



## UNU-MERIT Working Paper Series

**#2013-070**

### **Institutions and economic growth: Summary and synthesis**

**Adam Szirmai**

#### **Working Paper Series on Institutions and Economic Growth: IPD WP18**

This working paper is part of the research programme on 'Institutions, Governance and Long-term Economic Growth', a partnership between the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (Maastricht University – UNU-Merit). The research builds on the Institutional Profiles Database IPD, jointly developed by AFD and the French Ministry of the Economy since 2001.

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**AFD-MGSoG/UNU-Merit Working Paper Series on  
« Institutions, Governance and Long term Growth »**

In 2010, the French Development Agency (AFD) initiated a partnership with the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (Maastricht University - UNU-Merit) with a view to exploring the conceptual and econometric relationships between institutions and long-term growth. As a development bank with a long-term lending horizon, AFD is particularly interested in better understanding the determinants of countries' long term economic, social, and political trajectory.

AFD has thus developed a programme on “Institutions, Governance, and Long-term Growth” dealing with the five following dimensions:

- (i) Measuring institutions and discussing the meaning of such measures, notably through the Institutional Profiles Database;
- (ii) Testing the econometric relationship between institutional measures and long term growth;
- (iii) Exploring through a series of country case studies the historical relationship between processes of economic accumulation, forms of political organisation, and social cohesion;
- (iv) Discussing conceptual frameworks for making sense of the interaction between political, social and economic forces in the process of development;
- (v) Developing methodologies for political economy analyses.

The MGSoG/UNU-Merit team is involved in the five dimensions with a particular focus on the first two. Its primary objective is to explore the Institutional Profiles Database jointly developed by AFD and the French Ministry of the Economy since 2001. Institutional Profiles Database is unique by its scope (about 350 elementary questions pertaining to all institutional dimensions covering 148 countries in 2012), its entirely free access, and its ambition to incorporate the most recent theoretical advances in the field of political economy.

The present series intends to convey the results of our ongoing research, and in so doing to reflect the wealth of issues that can be fruitfully addressed from an “institutionalist” perspective. We hope that readers will find these papers stimulating and useful to develop their own understanding and research.

Nicolas Meisel (AFD)  
Adam Szirmai (MGSoG/UNU-Merit)

For more information on the programme, please visit our websites:

<http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/web/Schools/MGSoG/ProjectPages/InstitutionalProfilesDatabase.htm>

<http://www.afd.fr/lang/en/home/recherche/themes-recherches/institutions-gouvernance-croissance>



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