Codebook for 'Development cooperation by European regions: Introducing the subnational donor governance dataset'

This paper introduces the new 'European subnational development cooperation dataset'. The data can be used to track systematically the development cooperation activities of 195 European regions, represented in the Council of the Regions of the European Union. It is a cross-sectional dataset and its main focus is on subnational governance structures for international development cooperation.

When using the data please cite as follows:

Reinsberg, B., & Dellepiane, S. (2021). "Development cooperation by European regions: Introducing the subnational donor governance dataset." *Development Policy Review* (forthcoming).

Variables

Variable	Type	Description
Country	Str	Name of country (official World Bank definition)
ccode	Str3	iso3 country code
Region	Str	Region name (http://cor.europa.eu)
rcode	Str3	Own region code
rid	Int	Region three-letter code
Aid website	Byte	Whether the region has a website detailing its foreign aid policies. We consider as foreign aid any activity of the region which involves financial transfers, in-kind contributions, and technical assistance to less developed countries (Annex II) and their subnational entities, through any distribution channel, as well as domestic activities in the region aimed at raising awareness and catalysing private aid (https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/official-development-assistance.htm) We explicitly exclude policies that are better described as foreign relations of regions, which find their expression in inter-regional partnerships and technical cooperation agreements (unless these involve a grant element in accordance with the ODA definition above)
Website depth	Int	Number of distinct webpages covering international development cooperation topics. This is operationalized as the number of clickable links on the main landing page on development that lead to internal sites (hosted by the same regional authority); excludes links to external partners (e.g., UNDP) and downloadable documents
Website English	Int	Is the website available in English?

Aid strategy	Byte	Whether the region has a document outlining fundamental principles of a development cooperation program
Aid strategy year	Int	Publication year of the most recent aid strategy
Aid budget	Str	Latest available figure of the annual aid budget, in millions of local currency (e.g. "EUR 500"). As websites will not have complete information, we code the minimal amount (e.g., Bavaria talks about 20 million just to prevent migration; as it is unclear how much else money there is, we put “EUR 20”)
Aid programs	Int	Number of international development cooperation programs. We consider a program to be a set of aid projects under a common theme. If the region has no program but instead finances aid projects (time-bound activities with specified beneficiary or purpose) on an ad-hoc basis, we code this as a single aid program.
Start year	Int	Start year of international development cooperation program of the region. If no information on programs exist, this is coded as the year of the first outgoing aid project
Aid agency	Byte	Whether the region has an aid agency. We define this broadly and refer to any subnational government entity that manages foreign aid activities, even with limited human resources or autonomy
Aid agency name	Str	Name of that agency, or lead agency if development cooperation is decentralized in the region
Responsible department	Str	Name of the government department which is primarily responsible for development activities (Under which portfolio does aid fall? E.g., “European and International Affairs”)
Aid governance model	Int	Where does responsibility for development cooperation lie within the regional government? 0: Non-development ministry (e.g., Ministry of Culture and Sport) 1: Foreign Affairs ministry (without named entity for development cooperation) 2: Directorate within the Foreign Affairs ministry (named entity for development cooperation) 3: Separate aid ministry and aid agency 4: Autonomous aid agency 5: Several line ministries share decision-making responsibility (with potential coordinating role of the regional government) This categorization is due to Chang, Fell, and Laird (2000) but with the first category added.
Aid staff	Int	Number of staff dedicated to international development cooperation; note that we record only information available from the regional website or any official document

