Codebook for content coding of news

This is the coding instructions and the codes used for manual coding of news according to an adapted version of classification scheme applied by the Comparative Policy Agenda project (www.comparativeagendas.net).

Important note on adjustments for the automated classifier

Please note that prior to training the automated classifier (described in the dataverse-file /Topics/About the topic classifier.pdf), a few changes were made to the handcoded data in order to reach a satisfying level of performance. It is important to be aware of these adjustments when using the MaML-data in combination with other CAP-coded data.

- All subtopic labels were recoded to their major topic label, eg. 101 to 1, 1302 to 13 etc.
- Major topic 18 (Foreign trade) and 21 (Public land, spatial planning and resource management) occurred with a very low frequency in the corpus, causing problems with their classification. As a consequence, these two categories were merged with the respective major topics which they are most similar to. Hence 18 was relabelled 19, while 21 was relabelled 7. This means that the automated topic label 19 indicates articles on foreign trade as well as foreign affairs, development aid and international economy. While the automated topic label 7 indicates public land etc in addition to environment.

Finally, note that topics 91, 92 and 93 are dealt with through the classification of 'irrelevant' articles (see section 2 in MaML documentation and release note). These categories are therefore not applied in the automated topic coding.

Codebook instructions and guidelines

All articles must be coded in <u>only one</u> subject category.

For a lot of articles, you will quickly get an impression of what topic they *mainly* focus on. This is then of course the topic that should be chosen. Be aware that in these cases, it is not necessary to consult the rules and suggestions below.

However, sometimes the "only one topic" rule is hard to follow because news articles most often touch upon different subjects. Below we have listed a few rules and suggestions that will help you making a choice.

- The first is a general suggestion that should aid the whole coding process: Try to *think as a politician*! Imagine that you read the story and decide to act upon it. What kind of policy areas would it be natural to direct your attention to, under which ministry would a potential political measure most likely belong? In other words: remember that the goal of this coding ultimately is to link news to what's happening in politics. So, what is the *political* issue that the news story first touches upon? To give one example, a story about the share of female professors in universities touch upon both gender equality and higher education. However, it is highly likely that possible political measures would come from the ministry of education.

A couple of more concrete rules that could make it easier to decide between categories:

- Consider whether the *title, intro and the introductory paragraph* of the article pay more attention to one of the many topics that the article is concerned with.

- Look at the *main actors* that figure in the article, which people are quoted and interviewed, what kind of professional groups do they represent, which companies, organizations, sector, etc.
- Is there a *time order* associated with the different topics that the article writes about? In the sense that something may already be known, while something else is new and thus what is mainly driving the attention / this specific news article.
- Remember that the *topic discussed should take precedence over the (political) instruments* that may be discussed about the topic. Examples: environmental issues where different taxes are discussed are confusing, but they should initially be coded as environment; The use of new technology to fight the growth of resistant bacteria is coded 3, not 17.
- A similar suggestion may be to keep in mind that the *topic also takes precedence over the "arena"* of discussion. For example, a story from the LO's (labour union) national meeting where Norway's relationship to the EU is being discussed, is coded 1903, not 5.
- Sometimes *examples* - used in the news article - create confusion. A story about temporary employment where employees in the health sector are used as an example should be coded 5, not 3. Unless it is an article where the health sector is not an example but the topic itself ...

Remember that the main purpose of the coding is to determine the policy- or subject content in the news.

For example, an article that reports about a demonstration or a political debate needs to be coded depending on whether it is about e.g. environment or the labour market. Content over form!

From time to time you may come across complex stories that stretches over a period, and affects a variety of subjects. (Random sampling reduces this problem)

It is important that you do not automatically code each of the articles in such a story as belonging to the same subject category. It is the content of each specific article that determines the coding, in other words, they are coded according to what they are about. The municipal reform is an example. Some articles from the process of municipal mergers concentrate on the relationship between the central and the local level (i.e. category 2001), while others will deal mostly with specific substantive topics, such as child welfare services (i.e., code 13).

Note that some of the subject categories distinguish between different subtopics. For example, Macroeconomics (category 1). All articles belonging to this topic is coded 1, except for unemployment/employment-related articles which are to be coded 101. Other categories with subtopics are (so far…) 4, 5, 9,10, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20 and

NEW: All articles should be coded by their subject content, both domestic and non-domestic articles. For example, a car accident in Sweden should be coded 10, a fire in England 25, a strike in France 5, social challenges in Spain 13, unemployment in Italy 101, health reforms in the Australia 4, armed conflicts in other countries 16, the conditions for dissidents in Turkey 2, terrorism in Belgium as 1601, crime in the Netherlands as 12, discussions about foreign policy in the US 19, a sport event in Denmark 92, a cultural/entertainment event in Germany 91 and so on. It does not matter where we are in the world, what matters is the substantial issue content in the article. Note that we still capture the distinction between domestic and non-domestic/international news through another variable in the coding process (will be explained on the last page).

