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The Impact of Institutions on Bank Governance and Stability: Evidence from African Countries*

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Abstract

This paper sheds new light on how African countries' legal systems and institutions influence the governance and stability of their banks. We find that institutional factors, in particular the legal family of origin, political stability, contract enforcement and strength of investor protection promote central corporate governance reforms. Using a difference-in-difference approach, we also reveal that those reforms mediate the impact of institutions on banks. If countries have a corporate governance reform in place their banks show better internal governance and higher stability.

Key Words: African banks, corporate governance, legal systems, institutions, bank stability

JEL codes: G21,G28,G30,G32,G38

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1 Introduction

Banks play important roles in financial intermediation through deposit mobilization, money transfers and lending to firms and households in all economies. In developing countries, especially those of Africa, banks are by far the most important contributors to their financial system development, since alternative sources of finance such as capital markets are limited. Thus, bank governance and stability is crucial. Any form of bank failure may result in contagious effects on the entire financial system. Consequently, countries have implemented reforms and directives to make bank focus on reducing risks which could adversely affect bank stability.

Previous studies have examined country-level determinants of bank stability including regulations, bank supervision (Barth, Caprio Jr, & Ross, 2004; Laeven & Levine, 2009) and deposit insurance (Anginer, Demirguc-Kunt, & Zhu, 2014; Demirgüç-Kunt & Detragiache, 2002). These studies link bank risk-taking to differences in countries' domestic regulation and supervisory strengths. However, they focus on hard regulations specifically the Basel compliance principles (BCP). Evidence about how bank stability is affected by soft laws (codes) designed by sovereign central banks as a way of complementing hard regulations is absent in this empirical literature.

Another strand of literature that deals with banks at the of micro-level borrows from law and finance literature and links countries' legal systems, and institutions with bank stability (Essid, 2014; Fang, Hasan, & Fang, 2014; Haselmann & Wachtel, 2010; Houston, Lin, Lin, & Ma, 2010). This research suggests that institutional development indicated by strengths of creditor rights, information sharing on borrowers and contract enforcement affects bank lending and risk taking. However, the focus is only on the emerging economies of Europe and Asia. Evidence about the effects of legal reforms and institutional changes on African banks is rather scarce. We address this research gap and borrow from both strands of literature to evaluate how African countries' legal systems and institutions influence governance and stability of their banks.

Although there are differences among African countries brought about by culture and history, evidence shows that in terms of financial systems, African countries have many features in common. African banks are both highly liquid and well capitalized compared to other regions of the world. Beck and Cull (2014) report that the ratio of liquid assets to short term funding is 42.9 percent in African banks but only 29.3 percent in non-African banks. However, they also reveal higher non-performing loan ratios in African banks. Similarly, Nana and Samson (2014) report that liquid reserves to total assets in African banks are between 11 and 19 percent compared to only 5 percent for OECD banks. Beck, Maimbo, Faye, and Triki (2011) show that African countries are characterized by a large informal sector. Information about individuals and firms is scarce and difficult to ob-

tain. The near absence of credit bureaus and credit registries create severe information asymmetries between borrowers and lenders. In response, banks tend to lend little to the private sector and invest more often in safer government securities with transparent and easily accessible credit information. Such institutional differences result in higher levels of credit risks and non-performing loans. At the same time, many African countries suffer from high levels of corruption (Okike, 2007; Wanyama, Burton, & Helliard, 2009) which may adversely affect enforcement of loan repayment.

Complementary to this research, we analyze the importance of institutional progress for improving internal corporate governance and stability of African banks. Specifically, we address the mediating role of national corporate governance reforms in transforming institutional progress into improvements at the individual bank level. Bank stability is measured using performance as well as resilience indicators (Ashraf, 2017; Klomp & Haan, 2015; Laeven & Levine, 2009). We employ a difference-in-difference approach to identify this impact (Angrist & Pischke, 2009; Fang et al., 2014). Banks from countries in which central banks published bank-specific corporate governance code are taken as the treatment group while the control group consists of banks from non-publishing countries. The sample consists of 216 banks from 44 African countries over the period 2005-2015. We use websites of countries' central banks to identify those countries that have published bank-specific corporate governance codes and those that have none in place. Institutional development indicators are taken from the World Governance indicators (Kaufmann & Kraay, 2008) and from the World Bank doing business reports. Legal systems are measured using the classification introduced by LaPorta, de Silanes, Shleifer, and Vishny (1998).

The empirical results show that – mediated via national governance reforms – good institutions at the country level improve banks' internal governance, increase return figures and strengthen resilience. Banks operating in common-law countries with strong institutional quality are more likely to internally implement the published national corporate governance codes than their peers from countries with civil-law tradition, and those banks have also higher Z-scores. Our results are robust to using alternative indicators for stability.

Successful banks may have superior governance and lobby for a better governance system countrywide. In this case bank level governance and performance would be an important driver for the introduction of nation-wide corporate governance codes and not the other way round. We address this potential endogeneity problem in different ways. First, we use a two-equation model of bank-level outcomes and introduction of national corporate governance codes, and allow for correlation between the regression residuals of the equations. Second, we include bank fixed effects to control for omitted variables. Our

results remain significant and robust.

Our study contributes to the literature in several ways. First, we add to the banking regulation literature and provide evidence on the channels through which the nation-wide introduction of corporate governance codes influence bank governance and stability. Our paper is closely related to [Akhigbe and Martin \(2008\)](#) and [Akhigbe and Martin \(2006\)](#). They show in cross-section analyses, the relevance of the SOX (Sarbanes-Oxley Act) governance compliance and disclosure provisions for bank risk taking in the US. Financial institutions that increased disclosures and adjusted governance as required by the SOX report were able to improve valuation and reduce risks in the long-run. We complement this literature by adding panel-data based evidence on the question of how compliance to central banks' corporate governance recommendations affects African banks' risk taking.

Second, we complement the research examining the influence of institutional factors on bank stability ([Ashraf, 2017](#); [Cole & Turk-Ariss, 2013](#); [Essid, 2014](#); [Fang et al., 2014](#); [Haselmann & Wachtel, 2010](#); [Houston et al., 2010](#); [Qian, Cao, & Cao, 2018](#); [Zhang, Wang, & Qu, 2012](#)). The studies focusing on banks from transition, emerging and European developed countries suggest that among other factors, institutional differences and legal origins lead to differences in bank stability and performance. In particular, they reveal that institutions have first-order effects on performance. We show that in African countries institutions have second-order effects. Institutions increase the likelihood that central corporate governance reforms will be implemented at the bank level and subsequently increase bank stability in these countries.

