Regional Organizations' Competencies – ROCO Databases

Codebook

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1 Introduction

The Regional Organizations' (ROCO) databases (I, II, III and IV) have been developed as part of the research project "Towards an Increasing Regionalization of International Politics? Comparing the Development of External and Internal Competencies of Regional Organizations over Time", which was funded by the Fritz-Thyssen-Foundation under grant number "Az.10.16.1012IB".

The ROCO datasets provide information for 76 regional organizations (ROs) from 1945 to 2015.

The ROCO I and II databases provide information on *policy competencies* (to which this document also refers to as policy mandates) for 76 regional organizations (ROs) from 1945 to 2015. The ROCO I and II datasets map the policy competencies of ROs on the basis of their primary law (details below). The nature and extent of primary law varies considerably between ROs, with some ROs producing a large amount of documents with primary law status concerning specific policy issues or institutional rules. Especially four organizations – ASEAN, AU, EAC and ECOWAS – have set up a large body of additional documents (e.g. labeled in these ROs as supplementary acts or agreements) which refer to very specific and detailed policy issues, but which can nevertheless be described as primary law according to our definition (see below). To acknowledge these differences and to maintain comparability among different organizations and treaties at the same time, we compiled two datasets (ROCO I and ROCO II), which can be used for different research questions.

- ROCO I includes the main treaties and treaty changes of 76 ROs between 1945 and 2015, but not the additional primary law sources for ASEAN, AU, EAC and ECOWAS. The dataset provides the information on RO policy competencies in an RO-year-format.
- ROCO II includes the main treaties and treaty changes of 76 ROs between 1945 and 2015 as well as additional primary law sources for ASEAN, AU, EAC and ECOWAS. The dataset provides the information on RO policy competencies in a RO-year-format.

In addition to the two datasets with information on RO policy competencies, the ROCO III dataset provides information on which states are members of the 76 ROs (1945-2015) and the ROCO IV entails additional information on the 76 ROs between 1945 and 2015.

- ROCO III provides information on which state was member of which RO for all 76 ROs between 1945 and 2015. The dataset is structured in a state-year-format.
- ROCO IV includes additional information of institutional rules and RO characteristics such as age for the 76 ROs between 1945 and 2015. The dataset is structured in RO-year-format.

This codebook provides an overview of each dataset. In the first part, the codebook describes the included cases and information. Section 2 to 5 clarify the coding procedures and coding decisions of the respective datasets as well as list and explain the variables in the each dataset (ROCO I, ROCO II, ROCO III, and ROCO IV).

1.1 The Body of ROs

RO definition

The inclusion of ROs in the database is based on the following definition. ROs are defined as institutions (with a set of primary rules, and headquarters or a secretariat) in which at least three states cooperate with one another in more than one specific issue. Unlike in international organizations, the membership in ROs is based (among other criteria) on geographical criteria. Applying this definition, the ROCO datasets entails 76 ROs between the years 1945 and 2015 for which primary law sources were available (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: 76 Regional Organizations (1945 – 2015)

RO acronym	RO Full Name	Founding Year	Dissolution Year
AC	Arctic Council	1996	
ACC	Arab Cooperation Council	1989	1990
ACD	Asia Cooperation Dialogue	2001	
ACS	Association of Caribbean States	1994	
ACTO	Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization	1995	
AL	League of Arab States	1945	
ALADI	Latin American Integration Association	1960	
ALBA	Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas	2004	
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union	1989	
ANDEAN	Andean Community	1969	
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	1989	
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	1967	
AU	African Union	1963	
BEU	Benelux Economic Union	1958	
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	1997	
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Cooperation	1992	
CACM	Central American Common Market	1960	
CAEU	Council of Arab Economic Unity	1964	
CALC	Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development	2008	2010
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation	1997	
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	1965	
CBSS	Council of the Baltic Sea States	1992	
CCTS	Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States	2009	
CE	Conseil de l'Entente	1959	
CEEAC	Communauté Economique des États de l'Afrique Centrale	1983	
CEFTA	Cental European Free Trade Agreement	1992	
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States	2011	
CEMAC	Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale	1991	
CENSAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States	1998	
CEPGL	Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries	1976	
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	1991	
CoE	Council of Europe	1949	
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	1993	
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty (Organization)	1992	
EAC	East African Community	1999	
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union	2000	
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization	1985	
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	1975	

EEA	European Economic Area	1992	
EFTA	European Free Trade Association	1960	
EU	European Union	1951	
G5S	G5 du Sahel	2014	
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council	1981	
GGC	Gulf of Guinea Commission	2001	
GUAM	Organization for Democracy and Economic Development	1997	
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region	2004	
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Develeopment	1986	
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission	1984	
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association	1997	
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission	1964	
MERCOSUR	Mercado Commun del Sur	1994	
MGC	Mekong-Ganga Cooperation	2000	
MRC	Mekong River Commission	1995	
MRU	Manu River Union	1973	
MSG	Melanesian Spearhead Group	2007	
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Organization	1994	
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization	1949	
NC	Nordic Council	1952	
OAS	Organization of American States	1948	
ODECA	Organization of Central American States	1951	1973
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States	1981	
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe	1975	
PA	Pacific Alliance	2012	
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum	1971	
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	1985	
SACU	Southern African Customs Union	1945	
SADC	Southern African Development Community	1980	
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization	2001	
SEATO	Southeast Asia Treaty Organization	1954	1977
SELA	Latin American Economic System	1975	
SICA	Central American Integration System	1991	
SPC	Pacific Community	1947	
SPECA	UN Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia	1998	
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union	1994	
UNASUR	Union of South American Nations	2008	
WTO	Warsaw Treaty Organisation	1955	1991

Creation of ROs and Entry into Dataset

Coded as founding year of ROs – and consequently, the year when ROs enter in the dataset – is the year when the foundation treaty or another founding document was agreed upon by member states and signed, not the year of full ratification, the entry into force of the treaty or the year when ROs started operating.

Some special cases need to be noted. Some ROs developed out of multilateral treaties. While these treaties did not constitute a RO, ROs were later created by introducing an institutional framework and a headquarter or secretariat as well as specifying geographical membership criteria. In these instances, the year of the introduction of the latter rules was coded as founding year for the RO. If the original multilateral treaty had defined policy competencies, these competencies were included in the dataset, but were coded for the founding year (and not the actual year of transfer). This coding decision concerns the following ROs.

- The founding year of ACTO is coded as 1995, when an organization was established to further the implementation of the 1978 Amazon Cooperation Treaty. Policy competencies from the 1978 treaty were coded for the year 1995.
- The founding year of MERCOSUR is coded as 1994. The competencies of the 1991 Treaty of Asuncion are included for the year 1994.

Dissolved ROs

The dataset includes ROs that have been disbanded during the observation period. Such ROs were included in the ROCO dataset if it was possible to find primary law documents and thus verify both their existence and their congruence with the definition criteria above. Thus, the following ROs are included in the dataset in the years of their existence.

