I programmed a tool to download and analyse election results from the webpage of the Canton of Berne (<https://www.sta.be.ch/sta/de/index/wahlen-abstimmungen/wahlen-abstimmungen.html>). The tool is based on the BI software “QlikView”. So far, it can handle the results of the 2018 election of the Grand Council.

Challenge: The tool should be upgraded, so that it can be used to make forecasts of an election results during the election day. The upgraded tool shall be applied on the 20th of October 2019 (national election day).

Further technical information:

* At 12 o’clock on the election day, all votes have been casted and the municipalities start counting each party’s and each candidate’s votes. After a municipality has finished counting, its results are published on the Canton’s webpage.
* Using the published results, a forecast can be calculated. In order to get a good forecast, it isn’t enough to aggregate each party’s and each candidate’s results in those municipalities that have already finished counting. This is the case because, normally, small and rural municipalities are the first to have finished counting. However, these municipalities are not representative of the whole Canton in terms of electoral behaviour. Therefore, the forecast algorithm needs to make use of former election results. Actually, the forecast challenge consists essentially in making a forecast for those municipalities that have not yet finished counting, combining a) all municipalities’ former election results and b) the former and the (already available) new election results of the municipalities that have finished counting. Data source a) allows to compare a municipality’s electoral behaviour with the cantonal average. Data source b) allows to calculate how the electoral behaviour has changed since the former election.
* The State Archive of Berne has announced that they are going to upgrade their election publication software soon. Therefore, it is not yet known in which format the results will published on the 20th of October.