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THE GLOBAL ACCREDITATION EXPERIENCE INDEX:

A WEIGHTED MEASURE OF ACCREDITATION CAPABILITY ACROSS ECONOMIES

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THE GLOBAL ACCREDITATION EXPERIENCE INDEX

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Accreditation Body
CAB	Conformity Assessment Body
EMS	Environmental Management Systems
EnMS	Energy Management Systems
FSMS	Food Safety Management Systems
GACC	Global Accreditation Coverage Count
GAEI	Global Accreditation Experience Index
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
ISMS	Information Security Management Systems
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MDMS	Medical Devices – Quality Management Systems
MLA	Multilateral Recognition Arrangement
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement
MSC	Management Systems Certification
OH&SMS	Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems
QMS	Quality Management Systems
RAB	Regional Accreditation Body
RAG	Regional Accreditation Group

ABSTRACT

Accreditation is a cornerstone of quality infrastructure, supporting trade, regulatory compliance, and economic growth by ensuring conformity assessment bodies meet international standards. Yet no standardized metric has existed to measure accreditation capability over time. This study introduces the Global Accreditation Experience Index (GAEI), which combines the breadth of accreditation scope coverage with the duration of coverage, and the Global Accreditation Coverage Count (GACC), which records total scope coverage without time weighting. Covering the period 2000 to 2025, these indicators provide a framework for benchmarking accreditation competence, identifying gaps, and enabling research into the economic impact of accreditation and quality infrastructure, the primary motivation for their creation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the past several decades, the scopes and competencies of accreditation have expanded significantly, reflecting the growing complexity and globalization of trade, industry, and regulatory systems. Accreditation serves as a cornerstone of trust in conformity assessment, ensuring that testing, calibration, inspection, and certification bodies operate to internationally recognized standards (Kellermann, 2019). This trust underpins global supply chains, facilitates market access, supports regulatory compliance, and ultimately contributes to economic growth by reducing technical barriers to trade and enhancing consumer confidence (Ramkissoon and Nisi, 2024).

At the international level, the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) provide formal recognition of competent accreditation bodies (ABs). Signature to these arrangements signifies that an AB has undergone rigorous peer evaluation and maintains compliance with relevant standards, thereby enabling mutual recognition of accredited results across borders. Such recognition reduces duplication of testing and certification, promotes efficiency, and strengthens international trade relationships.

Despite the central role of accreditation in supporting economic performance and international integration, there has been, until now, no standardized metric for quantifying an economy's accreditation competence (Ramkissoon and Harmes-Liedtke, 2024). Existing measures like the number of accredited conformity assessment bodies tend to focus on trade performance or regulatory alignment but do not capture the breadth and depth of accreditation activity itself. The ability to measure accreditation competence is critical for benchmarking progress, identifying gaps, and informing both national policy and international cooperation strategies (Ramkissoon and Harmes-Liedtke, 2024).

In response to this gap, we introduce the Global Accreditation Experience Index (GAEI), a new, data-driven indicator that captures the capability of an economy's accreditation system (Ramkissoon and Harmes-Liedtke, 2025a, 2025b). The GAEI was developed to quantify a country's accreditation experience by capturing both the breadth of accreditation scopes covered and the extent of sustained engagement with those scopes. It incorporates the relationship between when an accreditation scope was first introduced and the length of time an economy has maintained coverage for it. Using historical records from 2000 to the present, the index traces the evolution and maturity of accreditation systems across economies.

Complementing the GAEI, we also present the Global Accreditation Coverage Count (GACC), which counts the total number of accreditation scopes covered by an economy's ABs without time-weighting. While the GAEI emphasizes the cumulative experience and maturity of accreditation systems, the GACC provides a straightforward measure of current coverage. Together, these indicators provide a more comprehensive understanding of accreditation capability, an area of increasing strategic importance for economic resilience, competitiveness, and integration into the global marketplace.

2. METHODOLOGY

Global Accreditation Experience Index

The GAEI was designed to quantify a country's accreditation experience over time. It captures the interplay between the duration of an accreditation scope's existence and the length of time a country provides coverage for that scope. We take the year in which a country became a signatory to the MLA/MRA for a specific scope as proxy for accreditation experience. First, the AB must be a member of a Regional Accreditation Group (RAG) and undergo a rigorous peer evaluation. After being accepted into the MLA/MRA, regular peer evaluations are required to renew signatory status. The peer-review evaluation process and the specific requirements for becoming a signatory and maintaining this status vary depending on the scope. Among other requirements, at the time of evaluation, ABs must have carried out and granted at least one valid accreditation for each scope for which they apply. Follow-up evaluations are usually conducted every four years, but if an AB has accredited fewer than four CABs at the time of evaluation, a follow-up evaluation may be conducted before the four-year period.

The index is calculated by considering the following key elements:

1. YEARS OF EXISTENCE OF ACCREDITATION SCOPES

Each accreditation scope has a duration of existence that is measured by the number of years that have passed since its introduction.[1] For any given year t, the total years of existence for an accreditation scope $a \in A(t) = \{scope1, scope2, \ldots, scopen\}$ is calculated as the difference between t and the year the scope was introduced, t_0^a.

$$t^a = t - t_0^a$$

This provides an estimate of how long the agreement has been in force in relation to t, as illustrated by the purple bar in *Figure 1*.

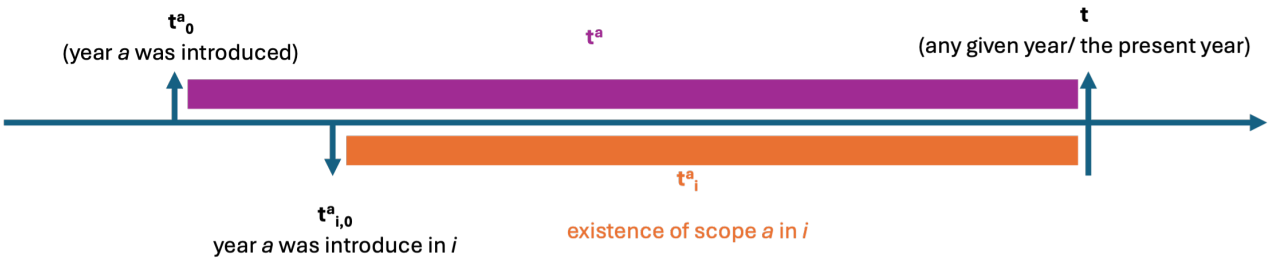

Figure 1: Rank changes in the recalculation of the GQII 2023 rankings (in 2025)
Source: Own calculations