- ACC (1989-1990)
- CALC (2008-2010)
- ODECA (1951-1973)
- SEATO (1954-1977)
- WTO (1955-1991)

Predecessors and Successors

Some ROs can be understood as legal predecessors and successors, because these ROs evolved out of other ROs or have changed their name. In other instances, ROs formally coexist as separate legal entities (e.g. EC, ECC, EURATOM, EU). We treat all ROs as one entity which have common institutions, membership and a common headquarter or secretariat. Similarly, we treat all predecessors/successors as one RO. One special case is that of ODECA and SICA, which are coded as two separate ROs. Both ROs have been important in the Central American regional integration process, but ODECA was suspended in 1973 and SICA was newly created in 1991.

- ALADI: subsumes ALADI and LAFTA.
- AU: subsumes AU and OAU.

- CARICOM: subsumes CARIFTA and CARICOM.
- EAEU: subsumes EURASEC and EAEU.
- EU: subsumes ECSC, EEC, Euratom, EC, and EU.
- IGAD: subsumes IGADD and IGAD.
- SADC: subsumes SADCC and SADC.

RO acronyms

When more than one acronym for one RO exists or more than one abbreviation is commonly used, we only use one in the dataset. Examples include AL (= LAS), ALADI (=LAIA), ANDEAN (= CAN), CEEAC (=ECCAS), BIMSTEC (=BISTEC), ECOWAS (=CEDEAO), CEPGL (=ECGLC), PC (=SPC), UEMOA (=WAEMU).

2. ROCO I Dataset

The ROCO I dataset includes the main treaties and treaty changes of 76 ROs between 1945 and 2015, but not the additional primary law sources for ASEAN, AU, EAC and ECOWAS. The dataset provides the information on RO policy competencies in an RO-year-format.

Document base

The basis to code policy competencies are a body of documents, that entail RO primary law. Primary law encompasses founding treaties, treaty changes as well as annexes or protocols that are part of RO treaties. Primary law functions as the legal basis for ROs to act, as it defines the institutional setup (*rules of the game*) of ROs as well as the policy fields in which they can get active in (e.g. through passing secondary law or through joint actions).[1] Primary law is created through intergovernmental negotiations or intergovernmental conferences and changed over time by the same procedure or 'extraordinary procedures' that are explicitly designed to amend, or change the RO treaty and are specified by the founding treaty. For the dataset and the coding of policy competencies (see below), only the substantive paragraphs of RO primary law were coded. Preambles and declaratory parts were excluded from coding, since they do not transfer policy competencies to ROs.

Definition and coding of policy competencies

ROs' policy competencies include mandates for the creation of secondary and soft law, as well as competencies allowing collective actions of RO members, or other activities of ROs. For the dataset competencies in 11 different policy areas were coded: Agriculture (AGR/agri) Development (DEV/dev), Economy and Trade (ECO/eco), Energy (ENE/ene), Environment (ENVI/envi), Finance (FIN/fin), Good Governance (GG/gg), Health (HL/health), Migration (MIG/mig), Security and Defense (SECDEF/secdef), as well as Technology, Infrastructure and Science (TCH/tech).

In each of the 11 policy fields, the number of specific policy competencies (or sub-categories) ranges between 14 and 17.[2] Thus, there are altogether 172 different policy competencies. The coding scheme to capture these competencies in RO primary law was created by a multi-stage inductive strategy. The goals of the coding scheme were both to capture the legal basis for RO action in a comprehensive fashion and to make the 76 ROs comparable. The final composition and number of policy competencies per policy field is based on a theory-driven clustering of coding buzzwords. For the full list of competencies and buzzwords, see Table 2.

[1] In comparison, secondary law is passed or created in the 'day-to-day' operation of the RO on basis of the rules laid out and the policy competencies specified in the institutional design of the RO; Unlike primary law changes, secondary law does not need to be signed, ratified etc. in order to enter into effect.

[2] The policy areas Trade and Economy, Environment, Good Governance, Security and Defense as well as Technology, Infrastructure and Science are broad in character and encompass 17 policy competencies each. Agriculture, Finance, Health, and Migration entail 14 policy competencies respectively, Development 15 and Energy 16 competencies. Each policy competency consists of several logically related buzzwords, linguistic, culturally sensitive synonyms, and alternative spellings, in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

Table 2: Policy competencies in 11 Policy Areas

Agriculture	Development Cooperation	Economy and Trade	Energy
agriculture	poverty	commerce * trade	bio energy
animal health * plant health	debt relief	common market	electricity * grids
fisheries * aquaculture	development	competitiveness	energy
arable land	development assistance / cooperation * foreign aid	customs * customs union	energy cooperation
crop	development goals	economic growth	energy efficiency
dairies	human development	economy *economic * economic cooperation	energy resources
farming	human security	export	energy security
forestry	humanitarian crisis	free movement (of goods * services * labor * capital)	energy supply
harvest * yield	hunger * malnutrition * nutrition	free trade * free trade zone * removal of barriers or restrictions	exploration
land management * rural development	loans	goods	fossil fuels * coal * gas * oil
livestock	social development	import	geothermal energy
meat production	sustainability * sustainable (economic) growth / development	industry	hydropower
seeds	prosperity * welfare	market access	nuclear energy
tobacco	standards of living	services	renewable energy
	infant mortality	tariffs	solar energy / power
		trade defense	wind energy / power
		trade promotion	
Environment	**Finance**	**Good Governance**	**Health**
environment * protection / conservation of the environment	banking	civil rights * political rights	food safety
air pollution * emissions	bond market	civil society	disease
biodiversity * protection species/wildlife/animals/fauna/plant /flora/vegetation	capital	corruption	disease prevention
chemicals * pesticides	currency * adjustment of currency	democracy * democracy promotion	drugs
climate change (adaption/mitigation) * global warming * CO2 emissions	currency crisis	discrimination	epidemic * pandemic
ecology * ecological * ecosystem * habitat	debt	(free and fair) elections	health
environmental disaster * environmental catastrophe	(currency) exchange rate	freedom of the press	health care * health services * health system
forestry * deforestation	finance	freedoms * fundamental freedoms	medical
genetic resources * GMOs	financial crisis	fundamental / basic rights	mortality
land degradation * land restoration * (protection of) soil * desertification	financial institution	good governance	outbreak
marine / coastal environment * marine protection * ocean	fiscal	human rights	public health
(protection of) natural resources * nature	investment	liberty	sanitary
ozone layer * greenhouse gas emissions * GHG	monetary * monetary union	peoples' rights	vaccine * vaccination
pollution * contamination * oil pollution * oil spills	stock market	political stability	wellbeing
sustainability * sustainable development / growth		rule of law	
waste		separation of powers * independence of the judiciary	
water (pollution) * freshwater / river protection * river basin management		transparency * accountability	

Migration	Security and Defense	Technology, Science and Infrastructure	
asylum	(transnational) organized crime	academic * university	
country of origin	armed aggression	aviation * air transport	
diaspora	(fire) arms * weapons	data * data protection * privacy	
emigration	conflict prevention	education	
host country	emergency	engineering	
human trafficking	nonproliferation * disarmament	funding	
immigration	peace	high-tech	
migration	peacebuilding * peacekeeping * peacemaking	IT * information technology	
passage	security * security cooperation	infrastructure	
refugee	stability * post-conflict stabilization	innovation	
reintegration	terrorism * terror * counter-terrorism	intellectual property rights	
return	use of force	internet	
travel	war * civil war * (violent) conflict	research	
visa	alliance * security pact * collective security	science	
	army * armed forces * military	technology	
	border control / protection	communications * telecommunications	
	defense * self-defense	transport	

