Austrian Parliament Analyzer

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October 7, 2015

Abstract

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Chapter 1

Introduction

One of the most crucial requirements of a democracy is transparency. There are several ways how one can gain information about the current and past political activities in Austria. One of them are the publicly available protocols of the national council sessions. In these protocols every word said in a session is written down and that makes up the corresponding protocol. Unfortunately, these protocols are very long and it is hard to gain meaning out of it.

To be able to analyze and visualize the activities and relations of the politicians and political parties in a better way, during this thesis the protocols are being extracted, analyzed and visualized.

1.1   Research Goals

The protocols are currently available in semi-structured form - through HTML-files. To be able to properly persist and analyze the data the protocols should be transformed into a fully structured form (e.g. Java Objects). The following data will be extracted:

- Legislative periods and its sessions

- Politicians and their mandates

- Parliament clubs

- Discussions and speeches during the sessions

As soon as this is done, the extracted data should be persisted into a arbitrary relational database. Furthermore, some general and network analysis should be done on the data. The following list includes some of the analysis.

- Find groups of politicians (or parliament clubs) with the same attitudes.

- Analyze how homogeneous the attitudes of politicians of the same parliament club are.

- Find the politicians which take part in the most discussions.

- Find the most absent national council members.

In the final step the results of the analysis should be visualized via a web application. The focus hereby lies in making the results as easy to understand as possible.

1.2 Political System in Austria

Description of the political System.

Chapter 2

Related Work

Related Work.

Chapter 3

Design and Implementation

Overview... Architecture... General Components

3.1 Data Extraction and Transforming

3.2 Export into Database

3.3 Analysis

3.4 Visualization

Chapter 4

Results

Results

4.1 Relations of Parliament Clubs

Graph + Explanations

4.2 Relations of Politicians

Graph + Explanations

Chapter 5

Conclusion

Conclusion

Bibliography