[1] *In this analysis, the "existence" of an accreditation scope refers to when it is first listed under the ILAC or IAF MLA/MRA, with the date of the first country signature taken as the starting point. In most cases, the date of the first MLA/MRA signature for a given scope coincides with the year the scope was introduced, with near 100% alignment. For example, consider the earliest scopes in the dataset with the longest recorded existence under the MLA/MRA framework - ISO 9001 quality management systems certification and ISO/IEC 17021-1 management systems certification (MSC). The IAF MLA was first signed in 1998, initially covering ISO 9001, with recognition of MSC tracing back to ISO/IEC Guide 62/66, later replaced by ISO/IEC 17021 in 2006. The recognition timeline continues from the 1998 baseline, which marks the start of global accreditation arrangements.*

2. A COUNTRY'S EXPERIENCE IN EACH ACCREDITATION SCOPE

For each country i, the experience it has accumulated in an accreditation scope is computed by subtracting the year the country signed the MLA or MRA for a scope $t_{i,0}^{a}$ from the year the scope was introduced.[2] This reflects the duration of a country's experience in each scope, as illustrated by the orange bar in Figure 1.

$$t_i^a = t - t_{i,0}^a$$

3. WEIGHTING SCOPES BASED ON THEIR DURATION

To ensure that each scope contributes proportionally to the index based on its duration, we calculate the weight of each scope. The weight Wa of an accreditation scope is determined by dividing the years of existence of that scope by the total years of existence of all scopes present at a given time t. This weighting ensures that longer-standing scopes have a larger impact on the maturity index. The denominator grows as new accreditation scopes are introduced, ensuring that older accreditation scopes contribute less, in relative terms, when more accreditation scopes exist.

$$W_a = \frac{t^a}{\sum_{a \in A(t)} t_a}$$

Where A represents the set of all accreditation scopes available at time t.

4. GAEI CALCULATION

The final experience index for a country i at a given time t is then calculated by summing the contributions of each scope, where each scope's contribution is weighted by both its duration and the country's experience in that scope.

The GAEI for a given year t, for country i is given by:

$$GAEI_i(t) = \sum_{a \in A(t)} W_a t_i^a$$

Where:

$A(t)$ = Set of accreditation scopes that exist in year t

t = A given year / the present year

t_i^a = The years the accreditation scope a exists in country i, measured from the year the country signed the relevant MLA/MRA for that scope

The index gives more weight to countries that signed accreditation scopes earlier, which aligns with the idea that longer participation contributes to maturity or experience. If a country consistently signs accreditation scopes early, its index grows steadily. If a country delays signing, its contribution is smaller, which reflects lower maturity. The formula does not change, but the values evolve dynamically as the dataset expands over time. This dynamic structure prevents early adopters from having disproportionately high scores indefinitely.

[2] A country's experience in each scope is counted from the date it signs the MLA/MRA for that scope. It should be noted that there is often a gap between when a country signs the MLA/MRA and when the scope is fully implemented domestically, however we do not have data on the latter.

5. DYNAMIC ADJUSTMENTS AS NEW ACCREDITATION SCOPES ARE INTRODUCED

As time progresses and new scopes are introduced, the index evolves to reflect these changes. The total years of existence for all scopes and the individual years of experience for countries are recalculated each year, making the index a dynamic measure of country's experience in accreditation. As a result, the index accounts for the growth in the number of scopes.

This methodology reflects a proportional and dynamic model where the weight of each accreditation scope is determined by its duration, ensuring that older scopes contribute more significantly to the experience index than newer scopes. Additionally, countries that sign accreditation scopes earlier (i.e., closer to their introduction) receive higher scores, as their experience is weighted more heavily.

By using this approach, we obtain a comprehensive experience index that not only quantifies a country's involvement but also adjusts over time as new scopes are introduced. The flexibility of the model allows it to reflect both the passage of time and the increased number of agreements in force.

3. DATA DESCRIPTION

The dataset used to construct the index and the count was compiled using documentation on the years countries signed the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA for the different accreditation scopes. This documentation was provided by the IAF and ILAC in PDF and Excel formats. We used these documents to prepare an Excel file with the years countries became signatories for different scopes. This Excel file was shared with ILAC and IAF for verification and validation.

Once revised with input from IAF and ILAC we began processing the data. While most economies had just one accreditation body, several have multiple, as seen in Table 2 of Appendix 1. The index takes the year the first AB signed for each the scope. We focus on the earliest year a scope was signed rather than the AB that signed the scope.

We take a similar approach where economies were first served by a Regional Accreditation Body (RAB) and later established their own NAB, as presented in Table 2 of Appendix 1. The index uses the earliest year the country became a signatory for each accreditation scope, regardless of if it was signed by the RAB or the later established NAB. For example, Saudi Arabia was first served by the GCC Accreditation Center (GAC), which began operations in the Kingdom in 2013. In 2019, the Saudi Accreditation Center (SAAC) was established and recognised as the Kingdom's NAB. Although during its short existence SAAC has managed to become a signatory to almost all of the scopes[3] covered by GAC, the index takes the years in which GAC became a signatory for these scopes since it was earlier. However, SAAC also offers scopes[4] that are not yet offered by GAC. For these scopes, the years SAAC became a signatory will be considered in the index.

Some countries, listed in Table 2 of Appendix 1, are only served by RABs and have not yet established their own NABs. As the RABs are signatories to the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA and provide coverage for various accreditation scopes under these agreements, we keep these countries in our dataset. Table 3 in Appendix 1 presents the RABs included in the dataset and the economies that they serve. Countries with no ABs that are also not served by any RABs, are excluded from the dataset. In addition, we exclude countries that are not signatories to the IAF MLA and the ILAC MRA. The economies excluded from the dataset are presented in Table 4 of Appendix 1.

To ensure fair and accurate representation of an economy's accreditation experience, we have established a procedure for handling cases where ABs have had their signatory status suspended, or withdrawn, from the IAF MLA or ILAC MRA.[5] These economies are listed in Table 4. The

[3] As of 2024, SAAC provides coverage for all the scopes offered by GAC except for Product Certification (ISO/IEC 17065).
[4] In 2024, SAAC became a signatory for Energy Management System (EnMS) (ISO 50001), Medical Devices – Quality Management Systems (MDMS) (ISO 13485), and Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OH&SMS) (ISO 45001).
[5] This procedure has not yet been applied to the data. The GAEI and GACC have been calculated following the standard approach for all economies for which data is available. The dataset will be adjusted in line with the defined procedure once we receive confirmation from IAF and ILAC on which economies have been suspended or withdrawn, the specific scopes affected, along with the relevant dates and, where applicable, dates of reinstatement.

economy's experience is not counted for the duration of the suspension or withdrawal. If reinstated, in the case of suspension, the experience will continue to be calculated from the original signing year. If the economy is reinstated following withdrawal, all prior progress is lost, and their experience will restart from zero. We use this approach because while suspended, ABs are still obligated to continue complying with the obligations of full membership, fully cooperate with the IAF MLA MC to facilitate a swift resolution of the suspension, maintain oversight of their signatories or accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs), and continue voting on IAF ballots, except for those related to IAF MLA signatories (IAF, 2023; IAF and ILAC, 2023). However, after withdrawal the AB is no longer required to fulfil any responsibilities under the IAF MLA or ILAC MRA.