[Fang et al. \(2014\)](#) argue that countries' institutions amplify or impede the effects of bank reforms on bank stability. We add to this small empirical literature by focusing on bank-specific codes instead of considering generic corporate governance reforms that apply to all public companies. Those codes are published by central banks as part of the regulation and are, thus, more powerful than general governance recommendations. Finally, we provide empirical evidence on institutional determinants of bank stability in Africa which is noticeably almost missing in this strand of literature. Only [Andrianova, Baltagi, Demetriades, and Fielding \(2015\)](#) assess the influence of institutions on bank lending in 32 African countries. We move beyond this study by exploring both the impact of country-wide governance reforms on internal governance and on bank stability.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the previous literature on international corporate governance and derives testable propositions, paying special attention to the determinants of bank level practices and the impact of interactions among country-level and bank-level corporate governance on performance and stability. Section 3 presents the methodology and data including data sources and operationalization of variables. Section 4 analyzes and discusses the results of the study. The concluding

Section 5 highlights the study's contribution.

2 Literature review and research hypotheses development

2.1 The link of corporate governance codes with bank governance and stability

Since the 1980s and 90s most African countries have undertaken financial reforms supported by the Bank for International settlements and the IMF (Triki, Kouki, Dhaou, & Calice, 2017) subsequent to banking crises. In addition to capital and supervisory regulations, countries have implemented specific bank corporate governance codes. These codes are published by central banks and provide recommendations on the structure, composition and functioning of boards. They aim at enhancing not only the stability of the entire financial systems but also at protecting investors from expropriations by controlling block-holders. This could be a severe threat in many developing countries where majority banks are closely held. Large (controlling) shareholders may expropriate diffuse small shareholders by investing in risky projects. Marginal shareholders have insufficient information and instruments to monitor both bank managers and inside shareholders. Corporate governance codes could improve the small stakeholders position by empowering boards to closely monitor the activities of both groups. Efficient boards can be expected to have a better chance to prevent excessive risk taking.

Empirical studies examining the influence of corporate governance provisions on risk-taking of banks usually focus on other regions and neglect African countries. Akhigbe and Martin (2006) and Akhigbe and Martin (2008) assess the relevance of the Sarbanes-Oxley governance and disclosure provisions (SOX) for US financial services firms. They show that financial institutions that complied with the disclosure and governance provisions (board independence, audit committee independence, financial expertise, and financial reporting) improved their valuation. Furthermore, firms that adopted the SOX' provisions experienced lower unsystematic risk in the long-run. Board independence and information credibility (monitoring) strongly reduces overall and specific bank risks. In another US study, Pathan (2009) among other findings reveals that, independent directors reduce bank risk-taking as they pay more attention to reducing potentially loss-making investments which could spoil their reputation. This finding implies that independent board members are more sensitive to regulatory compliance in issues related to bank risk-taking.

In addition to provisions fostering board independence, other studies reveal that regulatory provisions on risk management improve bank stability. Ellul and Yerramilli (2013) construct a risk management index for US bank holding companies (BHC) from their

regulatory filings on risk management. They find that BHCs with independent risk management were associated with lower risks (lower non-performing loans) during the crisis period. [Lingel and Sheedy \(2012\)](#) obtain similar results for those banks that established a risk management officer in senior management during the financial crisis period.

International regulators have also added to the roles that boards can play in mitigating excessive risk-taking by banks. The Bank for International Settlement (BIS) published a best practices code emphasizing the need to have more independent board members for exercising sound judgment without management influence. In addition, BIS requires more financial experts in boards and a better understanding of the bank's risky activities ([BCBS, 2006](#)). The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) also underlines the importance of boards in protecting the interest of shareholders, depositors and other relevant stakeholders. BCBS recommends to establishing a majority of independent and competent directors for improving risk management and to upgrade the role of the Chief Risk Officer ([BCBS, 2010](#)). These reports suggest that bank governance should not only focus on shareholders' wealth-maximizing activities but should also explicitly address risk-taking. We expect that banks comply with those recommendations from regulatory bodies in a similar way as they comply to other regulations. Accordingly, we hypothesize that banks are more likely to improve their own corporate governance if national governance codes published by central banks are in place. We also hypothesize that compliance with the central bank's recommendations by adjusting internal governance increases bank stability.

2.2 The link between institutional development and bank stability

There is a growing literature exploring the question of how the institutions in a country affect bank stability. The law and finance literature emphasizes the importance of legal origin and the institutional environment for bank behavior ([LaPorta et al., 1998](#); [Levine, 2005](#)). Banks operating in legal systems with strong loan contract enforcement and well-developed information sharing on borrowers are associated with higher lending ([Demirgüç-Kunt & Detragiache, 2002](#)). Micro-level bank evidence confirms this finding. [Houston et al. \(2010\)](#) show that banks operating in environments with better creditor rights are prepared to take on more lending risk as probabilities of defaults are reduced. Similar evidence is reported in [Cole and Turk-Ariss \(2013\)](#). They show that banks in common-law countries have higher exposure to loan risks than banks in civil-law countries, and that creditors are better protected under common-law. In contrast, banks operating in poor institutional environments tend to avoid high, poorly protected risk exposure and to lend only cautiously.

Haselmann and Wachtel (2010) examine transition countries. They report that banks lend to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in favorable environments, but in unfavorable environments prefer to lend only to large firms and government agencies. Fang et al. (2014) study how institutional reforms in transitional economies influence bank stability. They find that bank stability increases only if countries improve their legal institutions and conduct reforms in both the banking sector and other industries. Berger and Udell (2006) also report in their study that legal and information infrastructures support banks' lending technologies to offer loans to SMEs.

In African countries banks respond to poor institutional environments by lending less to private sector and only investing in government securities (Beck & Cull, 2014; Honohan & Beck, 2007). Honohan and Beck (2007) note that, compared to other parts of the world, African countries have few credit bureaus and registries which makes it difficult for banks to obtain information on the borrowers. They also note that there are often difficulties in enforcing contracts. Private defaults and non-performing loan rates are higher given costly screening and weak contract enforcement in those countries. Weak corporate governance and legal systems in combination with poor contract enforcement render reforms focusing on bank stability ineffective in African countries (Cull & Peria, 2012). We therefore expect that African banks show a higher stability if their home-countries possess strong legal systems and institutions. Compliance with the central bank's recommendations is expected to increase bank stability. Therefore, we hypothesize that publication of national governance codes is the mediating factor that links the home countries legal systems and institutions to bank governance and stability.

2.3 The link of legal systems and institutions with code introduction

National corporate governance reforms do not unfold in a vacuum rather they are a reflection of the country's legal system and its historical development. LaPorta et al. (1998) emphasize that legal origins affect corporate governance through rules that protect investors against exploitation by managers and inside owners. They argue that investor protection is higher in common law countries because of specific shareholder rights. Investor protection is beneficial for firm performance (La Porta, Lopez-De-Silanes, & Shleifer, 2002).

In African countries, laws and regulations are drafted according to legal traditions that are, for the most part, inherited from former colonial rulers (Osemeke & Adegbite, 2016). For instance, previous evidence shows that, despite corporate governance reforms in most African countries, the pace in launching new governance rules differs across countries. The codes' introduction suffers in particular from weak institutional environment fostering corruption (Kaufmann, Kraay, & Mastruzzi, 2009; Okike, 2007; Wanyama et

al., 2009), as well as from weak enforcement of laws (Okpara, 2011). Accordingly, we propose that the legal system developed during colonial occupation explains differences in launching bank-specific national corporate governance codes. Institutions that emerge from these legal systems might constrain or support countries in this respect.

