Variable Codebook

COALITIONAGREE Dataset

Heike Klüver
Svenja Krauss
Hanna Bäck
Christopher Uhl

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Overview & Coverage

Units	Coverage	Notes
Countries	24: Mostly democracies in OECD and Central and Eastern European countries	counted as unique country codes in dataset
Time	17 April 1945 – 30 October 2015	counted as earliest and latest cabinet start date
Parties	186	counted as of the parties listed by ParlGov
Elections	177	counted as unique election years in the dataset
Cabinets	229	counted as unique cabinet identifiers in the dataset

Variable Description

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
ccode	country code	01 = Austria, 02 = Belgium, 03 = Denmark, 04 = Finland, 06 = Germany, 07 = Greece, 08 = Iceland, 09 = Ireland, 11 = Luxembourg, 12 = the Netherlands, 13 = Norway, 14 = Portugal, 16 = Sweden, 17 = United Kingdom, 18 = Bulgaria, 20 = Czech Republic, 21 = Estonia, 22 = Hungary, 23 = Latvia, 24 = Lithuania, 26 = Poland, 27 = Romania, 28 = Slovakia, 29 = Slovenia	ERD (v001e)	numeric	2)
country	country name	Name of country in English	CMP	string	1)
cab_id_erdda	cabinet ID ERD	First digits = country code, Second digit = cabinet code	ERD (v002e)	numeric	2); For cabinets that are not yet coded in the ERD dataset, we continued coding the ID consecutively.
cab_id_parlgov	cabinet ID ParlGov	ParlGov unique identifier for each cabinet	ParlGov (Cabinet)	numeric	3)
cabinet_name	cabinet name	Name of Cabinet	ERD (v003e)	string	2); Name of the Cabinet occurs at any change of (a) party composition, (b) general election and (c) change of PM.
cabinet_start_date	start date of cabinet	Date in format DDMMMYY (%tdD_m_Y)	ERD (v004e)	numeric daily date	

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
cabinet_end_date	end date of cabinet	Date in format DDMMMYY (%tdD_m_Y)	ERD (v005e)	numeric daily date	
election_date	date of previous election	Date in format DDMMMYY (%tdD_m_Y)	ERD (v008e)	numeric daily date	When dates were missing in ERDDA, they were added from previous election dates in ERDDA.
election_date_cmp	date of preceding election CMP	Date in format DDMMMYY (%tdD_m_Y)	CMP	numeric daily date	
election_date_parlgov	date of previous election ParlGov	Date in format DDMMMYY (%tdD_m_Y)	ParlGov (Elections)	numeric daily date	3); Date the election took place. If the election lasted for several days, the last date was coded.
next_election_date	date of subsequent election	Date in format DDMMMYY (%tdD_m_Y)	ERD (v009e); ParlGov	numeric daily date	We used existing data from ERDDA on the elections ending a period of office and imputed these dates for all cabinets so that they represent the date of the next election, not only an election ending a period of office. MV were imputed from ParlGov.
election_id	election ID	ParlGov unique identifier for national and EP election	ERD	numeric	3)
ca_id	coalition agreement id	#	own computation	numeric	Unique identifier variable for Coalition Agreements.
cabinet	cabinet name	Country_ StartYear_ Name-Sequence	own computation	string	Unique Name for Cabinets
cabinet_parties	Composition of cabinet	Party acronyms	ERD(v010e)	string	2) Party of PM listed first
post_election_cabinet	cabinet formed directly after election	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v303e)	numeric dummy	2)

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
cabinet_reshuffle	cabinet changed throughout legislative term	1 = Yes, 0 = No	own computation / ERD	numeric dummy	Was coded 1 = reshuffle, if there was a new cabinet that did not coincide with a new election-date.
minority	minority cabinet	1 = Minority Situation	ERD (v314e)	numeric dummy	2); No single party holds 50% plus one seat or more of parliamentary seats.
mwc	minimal winning coalition	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v327e)	numeric dummy	2)
surplus	surplus cabinet	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v328e)	numeric dummy	2)
cab_barg_dur_own	Cabinet bargaining duration	# (days)	own computation	numeric	Based on election_date and cabinet_start_date. If the cabinet was not post_electoral, the duration is based on cabinet_start_date and the previous cabinet_end_date (only for subsequent cabinets). Missings were then imputed from the original variable.
cab_barg_dur	Cabinet bargaining duration	# (days)	ERD (v600e)	numeric	2)
rel_dur_100per	Relative duration 100%	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v601e)	numeric dummy	2)
rel_dur_100per_own	Relative duration 100%	1 = Yes, 0 = No	own computation	numeric dummy	Own computation, based on relative cabinet duration.
rel_cab_dur	Relative Cab Duration	%	ERD (v602e)	numeric	2)
rel_cab_dur2	Relative Cab Duration	%	ERD (v603e)	numeric	2); Coded in-house 2012, re-calculated for all cabinets
rel_cab_dur_own	Relative Cab Duration	%	own computation	numeric	The percentage is calculated: absolute duration/maximum duration.
abs_cab_dur	Absolute Cab Duration	# (Unit = Days)	ERD (v604e)	numeric	2)