This principle should also be applied under macro-economy (category 1). For example, an article about Croatia's overall economy belongs to category 1, and will also be coded 1 on the non-domestic variable. **But** remember: if the article is substantially *about international*

economy and finance, for instance in the sense that several countries are involved, or multinational corporations, code 1902 should be applied.

Short or long portrait interviews with people who, for various reasons are relevant in the news – where the article does not concentrate on the issue making this person newsworthy but rather on the person ("Which person would you like to be for a day?" Personal interests/hobbies etc., etc.) – should be coded according to the person's sector/industry affiliation or the issue or event that this person is connected to (if mentioned).

In the review of each topic category below, examples of typical news content belonging to the category are given. Additionally, comments are also added in those cases where it is important to be aware of exceptions or problematic decisions in the coding. For some of the subject categories it is especially important to pay attention to several distinct challenges. This applies in particular to the **19 (Foreign affairs, aid, and international economy) and 12 (Crime and justice related topics),** and to **93** and **20**:

Category 93 (Miscellaneous) *should be used only for the types of articles directly mentioned in the codebook* (p. XX). Otherwise, you should use the other subject categories – although the article does not cover a political topic directly. For example, a prisoner who has escaped from prison should be coded 12, the opening of a bridge should be coded transport (10), business reports to industry (15), etc. *Even though the article does not mention political implications or political actors, it does not mean that it should be categorized under miscellaneous.*

Category 20 (on public sector and policy generally) is to some extent a "residual category". This category is supposed to capture articles about political events and the public sector that are general and cannot be related to a specific subject / subject category. *See separate notes under category 20.*

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1 Macroeconomics

General domestic economic issues, examples:

Norwegian economic situation in general or compared to other countries, how to create growth, economic prospects etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Articles on international economy and finance, which do not explicitly focus on domestic economy in a country (1) or international trade (18) should be coded 1902.

Inflation, wages, interest rates and monetary policy, examples:

Inflation control, Norway's inflation level in relation to trading partners, consumer price index, price increases due to higher VAT, wages and wage-price ratios, cost of living, purchasing power etc. Developments in the Norwegian long-term bond yield, interest rate level, differences in interest rates between Norway, and, for example the EU area. Monetary policies, the central bank (Norges bank), currency reserve etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: The direct relationship between the central bank and other banks, for example Norges Bank's regulation of banks is coded 15.

Code 101 Employment and unemployment, examples:
How unemployment can be reduced, employment increased, discussion of unemployment statistics, social and economic consequences of unemployment, layoffs in businesses if the main subject is about unemployment, etc.

Note: In case of active labour market policies, labour market measures, adjustments and measures/means of employment – this should be coded under category 5.

Code 102 Taxes, tax policy and reforms, examples:
The total tax burden, rules for tax deduction, VAT and VAT exemptions/depreciation, changes of e.g. surtax, income tax or corporate tax, consequences of tax evasion (e.g. tax havens), parties' tax reform proposals, taxable income, tax from foreign residents, developments in the general tax rate, taxation of capital gains, free-flow, the Ministry of Finance (in terms of taxes and fees).

Note: Tax on individual goods are usually coded under these (i.e. in the subject category where the goods belong). Also, tax conditions for specific groups of companies and wage earners should be coded, for example, 15 and 5. Taxation of housing is coded under 14.

Note: News on tax administration, operation of tax authorities / tax collection is coded under 20.

Code 103 Public spending, National Budget and debt, examples:
Expansive or contractive fiscal policy, articles on issues related to the Ministry of Finance, including the budget, administration, priorities and the number of fees under the ministry's responsibility, development in the National Budget, public debt finances, size of the total public debt (also in relation to GDP), how public debt is calculated, how state revenue and expenditure is posted, general savings, discussion of various parties' National Budget modifications, cost of revenue transfer, county and municipal governance finances, municipal negotiations (on transfers and spending). Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Budget, administration and priorities under departments other than the Ministry of Finance are coded to the sector they belong to (e.g. 12 if justice, 3 if health, etc.)

Code 104 Industrial policy
Industrial development (see note below), reorganization, restructuring of industrial sectors, support to specific industries, technological capacity of the industrial sector, industry growth/decline, plant closings, national industrial productivity, relocation to low-income countries. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: This category is for general news on industrial development and industrial policy (that cuts across specific industrial sectors), and for news about policy measures or support directed at specific industries. However, be also aware that developments within a particular industry that do not relate explicitly to policy measures also should be coded her it the focus is on ***industry****. To give an example, while news about the car industry that relates somehow to transport/traffic (ie safety regulations, saftety standards or crash tests) should be coded 10, news about developments within the car industry that relate to the themes of 104 belong here. The same goes for shipbuilding or other traditional industries like the chemical industry (unless about for instance environmental hazards ->7), textile industry (unless focusing for instance on export/import -> 18), paper industry (unless focusing for instance on working conditions, health & safety -> 5) etc. The exeption to this are industries / sectors that have their own topic code, such as the food industry and the energy sector.*

2 Civil rights and liberties

Examples:

Gender equality, (un)equal pay, freedom of speech and expression, discrimination against all groups except refugees and immigrants (should be coded under category 9), issues affecting human rights violations (in Norway), issues of voting rights, freedom of abortion choice, freedom of assembly, protection of personal data, extradition and use of register information, the system of national identification numbers, video surveillance in public places, antigovernment activities, Norwegian employees in foreign intelligence services, private property rights, expropriation, Freedom of Information Act (offentlighetsloven), protection against surveillance. Freedom of religion, treatment of religious minorities (category 9 if the focus is primarily on refugees and immigrants, and not religion). Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Articles about the intelligence service should as a rule be coded to 16. But if the focus is on conflicts with personal and civil liberties, for instance in relation to surveillance or protection of sources, then code 2.