3 Data and Methodology

3.1 Data sources

Data for this study are obtained from various sources. Data for bank performance and resilience are collected from the Bankscope database. Data on bank governance and ownership are obtained from Bankscope and, in addition, are hand collected from the banks' annual reports. Information about corporate governance codes is collected from the countries' central banks. Data on creditor and investor protections, macro-economic indicators as well as country-level governance indicators are all collected from the World Bank (Doing Business Reports, World Development Indicators) and the Kaufmann and Kraay (2008)' World Governance indicators (WGI). Data pertaining to legal origins are obtained from LaPorta et al. (1998). Table 1 summarizes the list of variables, their definitions and sources.

[Table 1 here]

3.2 Sample description

Bank and country data are matched to investigate the relationship between institutions/legal systems and publication of central corporate governance codes on the one hand, and code publication and bank governance and stability on the other hand. After excluding missing observations, the final panel sample includes 2,375 bank-year observations for 216 commercial banks across 44 African countries from 2005 to 2015.

3.2.1 Measurement of banks' corporate governance

We construct indexes of bank governance indicators that enable us to test whether banks do comply with the published corporate governance recommendations. Bank governance is measured by board size, independence, CEO duality, share of women in the board and disclosure of information related to executive remuneration. We follow previous studies in constructing the indicators of bank governance (Adams & Mehran, 2003; Andres, Romero-Merino, Santamaría, & Vallelado, 2012; Pathan, 2009) and bank disclosure measures (Song & Li, 2012). *Board size* is defined by the number of board members in each

bank. The share of independent non-executive directors in the board is measured by the variable *Independ*. Independent directors are defined as those that do not hold an executive position in the company and who do not have a stake in the bank. *CEO duality* is a dummy variable that takes the value of 1 if the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the chairperson of the board of directors of the same bank and 0 otherwise. The variable *Sharewomen* represents the share of women board members relative to the entire board of each bank. *UsingBig4* is a dummy variable taking the value of 1 if a bank is audited by Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG or PricewaterhouseCoopers and 0 otherwise. *Disclosure* is a dummy variable taking the value of 1 if a bank discloses the directors' salaries in its annual reports and 0 otherwise.

3.2.2 Measurement of bank resilience and performance

The main indicator for bank resilience (or risk-taking) is the Z-score

$$Z\text{-score} = \frac{ROA + \text{capital ratio}}{\sigma(ROA)}$$

where *ROA* is the return on assets, *capital ratio* is equity to total assets and $\sigma(ROA)$ is the standard deviation of *ROA*. The Z-score indicates how many standard deviation of *ROA* the bank is away from zero bank capital and, thus, from bankruptcy. A higher Z-score signals that the bank is more stable and the probability of bankruptcy is low. Two alternative operationalizations of Z-score computation are used. The first one measures bank *ROA* stability $\sigma(ROA)$ as constant standard deviation over the period in which the bank-level information on *ROA* is observed (*Z-score*₁). The second alternative (*Z-score*₂) is calculated on a rolling-window basis (Beck, De Jonghe, & Schepens, 2013; Goetz, 2017), only the current and previous three years are used for computing $\sigma(ROA)$. *Z-score*₂ is used as a robustness check to see whether obtained results are similar to those based on *Z-score*₁.

Another resilience indicator is the ratio of nonperforming loans (*NPL ratio*). *NPLs* are loans not served by the customer (principal and interest payment) over a long period contrary to the terms and conditions of the loan contract. Thus, it also indicates the bank's success in screening and monitoring clients. Bank performance is measured using two ratios that are previously used in other studies (Adams & Mehran, 2003; De Andres & Vallelado, 2008). These include the Return on Average Assets (*ROAA*) and the Return on Average Equity (*ROAE*). *ROAA* is the after tax net income (profits) divided by average total assets. It measures the extent to which the bank's management is able to generate profits from the use of its assets. *ROAE* indicates how effectively shareholder's funds are being used by the management of the company. It is obtained by dividing net income

available to common stockholders by common equity.

3.2.3 Measurement of corporate governance reforms, institutions and legal systems

Corporate governance reforms are proxied by the publication of a corporate governance code for the banking sector in a specific country. The variable *CGcode* takes the value of 1 in the year and following years when a country introduces such governance regulation for banks and is 0 otherwise. Institutions are captured by two different sets of indicators. The first one reflects the [Kaufmann and Kraay \(2008\)](#)' index of countries' institutional quality measured by (1) *Control of corruption*, (2) *Rule of Law*, (3) *Political stability*, (4) *Governance effectiveness*, (5) *Regulatory quality*, and (6) *Voice and accountability*. The respective values range from -2.5 (weak) to +2.5 (strong institutional performance).

The second set consists of variables from the WorldBank doing business reports reflecting both investor and creditor protection. *Extent of director liability index*, *Ease of shareholder suits index*, and *Strengths of investor protection index* refer to minority investors. These variables range from 1 to 10, where 1 represents weak investor protection rights and 10 the highest level. The variable *Enforcing contracts* represents creditor rights. It indicates the average number of days it takes to enforce credit contracts in a country.

Finally, the legal system is measured using the *Legal family of origin* classification ([LaPorta et al., 1998](#); [Shleifer & Vishny, 1997](#)). In African countries only two legal origin are present: civil law legal family and common-law tradition. Countries that were colonized by Britain belong to the common-law tradition and those colonized by either France, Germany, Italy or Portugal are classified as civil-law countries. A dummy variable with a value of 0 indicates that the banks are located in a civil-law country, and 1 if the bank belongs to a common-law country. Table 1 provides a description of all variables.

3.2.4 Bank-level and macro-economic control variables

Two variables are used to control for bank specific characteristics. First, firm size is measured by total assets at the end of each fiscal year from 2005 to 2015 (*Logtotalassets*). Second, we control for bank ownership. The variable *Percentage of ownership* of the controlling shareholder measures ownership concentration. We also account for specific block-holder groups with more than or equal to 10% of total ownership: the government (*Government ownership*) and institutional owners (*Institutional ownership*).

In line with the existing literature, we control for inflation (*Inflation*) because it is likely to affect the financial system's stability. In addition, we use the GDP per capita (*LogGDPperCapita*) to account for differences in the countries' economic development. Finally, the *Growth rate* controls for business cycles. The macro data are from the World Bank Development Indicators for the period 2005-2015.

4 Empirical analysis

4.1 Descriptive results

Table 2 reports descriptive statistics. Banks have on average nine members on their board. Five of the board members are, on average, independent non-executive directors, the rest are inside directors. Female directors comprise only 11% of the board for our entire sample. About 95% of banks in the sample have chairpersons with no dual CEO appointment. About 75% use either Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG or PricewaterhouseCoopers as their auditors. About 16% disclose information on directors' remuneration in their annual reports.

