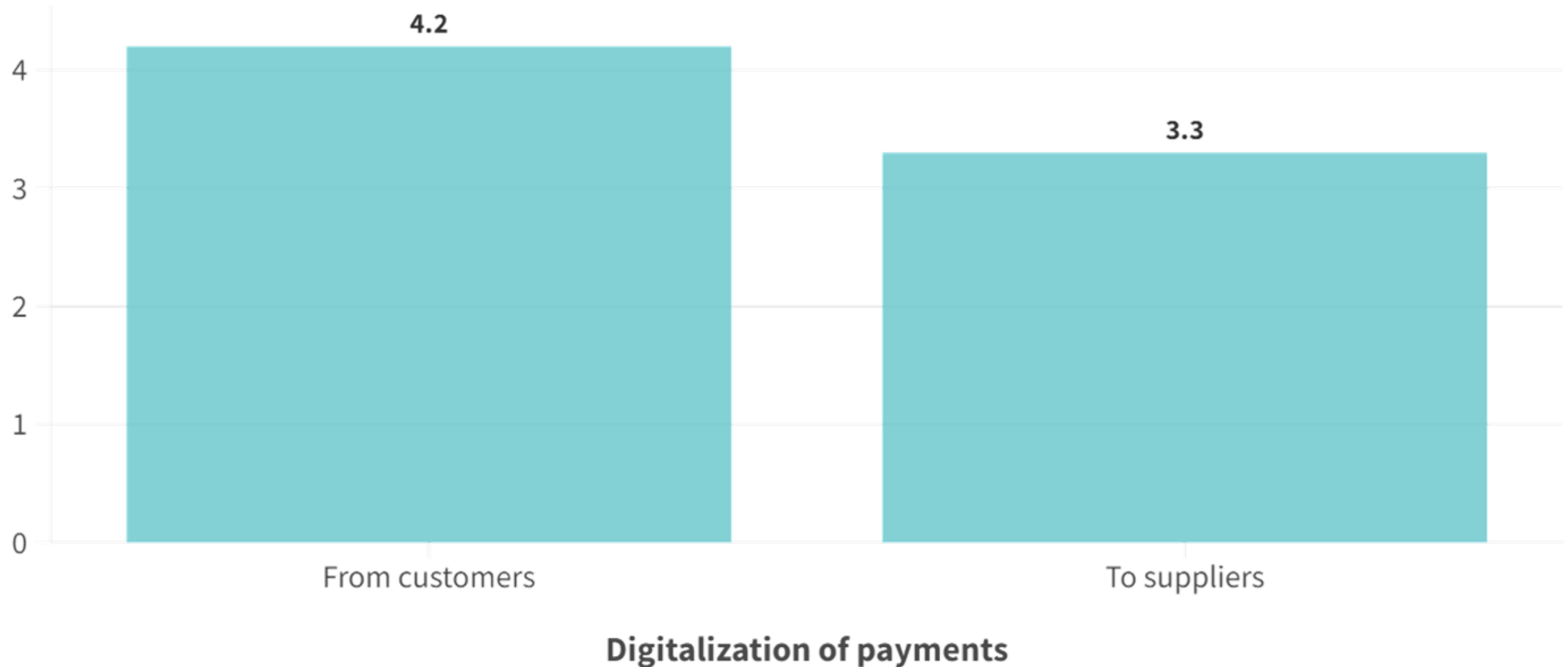
Region ● East Asia & Pacific ● Europe & Central Asia ● Latin America & Caribbean ● Middle East & North Africa
● South Asia ● Sub-Saharan Africa



DIGITAL

Digitalization of payments is higher in firms that do not face credit constraints