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
abs_cab_dur2	Absolute Cab Duration	# (Unit = Days)	ERD (v605e)	numeric	2); Coded in-house 2012, re-calculated for all cabinets.
abs_cab_dur_own	Absolute Cab Duration	# (Unit = Days)	own computation	numeric	Based on Cabinet-Start and End-Date.
maxdur	Maximum Cabinet Duration	# (Unit = Days)	own computation	numeric	Based on: cabinet_start_date to next regular elections
no_cabinet_parties	number of cabinet parties	#	own computation	numeric	
cabinet_seat_share	total seat share of cabinet parties	# (%)	ERD (v318e)	numeric	
number_of_parl_parties	number of parliamentary parties	#	ERD (v306e) / ParlGov	numeric	Missings for more recent years than the ERD Dataset were filled with data from the ParlGov Website.
enp	effective number of parties (seats)	#	ParlGov (Elections)	numeric	
cab_elec_perf	Cabinet El Performance	# (%)	ERD (v708e)	numeric	For each cabinet party, the vote support (%) that a political party received at the parliamentary election which preceded its cabinet membership is subtracted from the vote support (%) it received at the next (following) parliamentary election; these scores then are summarized. Coded in-house 2012, re-calculated for all cabinets.

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
total_cab_elec_volat	Total cabinet electoral volatility	# (%)	ERD (v700e)	numeric	2); For each cabinet party, the vote support (%) received at the relevant parliamentary election is subtracted from the vote support (%) that the same party received at the immediately preceding election; the absolute value of these scores are summarized for all cabinet parties. Coded in-house 2012, re-calculated for all cabinets.
avg_cab_elec_volat	Average cabinet electoral volatility	# (%)	ERD (v701e)	numeric	2); For each cabinet party, the vote support (%) received at the relevant parliamentary election is subtracted from the vote support (%) that the same party received at the immediately preceding election; the absolute value of these scores are summarized for all cabinet parties and then divided by the number of cabinet parties. Coded in-house 2012, re-calculated for all cabinets.
median	Party of Median Legislator	Party ID CMP of Party of Median Legislator	own computation	numeric	Sorted based on the RILE-Score, we assigned the party of the median legislator to the first party that passed the threshold of 50% of the total number of seats.

