**Codebook for ‘German electoral system dataset’ (GESD) v1.0**

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**Goals and scope**

This codebook accompanies and describes the ‘German electoral system dataset’ (GESD) for the *West European Politics* article ‘Seat enlargements in mixed-member proportional systems: evidence from the German *Länder*’ by Philipp Weinmann and Florian Grotz.

The GESD includes all democratic elections in the sixteen German Länder and (West) Germany from 1947 to 2019 plus – for comparisons and additional analyses – New Zealand (from the first election under an MMP system in 1996 to 2017).

*Attention:* Cases without MMP electoral systems are not fully updated and might therefore contain incorrect or incomplete information.

This codebook lists only the most important variables which are essential for the analysis.

**Sources**

The GESD is based upon the dataset of the following article:

Raabe, Johannes, Roland Krifft, Joshua Vogel and Eric Linhart. 2014. Verdientes Vorbild oder Mythos? Eine vergleichende Analyse der personalisierten Verhältniswahl auf Länderebene. *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* 8(3): 283-305.

which can be found here:

<https://www.tu-chemnitz.de/phil/politik/pspi/forschung/daten.php>

The GESD vastly expands on this dataset and also corrects several errors.

All further sources are given in the dataset Excel file (spreadsheet ‘Sources’).

**Notes**

*Attention:* The comma is used as decimal separator.

Colours:

Green: corrected from original dataset

Yellow: potentially wrong information, messy variables or variables for checks

Orange: special cases (e.g. MMP subtype dependent on parties choosing list type; two-vote-system where the total of both votes is used for proportional allocation; threshold must only be passed in one region, not in all; less than regular parliament size; surplus seat number dependent on calculation; …)