The ROCO I dataset also distinguishes between an external and an internal domain for policy competencies. Both dimensions include the same policy areas and policy competencies respectively. Thus, there are 11 internal policy areas and 11 external policy areas as well as a total of 344 policy competencies, 172 internal policy competencies and 172 external policy competencies. The distinction between internal and external policy competencies is based on buzzwords defining the context of application. External policy competencies turn the RO and its member states into actors beyond their borders, while internal policy competencies allow ROs and their member states to create common rules and norms or act in concert within their borders. For instance, terms such as external, foreign, international, with international organizations, with regional organizations, global, third states, other states, with regimes, specific IOs (UN etc.), alien, exogenous, overseas, extraneous, world, world-wide, intercontinental, universal, or transcontinental in combination with a policy competency is indicative of an external policy competency. Conversely, phrases including between member states /members, within, internal, local, member states, domestic, resident, native, national, endogenous, inland, home, the contracting parties, or intraregional signify an internal policy competency. For ambiguous terms, (e.g. in the region), coders were requested to carefully check the context (e.g. does “in the region” refer to the member states of the RO, or the broader macro-region?). The distinction between internal and external policy competencies was applied to all policy fields and competencies.

2.1 Variables in the dataset "ROCO I"

ro_code	3-digit RO Code

The numeric 3 digit RO code that uniquely identifies each RO in the dataset. Observations in the dataset are uniquely identified by a combination of the variables ro_code and year.

ro_abbr	RO acronym

The string variable contains the RO acronym.

ro_name	RO name

The string variable contains the full name of the RO.

year	Year

The variable contains calendar years and ranges from 1945 to 2015, spanning the observation period of the dataset. Observations in the dataset are uniquely identified by a combination of the variables ro_code and year.

ro_year	RO and year combined

A string variable combining information of the two variables ro_abbr and year.

macroregion	Macro region / World region

The qualitative variable assigns each RO with one of the four world regions, Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. ROs are only assigned one macro region. If their member states are located on more than one of these four world regions, the macro region is chosen according to the location of the RO headquarter.

ro_existence	existing RO

The variable simply indicates the existence of a RO and is coded 1 when a RO exists in a given year. The information is based on the variable founding_year. Rather than being used as a variable in its own right, it can be used as a filter variable to create or transform other variables.

EXAGRagriculture	RO agricultural policy competency (external)

This variable is a dummy variable capturing whether or not the RO received a specific competency in a given year. The variable is coded 1 when the RO obtained this specific competency (here: RO agricultural policy competency (external)) in a given year by primary law change. When not coded 1, this variable entails missing values. Missing values signify that a specific competency (here: RO agricultural policy competency (external)) is not introduced in a primary law document in the given year.
The ROCO I dataset entails 344 policy competencies (c.f. section 2) and therefore includes 344 dummy variables capturing whether or not the RO received a specific competency in a given

year. The prefix ‘EX’ indicates that it is an external policy competency, whereas prefix ‘INT’ indicates that it is an internal policy competency.

The 344 dummy variables included in ROCO I capturing policy competencies are:
EXAGRagriculture EXAGRanimhealth_EXAGRplanthealth EXAGRaquaculture_EXAGRfisheries EXAGRarableland EXAGRcrop EXAGRdairies EXAGRfarming EXAGRforestry EXAGRharvest_EXAGRyield EXAGRlandmanag_EXAGRruraldev EXAGRlivestock EXAGRmeatproduct EXAGRseeds EXAGRtobacco EXDEVdebtrelief EXDEVdev EXDEVdevassistance_EXDEVdevcoope EXDEVdevgoals EXDEVhumandev EXDEVhumansec EXDEVhumcrisis EXDEVhunger_EXDEVmalnutrition_EX EXDEVinfmortality EXDEVlivstand EXDEVloans EXDEVpoverty EXDEVprosperity_EXDEVwelfare EXDEVsocdev EXDEVsustainability EXECOcommarket EXECOcommerce_EXECOtrade EXECOcompetitive EXECOcustoms EXECOeconomy_EXECOecocoop EXECOexport EXECOfreemove EXECOfreetrade_EXECOfreetradezon EXECOgoods EXECOgrowth EXECOimport EXECOindustry EXECOmarkaccess EXECOservices EXECOtariffs EXECOtradedefence EXECOtradepromotion EXENEbioenergy EXENEelectricity_EXENEgrids EXENEenergy EXENEenergycoop EXENEenergyefficiency EXENEenergyres EXENEenergysec EXENEenergysupply EXENEexploration EXENEfossilfuels_EXENEcoal_EXENE EXENEgeothenergy EXENEhydropower EXENEnuclenergy EXENErenewenergy EXENEsolar EXENEwind EXENVIairpoll_EXENVIemissions EXENVIbiodiversity_EXENVIspecypr EXENVIchemicals_EXENVIpesticides EXENVIclimatechange_EXENVIadaptc EXENVIecology_EXENVIecosystem_EX EXENVIenvdisaster EXENVIenvironment_EXENVIenviprot EXENVIforestry_EXENVIdeforestati EXENVIgeneticresources_EXENVIGMO EXENVIlanddegrad_EXENVIlandresto EXENVImarineenvi_EXENVImarinepro EXENVInatres_EXENVInature EXENVIozone_EXENVIgreenhouse EXENVIpollution_EXENVIcontaminat EXENVIsustainability EXENVIwaste EXENVIwaterpoll_EXENVIfreshwater EXFINbanking EXFINbondmarket EXFINcapital EXFINcurrency_EXFINadjustcurrenc EXFINcurrencycrisis EXFINdebt EXFINexchrate EXFINfinance EXFINfinancialcrisis EXFINfininstitut EXFINfiscal EXFINinvestment EXFINmonetary EXFINstockmarket EXGGcivilrights_EXGGpoliticalrig EXGGcivilsociety EXGGcorruption EXGGdemocracy_EXGGdempromotion EXGGdiscrimination EXGGelections EXGGfreedom EXGGfreepress EXGGfundrights_EXGGbasicrights EXGGgoodgov EXGGhumrights EXGGliberty EXGGpeoplesrights EXGGpolstability EXGGrulelaw EXGGseppowers_EXGGjudiciary EXGGtransparency_EXGGaccountabil EXHLcare EXHLdisease EXHLdisprev EXHLdrugs EXHLepidemic_EXHLpandemic EXHLfoodsafety EXHLhealth EXHLmedical EXHLmortality EXHLoutbreak EXHLpublhealth EXHLsanitary EXHLvaccine EXHLwellbeing EXMIGasylum EXMIGcountrorigin EXMIGdiaspora EXMIGemigration EXMIGhostcountry EXMIGhumtraffick EXMIGimmigration EXMIGmigration EXMIGpassage EXMIGrefugee EXMIGreintegration EXMIGreturn EXMIGtravel EXMIGvisa EXSECDEFalliance_EXSECDEFpact EXSECDEFarmedaggr EXSECDEFarms_EXSECDEFweapons EXSECDEFarmy_EXSECDEFmilitary