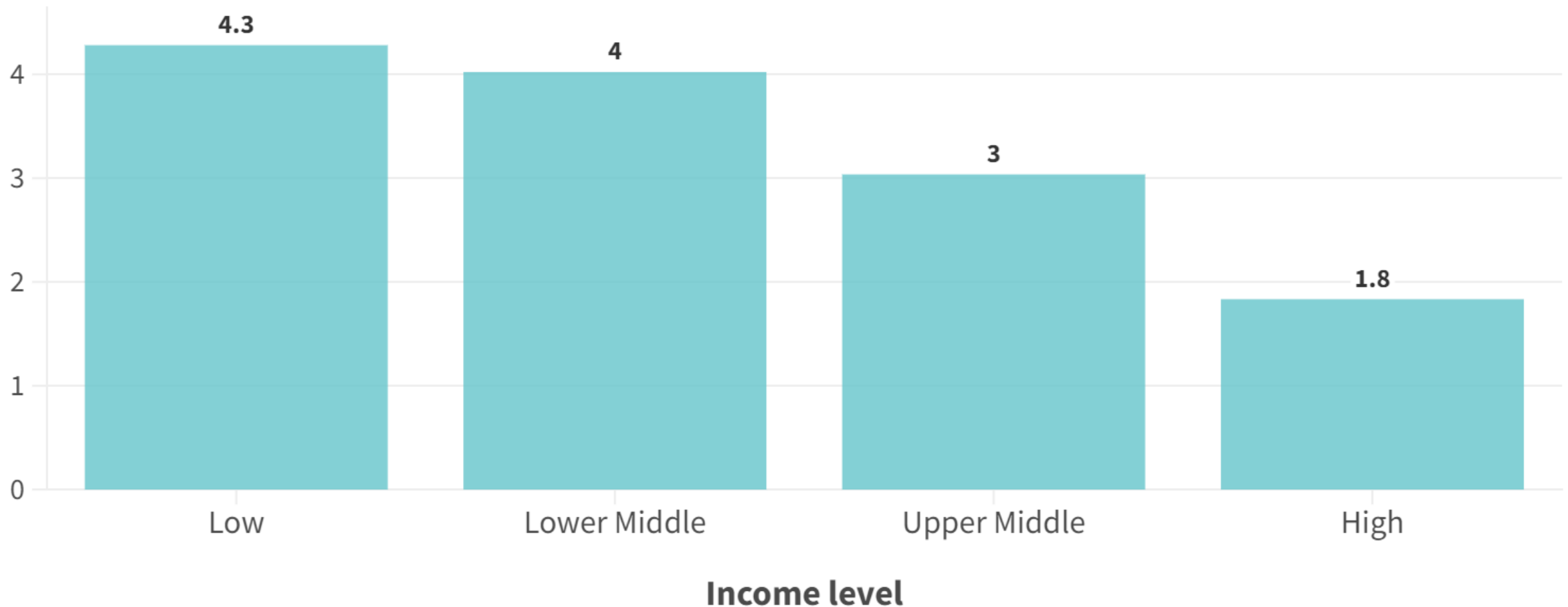
Difference between credit unconstrained and constrained firms (percentage points)





Productivity gap decreases substantially with the level of income

Gap in labor productivity between the top and bottom 25 percentile of firms (ratio)



