Codebook

Rasmussen, Anne, Stefanie Reher and Dimiter Toshkov. “"The Opinion-Policy Nexus in Europe and the Role of Political Institutions". *European Journal of Political Research*.

Variable	**Variable name**	**Description**	**Values**	**Source**
Issue	issue	Policy issue	1 – 20	
Country	country	Country	1 – 31	
Year	year2 (grand mean-centered: year2_c)	Year in which public opinion and policy was measured	1=1998 – 16=2013	
Policy	policy3n1	Indicates to what extent the policy is in place in a country	0 = policy not in place 1 = policy partly in place 2 = policy in place (cf. Online Appendix B for coding for each issue)	Various sources including government and legal documents, academic publications, media reports, reports by international institutions, think tanks and non-governmental organizations
Public opinion	p1 (grand mean-centered: p1_c)	Public support for the policy, measured as proportion of respondents who indicated support among all respondents who indicated an opinion (‘don’t know’ or ‘neither nor’ are excluded).	0 – 1 (continuous)	Cross-national surveys (cf. Appendix)
Opinion-policy congruence	con1	Indicates whether policy, coded as binary variable (cf. Online Appendix B) is in line with the majority of the public (based on variable “p1”).	0 = no congruence 1 = congruence	
Effective number of political parties (ENPP)	enpp1 (grand mean-centered: enpp1_c)	Effective number of political parties in the last election prior to the year in which public opinion and policy are measured	Observed range: 1.99 – 9.05	Bormann and Golder (2013)

Regime type	parl_cheib	Indicates whether a country has a presidential, semi-presidential, or parliamentary system	0 = parliamentary 1 = semi-presidential 2 = presidential	Cheibub, Gandhi and Vreeland (2010)[1]
Legislature's influence	inflexec (grand mean-centered: inflexec_c)	Legislature's influence over the executive	0=least powerful legislature – 9=most powerful legislature	Fish and Kroenig (2009)
Bicameralism	bicam	Indicates whether a system has two chambers or one	0 = unicameralism 1 = bicameralism	Johnson and Wallack (2006)[1]
Federalism	fed	Indicates whether a country has a federal, unitary or hybrid structure	0 = unitary 1 = hybrid 2 = federal	Norris (2009)[1]
EU member	EU	Indicates whether a country was an EU member state in the year	0 = non-member 1 = EU member state	
Issue salience	logsalience (grand mean-centered: logsalience_c)	Natural logarithm of the percentage of articles in the Financial Times (within 3 years, with the last year being the year of the survey; restricted to Europe) concerned with the issue out of the total number of articles in the time period	Observed range: -7.47 – -0.55	Financial Times, accessed through FACTIVA
Opinion majority	om (grand mean-centered: om_c)	Indicates the size of the opinion majority (the proportion in favour or against, depending on the majority opinion)	0.5 – 1 (continuous); observed range: 0.50 – 0.98	
PR/ majoritarian electoral system	plur	Main electoral system used in lower house elections	0 = PR 1 = Plurality	Keefer (2015)
Gallagher Index	gallyear	Vote-seat disproportionality in a given year (if there was an election in a year, it indicates the value from before the election)	Observed range: 0.42 – 21.95	Gallagher (2014)
Average district	distmagyear	Average district magnitude at the first tier	Observed range: 1 – 150	Bormann and Golder (2013)

magnitude		at the last legislative election		
MIP salience	mip_v1 (grand mean-centered: mip_v1_c)	Issue salience among the public: percentage of respondents who mentioned issue as the "most important problem" (MIP) in the European Election Study (cf. Online Appendix F)	Observed range: 0 – 31.42	European Election Study (1999, 2004, 2009)

[1] Retrieved from the Quality of Government database (www.qog.pol.gu.se/)

References

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