EXSECDEFborder EXSECDEFconfprev EXSECDEFdefence_EXSECDEFselfdese EXSECDEFemergency EXSECDEFnonprolif_EXSECDEFdisarm EXSECDEForgcrime EXSECDEFpeace EXSECDEFpeacebuilding_EXSECDEFpe EXSECDEFsecurity_EXSECDEFseccoop EXSECDEFstability_EXSECDEFpostco EXSECDEFterror EXSECDEFuseforce EXSECDEFwar_EXSECDEFcivilwar_EXS EXTCHacademic_EXTCHuniversity EXTCHaviation EXTCHdata_EXTCHdataprotec_EXTCHp EXTCHeducation EXTCHengineering EXTCHfunding EXTCHhightech EXTCHinfrastructure EXTCHinnovation EXTCHintellectpropright EXTCHinternet EXTCHIT EXTCHresearch EXTCHscience EXTCHtechnology EXTCHtelecom EXTCHtransport INAGRagriculture INAGRanimhealth_INAGRplanthealth INAGRaquaculture_INAGRfisheries INAGRarableland INAGRcrop INAGRdairies INAGRfarming INAGRforestry INAGRharvest_INAGRyield INAGRlandmanag_INAGRruraldev INAGRlivestock INAGRmeatproduct INAGRseeds INAGRtobacco INDEVdebtrelief INDEVdevassist_INDEVdevcoop_INDE INDEVdevelopment INDEVdevgoal INDEVhumcrisis INDEVhumdev INDEVhumsec INDEVhunger_INDEVmalnutrition_IN INDEVinfantmort INDEVlivstand INDEVloans INDEVpoverty INDEVprosperity_INDEVwelfare INDEVsocdev INDEVsustainability INECOcommarket INECOcommerce_INECOtrade INECOcompetitiveness INECOcustoms INECOeconomy_INECOecocoop INECOexport INECOfreemove INECOfreetrade_INECOfreetradeare INECOgoods INECOgrowth INECOimport INECOindustry INECOmarketaccess INECOservices INECOtariffs INECOtradedefence INECOtradepromot INENEbioenergy INENEelectricity_INENEgrids INENEenercoop INENEenergsecurity INENEenergsuppl INENEenergy INENEenergyefficiency INENEenergyres INENEexploration INENEfossilfuels_INENEcoal_INENE INENEgeothenergy INENEhydropower INENEnuclenergy INENErenewenerg INENEsolar INENEwind INENVIairpollut_INENVIemissions INENVIbiodiversity_INENVIprotect INENVIchemicals_INENVIpesticides INENVIclimatechange_INENVIadaptc INENVIdisasters INENVIecology_INENVIecosystem_IN INENVIenvironment_INENVIenviprot INENVIforestry_INENVIdeforestati INENVIgenresourc_INENVIGMOs INENVIlanddegr_INENVIlandrestor_ INENVImarineenvi_INENVImarinprot INENVInatres_INENVInature INENVIozone_INENVIgreenhouse INENVIpollution_INENVIcontaminat INENVIsustainability INENVIwaste INENVIwaterpoll_INENVIfreshwater INFINbanking INFINbondmarket INFINcapital INFINcurrency_INFINadjustcurrenc INFINcurrencycrisis INFINdebt INFINexchrate INFINfinance INFINfinancialcrisis INFINfinaninstit INFINfiscal INFINinvestment INFINmonetary INFINstockmarket INGGcivilrights_INGGpolitrights INGGcivilsoc INGGcorruption INGGdemocracy_INGGdempromo INGGdiscrimination INGGelections INGGfreedoms INGGfreepress INGGfundright_INGGbasicrights INGGgoodgov INGGhumrights INGGliberty INGGpeoplerights INGGpolstability INGGrulelaw INGGseppowers_INGGjudiciary INGGtransparency_INGGaccountabil INHLdisease INHLdiseaseprevent INHLdrugs INHLepidemic_INHLpandemic INHLfoodsafety INHLhealth INHLhealthcare_INHLhealthservice INHLmedical INHLmortality INHLoutbreak INHLpublhealth INHLsanitary INHLvaccine INHLwellbeing

INMIGasylum INMIGcountryorigin INMIGdiaspora INMIGemigration INMIGhostcountry INMIGhumtraffick INMIGimmigration INMIGmigration INMIGpassage INMIGrefugee INMIGreintegration INMIGreturn INMIGtravel INMIGvisa INSECDEFaggression INSECDEFalliance_INSECDEFpact INSECDEFarms_INSECDEFweapons INSECDEFarmy_INSECDEFmilitary INSECDEFborder INSECDEFconfliprev INSECDEFdefence_INSECDEFselfdefe INSECDEFemergency INSECDEFnonproliferation_INSECDE INSECDEForgcrime INSECDEFpeace INSECDEFpeacebuilding_INSECDEFpe INSECDEFsecurity_INSECDEFseccoop INSECDEFstability_INSECDEFpostco INSECDEFterror INSECDEFuseforce INSECDEFwar_INSECDEFcivilwar_INS INTCHacademic_INTCHuniversity INTCHaviation INTCHdata_INTCHdataprotect_INTCH INTCHeducation INTCHengineering INTCHfunding INTCHhightech INTCHinfrastructure INTCHinnovation INTCHintellpropright INTCHinternet INTCHit INTCHresearch INTCHscience INTCHtechnology INTCHtelecommunication INTCHtransport

ro_policyscope	RO policy scope

The variable RO policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 344. The RO policy scope variable captures all 344 policy competencies.

scope_agri	RO policy scope in the agricultural policy field

The variable RO agricultural policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different agricultural policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different agricultural policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 28 in the agricultural policy field. The agricultural policy scope variable captures all 14 internal and 14 external agricultural policy competencies.

scope_dev	RO policy scope in the development cooperation policy field

The variable RO development policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different development policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different development policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 30 in the development cooperation policy field. The development policy scope variable captures all 15 internal and 15 external development policy competencies.

scope_eco	RO policy scope in the economy and trade policy field

The variable RO economy and trade policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different economy and trade policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different economy and trade policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 36 in the economy and trade policy field. The economy and trade policy scope variable captures all 18 internal and 18 external economy and trade policy competencies.

scope_ene	RO policy scope in the energy policy field

The variable RO energy policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different energy policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different energy policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the energy policy field. The energy policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external energy policy competencies.

scope_envi	RO policy scope in the environmental policy field

The variable RO environmental policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different environmental policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different environmental policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the environmental policy field. The environmental policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external environmental policy competencies.

scope_fin	RO policy scope in the financial policy field

The variable RO financial policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different financial policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different financial policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 28 in the financial policy field. The financial policy scope variable captures all 14 internal and 14 external financial policy competencies.

scope_gg	RO policy scope in the good governance policy field

The variable RO good governance policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different good governance policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different good governance policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the good

governance policy field. The good governance policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external good governance policy competencies.

scope_health	RO policy scope in the health policy field

The variable RO health policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different health policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different health policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 28 in the health policy field. The health policy scope variable captures all 14 internal and 14 external health policy competencies.

scope_mig	RO policy scope in the migration policy field

The variable RO migration policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different migration policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different migration policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 28 in the migration policy field. The migration policy scope variable captures all 14 internal and 14 external migration policy competencies.

scope_sec	RO policy scope in the security and defence policy field

The variable RO security and defence policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different security and defence policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different security and defence policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the security and defence policy field. The security and defence policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external security and defence policy competencies.

scope_tech	RO policy scope in the technology and infrastructure policy field

The variable RO technology and infrastructure policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different technology and infrastructure policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different technology and infrastructure policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the technology and infrastructure policy field. The technology and infrastructure policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external technology and infrastructure policy competencies.