The full procedure is not applicable to the GACC, as it is not weighted by time but based solely on the count of scopes covered. No scopes are counted during any period of suspension or withdrawal. Counting resumes following the standard procedure upon reinstatement. There are three versions of the GAEI and the GACC, each incorporating an increasing number of accreditation scopes. The first version considers only the Level 2 and 3 accreditation scopes under the IAF MLA and the ILAC MRA. The second version builds on the first by incorporating the Level 5 scopes under the IAF MLA. The third version builds on the second version by incorporating accreditation scopes for private certification schemes. This accreditation scopes considered for each version of the index are outlined in Table 1.[6]

[6] The following scopes were excluded due to duplication or lack of data: ISO 14065 (Level 4 scope under ISO/IEC 17029; duplication of ISO/IEC 17029 data), ISO 20387 (not listed on ILAC's website; no data), ISO 37001:2016 (Level 5 under IAF MLA, paired with ISO/IEC TS 17021-9:2016; no data), IAQG 9100:2016 (Level 5 under IAF MLA; no data), and IFS Broker, IFS Logistics, IFS PACsecure (no data).

Table 1: Accreditations scopes used to calculate the three versions of the GAEI

	Accreditation Scopes	Ver 1	Ver 2	Ver 3
IAF MLA - Levels 2 and 3	Product Certification (ISO/IEC 17065)	√	√	√
	Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1)	√	√	√
	Certification of Persons (ISO/IEC 17024)	√	√	√
	Validation and Verification (ISO/IEC 17029)	√	√	√
ILAC MRA - Levels 2 and 3	Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025)	√	√	√
	Testing Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025)	√	√	√
	Medical Testing Laboratories (ISO 15189)	√	√	√
	Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020)	√	√	√
	Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043)	√	√	√
	Reference Material Producers (ISO 17034)	√	√	√
IAF MLA - Level 5	Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) (ISO 22000)		√	√
	Quality Management Systems (QMS) (ISO 9001)		√	√
	Environmental Management Systems (EMS) (ISO 14001)		√	√
	Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) (ISO/IEC 27001)		√	√
	Energy Management System (EnMS) (ISO 50001)		√	√
	Medical Devices – Quality Management Systems (MDMS) (ISO 13485)		√	√
	Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OH&SMS) (ISO 45001)		√	√
	Greenhouse Gases (GHG) (ISO 14064-1, ISO 14064-2)		√	√
Accreditation for Private Certification Schemes - Level 5	ICAO CORSIA SARPs Annex 16 Vol. IV			√
	FAMI-QS Certification Scheme Code			√
	FSSC 22000 Scheme Part 2			√
	IAQG 9100, 9110, and 9120			√
	GLOBALG.A.P. IFA (SMART and GFS) Principles and Criteria			√
	GLOBALG.A.P. PHA CPCCs			√
	BRCGS Global Standard for Food Safety, Part II			√
	BRCGS Global Standard for Agents and Brokers, Part II			√
	BRCGS Global Standard for Packaging Materials, Part II			√
	BRCGS Global Standard for Storage and Distribution, Part II			√
	BRCGS Global Standard for Gluten Free Certification Program, Part II			√
	BRCGS Global Standard for Consumer Products Personal Care Household, Part II			√
	BRCGS Global Standard for Consumer Products General Merchandise, Part II			√
	IPC Management System Auditors Certification Scheme, Section 4			√
	IFS Food, Part 2			√

Source: Own elaboration using IAF (2025) and ILAC (2025)

4. PERFORMANCE IN THE GAEI & GACC

The three versions of the GAEI and the GACC for 2025 are presented in Table 5 and Table 6 respectively (see Appendix 2). For each version, the highest attainable score (MAX) is also reported. This score reflects the maximum possible value a country could achieve if it had become a signatory to each accreditation scope in the year the scope was introduced. The MAX score is calculated using the same methodology applied to economies in the index, assuming the year of scope introduction as the year of signature. In the GAEI, as more scopes are included in each subsequent version, the maximum attainable score may decrease due to changes in the weighting structure. Weights are determined by both the duration a scope has been in existence and the total number of scopes included, as explained in Chapter 2.

Germany ranked first across all three versions of the GAEI. The top five positions remained consistent and were exclusively occupied by European countries, reflecting their long-standing and broad engagement in accreditation at the international level. European economies dominated the index overall, with most occupying positions in the top 50 across all versions. Asian countries followed, with Latin American countries generally further down in the rankings. The United States showed notable upward mobility, moving from 12th in Version 1 to 7th in Version 3. This improvement reflects its early adoption of several IAF MLA Level 5 scopes and participation in private accreditation schemes. Mexico also improved across versions. In contrast, China's position remained relatively stable, moving only slightly from 15th to 16th, due to more limited participation in Level 5 scopes and private schemes.

Among African economies, South Africa emerged as the strongest performer, consistently ranking within the top 20. However, the region remains underrepresented at the top of the index, with only South Africa, Egypt, and Tunisia appearing in the top 50. In the Middle East, the UAE was the only country to reach the top 50. Canada's performance fluctuated: it improved in Version 2 due to broader participation in Level 5 scopes but declined in Version 3 with the inclusion of private schemes. Australia showed steady improvement, rising from 28th > 25th > 22nd as additional scopes were added. New Zealand, by contrast, remained stable (11th > 12th > 11th). One contributing factor to the gap between the two countries is the date of signature for ISO 15189 (Medical Laboratories): New Zealand signed in 2000, whereas Australia signed in 2016, resulting in fewer accumulated years of experience for Australia. India also performed well, improving slightly across the three versions (25th > 24th > 23rd).

Version 1 of the GAEI shows less granularity, with many countries tied due to the smaller number of scopes included. Version 2 introduced greater differentiation, especially among top performers. Version 3 offers the most granularity, with few ties, except where multiple countries, particularly in Africa and the Gulf, share a common regional accreditation body. Notably, African countries dominate the lower half of the GAEI.

In GAEI Version 3 (2025), Germany retained the top position, followed by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Italy ranked 13th despite occupying the top position in the GACC (2025). This discrepancy is explained by the timing of scope signatures: Italy signed several private schemes introduced only in 2024, which received lower weights due to their recent introduction and limited time in effect. Germany, in contrast, signed many scopes in the year they were introduced, especially early scopes, while Italy missed one or two in certain years, signing them later. This highlights the effect of time weighting in the GAEI.