[Table 2 here]

A majority of the banks are closely-held as proxied by the total percentage owned by the first largest shareholder(s) (68%). About 80% of the banks are controlled by institutional investors, while 9.2% have governments as their controlling owners. The average Z-score is 17.33 ($Z\text{-score}_1$) for the entire period, and 21.65 ($Z\text{-score}_2$) when computed using a rolling window for the current and previous three years. The average return on assets ratio ($ROAA$) is 1.90%, and the average return on equity ratio ratio ($ROAE$) is 15%. Non-performing loans account for 7.6% of total loans.

Table 3 reports descriptives for the country-level variables. On average, more than half of the countries (24 out of 44) have introduced a specific corporate governance reform during the period 2005-2015. About 61% of the countries belong to the civil-law Family while remaining countries belong to the common-law tradition (mean= 0.391). The average annual growth rate is 4.6% and average annual inflation is 7.2%.

[Table 3 here]

Table 4 reports the means of both regressors of interest and control variables by legal origin. On average, countries from the common-law tradition have published bank-specific corporate governance codes more often (55%) compared to those from civil-law traditions (28%). Banks from common-law countries that published codes are superior to their peers from the civil-law countries in following the codes' recommendations and in adjusting bank-internal corporate governance. Banks from common-law countries have on average larger bank boards with higher proportions of independent directors and more women on boards as well as lower levels of CEO dualities. In addition, common-law banks disclose their directors' pay and are more likely to use the Big4 as auditors. In terms of stability, banks in common-law countries have, on average, lower credit risk (lower NPL ratios), higher return on assets and a higher return on equity. However, the mean Z-scores are

either higher or lower in common-law than in civil-law countries depending on how the scores are specified.

[Table 4 here]

Common-law countries show higher levels of institutional quality (control of corruption, rule of law, governance effectiveness, regulatory quality, and voice and accountability) and higher levels of shareholder protection and creditor rights. It takes fewer days for banks in common-law countries to enforce loan contracts. In terms of ownership structures, banks from civil-law countries are on average more closely-held while institutional owners are more dominant in banks from common-law countries. Government ownership of banks is less pronounced in common-law countries.

4.2 Empirical model

We use a difference-in-difference approach to examine how the introduction of corporate governance codes at the national level affects the individual bank's compliance and, subsequently, influences bank stability measured by two performance and two resilience indicators. The difference-in-difference approach allows us to compare the relative impact of corporate governance codes' (*CGcode*) before and after their introduction (Angrist & Pischke, 2009). Diff-in-diff estimates can be obtained using a fixed effects panel model where the introduction of the code is modeled as the treatment dummy variable that takes a value of 0 before and a value of 1 in the year of introduction and the following years.

One could nevertheless argue that the introduction of the code is not an exogenous event but is itself dependent on a number of country-specific institutional characteristics and the country's level of economic development. To take these factors into consideration, we use a two-equation model,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Bank governance/stability}_{it} = & f(\text{CGcode}_{kt}, \text{bank controls}_{it}, \text{macro controls}_{kt}, \mu_i, \lambda_t) \\ & + \epsilon_{it} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CGcode}_{kt} = & f(\text{institutional characteristics}_{kt}, \text{macro controls}_{kt}, \gamma_t) \\ & + \varepsilon_{kt} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where μ_i are bank-specific fixed effects, λ_t and γ_t are year effects, ϵ_{it} and ε_{kt} are the error terms of Equations (1) and (2) that are allowed to be correlated. The first equation is a fixed effects model with year dummies that describes the individual bank's outcome in terms of governance and stability depending on a number of bank-specific controls and macro indicators. The second equation models the introduction of the corporate governance code (*CGcode*) in country k and year t in response to institutional characteristics

(legal system, institutional development, investor and creditor protection). *CGcode* is a dummy variable equal to 1 for countries that published the code and 0 for non-publishing countries.

The control variables in Equation (1) are total assets and ownership indicators (ownership concentration as well as institutional and government ownership). The macro-economic indicators in Equation (1) are the same as in Equation (2). Inflation is a proxy for the country's macro-economic stability and GDP per capita represents the level of economic development.

Two outcomes are of particular interest in response to the nation-wide introduction of governance codes. First, the degree to which banks comply with the published governance code and, second, the bank's subsequent performance and resilience. The individual bank's compliance with the code is captured by six main indicators, namely board size, board independence, women on board, CEO duality, disclosure of directors' remuneration and use of the Big Four as auditors. The indicators for the individual bank's resilience are *Z-score* and *NPL ratio*. Performance is measured by *ROAA* and *ROAE*.

As Equations (1) and (2) constitute a recursive system, we estimate them simultaneously by utilizing Roodman (2009)'s *cmp* procedure. The procedure can handle equations with differently scaled dependent variables. We combine the fixed effects equation with a probit model to examine how the publication of national bank-specific corporate governance codes affects bank outcomes.

4.3 Code publishing and banks' corporate governance

Table 5 provides the estimates for the impact of institutions on bank governance. The coefficient of the variable *CGcode* is statistically significant in all specifications implying that the publication of a corporate governance code by central banks supports banks in implementing own governance improvements. Columns 2 to 6 show that banks on average comply with the nation-wide code publication by increasing significantly the number of female directors and by increasing the proportion of non-executive independent directors in boards. There is a significant negative relationship between code publication and CEO duality implying that banks comply with code recommendations and reduce the chairperson's dual roles. Codes' publication also affects banks' use of one of the Big4 auditing companies. Banks from countries in which central banks published the code use the services of the Big4 auditors significantly more often than banks from non-publishing countries. In addition, banks significantly increase disclosure of directors' compensations in response to *CGcode*. There is, however, no relationship between code publication and banks' board size.

[Table 5 here]

4.4 Code publishing and banks' performance and resilience

Table 6 reports the estimation results on the effects of code introduction on banks' performance and resilience. The coefficients for return on assets and return on equity are both positive and significant implying that codes publication increases banks operational performance (*ROAA*) and accounting profitability (*ROAE*). The coefficients in Column 4 reveal that the introduction of corporate governance codes is associated with greater bank resilience, that is, a higher Z-score. Column 3 reports the coefficients for the alternative measure of bank resilience, the *NPL ratio*. Higher NPL ratios indicate more defaults on average among the customers of the bank. Contrary to our expectation, we find that loan defaults increase when central banks publish corporate governance recommendations. It might be caused by factors unrelated to the introduction of corporate governance code.

In contrast to the strong impact of code publication by central banks, the direct impact of bank-internal governance indicators on performance and resilience is weak. Only the coefficient on *Logboardsize* is positive and weakly significant in the *ROAA*-model indicating that banks with larger boards are associated with a higher accounting profitability. The coefficient of the indicators *UsingBig4*, *CEO duality* and *Disclosure* are significant only in one specification but the effect is non-robust across both Z-score models.