3. ROCO II Dataset

The ROCO II dataset includes the main treaties and treaty changes of 76 ROs between the years 1945 and 2015 as well as the additional primary law sources for ASEAN, AU, EAC and ECOWAS (e.g. supplementary acts or agreements). The dataset provides the information on RO policy competencies in a RO-year-format.

Document base

The basis to code policy competencies are a body of documents, that entail RO primary law. Primary law encompasses founding treaties, treaty changes as well as annexes or protocols that are part of RO treaties. Primary law functions as the legal basis for ROs to act, as it defines the institutional setup (*rules of the game*) of ROs as well as the policy fields in which they can get active in (e.g. through passing secondary law or through joint actions).[3]

The nature and extent of primary law varies considerably between ROs, with some ROs producing a large amount of documents with primary law status concerning specific policy issues or institutional rules. Especially four organizations – ASEAN, AU, EAC and ECOWAS – have set up a large body of additional documents (e.g. labeled in these ROs as supplementary acts or agreements) which refer to very specific and detailed policy issues, but which can nevertheless be described as primary law. To acknowledge these differences and to maintain comparability among different organizations and treaties at the same time, we compiled two datasets (ROCO I and ROCO II), which can be used for different research questions. As in ROCO I, the ROCO II dataset does not code preambles and declaratory parts of primary law documents as well, as these do not transfer policy competencies to ROs.

Definition and coding of policy competencies

ROs' policy competencies include mandates for the creation of secondary and soft law, as well as competencies allowing collective actions of RO members, or other activities of ROs. For the dataset competencies in 11 different policy areas were coded: Agriculture (AGR/agri) Development (DEV/dev), Economy and Trade (ECO/eco), Energy (ENE/ene), Environment (ENVI/envi), Finance (FIN/fin), Good Governance (GG/gg), Health (HL/health), Migration (MIG/mig), Security and Defense (SECDEF/secdef), as well as Technology, Infrastructure and Science (TCH/tech).

In each of the 11 policy fields, the number of specific policy competencies (or sub-categories) ranges between 14 and 17.[4] Thus, there are altogether 172 different policy competencies. The

[3] In comparison, secondary law is passed or created in the 'day-to-day' operation of the RO on basis of the rules laid out and the policy competencies specified in the institutional design of the RO; Unlike primary law changes, secondary law does not need to be signed, ratified etc. in order to enter into effect.

[4] The policy areas Trade and Economy, Environment, Good Governance, Security and Defense as well as Technology, Infrastructure and Science are broad in character and encompass 17 policy competencies each. Agriculture, Finance, Health, and Migration entail 14 policy competencies respectively, Development 15 and Energy 16 competencies. Each policy competency consists of several logically related buzzwords, linguistic, culturally sensitive synonyms, and alternative spellings, in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

coding scheme to capture these competencies in RO primary law was created by a multi-stage inductive strategy. The goals of the coding scheme were both to capture the legal basis for RO action in a comprehensive fashion and to make the 76 ROs comparable. The final composition and number of policy competencies per policy field is based on a theory-driven clustering of coding buzzwords. For the full list of competencies and buzzwords, see Table 3.

Table 3: Policy competencies in 11 Policy Areas

Agriculture	Development Cooperation	Economy and Trade	Energy
agriculture	poverty	commerce * trade	bio energy
animal health * plant health	debt relief	common market	electricity * grids
fisheries * aquaculture	development	competitiveness	energy
arable land	development assistance / cooperation * foreign aid	customs * customs union	energy cooperation
crop	development goals	economic growth	energy efficiency
dairies	human development	economy *economic * economic cooperation	energy resources
farming	human security	export	energy security
forestry	humanitarian crisis	free movement (of goods * services * labor * capital)	energy supply
harvest * yield	hunger * malnutrition * nutrition	free trade * free trade zone * removal of barriers or restrictions	exploration
land management * rural development	loans	goods	fossil fuels * coal * gas * oil
livestock	social development	import	geothermal energy
meat production	sustainability * sustainable (economic) growth / development	industry	hydropower
seeds	prosperity * welfare	market access	nuclear energy
tobacco	standards of living	services	renewable energy
	infant mortality	tariffs	solar energy / power
		trade defense	wind energy / power
		trade promotion	
Environment	**Finance**	**Good Governance**	**Health**
environment * protection / conservation of the environment	banking	civil rights * political rights	food safety
air pollution * emissions	bond market	civil society	disease
biodiversity * protection species/wildlife/animals/fauna/plant /flora/vegetation	capital	corruption	disease prevention
chemicals * pesticides	currency * adjustment of currency	democracy * democracy promotion	drugs
climate change (adaption/mitigation) * global warming * CO2 emissions	currency crisis	discrimination	epidemic * pandemic
ecology * ecological * ecosystem * habitat	debt	(free and fair) elections	health
environmental disaster * environmental catastrophe	(currency) exchange rate	freedom of the press	health care * health services * health system
forestry * deforestation	finance	freedoms * fundamental freedoms	medical
genetic resources * GMOs	financial crisis	fundamental / basic rights	mortality
land degradation * land restoration * (protection of) soil * desertification	financial institution	good governance	outbreak
marine / coastal environment * marine protection * ocean	fiscal	human rights	public health
(protection of) natural resources * nature	investment	liberty	sanitary
ozone layer * greenhouse gas emissions * GHG	monetary * monetary union	peoples' rights	vaccine * vaccination
pollution * contamination * oil pollution * oil spills	stock market	political stability	wellbeing
sustainability * sustainable development / growth		rule of law	
waste		separation of powers * independence of the judiciary	
water (pollution) * freshwater / river protection * river basin management		transparency * accountability	

Migration	Security and Defense	Technology, Science and Infrastructure	
asylum	(transnational) organized crime	academic * university	
country of origin	armed aggression	aviation * air transport	
diaspora	(fire) arms * weapons	data * data protection * privacy	
emigration	conflict prevention	education	
host country	emergency	engineering	
human trafficking	nonproliferation * disarmament	funding	
immigration	peace	high-tech	
migration	peacebuilding * peacekeeping * peacemaking	IT * information technology	
passage	security * security cooperation	infrastructure	
refugee	stability * post-conflict stabilization	innovation	
reintegration	terrorism * terror * counter-terrorism	intellectual property rights	
return	use of force	internet	
travel	war * civil war * (violent) conflict	research	
visa	alliance * security pact * collective security	science	
	army * armed forces * military	technology	
	border control / protection	communications * telecommunications	
	defense * self-defense	transport	

