SDR2 PLUG_COUNTRY File Overview

The auxiliary country-level dataset PLUG-COUNTRY is a dictionary of countries and territories used in the MASTER file. It contains basic geographical information: alpha/numeric standardized ISO country codes, country names, and codes and names for micro- and macro-regions.

Table 1. List of variables in PLUG-COUNTRY

Variable name	Variable label
T_COUNTRY	Code for country/territory unit
COUNTRY_NAME	Country name
COUNTRY_ALPHA2	Country alpha-2 code
COUNTRY_ALPHA3	Country alpha-3 code
COUNTRY_NUM_CODE	Country numeric code
MACROREGION_CODE	Macro region numeric code
MACROREGION_NAME	Macro region name
MICROREGION_CODE	Micro region numeric code
MICROREGION_NAME	Micro region name

T_COUNTRY and COUNTRY_NAME

As a dictionary, the PLUG-COUNTRY file provides the correspondence between country and territories codes and actual country names. In most cases, T_COUNTRY follows ISO 3166-1 two-letter standard, while COUNTRY_NAME is a simplified English short country name based on ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency name (see https://www.iso.org/obp/ui and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1). However, for 14 countries/territories, which were not present in the ISO 3166 standard, we created SDR-specific codes and names, as indicated in Table 2.

T_COUNTRY refers to two variables in the MASTER file, namely T_COUNTRY_L1U and T_COUNTRY_L2U. For details about geographic coverage, see the SDR2 MASTER File Overview.

Table 2. The complete list of SDR2 sample codes extending the ISO 3166-1 standard

Extension of the ISO 3166-1 code	Sample name
BE-BRU	Belgium (Brussels)
BE-FLA	Belgium (Flanders)
BE-WAL	Belgium (Wallonia)
CS	Czechoslovakia
CY-ISL	Cyprus (island)
CY-TCC	Turkish Cypriot Community
DE-E	East Germany
DE-W	West Germany

GB-GBN	Great Britain
GB-NIR	Northern Ireland
IL-ARB	Israel (Arab population)
IL-JEW	Israel (Jew population)
KS	Kosovo
YU	Yugoslavia

COUNTRY_ALPHA2, COUNTRY_ALPHA3, COUNTRY_NUM_CODE

T_COUNTRY and COUNTRY_NAME capture the geographical unit from which the source samples are drawn. The additional variables, COUNTRY_ALPHA2, COUNTRY_ALPHA3, and COUNTRY_NUM_CODE, provide ISO 3166-1 alpha and numerical codes for the entire country. For example, Poland is represented by the following three values, respectively, PL, POL, 616, while Belgium (Flanders) is represented by BE, BEL, 056.

MACROREGION_CODE, MACROREGION_NAME, MICROREGION_CODE, MICROREGION_NAME

These variables are based on the UN geographical regions: "macro" meaning continental (e.g. Europe, and "micro" – sub-regions (e.g., Easter Europe and Western Europe, see https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/).