Aid staff links	Int	Number of public officials in the region listed as contact points for development cooperation on the aid website; note that we only count the information available from the website or any official document
Motivation: International relations	Byte	Whether regions mentions development as part of wider "international relations" engagement with countries and regions around the world (e.g., Bavaria). Relevant keywords on websites and agency reports include “international cooperation”, “international responsibility”, “global citizenship”. An example of a positive case is Scotland: “We place great importance on Scotland being a good global citizen.”
Motivation: Need	Byte	Whether region mentions development or humanitarian need for giving aid. Relevant keywords on websites and agency reports include “Poverty alleviation”, “improving living standards”, “promoting sustainable development”, “eradicating hunger”, “reduce inequality”, “promote human rights”, “humanitarian relief”, “emergency assistance”. An example of a positive case is Flanders: “A stated goal of Flanders for its development cooperation activities is “[t]o achieve welfare and equitable prosperity within the carrying capacity of the earth.”
Motivation: Economic interest	Byte	Whether region mentions economic interests as motivation for giving aid. Relevant keywords on websites and agency reports include “trade”, “exports”, “investment”, “industry”, “businesses”, “regional competitiveness”. An example of a positive case is Lombardy: “Lombardy’s international programmes are designed to: foster economic, institutional and cultural relations beyond Italy’s borders…”
Motivation: Migration	Byte	Whether region mentions migration as rationale for giving aid. Relevant keywords on websites and agency reports include “migration”, “asylum”, or “refugees”. An example of a positive case is Sardinia: “The Region of Sardinia… favors the establishment of international territorial partnerships and plans interventions capable of affecting the causes of migration in third countries.” (translated from Italian)
Motivation: Culture	Byte	Whether region mentions cultural cooperation and understanding as motivation for giving aid. Relevant keywords on websites and agency reports include “cultural cooperation”, “intercultural exchange”, “music”, “arts”, “culture”, “education”. An example of a positive case is Berlin: “Important aspects of the development policy guidelines are the role of Berlin as an international city in a globalized world, the importance and structure of Berlin's external relations and the international, multicultural coexistence within Berlin”

Focus: Budget support	Byte	Whether direct transfers to recipients are part of aid program
Focus: CSO abroad	Byte	Whether region supports grassroot CSO projects abroad as part of aid program
Focus: CSO at home	Byte	Whether region supports grassroot CSO projects at home (can include awareness) as part of aid program
Focus: Upper-level aid providers	Byte	Whether region mentions other IOs or providers to which it contributes (UN, World Bank, national government)
Focus: Lower-level aid providers	Byte	Whether region mentions downstream providers (such as NGOs) whose activities it funds or otherwise supports
Regionality requirement	Byte	Whether funding of downstream providers is limited to aid implementers headquartered or located in the region (across all aid activities)
Focus: Twinning	Byte	Whether region supports technical assistance, or twinning to train experts from other countries (e.g., Bavaria)
Focus: National influence	Byte	Whether region claims to support aid goals/SDGs by influencing national decision making
Focus: EU influence	Byte	Whether region claims to support aid goals/SDGs by influencing EU decision making
Destination: Africa	Byte	Whether region has active programs or projects in Sub-Sahara Africa (if it cannot be assessed whether programs are still running—for instance because the region talks about "focal areas of cooperation", we assume that they are)
Destination: Asia	Byte	Whether region has active programs or projects in Asia
Destination: Latin America	Byte	Whether region has active programs or projects in Latin America
Destination: CEE	Byte	Whether region has active programs or projects in CEE
Destination: MENA	Byte	Whether region has active programs or projects in MENA
Destination countries	Str	Free text field for any countries explicitly mentioned as targets of development cooperation, separated by comma (e.g., "Mali, Rwanda")
Key themes	Str	Free text field for any themes explicitly mentioned as targets for development cooperation, separated by comma (e.g., "Energy", "Fair trade")
Regional aid	Byte	Whether aid support is focused on subnational authorities in destination countries
Country offices	Int	Number of country offices anywhere in the world (this includes representations to international organizations like the European Union)
Developing country offices	Int	Number of country offices in developing countries (this includes representations to IOs headquartered in such countries, like UNEP)
Source	Str	Link to main landing page of regional development cooperation
Other source	Str	Link to other pertinent page(s)

Detailed coding decisions

For interested readers, we also keep on file detailed profile pages of all regions with meaningful ODA activity, which complements the coding results of our internet-based search of the development activities of European regions. Please get in touch with the authors for the supplementary file.

We appreciated any feedback on the dataset. Please get in touch if you spot any errors.