The ROCO II dataset also distinguishes between an external and an internal domain for policy competencies. Both dimensions include the same policy areas and policy competencies respectively. Thus, there are 11 internal policy areas and 11 external policy areas as well as a total of 344 policy competencies, 172 internal policy competencies and 172 external policy competencies. The distinction between internal and external policy competencies is based on buzzwords defining the context of application. External policy competencies turn the RO and its member states into actors beyond their borders, while internal policy competencies allow ROs and their member states to create common rules and norms or act in concert within their borders. For instance, terms such as external, foreign, international, with international organizations, with regional organizations, global, third states, other states, with regimes, specific IOs (UN etc.), alien, exogenous, overseas, extraneous, world, world-wide, intercontinental, universal, or transcontinental in combination with a policy competency is indicative of an external policy competency. Conversely, phrases including between member states /members, within, internal, local, member states, domestic, resident, native, national, endogenous, inland, home, the contracting parties, or intraregional signify an internal policy competency. For ambiguous terms, (e.g. in the region), coders were requested to carefully check the context (e.g. does "in the region" refer to the member states of the RO, or the broader macro-region?). The distinction between internal and external policy competencies was applied to all policy fields and competencies.

3.1 Variables in the dataset "ROCO II"

ro_code	3-digit RO Code

The numeric 3 digit RO code that uniquely identifies each RO in the dataset. Observations in the dataset are uniquely identified by a combination of the variables ro_code and year.

ro_abbr	RO acronym

The string variable contains the RO acronym.

ro_name	RO name

The string variable contains the full name of the RO.

year	Year

The variable contains calendar years and ranges from 1945 to 2015, spanning the observation period of the dataset. Observations in the dataset are uniquely identified by a combination of the variables ro_code and year.

ro_year	RO and year combined

A string variable combining information of the two variables ro_abbr and year.

macroregion	Macro region / World region

The qualitative variable assigns each RO with one of the four world regions, Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. ROs are only assigned one macro region. If their member states are located on more than one of these four world regions, the macro region is chosen according to the location of the RO headquarter.

ro_existence	existing RO

The variable simply indicates the existence of a RO and is coded 1 when a RO exists in a given year. The information is based on the variable founding_year. Rather than being used as a variable in its own right, it can be used as a filter variable to create or transform other variables.

EXAGRagriculture	RO agricultural policy competency (external)

This variable is a dummy variable capturing whether or not the RO received a specific competency in a given year. The variable is coded 1 when the RO obtained this specific competency (here: RO agricultural policy competency (external)) in a given year by primary law change. When not coded 1, this variable entails missing values. Missing values signify that a specific competency (here: RO agricultural policy competency (external)) is not introduced in a primary law document in the given year.

The ROCO II dataset entails 344 policy competencies (c.f. section 2) and therefore includes 344 dummy variables capturing whether or not the RO received a specific competency in a given year. The prefix 'EX' indicates that it is an external policy competency, whereas prefix 'INT' indicates that it is an internal policy competency.

The 344 dummy variables included in ROCO II capturing policy competencies are:
EXAGRagriculture EXAGRanimhealth_EXAGRplanthealth EXAGRaquaculture_EXAGRfisheries EXAGRarableland EXAGRcrop EXAGRdairies EXAGRfarming EXAGRforestry EXAGRharvest_EXAGRyield EXAGRlandmanag_EXAGRruraldev EXAGRlivestock EXAGRmeatproduct EXAGRseeds EXAGRtobacco EXDEVdebtrelief EXDEVdev EXDEVdevassistance_EXDEVdevcoope EXDEVdevgoals EXDEVhumandev EXDEVhumansec EXDEVhumcrisis EXDEVhunger_EXDEVmalnutrition_EX EXDEVinfmortality EXDEVlivstand EXDEVloans EXDEVpoverty EXDEVprosperity_EXDEVwelfare EXDEVsocdev EXDEVsustainability EXECOcommarket EXECOcommerce_EXECOtrade EXECOcompetitive EXECOcustoms EXECOeconomy_EXECOecocoop EXECOexport EXECOfreemove EXECOfreetrade_EXECOfreetradezon EXECOgoods EXECOgrowth EXECOimport EXECOindustry EXECOmarkaccess EXECOservices EXECOtariffs EXECOtradedefence EXECOtradepromotion EXENEbioenergy EXENEelectricity_EXENEgrids EXENEenergy EXENEenergycoop EXENEenergyefficiency EXENEenergyres EXENEenergysec EXENEenergysupply EXENEexploration EXENEfossilfuels_EXENEcoal_EXENE EXENEgeothenergy EXENEhydropower EXENEnuclenergy EXENErenewenergy EXENEsolar EXENEwind EXENVIairpoll_EXENVIemissions EXENVIbiodiversity_EXENVIspecypr EXENVIchemicals_EXENVIpesticides EXENVIclimatechange_EXENVIadaptc EXENVIecology_EXENVIecosystem_EX EXENVIenvdisaster EXENVIenvironment_EXENVIenviprot EXENVIforestry_EXENVIdeforestati EXENVIgeneticresources_EXENVIGMO EXENVIlanddegrad_EXENVIlandresto EXENVImarineenvi_EXENVImarinepro EXENVInatres_EXENVInature EXENVIozone_EXENVIgreenhouse EXENVIpollution_EXENVIcontaminat EXENVIsustainability EXENVIwaste EXENVIwaterpoll_EXENVIfreshwater EXFINbanking EXFINbondmarket EXFINcapital EXFINcurrency_EXFINadjustcurrenc EXFINcurrencycrisis EXFINdebt EXFINexchrate EXFINfinance EXFINfinancialcrisis EXFINfininstitut EXFINfiscal EXFINinvestment EXFINmonetary EXFINstockmarket EXGGcivilrights_EXGGpoliticalrig EXGGcivilsociety EXGGcorruption EXGGdemocracy_EXGGdempromotion EXGGdiscrimination EXGGelections EXGGfreedom EXGGfreepress EXGGfundrights_EXGGbasicrights EXGGgoodgov EXGGhumrights EXGGliberty EXGGpeoplesrights EXGGpolstability EXGGrulelaw EXGGseppowers_EXGGjudiciary EXGGtransparency_EXGGaccountabil EXHLcare EXHLdisease EXHLdisprev EXHLdrugs EXHLepidemic_EXHLpandemic EXHLfoodsafety EXHLhealth EXHLmedical EXHLmortality EXHLoutbreak EXHLpublhealth EXHLsanitary EXHLvaccine EXHLwellbeing EXMIGasylum EXMIGcountrorigin EXMIGdiaspora EXMIGemigration EXMIGhostcountry EXMIGhumtraffick EXMIGimmigration EXMIGmigration EXMIGpassage EXMIGrefugee EXMIGreintegration EXMIGreturn EXMIGtravel EXMIGvisa