Note: Articles about churches and religion in general is to be coded under category 26.

3 Health

Examples:

Waiting lists, medicine prices, conditions in hospitals, GPs, specialist health service, rehabilitation, approval of new medicine and treatments, regulation of health research, regulation of animal experiments in medical research, doctors' education, doctor shortage, labour strikes related to nurses and health personnel, drugs (not related to crime), alcohol and tobacco (not tax-related, but related to consumption, illness, addiction, treatment etc). Mental illness and psychiatric treatment etc. Nutrition policy, health and medical research, health

reforms, dental health. Children's and adolescent's health, including sexuality, identity and mental health. Fertility rate. The category also includes articles on budget/finance under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, government agencies/directorates in the sector (Directorate of Health, etc.), discussions about more positions, etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

4 Agriculture, fisheries and food

Agriculture, examples:

Articles related to the Ministry/Minister of Agriculture, industry regulation, agricultural negotiations/settlement, EU agricultural support schemes, agricultural employment, harvesting, farmers' earnings, animal welfare, animal diseases, resistant bacteria (not related to health but to farming). Agricultural export/import. Forestry. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Questions related to forest protection are coded 21

Note: Agricultural environmental issues are coded 7

Fisheries, examples:

Articles related to the Ministry/Minister of Fisheries, rules on fishing quotas, fish farming, number of fishing days, fishing halt, fisheries control, different types of fishing, fishing licenses, catch records, compensation to fishermen for lost profit, questions about stocks of different species of fish, conflicts between different fishing nations, illegal surveillance of fishermen's mobile phones, research in the fishing field, fishing restrictions in the countries near Norway are coded when they relate to Norwegian fishing. The same applies to EU regulations in this area. Wrecked fishing boats. Articles about companies engaged in fisheries, breeding. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Maritime traffic and regulation of sea traffic (Maritime Act, for example) are coded 10.

Code 401 Foods and food industry, examples:
Food inspection and food quality (including fish), food law (*næringsmiddelregelverket*), rules about additives, food laws, toxins, toxic residues, pesticide residues, hormones and bacterial content in food, storage and packing of food, sanitary conditions in grocery stores, genetically modified food (GMO), rules for organic food, salmonella, slaughterhouse hygiene. Articles about companies engaged in foods, for example slaughterhouses, dairy houses/companies, food manufacturers (Gilde, Tine etc.). But not restaurants, cafés etc., which are coded 15. Equivalent articles from other countries.

5 Labour

General articles regarding this subject, examples:

Tariff agreements, conditions in trade unions, labour market organizations, employers' organizations, work and employment conditions, illegal labour/workers, labour market pensions, occupational pensions, child labour, lay-offs. This category also includes articles about the budget/finances under the responsibility of the Ministry for Labour, the organization of government agencies in the sector etc.

Note: Regular retirement pension is coded 13.

Note: In the case of public employees' wages and working conditions, this is coded 20.

Note: Parental/maternity leave is coded 13, but protection for pregnant women against getting fired is coded here (5).

Note: Leave of absence schemes normally belong in this category. However, it is coded 13 if the leave is due to childcare.

Work environment, occupational injury and safety, Labour Inspection, examples:

Labour inspections, occupational injuries and accidents at the workplace, articles regarding the Working Environment Act, developments in working environments, changes and regulations in various sectors, protection of Norwegian working environment from foreign companies' requirements, concrete examples of poor and unhealthy working environment/conditions, chemicals in the work environment and issues related to the development of occupational injuries/accidents, definition of what an occupational injury is, compensation in case of occupational accidents, safety net for, among other things, self-employed persons in case of an occupational injury, case processing in the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority.

Note: Working conditions and accidents in specific sector are coded by their sector.

Active labour market policy, continuing education, examples:

Activation, vocational training, work training, adult education, adult vocational training, long-term impact of activation efforts, activation guidelines, wage level during work training/practice, training courses related to work training and practice, flexible work arrangements

Note: Unemployment in general should be coded 101, but measures to get people who have fallen outside the labour market is coded here (5).

Note: Teaching and training courses in regular education are usually coded 6

Code 501 Unemployment benefits and sickness benefits/pay, examples:
Development in the basis for unemployment benefits, rules for payment of unemployment benefit, unemployment insurance, benefits at employment services/agencies, long-term leave, rules for receiving unemployment benefits and sickness benefits, costs of sickness benefits

6 Education

General articles about education, including vocational education, teaching at colleges, evening schools, examples:

Education policies, the education level and system in Norway including developments in relation to those abroad. User influence in the education sector. Professional/vocational education and training. Evening schools, colleges and questions about private schools. The category also includes articles about the budget/finances under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, the organization of public agencies in the sector, discussions on more positions, etc.