Figure 2 presents GAEI Version 3; while Figure 3, Figure 4, and Figure 5 show the GACC for selected countries from 2000–2025. "MAX" indicates the highest score over the period. As seen in Figure 2, Germany held the highest score until 2017, after which it declined slightly due to the introduction of several private schemes for which it has not yet become a signatory. Several country trajectories are noteworthy. Brazil, Malaysia, Korea, and Mexico followed different growth patterns. Until 2012, Mexico ranked below Brazil, Malaysia, and Korea. It then caught up to Korea and surpassed it in 2013, overtook

Malaysia in 2021, and Brazil in 2025. Brazil maintained an upward trajectory until 2020, then declined slightly in 2021 and again in 2025 due to losing status for certain scopes or not signing newly introduced scopes. Mexico and Vietnam started similarly, but from 2004 Mexico's growth accelerated sharply compared to Vietnam's steadier rise. The divergence in signed scopes became evident from 2018 (see Figure 3 and Figure 5). The UAE, Egypt, and Tunisia also show interesting patterns. All began their accreditation journeys around 2009, with the UAE slightly behind Egypt and Tunisia until 2018, when it caught up and then slightly surpassed both. In Table 6, Egypt appears to have signed more scopes than the UAE in the most recent year but still ranks lower in the GAEI due to time-weighted scoring. Egypt also overtook Tunisia in 2020.

Jamaica and Kenya started later, in 2014 and 2018 respectively. Kenya quickly caught up to Jamaica and has since surpassed it, covering 12 scopes compared to Jamaica's 3. These differences also reflect economic capacity, sectoral needs, and the perceived necessity of signing all available scopes. Figure 5 shows the trajectory of scope signings over time for Kenya and Jamaica.

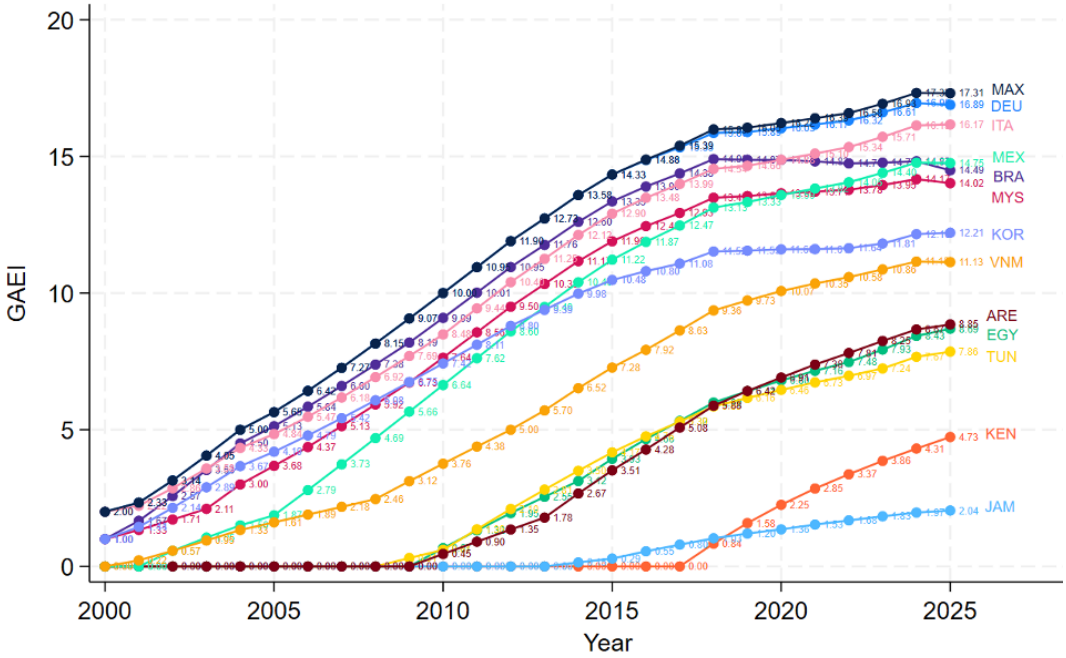

Figure 2: GAEI – Version 3 - 2000-2025 - Selected Countries

GLOBAL ACCREDITATION COVERAGE COUNT

While the GAEI reflects both the breadth and depth of a country's accreditation experience, we also calculated a simpler measure capturing breadth alone. The GACC records the number of accreditation scopes for which an economy provides coverage each year. The GAEI captures how many scopes a country covers and how long the country has held recognition in those scopes. It is most useful when comparing the maturity and evolution of accreditation systems over time or across countries as it adds historical depth. The GACC covers the number of scopes recognized under MLA/MRA in a given year for a given country. It is most useful for assessing a country's coverage at a point in time, or for tracking how quickly new scopes are being added, regardless of how long they have been in place.

Combining them provides a more complete picture. GACC alone might suggest that two countries are equally advanced if they cover the same number of scopes, but GAEI can reveal differences in historical depth and accumulated experience. For example, two countries may cover the same number of scopes (see Austria and Poland with 23 in V3 of the GACC), but if one has been a signatory for decades and the other only recently, their institutional experience and perhaps reliability/reputation may differ substantially, which is highlighted in the GAEI (Austria is ranked 20 with a score of 15.12 while Poland is ranked 31 with a score of 13.98).

5. CONCLUSIONS

This study demonstrates that the GAEI and the GACC provide complementary perspectives on an economy's accreditation capability. The GAEI emphasizes accumulated experience by combining the breadth of accreditation scope coverage with the length of time each scope has been held, while the GACC reflects the total scope coverage without regard to time. Together, these measures fill an important gap in the ability to quantify and compare accreditation competence internationally.

Analysis of data from 2000 to 2025 shows that European economies dominate the upper rankings in all versions of the GAEI, reflecting their early and sustained participation in multilateral recognition arrangements. Germany consistently holds the top position, followed by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, while emerging upward mobility is seen in economies such as the United States, Mexico, and Australia. These improvements are often linked to the early adoption of new accreditation scopes and active participation in private accreditation schemes. In contrast, China's position has remained relatively stable due to more limited participation in these areas.

The timing of scope signatures is a key differentiating factor in the GAEI, as shown by Italy's ranking. While Italy leads in the GACC, its later adoption of certain scopes, particularly private schemes introduced in recent years, results in a lower GAEI score due to reduced accumulated experience. Regional disparities are also evident, with African and Middle Eastern economies generally ranking lower. South Africa, Egypt, Tunisia, and the UAE stand out as regional leaders, but most economies in these regions remain in the lower half of the index.

Country trajectories further illustrate the diversity of accreditation system development. Mexico's rapid progression, overtaking Brazil, Malaysia, and Korea over the study period, contrasts with Vietnam's steadier growth. Similarly, Kenya's recent and rapid advancement has allowed it to surpass Jamaica despite a later start, highlighting how targeted expansion of scope coverage can quickly improve an economy's accreditation standing. These patterns reflect broader differences in economic capacity, sectoral priorities, and strategic decisions regarding scope adoption.

