

ManifestoVault V1.0: Annotated full-text general election manifestos at the natural-sentence level of three European countries 1970-2024

Updated release of annotated full-text of national-level general election manifestos at a natural-sentence level of 37 political parties from Ireland and the UK covering the 2024 elections as well as several newly cleaned manifestos from previous elections (see full details below). This repository aims to provide clean and accurate (as much as possible) full-text versions of election manifestos to facilitate all scholarly research for which parties' election manifestos are relevant.

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Citations:

Significant time and effort went into cleaning and verifying the contents of the included election manifestos. As such, we would ask that those using these materials in part or in full please cite the resources as:

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Description:

This updated release of ManifestoVault1.0 contains the annotated full-text general election manifestos of 37 political parties from Germany, Ireland, and the UK, covering national-level general elections between 1970 and 2024. The repository provides the complete and cleaned text of the manifestos split into natural sentences and include metadata annotation on country, country name, sentence id, date (year and month), party code, party name (using the MARPOR codes for country and party), and text id.

The raw manifestos were obtained, depending on availability, from the MARPOR repository (Lehmann, Franzmann, Burst, Lewandowski, et al. 2023; Pappi, Seher, and Kurella 2011; Pappi and Seher 2009; Pennings and Keman 2006), the Political Documents Archive (Benoit, Bräuninger, and Debus 2009), the Irish Election Manifesto Archive (Pidgeon 2022), and the Irish General, Local, and European Parliament Election Manifestos Repository (Müller et al. 2024).

Where both text versions (either .txt or .csv files) and scanned versions (PDFs) of the original manifestos were available, we manually checked both the content and punctuation match between

them to ensure the content was as complete and clean as possible. We then split the texts into natural sentences, excluding the front and end matter of manifestos (title page, list of contents, welcome/introductory remarks by party leader, appendix).

Where only text versions (either .txt or .csv files) of the manifestos were available (where we could not obtain scanned versions [PDFs] of the original manifestos), we manually cleaned the texts to ensure correct punctuation (as best as was possible) and split the texts into natural sentences excluding the front and end matter of manifestos (title page, list of contents, welcome/introductory remarks by party leader, appendix).

Where only scanned versions (PDFs) of the original manifestos were available, we processed the documents using OCR and manually checked the resulting text files (.txt) for match accuracy (both content and punctuation). We then split the texts into natural sentences, excluding the front and end matter of manifestos (title page, list of contents, welcome/introductory remarks by party leader, appendix).

In addition to the text content of manifestos, we added the following metadata to each country file: County and Country Name, Sentence ID, Date, Party and Party Name, and Text ID (County and Party codes follow the MARPOR coding scheme: Lehmann, Franzmann, Burst, Regel, et al. 2023).

Table 1: Overview of available materials

Country	File Name	Elections	Parties	Units of text (Natural Sentences)
Germany (41)	Germany_Corpus	14 in total (1972-2021)	7 in total: Alternative for Germany (AfD); Democratic Christian Union / Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU); Free Democratic Party (FDP); Greens; Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS); Social Democratic Party of Germany (SDP); The Left (Die Linke)	109,971
Ireland (53)	Ireland_Corpus	14 in total (1970-2020)	15 in total: Alliance of Socialist Party; People Before Profit; Workers and Unemployed Action Group; Anti-Austerity Alliance; Democratic Left Party; Fianna Fáil; Fine Gael; Greens; Independence Alliance; Labour; People Before Profit; Progressive Democrats; Sinn Féin; Social Democrats; Socialist Party; Workers and Unemployed Action; Workers' Party	66,913

Ireland (53)	Ireland_Corpus_2.0	2 in total (2020, ¹ 2024)	9 in total: Aontú; Fianna Fáil; Fine Gael; Greens; Independent Ireland; Labour; People Before Profit; Sinn Féin; Social Democrats.	18,286
UK (51)	UK_Corpus	15 in total (1970-2019)	14 in total: Alliance Party of Northern Ireland; Green Party of England and Wales; Liberal Party; SDLP; United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP); Conservative Party; Labour Party; Plaid Cymru; Sinn Féin; Democratic Unionist Party (DUP); Liberal Democrats; Scottish National Party (SNP); Ulster Unionist Party (UUP).	73,902
UK (51)	UK_Corpus_2.0	2 in total (2005, ² 2024)	11 in total: Alliance Party of Northern Ireland; Conservative Party; ³ Democratic Unionist Party (DUP); Green Party of England and Wales; Labour Party; ⁴ Liberal Democrats (LibDems); ⁵ Plaid Cymru; Reform UK; Scottish National Party; SDLP; Sinn Féin.	14,242

¹ For 2020, the manifesto of Aontú has been added.

² For 2005, the manifesto of Plaid Cymru has been added

³ For the 2024 general election, a manifesto is available also for the Scottish and Welsh chapters of the Conservative Party

⁴ For the 2024 general election, a manifesto is available also for the Scottish and Welsh chapters of the Labour Party

⁵ For the 2024 general election, a manifesto is available also for the Scottish and Welsh chapters of Liberal Democrats.

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