Primary and secondary school, upper secondary school, examples:

The quality of the schools mentioned above, reforms, composition of subjects, rules for examinations, development and use of temporary staff, school board competence, the number of schools in the counties, school closings, special/facilitated education in the primary and secondary school. User payment, requirements of GPA, education reforms, attempts with new types of exams etc.

Universities, higher education and educational funding, examples:

Universities, grants for higher education, the creation of new education programs, structuring, ensuring the quality of teaching, rules of admission, development in student's absence/dropout, composition of the boards in the universities and authorizations to the principals. Questions about rules for receiving educational funding from the Loan Fund, including rules for repayment of debt and student loans. Questions about colleges, educator education and teacher education. Questions about economic conditions for young people in education.

Note: Further education is coded 5, mother tongue/first language teaching is coded 9, after-school schemes are coded 13

Note: Questions concerning education related to health are coded 3, police education and education related to prison officers are coded 12, while army education is coded 16

Note: Questions that exclusively concern research are coded 17.

7 Environment

Environmental issues, examples:

Climate change, drinking water, hazardous substances, environmental issues in agriculture or other sectors/industries, waste issues, but also regular waste management and renovation. The Kyoto Protocol (and Paris Agreement, Copenhagen, Doha, etc.), pesticides, reuse, recycling, air pollution, coastal protection, marine environment, conservation, protection of animals and plants (non-farm animals), hunting regulations, forest conditions, development and research on the environment. International environmental issues, oil pollution of the sea and the coasts, the problem with plastic and other waste in the sea. Sustainability. Overpopulation/overcrowding. The category also includes articles about the budget/finances under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, public agencies in the sector (environment directorate etc). Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: The army's environmental problems are coded 16

8 Energy

All articles related to this subject, examples:

The petroleum industry, nuclear power, hydropower, wind power, oil prices, electricity supply, heat supply, natural gas, coal, renewable energy, energy saving measures, conditions of oil companies, for example, tax matters. Articles about Statoil or other oil and energy companies. Articles about research and development in these industries are included here. The category also includes articles on the budget/finance under the responsibility of the Ministry of Energy (and Oil…), the organization of government agencies in the sector (NPD, PSA, etc.) etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Energy can often overlap with environment, for example, in wind power development and petroleum recovery. If the article mainly focuses on environmental impacts, it is coded 7.

Note: Be aware that articles from industries that are not primarily related to the petroleum industry, but supplies goods and services to it, should not be coded 8. Instead it may be 10, such as the shipbuilding industry that builds supply boats, platforms etc.

9 Refugees and immigrants

General articles related to the subject, examples:

Integration, racism, first language education, ghettos, immigrants' association with working life (unemployment among immigrants, measures aimed at increasing employment, paperless workers), family reunification, residence permit, expulsion, asylum, asylum and immigration statistics, if Norway complies with international conventions, cases under the immigration and integration minister, the Directorate for Integration and Diversity, labour immigration, etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Code 901 Refugees and asylumseekers, examples:
Refugees and asylumseekers, asylum rules and criteria, asylum statistics, rejection of asylum applications etc. All questions relating to stay/expulsion, international agreements/commitments etc that concern refugees and asylum seekers.

Note: If the article deals with religious minorities, without mentioning immigration problems (integration, conflict of cultures/values etc.), it is coded either 2 (treatment of religious minorities) or 26 (if it is about for instance Muslim / Jewish churches and congregations in general).

Note: If terror is the main focus (through emphasis in introduction/title and through the type of actors in the story), but the article also includes challenges related to integration – it should be coded to 1601. If opposite, and integration/immigration receives more attention than terror, it should be coded to 9.

10 Transport

All articles related to traffic, infrastructure, and transport, examples:

Roads, traffic safety, aviation, bridges, harbors, marine traffic, traffic laws (*unless* criminal offenses are pursued, then it is coded 12), safety of cars, motoring, cycle paths and development of cycling roads. Postal services/mail is also coded under this category. The category also includes articles about the budget/finances under the responsibility of the Ministry for Transport, organization of government agencies or state owned companies in the sector (Government Road Administration, etc.), discussions on more positions, etc. Articles about traffic/transport related industries and businesses, such as shipping, car industry etc when focus is on transport/traffic related elements and not industry as such (108) or foreign trade (18). Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Strike is initially coded under category 5

Code 1001 Public transport, examples:
Public transport, including bus, tram, metro/subway, train, ferry/boat, national and regional plans/routes, how these things work in specific regions, cities, development in the offer, prices, safety, etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

12 Crime and justice

Special remarks on category 12*:*

In terms of court cases, this category is mainly reserved for criminal cases. Civil disputes (between two private actors or one private actor and a public part) that often revolve around worklife (5), family (1302), property borders (21), commerce/businesses (15) and actions/lawsuits against the state (20) should not be coded here. Examples: a trial about environmental crime should be coded 7; a trial about mistreatment of animals should be coded 4; a trial where employees accuse their employer for working conditions should be coded 5.