[Table 6 here]

4.5 Determinants of code publishing

The lower parts of of Tables 5 and 6 show that the incidence of a centrally published code mediating banks' governance reforms and stability is conditional on the quality of the countries' institutions. Table 5 reports that a common-law legal tradition increases the likelihood of a centrally published code, and via this channel, positively affects the number of female as well as independent directors and the likelihood of both disclosure of directors' pay and using the Big4 as auditors. The coefficients for this effect are positive and highly significant in all models. Political stability is the second positive and strongly significant driver of a centrally published code and mediator for an improved bank-internal governance. Domestic creditor and investor rights are the third positive driver. Specifically, the strengths of the investor protection index significantly increases the likelihood of nation-wide code introduction, and via this effect, promotes own governance reforms. In line with a priori expectations, we find that the lower the number of days for contract enforcement, the higher the likelihood of code introduction, most likely also reflecting a higher degree of institutional qualities in those countries. The institutional variable voice

and accountability captures perceptions of a country's citizens to what extent they can participate in selecting the government and enjoy freedom of expression, freedom of association, and a free media. Contrary to expectations a low level of this indicator increases the likelihood of central banks' publishing a corporate governance code for banks. One explanation for this result could be that central banks feel in particular the need to have a stabilizing framework in place if the country's system of societal control is weak.

Table 6 shows that code publication occurs and, subsequently, improves banks' performance and resilience in those countries that are politically stable, are less corrupt and where investors are more strongly protected. Overall, the results reveal that country institutions and legal systems significantly affects the likelihood that corporate governance codes for banks are introduced which in turn affect banks' performance and resilience. The incidence of corporate governance reform and code publication at the country level acts as the mediating factor.

4.6 Control variables

Bank and macro controls have an impact on internal governance and stability. Closely-held banks are associated with higher board share of both women and independent directors (Table 5). At the same time, these banks are associated with a higher likelihood of CEO duality and a lower likelihood of disclosure of directors pay. The government as controlling shareholder promotes CEO duality and independence of board members. Banks with controlling shareholders (*Percentage of ownership*) are associated with lower operating performance (*ROAA*), lower profitability (*ROAE*), increased credit risk (*NPL ratio*) and lower resilience (*Z-score1*) (Table 6).

Larger banks are associated with larger boards, more information disclosures related to directors' pay and a higher proportion of women board members. Those banks are more profitable and have a lower insolvency risk. Specifically, a higher amount of bank assets is associated with higher operational performance *ROAA*, higher profits *ROAE*, a significantly lower *NPL ratio* and a lower *Z-score*. With regard to the effects of macro economic variables, GDP per capita and inflation have no significant impact on resilience except in the robustness check specification.

4.7 Robustness checks

In our sample countries with a large number of banks are overrepresented. This may imply that the results in the lower parts of the Tables 5 and 6 (Equation 2) could be influenced by bank-level effects as well. To evaluate this possibility we separately measure the influence of different groups of country level variables on the introduction of corporate

governance codes in each country using a probit model. In the first regression model, only minority investor protection rights variables are used as explanatory variables. The second regression model uses only macroeconomic variables as explanatory regressors. Here, we add the GDP growth rate to additionally control for business cyclicity. The third model includes country governance indicators as main regressors and the fourth specification combines the first three models. We include the legal family as the explanatory variable in all models.

Table 8 reports the results. The common-law countries have a significantly higher probability of publishing a corporate governance code. This result is robust across all model specifications. The large model in Column 4 confirms, by and large the results for Equation 2 in Table 5 and 6. The economic and statistical significance of the explanatory variables, legal family of origin, strengths of investor protection index, enforcing contracts, political stability, voice and accountability is maintained in the single equation estimation. Therefore we can exclude that the findings in Table 5 and 6 are reversely influenced by bank-level effects.

[Table 8 here]

In the second robustness check we consider whether the results depend on how bank resilience is measured. We calculate the *Z-score* on a rolling-window basis (*Z-score*₂) where for computing $\sigma(ROA)$ only the current and previous three years are used. Column (5) of Table 6 confirms basically the results of Column (4). However, despite a lower number of observations, the incidence of code publication has a stronger impact on bank resilience if the rolling window is used.

4.8 Endogeneity concerns

Potential endogeneity in the bank-level governance-performance relationship is a concern in many empirical studies as it could bias the estimates. To address this concern, many econometric studies have used instrumental variables. Note that in contrast to pure bank-level studies, our empirical approach is more robust with respect to endogeneity of corporate governance because the main variable of interest, introduction of *CGcode*, is determined at the country level while the outcome variables of interest, stability and performance, are determined at the bank-level. However, there exists a possibility that omitted variables at the country level might affect both the likelihood of introduction of a *CGcode*, and also the outcomes of certain bank-level variables. To address this issue, we are using two sets of country level variables that we assume to be exogenous to both a *CGcode* introduction and the bank-level outcomes: one set that is related to a country's institutional quality and another set of macro variables to describe the macro-economic

conditions in a country. As we allow for correlation between both equations, our approach is similar to an endogenous treatment effect model where the treatment effect is the introduction of *CGcode* at country level. The fixed effects models for the bank-level outcome variables also avoids biased estimates due to omitted time invariant variables.

5 Conclusions

Using a sample of 216 banks from 44 African countries with data that covers the years 2005-2015, we investigate the effects of bank-specific corporate governance reforms at the country level and its impact bank governance and stability. We also explore whether this effect is conditioned by countries' institutions and legal systems.

Our main results suggest that banks improve their governance and stability after the introduction of the corporate governance codes' in their respective country. This evidence implies that a stronger bank internal governance through compliance with codes goes hand in hand with lower lending and other related bank risks. In addition, we find that introduction of corporate governance codes for banks is more likely in common-law countries than in Civil-law countries, thus the legal family of origin matters. Also, mediated via national governance reforms, good institutions at the country level improve banks' internal governance, increase return figures and strengthen resilience. Overall, our findings highlight the importance of codes introduction to promote bank stability in addition to other types of bank regulations. Our findings have important policy implications for African countries. Since banks are the major suppliers of credit in those economies, their stability determines also the prospects of economic growth and development.

This study is not without limitations. The number of observations in the estimation sample is smaller than in the original data set because a significant number of banks have missing observations on one or several important corporate governance indicators or on other variables. This might imply that the estimation sample is not representative for African banks in general but overrepresents the "better" banks. In general, it can be noted that many African banks do not provide sufficiently information about important characteristics of their corporate governance practices. Thus, introduction of and compliance with corporate governance code remains an important topic for African banks not only from a regulatory perspective. It also deserves more attention in future research.