EXSECDEFalliance_EXSECDEFpact EXSECDEFarmedaggr EXSECDEFarms_EXSECDEFweapons EXSECDEFarmy_EXSECDEFmilitary EXSECDEFborder EXSECDEFconfprev EXSECDEFdefence_EXSECDEFselfdese EXSECDEFemergency EXSECDEFnonprolif_EXSECDEFdisarm EXSECDEForgcrime EXSECDEFpeace EXSECDEFpeacebuilding_EXSECDEFpe EXSECDEFsecurity_EXSECDEFseccoop EXSECDEFstability_EXSECDEFpostco EXSECDEFterror EXSECDEFuseforce EXSECDEFwar_EXSECDEFcivilwar_EXS EXTCHacademic_EXTCHuniversity EXTCHaviation EXTCHdata_EXTCHdataprotec_EXTCHp EXTCHeducation EXTCHengineering EXTCHfunding EXTCHhightech EXTCHinfrastructure EXTCHinnovation EXTCHintellectpropright EXTCHinternet EXTCHIT EXTCHresearch EXTCHscience EXTCHtechnology EXTCHtelecom EXTCHtransport INAGRagriculture INAGRanimhealth_INAGRplanthealth INAGRaquaculture_INAGRfisheries INAGRarableland INAGRcrop INAGRdairies INAGRfarming INAGRforestry INAGRharvest_INAGRyield INAGRlandmanag_INAGRruraldev INAGRlivestock INAGRmeatproduct INAGRseeds INAGRtobacco INDEVdebtrelief INDEVdevassist_INDEVdevcoop_INDE INDEVdevelopment INDEVdevgoal INDEVhumcrisis INDEVhumdev INDEVhumsec INDEVhunger_INDEVmalnutrition_IN INDEVinfantmort INDEVlivstand INDEVloans INDEVpoverty INDEVprosperity_INDEVwelfare INDEVsocdev INDEVsustainability INECOcommarket INECOcommerce_INECOtrade INECOcompetitiveness INECOcustoms INECOeconomy_INECOecocoop INECOexport INECOfreemove INECOfreetrade_INECOfreetradeare INECOgoods INECOgrowth INECOimport INECOindustry INECOmarketaccess INECOservices INECOtariffs INECOtradedefence INECOtradepromot INENEbioenergy INENEelectricity_INENEgrids INENEenercoop INENEenergsecurity INENEenergsuppl INENEenergy INENEenergyefficiency INENEenergyres INENEexploration INENEfossilfuels_INENEcoal_INENE INENEgeothenergy INENEhydropower INENEnuclenergy INENErenewenerg INENEsolar INENEwind INENVIairpollut_INENVIemissions INENVIbiodiversity_INENVIprotect INENVIchemicals_INENVIpesticides INENVIclimatechange_INENVIadaptc INENVIdisasters INENVIecology_INENVIecosystem_IN INENVIenvironment_INENVIenviprot INENVIforestry_INENVIdeforestati INENVIgenresourc_INENVIGMOs INENVIlanddegr_INENVIlandrestor_ INENVImarineenvi_INENVImarinprot INENVInatres_INENVInature INENVIozone_INENVIgreenhouse INENVIpollution_INENVIcontaminat INENVIsustainability INENVIwaste INENVIwaterpoll_INENVIfreshwater INFINbanking INFINbondmarket INFINcapital INFINcurrency_INFINadjustcurrenc INFINcurrencycrisis INFINdebt INFINexchrate INFINfinance INFINfinancialcrisis INFINfinaninstit INFINfiscal INFINinvestment INFINmonetary INFINstockmarket INGGcivilrights_INGGpolitrights INGGcivilsoc INGGcorruption INGGdemocracy_INGGdempromo INGGdiscrimination INGGelections INGGfreedoms INGGfreepress INGGfundright_INGGbasicrights INGGgoodgov INGGhumrights INGGliberty INGGpeoplerights INGGpolstability INGGrulelaw INGGseppowers_INGGjudiciary INGGtransparency_INGGaccountabil INHLdisease INHLdiseaseprevent INHLdrugs INHLepidemic_INHLpandemic

INHLfoodsafety INHLhealth INHLhealthcare_INHLhealthservice INHLmedical INHLmortality INHLoutbreak INHLpublhealth INHLsanitary INHLvaccine INHLwellbeing INMIGasylum INMIGcountryorigin INMIGdiaspora INMIGemigration INMIGhostcountry INMIGhumtraffick INMIGimmigration INMIGmigration INMIGpassage INMIGrefugee INMIGreintegration INMIGreturn INMIGtravel INMIGvisa INSECDEFaggression INSECDEFalliance_INSECDEFpact INSECDEFarms_INSECDEFweapons INSECDEFarmy_INSECDEFmilitary INSECDEFborder INSECDEFconfliprev INSECDEFdefence_INSECDEFselfdefe INSECDEFemergency INSECDEFnonproliferation_INSECDE INSECDEForgcrime INSECDEFpeace INSECDEFpeacebuilding_INSECDEFpe INSECDEFsecurity_INSECDEFseccoop INSECDEFstability_INSECDEFpostco INSECDEFterror INSECDEFuseforce INSECDEFwar_INSECDEFcivilwar_INS INTCHacademic_INTCHuniversity INTCHaviation INTCHdata_INTCHdataprotect_INTCH INTCHeducation INTCHengineering INTCHfunding INTCHhightech INTCHinfrastructure INTCHinnovation INTCHintellpropright INTCHinternet INTCHit INTCHresearch INTCHscience INTCHtechnology INTCHtelecommunication INTCHtransport

ro_policyscope	RO policy scope

The variable RO policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 344. The RO policy scope variable captures all 344 policy competencies.

scope_agri	RO policy scope in the agricultural policy field

The variable RO agricultural policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different agricultural policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different agricultural policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 28 in the agricultural policy field. The agricultural policy scope variable captures all 14 internal and 14 external agricultural policy competencies.

scope_dev	RO policy scope in the development cooperation policy field

The variable RO development policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different development policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different development policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 30 in the development

cooperation policy field. The development policy scope variable captures all 15 internal and 15 external development policy competencies.

scope_eco	RO policy scope in the economy and trade policy field

The variable RO economy and trade policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different economy and trade policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different economy and trade policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 36 in the economy and trade policy field. The economy and trade policy scope variable captures all 18 internal and 18 external economic and trade policy competencies.

scope_ene	RO policy scope in the energy policy field

The variable RO energy policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different energy policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different energy policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the energy policy field. The energy policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external energy policy competencies.

scope_envi	RO policy scope in the environmental policy field

The variable RO environmental policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different environmental policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different environmental policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the environmental policy field. The environmental policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external environmental policy competencies.

scope_fin	RO policy scope in the financial policy field

The variable RO financial policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different financial policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different financial policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 28 in the financial policy field. The financial policy scope variable captures all 14 internal and 14 external financial policy competencies.

scope_gg	RO policy scope in the good governance policy field

The variable RO good governance policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different good governance policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures

the range of different good governance policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the good governance policy field. The good governance policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external good governance policy competencies.

scope_health	RO policy scope in the health policy field

The variable RO health policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different health policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different health policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 28 in the health policy field. The health policy scope variable captures all 14 internal and 14 external health policy competencies.

scope_mig	RO policy scope in the migration policy field

The variable RO migration policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different migration policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different migration policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 28 in the migration policy field. The migration policy scope variable captures all 14 internal and 14 external migration policy competencies.

scope_sec	RO policy scope in the security and defence policy field

The variable RO security and defence policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different security and defence policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different security and defence policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the security and defence policy field. The security and defence policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external security and defence policy competencies.

scope_tech	RO policy scope in the technology and infrastructure policy field

The variable RO technology and infrastructure policy scope is a count variable and is defined as the number of different technology and infrastructure policy competencies a RO covers in a given year. Thus, it captures the range of different technology and infrastructure policies a RO can become active in on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, RO policy scope can conceptually range between 0 to 34 in the technology and infrastructure policy field. The technology and infrastructure policy scope variable captures all 17 internal and 17 external technology and infrastructure policy competencies.