All articles related to this topic, examples:

Police, prisons, courts, crime, crime prevention, violence, felonies, gun and weapon control, economic crime, drug-related crime, domestic violence, child abuse, child pornography, youth crime, prostitution. Crime committed by Norwegians abroad is also coded here. Rights of inmates (leave, prison conditions etc.) The category also includes articles about the budget/finances under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, organization of government agencies in the sector, discussions on more positions, etc. Animal abuse (livestock is coded 4). Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: If judges participate in a non-judicial context, for example, as a leader of a political investigation, the case should be coded after its content. Political investigations with a judge as leader, shall also be coded according to the subject matter of the case.

Note: Articles about passports (new rules, waiting time/holiday rush etc.) are coded 15.

13 Social welfare and social affairs

General articles about social welfare, examples:

Poverty, social inequality, general development of the welfare state, evictions, assistance for disabled persons, voluntary social and ideal work, voluntary organizations, homeless people, disability pensions and other income protection benefits supported by the state (although sick pay and unemployment benefits are coded 501). The category also includes articles about the budget/finances under the responsibility of the social/welfare minister/ministry, organization of government agencies in the sector, discussions about more positions, etc.

Code 1301 Elderly care, retirement and other benefits for elderly, examples:
Elderly care, nursing homes, home/domestic care and assisted living for elder people, retirement pension (through national insurance), all other types of support (i.e. senior tickets, refunding of expenses for glasses etc.)

Code 1302 Children and families, rights and conditions of children, examples:
The conditions in childcare, after-school child care, maternity leave, parental benefits, child support, child protective services, consequences of divorces, paternity and maternity rights, orphanage, preventing loneliness among teenagers, adoption, children and young people's rights and conditions in general.

Note: Articles about children and young people's health, including sexuality/identity/mental health is coded 3.

Note: Other pension plans than ordinary retirement pensions shall not be coded 13. Occupational pensions / labour market pensions are 5, same applies to private pensions.

Note: Housing-related support is coded 14

14 Housing and urban/rural development

All articles about housing, urban/rural development, examples:

The private rental market, home ownership, real estate, property tax, house mortgages and interest rates, housing construction, housing shortage, construction liabilities, residential development, urban renewal and settlement, gentrification

Note: Articles related to regional policy, the relationship between urban and rural / center and periphery, urbanization, rural development and depopulation in rural areas etc. are coded 2001.

Note: Land use plans that do not concentrate on housing or residential development but more on cultural and natural landscapes are coded 21.

Code 1401 All articles concerning public funding for housing, examples:
Subsidized housing, residential housing, sheltered housing/assisted living (including housing for elderly, disabled or vulnerable people), municipal housing, social housing projects, housing support, work to provide homeless people a home

15 Commerce, banking and consumer issues

All articles on the subjects, examples:

Conditions and reports from specific sectors and industries, trade and commerce, business in general, service sector, competition in different sectors, consumer policies, consumer rights, compensation for purchase/sale (including housing), insurance, bankruptcy, payment systems, patents and copyright, company accounting, matters concerning the financial sector, banks. The category also includes budget/finance under the responsibility of the Ministry of Industry/Commerce, organization of government agencies in the sector etc.

Note: Articles on industrial policy and industrial developments are coded 104.

Note: Articles related to agriculture or fisheries are coded 4. Articles related to the energy sector are coded 8.

Note: Articles related to export, foreign investment and customs are coded under category 18.

Note: Articles about state-owned/publicly owned traffic companies such as SAS (airline) and NSB (rail) are coded 10, unless it is related to conditions of competition, which is coded 15.

Note: Articles concerning development in large international companies and their results are coded 1902

16 Defense and security

Articles about defense, civil defense and civil preparedness, examples:

Barracks, staffs in the defense, purchase of weapons and other material, defense proceedings, environmental issues in the Norwegian defense, Ministry of Defense, Norwegian Home Guard, sale of weapons to other countries, weapon/arms industry, civilian personnel in the defense, military personnel, war-related civil defense, accident and crisis preparedness, soldiers. Norwegian military involvement in other countries. The category also includes articles about the budget/finance under the responsibility of the defense minister/ministry, the organization of government agencies in the sector, discussions on more positions, etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Norwegian security policy, examples:

Norway's relationship with NATO and the development of NATO, the Nordic region as a nuclear weapon-free zone, espionage and military intelligence, threats against and in Norway, the role of the West Union and the relation to NATO.

Defense and security policy outside Norway, examples:
Articles concerning NATO or other international security policy relationships, for example: armed conflicts in other countries, tensions between east and west, Cold war, peacemaking work, Nobel Peace Prize

Note: Articles with a Norwegian angle at the Nobel Peace Prize (composition of the Nobel Committee, consequences for Norway, etc.) are coded 19. While articles on the Nobel Prize Concert with emphasis on entertainment are coded 91.