Light blue: New Zealand party variables

Purple: separates variable blocks

**Most important variables**

| **Variable name** | **Variable description** |
| --- | --- |
| *Cases & labels* |  |
| land\_eng | Land name in English |
| land\_ger | Land name in German |
| land\_abr | Land official two-digit abbreviation in German (ISO 3166-2) |
| land\_abr2 | Land abbreviation additionally distinguishing West Berlin and West Germany (else equal to land\_abr) |
| land\_id | Land ID (0: Germany; 1-16: Länder; 99: New Zealand) |
| elec\_year | Election year |
| elec\_date | Election date |
| elec\_no | Election number |
| elec\_dec | Election decade |
| data\_elec\_law | Electoral law available |
| data\_distr\_result | District election results available |
| land\_eng\_at\_large | Combination of Land name (for regionalised and two-level MMP only) and MMP subtype |
| land\_eng\_at\_large2 | Combination of MMP subtype and Land name (for regionalised and two-level MMP only) |
|  |  |
| *Filter variables* |  |
| laender | Länder cases (without (West) Germany & New Zealand) (1: yes; 0: no) |
| laender\_wo\_berlin | Länder cases without (reunited) Berlin (1: yes; 0: no) |
| laender\_wo\_west\_berlin | Länder cases without (reunited) Berlin and West Berlin (1: yes; 0: no) |
| nz\_laender\_wo\_west\_berlin | New Zealand & Länder cases without (reunited) Berlin and West Berlin (1: yes; 0: no) |
| mmp | Mixed-member proportional (MMP) electoral system (1: yes; 0: no) |
| mmp\_laender | Länder MMP cases (1: yes; 0: no) |
| mmp\_laender\_wo\_berlin | Länder MMP cases without (reunited) Berlin (1: yes; 0: no) |
| mmp\_laender\_wo\_west\_berlin | Länder MMP cases without (reunited) Berlin and West Berlin (1: yes; 0: no) |
| mmp\_nz\_laender\_wo\_west\_berlin | New Zealand & Länder MMP cases without (reunited) Berlin and West Berlin (1: yes; 0: no) |
| at\_large\_mmp | At-large MMP system (1: yes; 0: no) (corresponds to all MMP systems without those categorized as regionalised or two-level which are Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, (West) Berlin, (West) Germany)  [Although having three tiers, Rhineland-Palatinate since 1991 is included because the largest parties nominate land lists thus turning it de facto into an at-large MMP system] |
| regionalised\_mmp | Regionalised MMP system (1: yes; 0: no) (corresponds to Baden-Württemberg 1952-1972, Bavaria since 1950, West Germany 1949 & 1953) |
| two\_level\_mmp | Two-level MMP system (1: yes; 0: no) (corresponds to Baden-Württemberg since 1976, (West) Berlin since 1958, (West) Germany since 1957)  [(West) Berlin since 1989 is coded as two-level MMP system although parties may choose either land lists or regional lists, because the largest parties mostly nominated regional lists] |
| tiers | Number of tiers used for candidacy and seat allocation (excluding the tier of the threshold if it would be an additional one) |
| regional\_constituencies | Number of regional constituencies in regionalised and two-level MMP systems |
| votes | Number of votes |
| formula | Electoral formula used for PR seat allocation |
| thresh\_... | Threshold for entry to parliament (in % of valid votes) |
| ss\_possible | Surplus seats possible (1: yes; 0,5: limited; 0: no) |
|  |  |
| *Independent variables* |  |
| ds | SMD (or district) seats according to electoral law |
| ls | List seats according to electoral law (at regular parliament size) |
| dratio | Ratio of SMD seats in regular parliament size (in %) |
| levelling | Levelling mode (1: full levelling of surplus seats; 0,5: partial levelling [mostly: levelling seats must not exceed surplus seats]; 0: no levelling) |
| seats\_... | Seats in parliament (absolute numbers) |
| ds\_... | SMD (or district) seats (absolute numbers) |
| dv\_... | SMD (or district) votes (in %) (equals list votes in single-vote systems) [only for parliamentary parties] |
| lv\_... | List votes (in %) (equals district votes in single-vote systems) [only for parliamentary parties]  [for Bavaria, sum of district and list votes – so called total votes – as those are decisive for proportional allocation] |
| ...\_(party name) | for respective party (party name or abbreviation in German)  [only parliamentary parties are included] |
| ...\_total | Sum or total [for votes, this will equal votes represented in parliament, as only parliamentary parties are included] |
| ...\_ENP | Effective number of parties |
| ...\_asymm | Asymmetry (Percentage point difference maximum to second largest) |
| ...\_max | Maximum (always in %) |
| qlv\_max | Maximum qualified list vote share (in %) |
|  |  |
| *Dependent variables* |  |
| sz\_reg | Regular parliament size |
| sz\_ss | Parliament size including surplus seats |
| sz\_tot | Total parliament size including surplus and levelling seats |
| ss | Surplus seats occurred (1: yes; 0: no) |
| enlarg\_ss | Basic enlargement by surplus seats (in %) |
| enlarg\_total | Total enlargement [by surplus and levelling seats] (in %) |
|  |  |
| *Prediction variables* |  |
| p\_... | Prediction (at-large) |
| ...\_ss | Predicted basic enlargement (in %) [enlargement by surplus seats only] |
| ...\_full | Predicted total enlargement for full levelling (in %) |
| ...\_partial | Predicted total enlargement for partial levelling (in %) |
| ...\_total | Predicted total enlargement for levelling mode in force (in %) (referring to prediction with respective levelling mode) |
| p\_p\_... | Prediction (at-large) differentiated by party |
| p\_ss\_nomax | Predicted basic enlargement (in %), but erroneously calculated without maximum |
| p\_r\_... | Prediction based on weighted mean of regionally predicted basic enlargement for regionalised and two-level MMP cases only |
| p\_ra\_... | Prediction based on weighted mean of regionally predicted basic enlargement for regionalised and two-level MMP cases and at-large prediction (p\_) for at-large MMP cases |
| p\_rp\_... | Prediction, weighted mean of regional predictions differentiated by party for regionalised and two-level MMP cases only |
| p\_rpa\_... | Prediction, weighted mean of regional predictions differentiated by party for regionalised and two-level MMP cases and normal prediction (p\_) for at-large MMP cases |