Beyond benchmarking and performance monitoring, the creation of the GAEI also serves a broader research purpose. By providing a standardized, data-driven measure of accreditation capability, the index can now be used as a variable in economic analysis to explore the relationship between accreditation, quality infrastructure, and broader economic outcomes. This opens the door for new empirical research into the economic impact of accreditation, helping to quantify its value and inform evidence-based policy and investment decisions in quality infrastructure worldwide.

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APPENDIX 1: DATA DESCRIPTION

Table 2: Economies with special circumstances in the dataset

Economies served by multiple ABs	Economies that are currently served by both an RAB and their own NAB(s) and economies that were first served by an RAB before later establishing their own NAB	Economies only served by RABs
Australia (3)	Australia	Angola
Canada (5)	New Zealand	Bahrain
Hong Kong (China) (2)	Qatar	Benin
India (5)	Saudi Arabia	Botswana
Iran (2)	United Arab Emirates	Burkina Faso
Japan (5)		Comoros
Korea (4)		Congo
Mexico (3)		Cote D'Ivoire
New Zealand (2)		Eswatini – Swaziland
Qatar (2)		Guinea-Bissau
Russia (3)		Kuwait
Saudi Arabia (2)		Lesotho
Thailand (4)		Madagascar
United Arab Emirates (3)		Malawi
United States of America (9)		Mali
Viet Nam (3)		Mozambique
		Namibia
		Niger
		Oman
		Senegal
		Seychelles
		Tanzania
		Togo
		Zambia
		Zimbabwe

Table 3: Economies served by RABs

Economies served by the Systéme Ouest Africain d'Accréditation (SOAC WAAS)	Economies served by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS)	Economies served by the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ)	Economies served by the GCC Accreditation Center (GAC):
Benin	Angola	Australia	United Arab Emirates (the)
Burkina Faso	Botswana	New Zealand	Bahrain
Côte d'Ivoire	Congo (the Democratic Republic of the)		Kuwait, the State of
Guinea-Bissau	Comoros		Qatar
Mali	Lesotho		Saudi Arabia
Niger (the)	Madagascar		Oman
Senegal	Mozambique		
Togo	Malawi		
	Namibia		
	Eswatini -Swaziland		
	Seychelles		
	Tanzania, the United Republic of		
	Zambia		
	Zimbabwe		

[7] KSA was first served by GAC. Later SAAC was established. In 2024 SAAC expanded its coverage to all the scopes offered by GAC, as well as other scopes not offered by GAC.

Table 4: Economies excluded from the dataset or have adjusted scores due to suspension or withdrawal

Economies that are not signatories to the IAF MLA or the ILAC MRA (as of July 2025)	Economies with no ABs [8]	Economies that have been suspended from the IAF MLA or ILAC MRA[9]
Afghanistan	Andorra	Belarus (2023)
Armenia	Antigua and Barbuda	Cuba (2024)[10]
Azerbaijan*	Bahamas	Guatemala (2023)
Brunei Darussalam	Barbados	Kyrgyz Republic (2015-2018)
Cuba	Belize	Nepal (2023)
Ghana*	Bhutan	Papua New Guinea (2019)
Honduras	Burundi	Ukraine (2021) for inspection only
Iceland	Cabo Verde	
Iraq*	Cameroon	
Kosovo* [11]	Central African Republic	
Libya	Chad	
Malta	Congo	
Mauritania	Djibouti	
Montenegro*	Dominica	
Morocco*	Equatorial Guinea	
Nepal*	Fiji	
Nigeria*	Gabon	
Palestine, State of	Gambia	
Papua New Guinea*	Grenada	
Sudan (the)	Guinea	
Tajikistan	Guyana	
Trinidad and Tobago*	Haiti	
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Lao People's Democratic Republic	
	Liberia	
	Liechtenstein	
	Macao, China	
	Maldives	
	Myanmar	
	Rwanda	

Economies that are not signatories to the IAF MLA or the ILAC MRA (as of July 2025)	Economies with no ABs	Economies that have been suspended from the IAF MLA or ILAC MRA[9]
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
	Saint Lucia	
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
	Samoa	
	Sierra Leone	
	Solomon Islands	
	Somalia	
	South Sudan	
	Suriname	
	Syrian Arab Republic	
	Timor-Leste	
	Tonga	
	Turkmenistan	
	Uganda	
	Vanuatu	

Economies with an asterisk (*) are associate members of the ILAC MRA. They are not signatories to the IAF MLA or ILAC MRA. They do not have scopes recognized under the MRA.

[8] Countries without ABs had no available data, except for the Bahamas, which apparently became a signatory for ISO/IEC 17020 (Inspection Bodies) in 2015. This was excluded as the Bahamas does not have an AB and is not listed as a signatory of the IAF MLA or ILAC MRA.

[9] Pending confirmation from IAF and ILAC.

[10] National Accreditation Body of Republica de Cuba (ONARC)'s Full membership with ILAC was terminated on 15 June 2024 by decision of the Executive Committee in accordance with "ILAC-R2A:11/2019 ILAC Rules: Articles of Association Article 6 paragraph 3." https://ilac.org/latest_ilac_news/membership-update/#:~:text=Membership%20Update%20International%20Laboratory%20Accreditation%20Cooperation.&text=National%20Accreditation%20Body%20of%20Republica%20de%20Cuba,Articles%20of%20Association%20Article%206%20paragraph%203.%E2%80%9D There were dates in the Excel we sent to IAF and ILAC. Crossed off dates by ILAC.

[11] Kosovo does not have an officially assigned three-digit ISO country code. It is represented by the user-assigned code XKX (ISO 3166-1 alpha-3) and XK (ISO 3166-1 alpha-2), as per the Publications Office of the EU. Other codes, such as KOS (IOC) or KV (FIPS), may be used by certain organizations but are not part of the official ISO 3166 standard.

APPENDIX 2: GAEI AND GACC

Table 5: The Global Accreditation Experience Index (GAEI) – 2025 – Versions 1, 2 and 3