Code 1601 Articles about terrorism
Articles about terrorism or terrorism threat in Norway and other countries (remember that articles only dealing with international events still can be distinguished using the NON-DOMESTIC variable). Articles on the events of July 22nd are also coded here.

Note: It may be difficult sometimes to separate armed conflicts/war from terrorism. While war often concerns "voluntarily" actors, terrorism will often be characterized by attacks on civilians or "noncombatant targets". These attacks will also be performed by subnational groups (not national military forces). The goal is political/religious, not economically motivated crime (such as Somali ship hijackers which may remind you of terrorism, but where the goal is economic profit).

Note: Also, be aware that acts of war can affect civilians, such as air strikes, but this does not mean we should code it as terrorism. And note also that when Turkish special forces fight against Kurdish rebels, it will be hard to categorize this as terrorism (should be coded 16 and 1 on NON-DOMESTIC).

17 Research, technology, IT and mass media

All articles about scientific research, IT and technology, examples:

Matters relating to research (non-medical), interaction between research and business, telecommunications and regulations, mobile phones, mobile networks, satellites, spacecraft, IT and data development, data security, computer viruses, etc. The category also includes articles on budget/finances under the responsibility of relevant ministries, government agencies in the sectors, etc.

Note: Articles about research in itself or about research in general are coded here. But results of research are not initially coded 17, but instead to the topic that the research deals with (ie. new research increasing agricultural production etc). In other words, research in specific areas such as environment, education, energy is coded in these categories.

Note: General questions about universities and other higher education institutions are 6.

Note: Question about the right to tap mobile phones is coded 2.

Articles about mass media and the press, examples:

Development of the press, circulation and readership figures, political management and media support, license issues, privatization of TV-channels, social media, NRK (the public broadcaster), TV2, media groups, telecommunications companies/cable TV suppliers, streaming services, media supervision, the press's professional committee, editorial changes, people's trust in the media etc.

Note: Articles on the publishing industry are coded under culture (23)

18 Foreign trade (NB, merged with 19 in the automated classification)

Balance of Payments, export promotion, foreign investments in Norway, Norwegian investments abroad, krone exchange rate, devaluations, customs and customs tariffs, competitiveness, examples:

Trade balance, developments in exports and imports, wage levels in Norway compared to trade partners, balance of payments, Norway's competitiveness, export promotion measures (tax incentives, regulation of exports, including restrictions on high-tech exports). The extent of investments in Norway from different countries, the development of Norwegian companies' investments abroad, sales of Norwegian companies abroad and Norwegian acquisition abroad. Development and trends in Norwegian import, restrictions on importing various goods, customs and import policies, questions about border trade (such as deficits of border trade in relation to Sweden and Denmark), Norway's foreign debt. The category also includes articles about the budget/finance under the responsibility of the relevant ministries (sometimes Foreign Affairs, sometimes Industry & Commerce), organization of government agencies in the sector, etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Articles about WTO negotiations, trade relations between the EU and the United States, or other countries, trade restrictions internationally, etc are also coded here

Note: Agricultural export/import and exports of fishery is coded in category 4. The same applies for articles about the WTO that concern Norwegian agriculture and fisheries.

Note: Articles on international economics and finance are categorized under category 1902

19 Foreign affairs, development aid and international economy

Special remarks on category 19:

It can sometimes be difficult to determine if an article is about foreign affairs, or if it should be coded into one of the other categories. Code 19 will often be characterized by a focus on foreign policy/service. Focus on a country's relationship to other countries or international institutions/organizations should also be coded here. However, if the article primarily is about a substantive topic (agriculture, industry, environment, etc.), then the article should be coded to that specific category.

Examples

- A case comparing the Norwegian and Danish health sector is coded under health (3)

- Articles about decisions in NATO are coded 16

- Articles covering the EU/EEA are coded 1903 (new code), unless they have a clear focus on a topic. For example, an EU directive's importance for the transport sector in Norway is coded 10.

Note: In the case of trade abroad or other international trade, code 18 is used. And articles on international economics/finance are coded 1902.

Norwegian foreign policy, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relations with other countries, examples:

Norwegian foreign policy in general, embassies, diplomacy, Norway's relations with other countries and the EU, extradition of Norwegian citizens and Norwegians hostages abroad, extradition of foreign nationals, developments in the Norwegian foreign service, Norwegian foreign policy in general, border issues (not trade). The category also includes articles about the budget/finances under the responsibility of the Foreign Minister/Ministry (unless the focus is on foreign trade, then 18), organization of government agencies in the sector, discussions on more positions, etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: If the article is about a Norwegian company's involvement and investment abroad, it should be coded 18.

Note: General articles on international policy are coded 19. Such as summits and meetings between other countries, the status of human rights in the world, international organizations and NGOs, such as the UN, Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders etc.

Code 1901 –Aid assistance policy to developing countries and assistance to other countries, examples:

In general, about Norwegian aid, NORAD, program selection, cooperation and the 1% rule, Norwegian NGOs' development effort, emergency aid / relief, support for democratization processes, etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Code 1902 – Articles on international economy and finance, examples:

Global economic development, G7/G8 meetings, the economy in other countries, World Bank, IMF, OECD, issues of international financial markets, world economy, EU economic situation, developments in the international stock market, the possibility of introducing the Tobin tax

internationally, dollar development, euro development, results of large multinational companies.

