

Additional reflection memo

The target news outlet of this story would be a mainstream online news outlet that regularly produces explainer formats like Vox.com, or in the Spanish media context, Newtral.

I would have interviewed the authors of the Delas database to get more information about their methodology, since I faced several technical issues with their dataset. Even though they state their dataset includes financial institutions from 55 different countries, pandas describe function only identified 41 unique values in the country field. In general, I encountered a lot of confusion regarding the country variable. Initially I wanted to compare what European banks invest vs. what banks from the rest invest, but I faced the uncertainty that some of the top banks retrieved as from the EU are in fact registered at the US, so I opted not to center my article that much around this variable. Another technical error I found in the dataset was regarding the financial tools classification. While on the website you can also see the financial tool category "Pension funds", I could not find it in the downloaded sheet, so I could not include the 'financial tool' layer of analysis in my article.

Moreover, I would have interviewed a SIPRI expert that would help me interpret the international trade with a deeper geopolitical and economic angle.

During the visualisation process, I faced some technical limitations when using `pygal_maps_world`. I tried first having both top20 importing and exporting countries mapped together but I could not fix a display error that occurred with countries present in both top 20s, so I had to produce two separate ones.

Finally, if I had had more time and coding knowledge, I would have liked to explore and visualize the arms flows drawing lines on the maps.