Version 1			Version 2			Version 3		
#	ISO	GAEI 2025	#	ISO	GAEI 2025	#	ISO	GAEI 2025
	MAX	20.889571		MAX	19.249028		MAX	17.312293
1	DEU	20.889571	1	DEU	19.015565	1	DEU	16.887043
1	NLD	20.889571	1	NLD	19.015565	2	NLD	16.880399
1	ESP	20.889571	1	ESP	19.015565	3	GBR	16.820598
1	GBR	20.889571	1	GBR	19.015565	4	FRA	16.797342
5	DNK	20.858896	5	FRA	18.976654	5	ESP	16.720930
5	FRA	20.858896	6	FIN	18.918288	6	SWE	16.607974
7	NOR	20.797546	6	SWE	18.918288	7	USA	16.521595
8	FIN	20.736196	8	CZE	18.805448	8	CZE	16.511628
8	SWE	20.736196	9	NOR	18.793775	9	DNK	16.455150
10	CZE	20.723926	10	DNK	18.723736	10	NOR	16.451827
11	NZL	20.478528	11	USA	18.618678	11	NZL	16.312293
12	USA	20.263804	12	NZL	18.435798	12	FIN	16.205980
13	ZAF	20.147239	13	JPN	18.342413	13	ITA	16.169435
14	IRL	19.871166	14	CHE	18.093386	14	CHE	15.916944
15	CHN	19.791411	15	IRL	18.073930	15	IRL	15.887043
16	SGP	19.760736	16	CHN	18.058366	16	CHN	15.873754
17	CHE	19.736196	17	ITA	17.972763	17	JPN	15.863788
18	TWN	19.730061	18	TWN	17.902724	18	TWN	15.667774
19	JPN	19.619632	19	ZAF	17.813230	19	ZAF	15.624585
20	SVK	19.447853	20	SVK	17.575875	20	AUT	15.119602
21	ITA	19.245399	21	CAN	17.268483	21	SVK	15.006645
22	BRA	19.134969	22	AUT	17.143969	22	AUS	14.983389
23	CAN	18.907976	23	SGP	17.019455	23	IND	14.877077
24	AUT	18.766871	24	IND	16.891051	24	MEX	14.754153
25	IND	18.564417	25	AUS	16.879378	25	CAN	14.744186
26	THA	18.515338	26	MEX	16.747082	26	SGP	14.544850
27	HKG	18.496932	27	BRA	16.501946	27	BRA	14.491694
28	AUS	18.024540	28	THA	16.474708	28	BEL	14.481727
29	BEL	17.822086	29	BEL	16.404670	29	THA	14.079734
30	MYS	17.656442	30	MYS	16.365759	30	MYS	14.019933
31	MEX	17.564417	31	POL	15.902723	31	POL	13.980066
32	GRC	17.312883	32	HKG	15.871595	32	GRC	13.897010

33	POL	17.269938
34	IDN	16.539877
35	PRT	16.171779
36	TUR	16.079755
37	ARG	15.889570
38	ROU	15.582822
39	SVN	15.098160
40	VNM	15.061350
41	KOR	13.957055
42	ISR	12.079755
43	ARE	11.858896
44	PHL	11.858896
45	CRI	11.447853
46	LUX	11.447853
47	CHL	11.263803
48	LKA	11.159509
49	SRB	11.085889
50	EGY	10.895706
51	ECU	9.466258
52	TUN	9.141104
53	KAZ	8.932515
54	MKD	8.840491
55	PER	8.668712
56	PAK	8.404908
57	GTM	8.165644
58	HUN	8.098159
59	BGR	8.012270
60	HRV	7.938650
61	UKR	7.662577
62	URY	7.441718
63	COL	7.423313
64	CYP	7.325153
65	MNG	6.766871
66	AGO	6.184049
66	BWA	6.184049
66	COM	6.184049
66	COD	6.184049
66	LSO	6.184049
66	MDG	6.184049
66	MWI	6.184049
66	MOZ	6.184049

33	GRC	15.743191
34	IDN	15.303502
35	PRT	14.828794
36	TUR	14.610895
37	KOR	14.132296
38	ROU	14.085603
39	SVN	14.066148
40	ARG	14.046692
41	VNM	12.610895
42	PHL	11.642023
43	ARE	10.365759
44	LUX	10.315175
45	EGY	10.167315
46	CHL	9.945525
47	SRB	9.918288
48	CRI	9.805447
49	LKA	9.712062
50	TUN	9.202335
51	ECU	7.968872
52	HUN	7.844358
53	URY	7.704280
54	ISR	7.661478
55	PAK	7.571984
56	COL	7.544747
57	PER	7.478599
58	BGR	7.408560
59	UKR	7.377432
60	KAZ	7.350195
61	MKD	6.824903
62	MNG	5.871595
63	KEN	5.544747
64	LTU	5.412451
65	AGO	5.214008
65	BWA	5.214008
65	COM	5.214008
65	COD	5.214008
65	LSO	5.214008
65	MDG	5.214008
65	MWI	5.214008
65	MOZ	5.214008
65	NAM	5.214008

33	HKG	13.551495
34	IDN	13.119602
35	PRT	13.119601
36	TUR	12.933555
37	ARG	12.421927
38	KOR	12.205980
39	ROU	12.079734
40	SVN	12.009967
41	VNM	11.132890
42	PHL	9.940200
43	ARE	8.850498
44	LUX	8.807309
45	EGY	8.694352
46	CHL	8.491694
47	SRB	8.468439
48	CRI	8.372093
49	LKA	8.292359
50	TUN	7.857143
51	URY	6.970100
52	ECU	6.940199
53	HUN	6.697674
54	ISR	6.541528
55	COL	6.491694
56	PAK	6.465116
57	PER	6.385382
58	BGR	6.325581
59	UKR	6.299003
60	KAZ	6.275748
61	MKD	5.827242
62	MNG	5.013289
63	KEN	4.734219
64	LTU	4.621262
65	AGO	4.451827
65	BWA	4.451827
65	COM	4.451827
65	COD	4.451827
65	LSO	4.451827
65	MDG	4.451827
65	MWI	4.451827
65	MOZ	4.451827
65	NAM	4.451827

66	NAM	6.184049
66	SYC	6.184049
66	ZWE	6.184049
66	SWZ	6.184049
66	TZA	6.184049
66	ZMB	6.184049
80	MDA	6.085890
81	LTU	5.877301
82	KEN	5.865031
83	BIH	5.484663
84	BHR	4.638037
84	KWT	4.638037
84	OMN	4.638037
84	QAT	4.638037
84	SAU	4.638037
84	YEM	4.638037
90	RUS	4.374233
91	JOR	4.257669
92	BGD	4.233129
93	JAM	3.773006
94	ETH	3.711657
95	BLR	3.496932
96	SLV	3.472393
97	NIC	3.325153
98	MUS	3.306748
99	ALB	3.263804
100	KGZ	3.153374
101	DZA	3.092025
102	LVA	2.797546
103	PRY	2.453988
104	GEO	2.245399
105	IRN	2.220859
106	BEN	1.969325
106	CIV	1.969325
106	MLI	1.969325
106	NER	1.969325
106	GNB	1.969325
106	SEN	1.969325
106	TGO	1.969325
106	BFA	1.969325
114	DOM	1.932515

65	SYC	5.214008
65	ZWE	5.214008
65	SWZ	5.214008
65	TZA	5.214008
65	ZMB	5.214008
79	GTM	5.178988
80	HRV	5.035020
81	MDA	4.723735
82	CYP	4.645914
83	ALB	4.400778
84	SAU	3.692607
85	QAT	3.638132
86	BHR	3.618677
86	KWT	3.618677
86	OMN	3.618677
86	YEM	3.618677
90	BIH	3.478599
91	IRN	3.416342
92	MUS	3.027237
93	LVA	2.871595
94	ETH	2.809338
95	RUS	2.774319
96	JOR	2.700389
97	BGD	2.684825
98	JAM	2.392996
99	BLR	2.217899
100	SLV	2.202335
101	NIC	2.108949
102	KGZ	2.000000
103	DZA	1.961089
104	UZB	1.961089
105	PRY	1.556420
106	BEN	1.498054
106	CIV	1.498054
106	MLI	1.498054
106	NER	1.498054
106	GNB	1.498054
106	SEN	1.498054
106	TGO	1.498054
106	BFA	1.498054
114	GEO	1.424124