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
cab_range_rile	cabinet left-right preference range	#	own computation / CMP	numeric	Based on the most recent CMP dataset, we have used the respective party_rile in the calculation of the absolute difference between the minimum and maximum party_rile for each cabinet.
cab_range_logrile	cabinet left-right preference range (Logit scale)	#	own computation / CMP	numeric	Based on the most recent CMP dataset, we have used the respective party_logriles in the calculation of the absolute difference between the minimum and maximum party_logrile for each cabinet.
low_ch_only_decis_legis	Lower Chamber Only Decides Legislation	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v500e)	numeric dummy	2); 0 = Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden (–1970); if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
supermaj_for_const_amend	Supermajority for Const Amend	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v501e)	numeric dummy	2); 0 = Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Sweden, UK. Assumed constant after 1999; if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
strong_sec_ch	Strong Second Chamber	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v502e)	numeric dummy	2); 1 = Belgium (–95), Sweden (–70); if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
weak_sec_ch	Weak Second Chamber	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v503e)	numeric dummy	2); 1 = Austria, Belgium (95–), Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, UK. Assumed constant after 1999; if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
bicameral	Bicameralism	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v504e)	numeric	2); 1 = Austria, Belgium, Denmark (–70), Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden (–70), UK; if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
positive_parl	Positive Parliamentarism	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v505e)	numeric dummy	2); 1 = Belgium, Germany, Greece, Ireland (1945—), Luxembourg, Finland; if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
ex_ante_gvt_prog_screen	Ex Ante Gvt Program Screen	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v506e)	numeric dummy	2); 1 = Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, Portugal; if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
abs_majority_no_confid	Abs Majority No-confidence	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v507e)	numeric	2); 1 = Belgium (95–), Germany, Greece, Iceland (1945—), Portugal, Sweden (71–). Assumed constant after 1999; if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
constr_no_confid	Constructive No-Confidence	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v508e)	numeric	2); 1 = Germany, Belgium (1995–); if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
unanimity	Cabinet Rule: Unanimity	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v509e)	numeric dummy	2); 1 = Austria, Portugal; if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
pm_consensus	Cabinet Rule: PM Consensus	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v510e)	numeric dummy	2); 1 = Belgium, Denmark, Spain (1978—), Sweden, UK. Assumed constant after 1999; if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
cab_codecid_legis	Cabinet Co-decides Leg	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v511e)	numeric	2); 1 = Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden (–70); if no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
pm_cab_powers	PM Cabinet Powers	Range: 1 to 7	ERD (v512e)	numeric	2); One point each of 7 PM Cabinet Powers. For definition see variable 513e but note one difference: Bergman et al. (2003, 183-194) used a somewhat different definition of Prime Minister cabinet powers that substituted Cabinet decision rule for whether an administrative structure exists under the Prime Minister's control, i.e. whether the job of the PM includes command of resources that provide him/her with independent information/expertise on what goes on in the individual ministries. If no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
pm_cab_powers_b	PM Cabinet Powers (b)	Range: 1 to 7	ERD (v513e)	numeric	2); One point for each existing PM power. Variable consists of: the existence of an actual decision rule for cabinet decision-making (one point if the PM sums up the cabinet discussion or if majority voting applies, and zero if cabinet decisions are made unanimously) (i); the PM has the right to appoint (ii) and dismiss (iii) ministers; ministers can only be removed by parliament if parliament dismisses the PM/full cabinet (iv); Prime minister has the right to decide ministry jurisdiction (v); Prime minister has steering or co-coordinating rights vis-à-vis ministers (vi); and Prime minister has control over cabinet agenda (vii). (See these variables in Bergman et al. (2003, 183-194). If no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
pm_cab_powers_3	PM Cabinet Powers (3)	Range: 1 to 3	ERD (v514e)	numeric	2); One point for each existing Prime minister power. Consists of right to appoint (i) and dismiss (ii) ministers, and ministers being parliamentary accountable through the PM only (iii). If no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
pm_dissol_powers	PM Dissolution Powers	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v515e)	numeric dummy	2); 1 = Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden (1971–1974), UK (assumed constant after 1999). If no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
pm_cab_appt_power	PM Cab Appt Power	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v516e)	numeric dummy	2); 0 = Belgium, Finland (–2000), Netherlands, Spain (–1977). If no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
hos_discre_cab_appt_role	HoS Discretionary Cab Appt Role	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v517e)	numeric dummy	2); 1 = Finland (–2000). If no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
semipresid	Semi-Presidentialism	1 = Yes, 0 = No	ERD (v518e)	numeric dummy	2); 1 = Finland (–2000), Greece (–1985), Portugal (–82). If no constitutional changes reported, adopted for more recent years.
size_low_ch	Size of lower chamber	# of Seats	ERD (v519e)	numeric	2); Missing values were imputed from ParlGov Data on total seat numbers in the lower chamber.
size_upp_ch	Size of upper chamber	# of Seats	ERD (v520e)	numeric	2)
infl_cab_begin	Inflation (Cab Beginning)	# (-4.5 to 209.9)	ERD (v702e); IMF	numeric	2); Yearly data on Consumer Price Index, percentage change.
unempl_cab_begin	Unemployment (Cab Beginning)	# (.4 to 27.5)	ERD (v703e); IMF	numeric	2); Yearly data

Variable	Label	Coding	Source	Type	General Notes
growth_cab_begin	Growth (Beginning)	# (-21.2 to 19)	ERD (v704e); IMF	numeric	2); Yearly data on Real GDP Growth, percentage change . From 1980 onward data from IMF Report 2017.
unempl_cab_end	Unemployment (End)	# (.1 to 27.5)	ERD (v705e); IMF	numeric	2); Yearly data
infl_cab_end	Inflation (End)	# (-1.7 to 209.9)	ERD (v706e); IMF	numeric	2); Yearly data on Consumer Price Index, percentage change.
growth_cab_end	Growth (End)	# (-14.7 to 14.8)	ERD (v707e); IMF	numeric	2); Yearly data on Real GDP Growth, percentage change. From 1980 onward data from IMF Report 2017.

[1)] Text originates from MPData_Codebook 2016b. (Volkens et al., 2017)
[2)] Text originates froms ERD-e Codebook Release 3.0 Februrary 12, 2014 (Andersson et al., 2014)
[3)] Text originates from Parlgov Data Description (Döring and Manow, 2016)
[4)] For reference see ERD Codebook for political parties, Release 3.0, February 12, 2014 (Andersson et al., 2014)

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