Code 1903 – EU and EEA
All articles about EU/EEA in general, not articles dealing with a specific policy (see note below). Examples of this are referendums and discussions about these (including the views of different political parties), EU summits, EU parliamentary elections, EU's decision-making authority, EU institutional reforms, discussions of agreements, EU constitution. Norwegian negotiations and negotiation strategies with the EU. Equivalent for the EEA, i.e. articles dealing with the agreements and not about specific substantive issues.

Note: EU policy on specific issues are coded under the relevant category, e.g. agricultural policy (4), energy (8) etc. Norwegian trade with EU and EU countries is mainly coded to 18.

20 Public sector and politics in general

Special remarks on category 20:

As mentioned in the introduction, this subject category is partly a "residual category". Practically, this means that one should try to code the articles under the various other topics if this is possible, if the articles focus on a particular area, such as environment, education, etc.

Category 20 should therefore be reserved for articles about political events and the public sector that are general and cannot be related to a specific subject/subject category. For example, a formation of a government, the atmosphere of a political convention, the relationship between the government and the opposition, etc. (now coded to sub-category 2002). If, for example, the article is about the government's position in relation to a pension reform, or the treatment of education policy at a party convention, it should be coded to the specific subject.

Articles dealing with administrative procedures should initially be coded by its political content. However, they should be categorized under 2002 if, and when they become matters of ministerial responsibility, demand for a no-confidence motion or the government's retirement. An article dealing with a ministry should initially be coded by the policy area. For example, unrest among officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be coded under category 19.

Articles about the public sector in general, examples:

General questions about the public sector (not related to a specific sector or policy area). Management/administration efficiency, public sector issues, questions about public sector employees, public procurement, contracting-out, competitive tendering and privatization (in general), public buildings and real estate, public IT projects, etc. General stories about statistics/census (unless it is focused on a specific sector/issue). Stories about tax administration, tax authorities, tax collection, tax returns etc.

Note: Articles relating to wages in specific sectors must be coded to the category in the corresponding sector. For example, teachers' work and collective agreements should be coded 6.

Note: Articles that discuss contracting-out or tendering in specific policy areas should be coded under the specific subject.

Note: Public expenditure is coded 1

Code 2002 Articles about politics in general, examples:
Parliamentary elections, polls, possible government constellations, the relationship between government and opposition, coalition politics, internal conflicts in parties (if they cannot be related to a specific area), party divisions, formation of new parties, political advisors, impeachment. Note that politics in general also include local/regional politics, that is news about local/regional politics that are general and not relate to a specific policy area (local elections, local political cooperation patterns etc). The role of the Monarchy, the opening speech in parliament and New Year's speech (unless focusing on a particular subject matter), the King's role in state governance/the democracy, the royal house's use of public funds, the royal house's job in representing the country, role expectations and concerns for the members of the royal family, etc.

Note: Norwegian political debates about the EU/EEA is now coded to 1903.

Note: Articles about the royal house and its members that do not explicitly concern topics of specific political relevance are coded 91 (Culture/entertainment). For example, coverage of royal weddings and divorces, Mette-Marit's past, Marius's privacy, the King's sailing competitions etc.

Code 2001 – Articles about the relationship between the central and local level, regional policy and local politics, examples:
State level control/oversight of counties and municipalities (supervision), regional policies, municipal reform, municipal mergers, regional reform, regional and rural development, the relationship between urban and rural / center and periphery, urbanization, depopulation in rural areas etc. Economic negotiations or transfers between the state and municipalities / counties, state intervention in municipal and county economy.

Note: This is not a category for all local and regional politics, which is either coded 20 (general) or according to topic even though set in a local/regional context. The emphasis of 2001 is first of all on the relationship between the central and local level in politics, and on policies for regional/local development. News about a substantive topic, set in a specific municipality, should be coded according to the topic: A story about elder care in municipality X is coded 1301, a story about public transport in county X is coded 1001 etc.

Note: State intervention in relation to a particular policy is coded under that subject category.

21 Public land, spatial planning and resource management (NB, merged with 7 in the automated classification)

Articles about planning and resource issues, examples:

Planning / area plans related to cultural and natural landscapes, cottage and summer house regulations, coastal zone protection, location of shopping malls and industry, neighbor disputes, conflicts and hearings about new constructions, wind turbine placement, utilization of Norwegian resources (not including energy, but different minerals), national parks, historical sites, recreational areas, use of public spaces (commons rights), forest protection (natural forests).

Note: Plans related to housing, urban and regional development with a focus on residential areas are coded 14

Note: Expropriation is categorized under topic 2

Note: Forestry falls under category 4

Articles related to indigenous peoples, examples:

About Sami, Sami's claims on land, reindeer issues, rights related to fishing, Sami Parliament of Norway, Kven people, Kven people's status as indigenous peoples, etc.