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Appendix

Tables

Table 1: Description of variables used in the analysis

Variable	Descriptions	Source
Board size	Board size is the number of board members in each bank.	(b)
CEO duality	A dummy variable that takes the value of 1 if the bank CEO is a chairperson of the board of the same bank and 0 otherwise	(b)
CGcode	Dummy variable that takes the value of 1 if the country's central bank had published a bank specific corporate governance code in a particular year and 0 otherwise	(d2)
Control of corruption	Estimate of control of corruption from -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) to measure the extent to which power could be exercised not for public gain.	(c2)
Disclosure	Dummy variable taking the value of 1 if a bank discloses directors' compensation and pay in its annual reports and 0 otherwise.	(b)
Ease of shareholder suits index	Measured from 0–10 for which 0 represents low index and 10 the highest. It captures ease with which minority shareholders can access internal corporate documents to use during trials and whether they can recover legal expenses from their companies	(c3)
Enforcing contracts	Measured in number of days for the time it takes to enforce contracts.	(c3)
Extent of director liability index	Captures the extent to which the minority shareholders can sue and hold directors accountable for related party transactions and if they can get legal remedies. Measured on a scale of 0–10. 0 represents low director liability and 10 the highest.	(c3)
Governance effectiveness	Estimate of governance from -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) to measure the quality of policies, services, independence and governments' commitments to quality policies.	(c2)

... continued

Variable	Descriptions	Source
Government ownership	A dummy variable which takes the value of 1 if the state is the largest shareholder and 0 otherwise.	(b)
Growth rate	Annual economic growth rate in percentage terms	(c1)
Independ	Share of non-executive independent directors in each bank to total board size.	(b)
Inflation	Expressed in percentage terms.	(c1)
Institutional ownership	A dummy variable which takes the value of 1 if institutional investors are the largest shareholders and 0 otherwise.	(b)
Legal family of origin	Dummy variable that equals 0 if banks belong to civil law legal countries and 1 for banks that belong to common law countries.	(d1)
LogGDPperCapita	Logarithm of GDP per capita expressed in US Dollars.	(c1)
Logtotalassets	Natural logarithm of a bank's total assets. It measures the size of the bank	(a)
NPL ratio	The ratio of non performing loans to total loans. It measured as (NPLs)/Gross loans.	(a)
Percentage of ownership	Measured as percentage of shares owned by the controlling shareholder(s) .	(b)
Political stability	Measured on the scale from -2.5 (unstable) to 2.5 (highly stable) to capture peoples' perception of the likelihood that governments will be destabilized or overthrown through violent means.	(c2)
Regulatory quality	Measured on the scale from -2.5 (low) to 2.5 (high). It measures governments' capacity to design and implement policies which are pro-private development.	(c2)
ROAA	After tax net income (profits) divided by average total assets of bank.	(a)
ROAE	Net income available to common stockholders divided by common equity.	(a)
Rule of Law	Measured on the scale from -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) to capture the extent to which leaders respect institutions and the rules governing the society.	(c2)
Sharewomen	Measures the share of women sitting on the board to the entire bank board.	(b)
Strengths of investor protection index	This is average of conflict of interest regulation index and extent of shareholder governance index and is measured on a scale of 0-10 for which 0 represents weak or no investor protection and 10 the greatest investor protection.	(c3)
UsingBig4	Dummy variable taking the value of 1 if a bank is audited by the big 4 auditing companies (Deloitte & Touché, KPMG, Ernest & Young, Price waters cooper house) and 0 otherwise.	(b)
Voice and accountability	Measured on the scale from -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) to capture the extent of citizens' participation in electing their governments and freedoms-of expression, association and media freedom.	(c2)
Z-score _{1,2}	Return on Assets + capital ratio (Equity/Total assets) / Standard deviation of Return on Assets. Z-scores is an indicator of bank stability	(a)

... continued

Variable	Descriptions	Source
Notes: Sources (a) Bankscope (BvD) database; (b) Hand collected in the banks' annual reports + Bankscope; (c1) World bank Development Indicators (WDI); (c2) World Bank Governance Indicators (WGI); (c3) World Bank-Doing Business report; (d1) LaPorta et al. (1998) ; (d2) Hand search from Countries' central banks		

Table 2: Descriptive statistics at bank-level

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Board size	1,310	9.468	3.487	3	23
CEO duality	1,291	0.048	0.214	0	1
Disclosure	1,312	0.162	0.368	0	1
Government ownership	1,310	0.092	0.290	0	1
Independent	1,222	0.534	0.251	0	1
Institutional ownership	1,313	0.800	0.400	0	1
Logtotalassets	1,795	13.02	1.977	2.283	18.67
NPL ratio (%)	1,167	7.579	9.551	0	93.1
Percentage of ownership (%)	1,297	68.06	31.59	1	100
ROAA ^a (%)	1,795	1.827	4.232	-54.7	41.3
ROAE ^a (%)	1,791	15.66	28.61	-438.6	536.4
Sharewomen	1,138	0.109	0.107	0	0.556
UsingBig4	1,312	0.753	0.431	0	1
Z-score ₁	2,328	17.33	24.75	-5.615	466.5
Z-score ₂	1,162	21.65	22.24	-3.72	253.7

Notes: Z-score₁ measured based bank-specific time-invariant $\sigma(ROA)$, Z-score₂ measured based on rolling window $\sigma(ROA)$, see Section 3.2.2.

^a trimmed as dependent variable in Table 6 at 1%.

Table 3: Institutional and economic variables at country-year level

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
CGcode	467	0.409	0.492	0	1
Control of corruption	479	-0.597	0.577	-1.712	1.139
Ease of shareholder suits index	374	4.494	2.270	0	10
Enforcing contracts (days)	442	670.8	238.8	228	1300
Extent of director liability index	418	3.270	2.596	0	9
Governance effectiveness	478	-0.687	0.594	-2.171	1.036
Growth rate (%)	476	4.620	5.783	-62.1	22.6
Inflation (%) ¹	476	7.200	7.462	-2.248	47.31
Legal family of origin	478	0.391	0.489	0	1
LogGDPperCapita	465	7.085	1.050	5.014	9.574
Political stability	478	-0.533	0.854	-2.687	1.183
Regulatory quality	478	-0.591	0.574	-2.237	1.123
Rule of Law	478	-0.631	0.605	-1.842	1.005
Strengths of investor protection index	374	4.189	1.488	1.7	8
Voice and accountability	477	-0.591	0.679	-1.936	0.970

Note: ¹ Inflation rate winsorized at 1% due to extreme values.

