In the project we used secondary data used for the construction of the Economic Democracy Index. The sources were the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund, World Bank, International Labour Organisation (ILOSTAT), and Institutional Characteristics of Trade Unions, Wage Setting, State Intervention and Social Pacts database (ICTWSS, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies), European Association of Cooperation Banks, European Values Study, World Values Survey, World Wealth and Income Database, and Worldwide Governance Indicators.

In terms of geographical coverage, the dataset covers the OECD member countries and, depending on data availability, some indicators go back until 1970.

On what concerns the workplace dimension of the index, we concentrate mainly on three aspects: the levels of involvement and participation in the organisation, managerial practices and labour market or employment insecurity. These are, in our perspective, defining elements of the capacity to influence (voice) that the members of the organisation have in decisions that not only affect them but also impact the whole structure.

The second dimension – degree of associational economic democracy – concerns the nature and characteristics of the interaction of organised interests across a society. We have included indicators on employee representation and participation in labour agreement negotiations (trade union density, collective bargaining coverage rate, status of work councils, and employees’ stake in ownership structure) and employers’ organisation density.

On what regards the third dimension – distribution of economic decision-making powers across space and sector – the indicators selected were size of the financial sector (financial net worth of financial corporations, as % of GDP); proportion of tax revenue attributed to sub-national levels (attribution of tax revenues to regional and local government as % of total tax revenue) and total government expenditure as % of GDP.

Finally, the fourth dimension measures the transparency and democratic engagement of broader population in macro-economic decision-making. These data covers diverse areas from individual attitudes and perceptions to a measure of the transparency of the activities and procedures of the central banks. With this goal in mind, we selected five indicators: involvement of unions and employers in government decisions – social and economic policy; signing a petition; voice and accountability; control of corruption and the central bank transparency index.