65	SYC	4.451827
65	ZWE	4.451827
65	SWZ	4.451827
65	TZA	4.451827
65	ZMB	4.451827
79	GTM	4.421927
80	HRV	4.299003
81	MDA	4.033223
82	CYP	3.966777
83	ALB	3.757475
84	SAU	3.152824
85	QAT	3.106312
86	BHR	3.089701
86	KWT	3.089701
86	OMN	3.089701
86	YEM	3.089701
90	BIH	2.970100
91	IRN	2.916944
92	MUS	2.584718
93	LVA	2.451827
94	ETH	2.398671
95	RUS	2.368771
96	JOR	2.305648
97	BGD	2.292359
98	JAM	2.043189
99	BLR	1.893688
100	SLV	1.880399
101	NIC	1.800664
102	KGZ	1.707641
103	DZA	1.674419
104	UZB	1.674419
105	PRY	1.328904
106	BEN	1.279070
106	CIV	1.279070
106	MLI	1.279070
106	NER	1.279070
106	GNB	1.279070
106	SEN	1.279070
106	TGO	1.279070
106	BFA	1.279070
114	GEO	1.215947

115	UZB	1.803681	115	DOM	1.225681	115	DOM	1.046512
116	EST	1.079755	116	EST	0.684825	116	EST	0.584718
117	BOL	0.460123	117	BOL	0.291829	117	BOL	0.249169
118	KHM	0.306748	118	KHM	0.194553	118	KHM	0.166113
119	PAN	0.000000	119	PAN	0.000000	119	PAN	0.000000

Table 6: The Global Accreditation Coverage Count (GACC) – 2025 – Versions 1, 2 and 3

Version 1			Version 2			Version 3		
Rank	Economy	GACC Score 2025	Rank	Economy	GACC Score 2025	Rank	Economy	GACC Score 2025
	MAX	10		MAX	18		MAX	33
1	BEL	10	1	CZE	18	1	ITA	32
1	TWN	10	1	FRA	18	2	GBR	29
1	CZE	10	1	DEU	18	3	DEU	28
1	DNK	10	1	IND	18	4	NLD	26
1	FRA	10	1	ITA	18	4	ESP	26
1	DEU	10	1	NLD	18	6	FRA	25
1	IND	10	1	NOR	18	7	AUT	23
1	ITA	10	1	POL	18	7	POL	23
1	NLD	10	1	ESP	18	9	USA	22
1	NOR	10	1	TUR	18	10	TUR	21
1	POL	10	1	GBR	18	11	BEL	20
1	ESP	10	1	USA	18	11	CZE	20
1	THA	10	13	TWN	17	11	DNK	20
1	TUR	10	13	DNK	17	11	IND	20
1	GBR	10	13	FIN	17	11	JPN	20
1	USA	10	13	GRC	17	11	NOR	20
17	AUS	9	13	HUN	17	17	TWN	19
17	CHN	9	13	JPN	17	17	GRC	19
17	FIN	9	13	MEX	17	17	KOR	19
17	GRC	9	13	ROU	17	17	MEX	19
17	HKG	9	13	SGP	17	17	SWE	19
17	HUN	9	13	SVK	17	22	AUS	18
17	IDN	9	13	SWE	17	22	FIN	18
17	JPN	9	24	AUT	16	22	NZL	18
17	KOR	9	24	CAN	16	22	PRT	18
17	MEX	9	24	IDN	16	22	ROU	18
17	NZL	9	24	KOR	16	22	SGP	18
17	ROU	9	24	LVA	16	28	CHN	17
17	SGP	9	29	AUS	15	28	HUN	17
17	SVK	9	29	BEL	15	28	IDN	17
17	ZAF	9	29	CHN	15	28	IRL	17
17	SWE	9	29	HKG	15	28	SVK	17

33	AUT	8
33	BRA	8
33	BGR	8
33	CAN	8
33	IRL	8
33	KEN	8
33	LVA	8
33	MYS	8
33	PRT	8
33	SRB	8
33	SVN	8
33	ARE	8
33	EGY	8
46	LKA	7
46	GEO	7
46	LTU	7
46	CHE	7
46	UKR	7
51	AGO	6
51	ARG	6
51	BHR	6
51	BWA	6
51	CHL	6
51	COL	6
51	COM	6
51	COD	6
51	CRI	6
51	ECU	6
51	ETH	6
51	IRN	6
51	KAZ	6
51	KWT	6
51	LSO	6
51	LUX	6
51	MDG	6
51	MWI	6
51	MDA	6
51	MOZ	6
51	OMN	6
51	NAM	6
51	PHL	6
51	QAT	6
51	SAU	6
51	SYC	6

29	IRL	15
29	NZL	15
29	PRT	15
29	SVN	15
29	ZAF	15
29	THA	15
29	EGY	15
40	BGR	14
40	MYS	14
40	SRB	14
40	CHE	14
40	UKR	14
45	COL	13
45	ARE	13
47	KEN	12
47	LTU	12
47	SAU	12
50	ALB	11
50	LKA	11
50	LUX	11
50	VNM	11
50	TUN	11
55	AGO	10
55	BWA	10
55	BRA	10
55	COM	10
55	COD	10
55	CRI	10
55	ETH	10
55	IRN	10
55	LSO	10
55	MDG	10
55	MWI	10
55	MOZ	10
55	NAM	10
55	QAT	10
55	SYC	10
55	ZWE	10
55	SWZ	10
55	TZA	10
55	ZMB	10
74	ARG	9
74	BHR	9
74	ECU	9

28	ZAF	17
28	CHE	17
35	CAN	16
35	LVA	16
35	THA	16
35	EGY	16
39	COL	15
39	HKG	15
39	MYS	15
39	SVN	15
43	BGR	14
43	SRB	14
43	UKR	14
46	ARE	13
47	KEN	12
47	LTU	12
47	SAU	12
47	VNM	12
51	ALB	11
51	ARG	11
51	BRA	11
51	LKA	11
51	ECU	11
51	LUX	11
51	TUN	11
58	AGO	10
58	BWA	10
58	COM	10
58	COD	10
58	CRI	10
58	ETH	10
58	IRN	10
58	LSO	10
58	MDG	10
58	MWI	10
58	MOZ	10
58	NAM	10
58	QAT	10
58	SYC	10
58	ZWE	10
58	SWZ	10
58	TZA	10
58	URY	10
58	ZMB	10