Table 4: Descriptive statistics by Legal family of origin

Variable	Obs.	Civil-law	Common-law	Total	<i>t</i> -test
Board size	1,310	8.590	10.28	9.468	-9.06***
CEO duality	1,291	0.099	0	0.048	8.60***
Cgcode	467	0.320	0.557	0.409	-5.19***
Control of corruption	478	-0.712	-0.417	-0.596	-5.61***
Disclosure	1,312	0.028	0.287	0.162	-13.5***
Ease of shareholder suits index	374	3.388	6.303	4.495	-15.4***
Enforcing contracts	439	721.1	598.4	673.9	5.45***
Extent of director liability index	418	2.205	4.988	3.270	-12.5***
Governance effectiveness	478	-0.824	-0.475	-0.687	-6.54***
Government ownership	1,310	0.120	0.066	0.092	3.38***
Growth rate (%)	474	4.561	4.705	4.618	-0.27
Indepedent	1,222	0.478	0.581	0.534	-7.23***
Inflation (%)	474	5.790	9.449	7.218	-5.35***
Institutional ownership	1,313	0.781	0.819	0.800	-1.70*
LogGDPpercapita	462	7.038	7.151	7.084	-1.14
Logtotalassets	1,795	13.19	12.86	13.02	3.48***
NPL ratio (%)	1,167	8.825	6.891	7.579	3.33***
Percentage of ownership	1,297	69.06	67.03	68.02	1.16
Political stability	478	-0.700	-0.273	-0.533	-5.48***
Regulatory quality	478	-0.729	-0.377	-0.591	-6.85***
ROAA (%)	1,791	1.321	2.291	1.827	-4.88***
ROAE (%)	1,138	15.29	16.00	15.66	-0.52
Rule of law	478	-0.769	-0.416	-0.631	-6.49***
Sharewomen	1,312	0.083	0.130	0.109	-7.58***
Strengths of investor protection index	374	3.513	5.293	4.189	-13.8***
UsingBig4	1312	0.576	0.919	0.753	-15.6***
Voice and accountability	477	-0.782	-0.295	-0.591	-8.17***
Z-score ₁	2,316	17.11	17.67	17.42	-0.54
Z-score ₂	1,162	23.47	19.88	21.65	2.75***

Notes: *t*-test on difference of means for bank-level and country-level variables. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$. Fewer number of observations than previous Tables due to missing legal family of origin classifications.

Table 5: Impact of CG code on bank-level CG indicators: CMP estimation of Equations (1) and (2)

	(1) Logboard size	(2) Using Big4	(3) CEO duality	(4) Dis closure	(5) Share women	(6) In depend
<i>Equation 1: Bank-level CG indicators</i>						
CGcode	-0.0560 (-1.61)	0.676*** (5.32)	-0.487** (-2.35)	0.811*** (5.25)	0.0692*** (4.10)	0.0614** (2.57)
Percentage of ownership	0.0000142 (0.02)	0.00159 (1.13)	0.0109*** (4.16)	-0.00527*** (-3.83)	0.000445*** (2.71)	0.00160*** (6.37)
Logtotalassets	0.0594*** (4.53)	-0.0184 (-0.73)	0.333*** (6.38)	0.145*** (6.06)	0.0155*** (5.34)	-0.00177 (-0.41)
Institutional ownership	-0.404*** (-3.74)	0.540*** (3.90)	-0.586*** (-2.82)	0.292* (1.94)	-0.00151 (-0.08)	0.0808*** (3.10)
LogGDPperCapita	-0.0410 (-1.04)	0.418*** (8.34)	-0.150 (-1.32)	0.353*** (6.65)	-0.00240 (-0.41)	-0.0460*** (-5.24)
Inflation	-0.000281 (-0.20)	0.0254*** (2.99)	-0.0251 (-1.56)	0.0210** (2.08)	0.00172* (1.67)	0.00150 (0.92)
Government ownership	— —	-0.0279 (-0.16)	0.742*** (3.27)	-0.142 (-0.69)	0.00553 (0.23)	0.0678* (1.87)
Constant	2.380*** (5.98)	-3.149*** (-7.31)	-5.549*** (-6.97)	-6.295*** (-12.64)	-0.191*** (-3.54)	0.665*** (8.55)
Bank-level fixed effects	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Year effects	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Estimation method	FE panel	probit	probit	probit	tobit	tobit
<i>Equation 2: prob(CGcode=1), probit model</i>						
Legal family of origin	1.282*** (8.34)	1.351*** (8.58)	1.381*** (8.97)	1.435*** (10.02)	1.332*** (8.89)	1.429*** (9.12)
Control of corruption	0.289 (1.62)	0.342* (1.89)	0.234 (1.32)	0.290* (1.71)	0.367** (2.14)	0.221 (1.26)
Governance effectiveness	0.281 (1.31)	0.195 (0.90)	0.480** (2.25)	0.320 (1.59)	0.140 (0.67)	0.329 (1.55)
Political stability	0.557*** (7.21)	0.529*** (6.74)	0.582*** (7.71)	0.468*** (6.29)	0.576*** (7.89)	0.559*** (7.44)
Regulatory quality	-0.292 (-1.49)	-0.268 (-1.38)	-0.566*** (-2.88)	-0.219 (-1.21)	-0.251 (-1.32)	-0.313 (-1.62)
Voice and accountability	-2.082*** (-11.00)	-2.099*** (-11.16)	-2.096*** (-11.08)	-2.046*** (-10.94)	-2.074*** (-11.35)	-2.007*** (-10.67)
LogGDPperCapita	-0.0219 (-0.33)	-0.00115 (-0.02)	-0.0368 (-0.56)	-0.0450 (-0.74)	-0.0497 (-0.76)	-0.00545 (-0.08)
Inflation	0.00346 (0.41)	0.00307 (0.37)	0.00145 (0.17)	0.000181 (0.08)	0.00384 (0.47)	0.00249 (0.30)
Enforcing contracts	-1.156*** (-11.05)	-1.158*** (-11.21)	-1.144*** (-11.10)	-1.118*** (-11.32)	-1.109*** (-10.99)	-1.083*** (-10.30)
Strengths of investor protection index	0.319*** (6.23)	0.321*** (6.25)	0.351*** (6.80)	0.313*** (6.25)	0.350*** (7.05)	0.275*** (5.28)
Constant	0.415 (0.80)	0.167 (0.32)	0.237 (0.46)	0.498 (1.03)	0.321 (0.64)	0.313 (0.62)

... continued

	(1) Logboard size	(2) Using Big4	(3) CEO duality	(4) Dis closure	(5) Share women	(6) In depend
Year effects	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
$\ln \sigma_1$	-2.054*** (-96.31)	—	—	—	-1.863*** (-59.50)	-1.381*** (-62.23)
ρ_{12}	0.124 (0.56)	-0.214* (-1.91)	0.775*** (4.91)	-0.812*** (-3.56)	-0.485*** (-5.20)	-0.290*** (-3.69)
N system	1993	1993	1964	1993	1955	1977
N eq. 1	1237	1239	1194	1239	1070	1155
N eq. 2	1709	1709	1709	1709	1709	1709

t statistics in parentheses

Bank fixed effects and year effects included.