4. ROCO III Dataset

In addition to the two datasets with information on RO policy competencies (ROCO I and II), the ROCO III dataset provides information on which states are members of the 76 RO (1945-2015). This dataset is structured in a state-year-format.

4.1 Variables in the ROCO III Dataset

ccode	country code

Numeric country code based on the ISO-3166-1 standard as used in the Quality of Government Dataset.

cname	country name

This variable entails the spelled out country name.

year	year

Year.

ccodealp	country code

This entails a three-letter country code based on the ISO-3166-1 alpha3 standard.

ccodealp_year	year and country code

This variable is a combination of the three-letter country code and year.

ccodecow	country code

This is the numeric country code as used in the Correlates of War Dataset.

In the COW database, some countries have multiple county codes for legal predecessors and successors. These are Cyprus (codes 993 and 196), Ethiopia (codes 230 and 231), Malaysia (codes 458 and 992), Sudan (codes 729 and 736), Vietnam (codes 998, 999 and 702), Pakistan (codes 586 and 997), France (250 and 991), Germany (276 and 280) as well as Yemen (codes 886, 887 and 720).

We correct for the fact that some countries have several county codes and would thus appear several times as member state of an RO in the ROCO III dataset although they are legal

predecessors/ successors. We included each of these countries only once by omitting to following country ids 993 for Cyprus, 280 for Germany, 231 for Ethiopia, 250 for France, 458 for Malaysia, 586 for Pakistan, 729 for Sudan, 998 and 999 for Vietnam, as well as 886 and 720 for Yemen.

ccodewb	country code

This is the numeric country code as used in the World Bank Datasets.

MS	country code

This is a two-letter country code.

WBabbrev	country code

This is a three-letter country code as used in the World Bank Datasets.

AC	state membership in the Arctic Council

This variable captures whether a state was member in this particular RO in a given year (coded with 1). When a RO already existed, but a given state has not joined it, the variable is coded 0. A missing value denotes that a RO does not exist in a given year.

The ROCO datasets (I, II and IV) entail 76 ROs. These ROs are covered as dummy variables in the ROCO III dataset (c.f. Table 1): AC ACC ACD ACS ACTO AL ALADI ALBA AMU ANDEAN APEC ASEAN AU BEU BIMSTEC BSEC CACM CAEU CALC CAREC CARICOM CBSS CCTS CE CEEAC CEFTA CELAC CEMAC CENSAD CEPGL CIS CoE COMESA CSTO EAC EAEU ECO ECOWAS EEA EFTA EU G5S GCC GGC GUAM ICGLR IGAD IOC IORA LCBC MERCOSUR MGC MRC MRU MSG NAFTA NATO NC OAS ODECA OECS OSCE PA PIF SAARC SACU SADC SCO SEATO SELA SICA SPC SPECA UEMOA UNASUR WTO

5. ROCO IV Dataset

In addition to the two datasets with information on RO policy competencies (ROCO I and II), the ROCO IV dataset provides additional information on the 76 ROs between the years 1945 and 2015. The dataset is structured in a RO-year-format.

5.1 Variables in the ROCO IV Dataset

founding_year	founding year of RO

The dummy variable indicates the founding year of a RO, and is coded 1 in the year in which the RO was founded (the year when the document was signed is coded as foundation year, not the date of ratification or entry into force; see introduction).
(0) RO exists, but was not created in a given year.
(1) RO was created in this year.

ro_existence	existing RO

The variable captures the existence of a RO and is coded 1 when a RO exists in a given year. The information is based on the variable founding_year. Rather than being used as a variable in its own right, it can be used as a filter variable to create or transform other variables.

age_ro	age of RO

The count variable expresses the age of a RO in a given year. That is the number of years the RO has been in existence and is based on the founding year of ROs (see above). Thus, it also expresses the number of years the RO that have passed since the RO entered the dataset. The earliest first year in which the age is counted, is set to the beginning of the observation period, the year 1945. Consequently, SACU, which is the only RO in the dataset founded before 1945, is artificially manipulated to be founded in 1945.

number_ms	number of member states

The variable counts the number of member states of a RO in a given year.

reg_court	regional court

The binary variable indicates whether a RO has a regional court in a given year.
(0) No regional court exists in a given year.
(1) A regional court exists in a given year.

number_neighbors	number of neighbors RO border

The variable counts the number of neighboring states to the outer border of the RO. The variable includes sovereign and independent states only. It only includes states which have a land border with a RO.

decision_consensus	consensus decision-making

The binary variable indicates whether "consensus" is specified as a decision-making rule in the treaty. The variable is coded 1 irrespective if the rule applies to all or just some decision-making procedures.
(0) No consensus rule present in the treaty.
(1) Consensus decision-making rule is present in the treaty.

decision_unanimity	unanimous decision-making

The binary variable indicates whether "unanimity" or "unanimous vote" is specified as a decision-making rule in the treaty. The variable is coded 1 irrespective if the rule applies to all or just some decision-making procedures.
(0) No unanimity rule present in the treaty.
(1) Unanimity decision-making rule is present in the treaty.

decision_majority_rule	majority decision-making

The binary variable indicates whether some form of majority requirement is specified as a decision-making rule in the treaty. This entails both qualified or simple majority rules. The variable is coded 1 irrespective if the rule applies to all or just some decision-making procedures.
(0) No majority rule present in the treaty.
(1) Majority decision-making rule is present in the treaty.

decision_simplemajority	simple majority decision-making

The binary variable indicates whether a simple majority requirement or a majority vote (without any quorum / qualification) is specified as a decision-making rule in the treaty. The variable is coded 1 irrespective if the rule applies to all or just some decision-making procedures.
(0) No consensus rule present in the treaty.
(1) Simple majority decision-making rule is present in the treaty.

decision_qualmajority	qualified majority decision-making

The binary variable indicates whether a qualified majority, a majority rule with a quorum or qualification (e.g. two thirds majority) is specified as a decision-making rule in the treaty. The variable is coded 1 irrespective if the rule applies to all or just some decision-making procedures.
(0) No qualified decision-making rule present in the treaty.
(1) Some form of qualified majority decision-making rule is present in the treaty.

decision_notclear	unclear decision-making rules

The binary variable indicates whether no or none of the other decision-making rules is specified in the treaty.
(0) Any of the above explained decision-making rules present in the treaty.
(1) No decision-making rule specified in the treaty.