CMP Government Positions Data Version 1.1

Christopher Wratil[1]

This dataset provides government positions from the Comparative Manifesto Project (Volkens et al. 2018), version 2018a. Estimates are provided for each EU country covered in the CMP and each day for the period 1993 to the end of 2016 (wherever available).

Specifically, the data provides measures of governments' ideological positions on EU integration, left-right (the CMP's RILE scale) and different economic dimensions by <u>seat-weighting</u> the cabinet parties' positions on these dimensions. For the government's position on EU integration, I operationalize the difference between the percentages of positive and negative quasi-sentences on EU integration[2]:

$$Government\ position\ EU\ integration = \sum_{i=1}^{N}[per108_i - per110_i] * \frac{S_i}{S_T}$$

As the measure for left-right I use the CMP's RILE as the difference between the percentages of 'rightist' and 'leftist' quasi-sentences:

$$Government\ position\ left-right$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N}[(per104_i + \cdots + per606_i) - (per103_i + \cdots + per701_i)] * \frac{S_i}{S_T}$$

In addition, the following scales proposed by the CMP team are also included:

$$Government\ position\ on\ planeco = \sum_{i=1}^{N}[per403_i + per404_i + per412_i] * \frac{S_i}{S_T}$$

$$Government\ position\ on\ markeco = \sum_{i=1}^{N}[per401_i + per414_i] * \frac{S_i}{S_T}$$

$$Government\ position\ on\ welfare = \sum_{i=1}^{N}[per503_i + per504_i] * \frac{S_i}{S_T}$$

The data also contains positions on two dimensions suggested in Lowe et al. (2011):[3]

$$Government\ position\ on\ free\ market\ economy$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N}[(per401_i + per402_i)$$
$$- (per403_i + per412_i + per413_i + per415_i)] * \frac{S_i}{S_T}$$

Government position on planned vs. free market economy

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N} [(per401_i + per414_i) - (per403_i + per404_i + per412_i)] * \frac{S_i}{S_T}$$

Last, the data contains positions on one dimension suggested by Benoit and Laver (2007):

Government position on state involvement in economy

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N} [(per401_i + per402_i + per407_i + per414_i + per505_i)$$
$$- (per403_i + per404_i + per406_i + per412_i + per413_i + per504_i$$
$$+ per506_i + per701_i)] * \frac{S_i}{S_T}$$

Where *i* denotes the respective government party, *N* is the number of government parties, S_i is the number of seats of party *i*, and S_T the total number of governmental seats. The measures for each day are based on the party manifesto issued at the last election.

I use the ParlGov database (Döring and Manow 2016) to ascertain which parties entered parliament and government (defined as representation in the cabinet). While the ParlGov database provides direct links to the CMP, these links often result in a high degree of missing values on the CMP, e.g. when parties do not issue individual manifestos, or when parties change parliamentary fractions, split, or unite during the legislative term. In order to recover the policy positions in such instances, I employ a number of strategies. In the case of party splits, I assigned the new party/fraction the CMP measures of its 'mother' as long as no new manifesto was available. In the case of electoral alliances issuing a common manifesto, all parties were assigned the related CMP measures. In case of party/fraction mergers, I assigned the CMP measures of the largest party to all parties from the recording date of mergers in the ParlGov database. In the case of marginal parties, I researched whether they sat together with a larger party or supported this party throughout their history. If this was the case, I assigned the CMP measure of the larger party. I also added several links between ParlGov and CMP that were missed by the ParlGov team (e.g. when a manifesto was coded by CMP but the CMP code was missing in the ParlGov database).

Please use the following citation when using this data:

Wratil, Christopher. 2018. *CMP Government Positions Data. Version 1.1.* Cambridge.

Please get in touch with me should you have any questions or encounter problems.

References

Benoit, Kenneth, and Michael Laver. 2007. "Estimating Party Policy Positions: Comparing Expert Surveys and Hand-Coded Content Analysis." *Electoral Studies* 26(1): 90–107.

Döring, Holger, and Philip Manow. 2016. *Parliament and Government Database (ParlGov): Information on Parties, Elections and Cabinets in Modern Democracies. Development Version*.

Lowe, Will, Kenneth Benoit, Slava Mikhaylov, and Michael Laver. 2011. "Scaling Policy Preferences from Coded Political Texts." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 36(1): 123–55.

Volkens, Andrea et al. 2018. *The Manifesto Data Collection. Manifesto Project (MRG/CMP/MARPOR). Version 2018a*. Berlin.