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table 6: Stability indicators – CMP estimation of Equations (1) and (2)

	(1) ROAE	(2) ROAA	(3) NPL	(4) Z-score ₁	(5) Z-score ₂
<i>Equation 1: performance/resilience, diff-in-diff model</i>					
CGcode	13.13*** (8.64)	1.659*** (6.51)	3.500*** (4.07)	2.222** (2.20)	8.272** (2.31)
Percentage of ownership	-0.0515 (-0.58)	-0.0120 (-0.88)	0.0183 (0.40)	-0.0394 (-0.87)	0.0150 (0.06)
Logtotalassets	10.12*** (9.44)	1.014*** (5.22)	-1.367** (-2.07)	-5.328*** (-7.63)	3.016 (1.02)
LogGDPperCapita	-0.625 (-0.16)	-0.920 (-1.52)	-0.465 (-0.22)	-2.568 (-1.19)	-41.42*** (-5.02)
Inflation	0.645*** (4.86)	0.0785*** (3.63)	-0.0933 (-1.20)	-0.00493 (-0.06)	-0.735** (-2.23)
Logboardsize	0.216 (0.45)	0.137* (1.76)	-0.188 (-0.79)	0.0751 (0.26)	0.841 (0.91)
UsingBig4	-0.609 (-0.13)	0.622 (0.77)	6.155 (1.31)	-3.842 (-1.22)	-60.12*** (-3.14)
CEO duality	-3.432 (-0.27)	-0.297 (-0.15)	-1.144 (-0.24)	-8.665 (-1.34)	31.10* (1.72)
Disclosure	-1.239 (-0.34)	0.0379 (0.06)	-1.303 (-0.73)	0.969 (0.41)	13.17* (1.89)
Sharewomen	-0.198 (-0.03)	1.488 (1.38)	0.239 (0.08)	4.446 (1.13)	-0.125 (-0.01)
Independ	-2.819 (-0.80)	-0.388 (-0.66)	-2.513 (-1.20)	2.260 (1.02)	-0.801 (-0.12)
Constant	-119.1***	-4.939	25.02	102.9***	391.2***

...continued

	(1) ROAE	(2) ROAA	(3) NPL	(4) Z-score ₁	(5) Z-score ₂
	(-3.19)	(-0.81)	(1.18)	(4.81)	(4.43)
Bank-level fixed effects	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year effects	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<i>Equation 2: prob(CGcode=1), probit model</i>					
Legal family of origin	1.276*** (8.37)	1.328*** (8.20)	1.286*** (8.48)	1.304*** (8.43)	1.282*** (8.38)
Control of corruption	0.528*** (2.84)	0.551*** (2.75)	0.408** (2.29)	0.277 (1.55)	0.239 (1.35)
Governance effectiveness	0.0143 (0.06)	0.0492 (0.20)	0.313 (1.49)	0.285 (1.33)	0.351* (1.66)
Political stability	0.317*** (4.09)	0.312*** (3.67)	0.562*** (7.52)	0.563*** (7.41)	0.591*** (7.85)
Regulatory quality	-0.121 (-0.60)	0.128 (0.61)	-0.307 (-1.62)	-0.270 (-1.38)	-0.297 (-1.53)
Voice and accountability	-1.992*** (-9.10)	-2.194*** (-9.54)	-2.292*** (-11.99)	-2.124*** (-11.33)	-2.119*** (-11.30)
logGDPperCapita	0.135* (1.78)	0.0992 (1.24)	-0.0394 (-0.60)	-0.0209 (-0.31)	-0.0298 (-0.45)
Inflation	0.0129 (1.48)	0.00866 (0.94)	0.00452 (0.56)	0.00316 (0.38)	0.00252 (0.30)
Enforcing Contracts	-1.201*** (-9.78)	-1.262*** (-9.73)	-1.208*** (-11.59)	-1.157*** (-11.16)	-1.154*** (-11.16)
Strengths of investor protection index	0.242*** (4.56)	0.251*** (4.52)	0.365*** (7.18)	0.322*** (6.28)	0.314*** (6.15)
Constant	-0.492 (-0.86)	-0.0781 (-0.13)	0.339 (0.66)	0.366 (0.71)	0.478 (0.94)
Year effects	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
$\ln \sigma_1$	2.500*** (83.54)	0.627*** (19.81)	1.509*** (37.64)	1.787*** (74.14)	2.782*** (81.23)
ρ_{12}	-0.935*** (-9.94)	-0.849*** (-8.25)	-0.774*** (-5.83)	-0.189** (-2.28)	-0.548*** (-4.37)
<i>N</i> system	1551	1553	1866	1917	1852
<i>N</i> eq. 1	885	895	645	901	667
<i>N</i> eq. 2	1344	1345	1709	1709	1709

t statistics in parentheses

Bank fixed effects and year effects included.

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table 7: Country determinants of CG code publication

	Dep var: prob(CGcode=1)			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Legal family of origin	0.540** (2.49)	0.467*** (3.61)	1.089*** (6.69)	1.775*** (4.20)
Strengths of investor protection index	-0.164 (-1.32)	—	—	0.760*** (3.04)
Extent of director liability index	-0.00636 (-0.11)	—	—	-0.232** (-2.49)
Ease of shareholder suits index	0.106* (1.84)	—	—	-0.0118 (-0.14)
Enforcing contracts	-0.00178*** (-5.48)	—	—	-0.00355*** (-5.70)
Growth rate	—	0.00397 (0.36)	—	-0.0314 (-1.02)
logGDPpercapita	—	0.111* (1.83)	—	0.573*** (3.61)
Inflation	—	0.00744 (1.22)	—	0.0183 (1.00)
Control of corruption	—	—	-0.487* (-1.82)	0.0185 (0.04)
Governance effectiveness	—	—	1.769*** (5.22)	-0.235 (-0.40)
Political stability	—	—	0.410*** (3.53)	0.385** (2.00)
Regulatory quality	—	—	0.101 (0.35)	-0.439 (-0.93)
Rule of Law	—	—	-1.385*** (-3.50)	0.331 (0.59)
Voice and accountability	—	—	-1.056*** (-6.16)	-2.777*** (-5.17)
Constant	1.510*** (3.52)	-1.756*** (-3.57)	-1.622*** (-5.88)	-6.020*** (-4.02)
<i>N</i>	350	449	466	338

t statistics in parentheses

Year effects included.

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table 8: Country determinants of CG code publication

	Dep var: prob(CGcode=1)			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Legal family of origin	0.540** (2.49)	0.467*** (3.61)	1.089*** (6.69)	1.775*** (4.20)
Strengths of investor protection index	-0.164 (-1.32)	—	—	0.760*** (3.04)
Extent of director liability index	-0.00636 (-0.11)	—	—	-0.232** (-2.49)
Ease of shareholder suits index	0.106* (1.84)	—	—	-0.0118 (-0.14)
Enforcing contracts	-0.00178*** (-5.48)	—	—	-0.00355*** (-5.70)
Growth rate	—	0.00397 (0.36)	—	-0.0314 (-1.02)
logGDPpercapita	—	0.111* (1.83)	—	0.573*** (3.61)
Inflation	—	0.00744 (1.22)	—	0.0183 (1.00)
Control of corruption	—	—	-0.487* (-1.82)	0.0185 (0.04)
Governance effectiveness	—	—	1.769*** (5.22)	-0.235 (-0.40)
Political stability	—	—	0.410*** (3.53)	0.385** (2.00)
Regulatory quality	—	—	0.101 (0.35)	-0.439 (-0.93)
Rule of Law	—	—	-1.385*** (-3.50)	0.331 (0.59)
Voice and accountability	—	—	-1.056*** (-6.16)	-2.777*** (-5.17)
Constant	1.510*** (3.52)	-1.756*** (-3.57)	-1.622*** (-5.88)	-6.020*** (-4.02)
<i>N</i>	350	449	466	338

t statistics in parentheses

Year effects included.

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$