51	VNM	6
51	ZWE	6
51	SWZ	6
51	TUN	6
51	MKD	6
51	TZA	6
51	YEM	6
51	ZMB	6
85	BLR	5
85	CYP	5
85	BEN	5
85	CIV	5
85	JOR	5
85	MLI	5
85	MNG	5
85	NER	5
85	PAK	5
85	PER	5
85	GNB	5
85	RUS	5
85	SEN	5
85	TGO	5
85	BFA	5
100	ALB	4
100	BGD	4
100	BIH	4
100	HRV	4
100	EST	4
100	GTM	4
100	ISR	4
100	URY	4
100	UZB	4
109	DZA	3
109	BOL	3
109	DOM	3
109	SLV	3
109	JAM	3
109	KGZ	3
109	MUS	3
109	NIC	3
117	PRY	2
118	KHM	1
119	PAN	0

74	KAZ	9
74	KWT	9
74	OMN	9
74	PHL	9
74	MKD	9
74	UZB	9
74	YEM	9
84	CHL	8
84	MNG	8
84	MDA	8
84	PER	8
84	URY	8
89	BEN	7
89	GEO	7
89	CIV	7
89	MLI	7
89	NER	7
89	PAK	7
89	GNB	7
89	SEN	7
89	TGO	7
89	BFA	7
99	BLR	5
99	CYP	5
99	JOR	5
99	MUS	5
99	RUS	5
104	BGD	4
104	BIH	4
104	HRV	4
104	EST	4
104	GTM	4
104	ISR	4
110	DZA	3
110	BOL	3
110	DOM	3
110	SLV	3
110	JAM	3
110	KGZ	3
110	NIC	3
117	PRY	2
118	KHM	1
119	PAN	0

77	BHR	9
77	KAZ	9
77	KWT	9
77	OMN	9
77	PHL	9
77	MKD	9
77	UZB	9
77	YEM	9
85	CHL	8
85	MNG	8
85	MDA	8
85	PER	8
89	BEN	7
89	GEO	7
89	CIV	7
89	MLI	7
89	NER	7
89	PAK	7
89	GNB	7
89	SEN	7
89	TGO	7
89	BFA	7
99	BLR	5
99	CYP	5
99	JOR	5
99	MUS	5
99	RUS	5
104	BGD	4
104	BIH	4
104	HRV	4
104	EST	4
104	GTM	4
104	ISR	4
110	DZA	3
110	BOL	3
110	DOM	3
110	SLV	3
110	JAM	3
110	KGZ	3
110	NIC	3
117	PRY	2
118	KHM	1
119	PAN	0

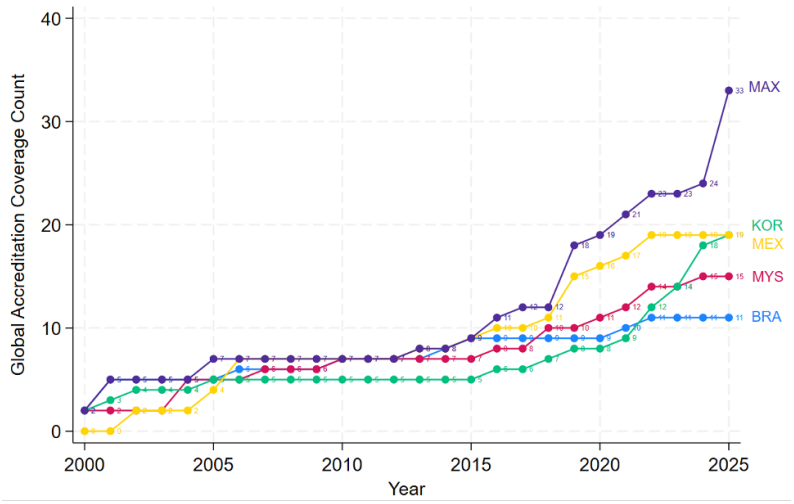

Figure 3: GACC - Version 3 - 2000-2025 - Korea, Mexico, Malaysia and Brazil

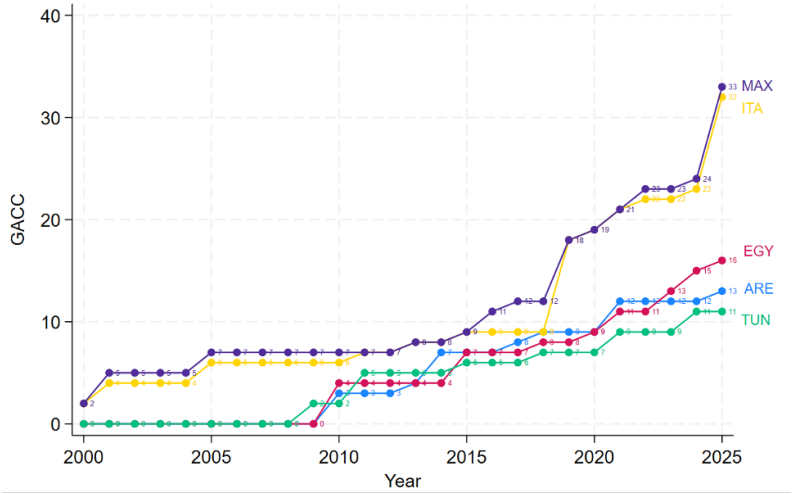

Figure 4: GACC - Version 3 - 2000-2025 - Italy, Egypt, Argentina, Tunisia

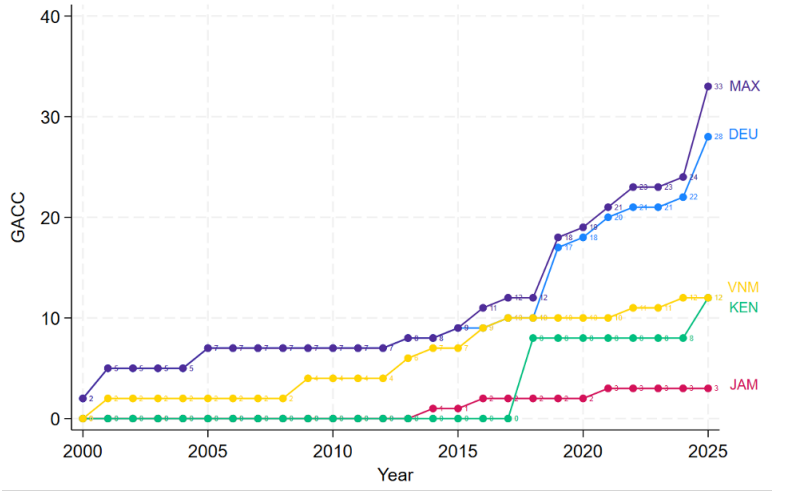

Figure 5: GACC - Version 3 - 2000-2025 - Germany, Vietnam, Kenya, Jamaica

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