Modernizing the World Bank Enterprise Surveys

METHODOLOGY UPDATE

Questionnaire
Firm Productivity Measurement
Sector Coverage

PROCESS UPGRADE

Economies of Scale
Data Collection Modes
Reproducibility



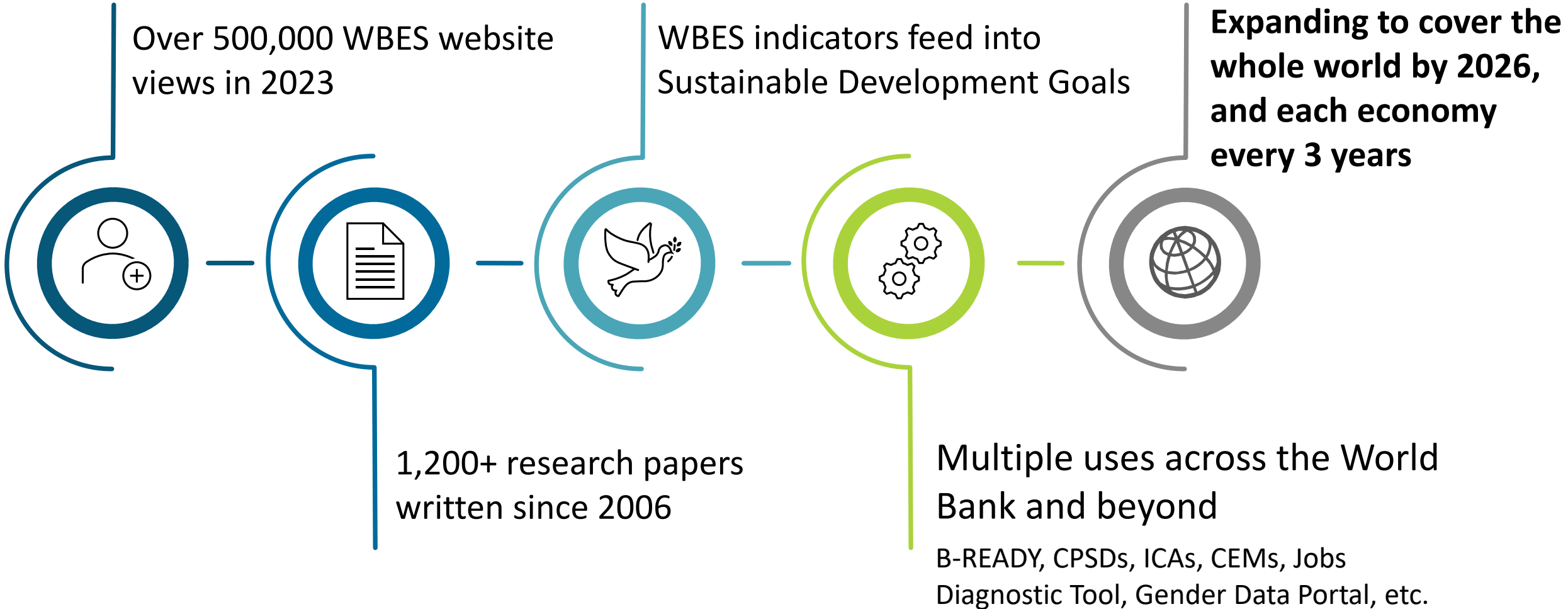
COMPLEMENTARY PRODUCTS

Micro Enterprise Surveys
Informal Sector Enterprise Surveys

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PRODUCTS

Business Ready (B-READY)
Country Private Sector Diagnostics
Investment Climate Assessments

Impact of the World Bank Enterprise Surveys





There are huge gaps in our knowledge about firms around the world and our best ray of hope for illuminating the darkness lies in the systematic and comprehensive approach followed by the WBES. Countless streams of research and policy analysis would be hopeless without it, and I am but one of many researchers who are excited about the expansions that lie ahead.

Dave Donaldson, Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



A thriving private sector is key to creating a world free of poverty. The World Bank Enterprise Surveys, aiming to cover over 180 economies during a three-year period, provide essential global data public good with unparalleled insights into how businesses can be enabled to live up to their full potential.

Haishan Fu, Chief Statistician of the World Bank and the Director of the World Bank's Development Data Group



The Enterprise Surveys provide a unique opportunity to carry out firm-level analysis. The global sample covering almost twenty years allows identifying mechanisms behind important relationships - in our case, between corruption and firm growth.

Sergei Guriev, Sciences Po Provost, Senior Fellow IUF, CEPR Director of the Populism RPN and Research Fellow



At EBRD, the Enterprise Surveys continue to inspire research, guide our operational activities, and inform our policy dialogue.

Ralph De Haas, Director of Research,
Office of the Chief Economist, EBRD



The Enterprise Surveys have provided high quality data for research and policy action. The data show that African businesses lack access to electricity and that this problem must be addressed through investments in the energy grid.

Vijaya Ramachandran, Director for
Energy and Development, the
Breakthrough Institute



I am a fan of the World Bank Enterprise Surveys (WBES, formerly BEEPS). In several countries WBES has enabled robust dialogues on corruption as an obstacle to private sector growth. A key quality of WBES is that the methodology lets you show governments how their business environment compares with previous years and other countries.

Alexander Kremer, World Bank,
Country Manager, Lao PDR



“WB Enterprise Survey allowed us to map regional obstacles to better firm performance. This allows us to address the problems and promote growth in all EU regions.

Lewis Dijkstra, Head of Territorial and Urban Analysis, European Commission



“From my time as a project TTL in FCI working across South Asia, Africa to East Asia regions to my current role as Practice Manager of the Global Investment Climate Unit, my team and I have benefitted immensely from this public good and the exceptional team producing the WBES data. It has helped power key analytics informing our client dialogue and impacting policy reforms to promote investment, productivity, and employment growth . The strong collaboration between FCI and DEC teams to produce impactful tools exemplifies how we can leverage each other’s comparative advantages towards supporting our clients.

Asya Akhlaque, Practice Manager, Global Investment Climate Unit, Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice, the World Bank



“In my research, I have benefited from using this firm-level data, analyzing more than 80 countries from Africa, LAC, MENA, and East Europe, and proposing a robust methodology for countries’ investment climate analysis on productivity.

Alvaro Escribano, Professor, Director of the Carlos III International School, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid



I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the World Bank team for their collaboration and support to deliver the Enterprise Survey project. We found, during the project, from the team a level of diligence, patience, and cooperativeness that helped deliver what we long aspired to achieve.

Rakan Al Sheikh, Deputy Minister of Economy and Planning of Saudi Arabia



The ES is an outstanding and essential exercise to know the comparative reality of the economic-business environment of Spain, to analyze with quality the result of the policies applied in this context and, especially, to optimize the process of designing measures for well-being collective. For the Cámara de España it is a privilege to participate in the project, it provides a unique experience and places us at the forefront of knowledge and analysis of the economic and business environment.

Inmaculada Riera i Reñé, Director-General of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce



Enterprise surveys are a unique tool to contribute to a rigorous assessment of a country's financial system from the user perspective as well a critical data source to gauge the impact of different institutions, policies and market structures on firm's financing constraints in a cross-country setting.

Thorsten Beck, Professor, Director of Florence School of Banking and Finance, European University Institute



<https://www.enterprisesurveys.org>