23 Culture, art

Articles about culture and art, examples:

Public expenditure on all types of culture, permanent or ad-hoc. Support for theaters, museums, artists etc. Articles on the use of income from government owned betting company (Norsk Tipping) for culture, funding for cultural initiatives, Norway's cultural heritage, the Norwegian Cultural Fund, archives (state archives, national archives). Libraries. Articles about regulation of games and gambling in Norway. Articles about the publishing industry generally (not about specific authors or books, but about the publishers' conditions, economy etc). The category also includes articles about the budget/finances under the responsibility of the Minister/Ministry of Culture (unless it is related to sport, which is coded 24), organization of public agencies in the sector, discussions on more positions, etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Articles about culture/art events, and entertainment, is coded 91 (see next)

91 Culture / art events and entertainment

Examples:

Reports from concerts, theater and entertainment events, reviews of books, music, etc. Prizes, awards, hirings in the cultural/entertainment sector. Trends, lifestyle, entertainment industry, television shows, celebrities, etc. "Sensational stories" with no real news value (ie. penis in ketchup bottle, kissing record and that sort of stuff). Also, the royal house as entertainment news: royal divorces, weddings, baptisms, Mette-Marit's past, Marius's privacy, the Queen's art exhibitions, the King's sailing competitions…

Note: Similar articles (culture and entertainment events) from abroad are also coded 91.

24 Sports

Articles on sports and sports policy, regulation and research, examples:

Articles that do not relate to concrete results, events or performers, but focuses on sports and sports policies, such as boxing regulation, state aid for sporting events, use of income from Norsk Tipping to fund sports and arena building, discussions about recreational sports vs professional sports, doping use, development of indoor sports arenas, conflicts in sports federations, match fixing etc. Also, articles on research and development in sports.

Note: Articles about sport events and athletes etc is coded 92 (see next)

92 Sporting events, athletes

Examples:

Reports from all sports and sporting events (including chess and bridge). Interviews with athletes / performers, reports about a particular club or team (without wider discussions about politics, government funding or regulations).

Note: Similar articles (sports and sporting events) from abroad are also coded 92.

25 Natural disasters, fires, preparedness

Natural disaster, disaster preparedness and fire protection, examples:

Natural disasters, extreme weather, fires. Consequences of storms, floods, forest fires, major residential fires and "individual" house fires for industries and citizens. As well as insurance settlements in relation to this. Articles about fire protection and firefighting. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Consequences of natural disasters and extreme weather for fisheries and agriculture are coded 4.

Note: Pollution disasters, like oil spills, are coded 7

Note: Forecasts about storms etc. are coded 93. The same applies to regular weather reports.

Note: Reports on extreme weather/natural disasters and the weather that has an explicit environmental/climate change framing (storms, floods, snow depletion, temperatures or rainfall) is coded to 7.

Code 2501 Other accidents, examples:
Accidents that do not fall into other categories, typically related to recreational sporting (climbing, kiting etc), boating or hiking. Hunting accidents. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: Traffic accidents are coded 10. Various natural disasters are coded 25. Accidents associated with occupation are coded by sectoral affiliation (fisheries/agriculture, transport, energy etc). Articles relating to occupational safety/risk, compensation for occupational accidents, etc. are coded 5.

26 Religion and churches

Articles about the Norwegian Church (former state church), examples:

The Norwegian Church's economy, discussion of state-church relations, priest layoffs, new hymn book, about female priests, etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Articles about other congregations and religions, examples:

Baptist Church, Methodist Church, Quakers, Jewish congregations, Islamic congregations. Inner (or Home) Mission movements, TV preachers etc. Equivalent articles from other countries.

Note: The treatment of religious minorities or religious issues that focus on civil liberties and rights (i.e. right to burial) belong to category 2.

93 Miscellaneous

As mentioned in the introduction, this category should only be used for the types of articles explicitly mentioned below.

Examples:

Weather reports, traffic announcements, "what happened this date XX years ago", birthdays, brief notices about appointments, training/fitness (not if focusing on health, but articles with an emphasis on training methods or "how to get a perfect whatever…"), testing of products (mobile phones, cars, foods, etc.), articles that summarize current news or refer to several stories, obituaries, restaurant reviews, food recipes. Proverbs and short quotes without context.

NON-DOMESTIC

This variable distinguish articles that refer to or concern UK actors, interests, relationships, events, etc. from articles that do not. Regardless if an article is about something that is happening abroad, if a UK actor is mentioned, then it should be coded as if it has "domestic" content.

For example, if a UK political actor – a party leader, a minister, a representative from an interest group, a business leader – speaks about foreign affairs, the article is categorized as having "UK/domestic" content. This also applies even if the actor does not address implications for UK or make comparisons to UK, etc.

An exception to this is experts or journalists that comment events or developments abroad. If a UK lawyer, scientist, technical expert etc. comments on a person, company or event abroad – without discussing implications for UK or comparing with UK then the article should be coded to "non-domestic". The same applies when newspapers write editorials or op eds commenting on events and people etc. abroad – without explicit comparisons to UK, etc.