

PDB Analytics

1. Background

Access to data is a transversal issue to support original research across all work streams of the Global Research Network on Public Development Banks (PDBs).

Recognizing Peking University's pilot effort, the Agence Française de Développement has been collaborating with the Institute of New Structural Economics since 2019 to strengthen the first-ever comprehensive [database](#) on PDBs and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) with rigorous criteria and methodologies. Under the impetus of the Finance in Common System, the database has become a reference, which enables the qualification and identification of PDBs and DFIs throughout the world. Today, the database is widely cited in academic publications and it registers more than 10,500 downloads on the INSE's data visualization website. Beyond its academic interest, the database constitutes an important element of political advocacy for the better integration of PDBs within the global financial architecture, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Complementary contributions are welcome to enlarge the scope of collected data, strengthen their academic dimension, and feed in original research papers. In 2023, the FERDI joined the collective effort by dedicating a team of analysts to the collection and processing of new data. With the launch of the Global Research Network on PDBs, other organizations such as UN Women and ODI have marked their interest in contributing to this instrumental work stream.

2. Objectives of the research group

The objectives of the working group are the following:

- Collect, produce, and ensure the quality of original data on Public Development Banks. In particular, further research is needed to refine PDBs' typology and better inform their profitability and risks strategies. Newly collected variables may cover the following topics (non-exhaustive): SDG alignment, typology of instruments, risk strategies, governance, regulation, financial performance, distribution of PDBs' commitments with respect to clients' vulnerability.
- Identify new methods and possible partnerships to collect relevant data (AI-based solutions, online surveys, external database such as BankFocus...)

- Produce original research based on newly collected data;
- Extend the database to all public banks having development banking activities (dual-module institutions) to better qualify PDBs' role within the global financial architecture.
- Produce short working notes when necessary to enrich the the FiCS and IDFC coalitions and thematic working groups.

Contributors to this workstream are invited to collect and publish information related to PDBs in a collaborative spirit. In respect of intellectual property rights, collected data belong to the collecting institutions, which can decide to publish them under their sole name and responsibility.

3. Research questions

As a transversal work stream, PDB Analytics raises a large range should contribute in tackling a large range of questions related to PDBs' role within the global financial architecture, their capacity to leverage private financial flows and their contribution to sustainable and solidarity investments. However, the work stream may also help in better qualifying PDBs' business models, i.e. the operational means and strategies PDBs deploy to fulfill their development mandate. Questions include (non-exhaustive):

- Is there a typology of PDBs' balance sheet structure?
- What is the comparative efficiency of PDBs' financial instruments (e.g. loans, equity, grants,...)?
- What is the specific role and business approach of PDBs with respect to public commercial banks?
- Are there standard patterns in PDBs' business models?
- To what extent does governance influence PDBs' financial performance in the short and long-run?

4. Expected deliverables for the FiCS 2025

- **Database**
 - Update of the PDB & DFI database including a set of 7 financial indicators (2018-2022), data related to the public policy areas invested by PDBs, and a specific module on PDBs' gender-related activities.
 - Update of the data visualization website hosted by INSE
- **Publications**
 - "2024 Annual Flagship - Exploring the Financial Performance of PDBs", Florian LEON, assisted by AFD and INSE teams
 - "The PDB Handbook on PDBs", co-edited by the FiCS Secretariat, AFD, World Bank and UN DESA.
 - INSE-FERDI-AFD Flagship report: "Cracking the Code: Understanding Public Development Banks' Business Models"
 - "Borrower-led development banks" (ODI)

5. Interested contributors

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