Codebook

Diplomatic Outreach dataset

Italy – Ministers of Defence

2023

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About

The Diplomatic Outreach dataset tracks bilateral diplomatic visits between countries. Each observation tracks the direction of the visit, the level of the visit, and the political actors involved. This version focuses on those visits which involved Italian Ministers of Defence (namely Giampaolo di Paola, Mario Mauro, Roberta Pinotti, Elisabetta Trenta, and Lorenzo Guerini) between 2011-2022.

Criteria

The focus is only on bilateral visits, not multilateral ones such as United Nations' and other regional organisations' fora, tripartite talks. Bilateral high-level talks held in the margins of a multilateral meeting are also excluded.

It tracks only high-level political visits involving the Italian Minister of Defence and, from the other country, heads of state and government, their deputies and special advisers; ministers of foreign affairs, their deputies and all the other ministries and cabinet members; high-level military authorities. Business delegations, parliamentary delegations, civil society delegations are instead excluded.

Variables

The dataset (data.xlsx) contains 13 variables (columns) and 355 observations (rows).

ID:
It is the unique identifier for each row of the dataset.

Date:
Date (DD/MM/YY) the visit took place (generally, the initial day of a multi-day visit).

Year:
Year in which the visit took place.

Country A:
In this dataset it refers to Italy.

Country B:
Any UN member state, including Palestine and the Holy See (here called "Vatican State") as UN non-state members, that Country A visits or receives in the diplomatic exchange. The European Union (EU), a UN permanent observer, is the only regional/international organization included

COWA and COWB
It refers to the ISO code of the "CountryA" and "CountryB" under investigation. Any UN member state can be included in this list, including Palestine and the Holy See (here called "Vatican State") as UN non-state members. The European Union (EU), a UN permanent observer, is the only regional/international organization included, with ISO code 990/995.

Direction:
The direction of the visit from the perspective of Country. It is a categorical variable which tells whether "CountryA" received its Partner ("Incoming") or visited it ("Outgoing").

Actor_A_Name:
The name of the minister of defence of "CountryA" who takes part in the visit.

Actor_A_Role:
The position covered by "Actor_(Country)" at the time of the visit. In this dataset, it is always Minister of Defence.

Actor_B_Name:
The name of the political figure of the partner state who takes part in the visit (generally, in case of multiple actors, the highest-level one)

Actor_B_Role:
The position covered by "Actor_B_Name" at the time of the visit.

Notes:
It contains some additional details related to the visit. In many cases these details are related to the topics discussed during the visit. Because of the lack of systematic data on this, it was impossible to create a categorical variable on the topic. Therefore, the extent of the information contained under Notes varies from case to case.

Sources
The data derive from the official website of the Italian Ministry of Defence (www.difesa.it). For some visits, other sources have also been used to fact-check or complement the information contained in the official website.

Note that it is possible the dataset omits some visits. If you note missing data or errors, please get in touch with the author to report it missing data and help make this dataset more complete and correct.

Author
The project is led by Tiziana Corda, PostDoc Research Fellow at the University of Milan, Italy.