Proposal for the individual project – Stavros Malichoudis

1. What is the subject of the project?

After a defeat with significant difference (aprox. 10%) for his party in the EU-elections and the local and regional elections on May 27th, Greek prime minister Alexis Tsipras announced that the national elections, that were due to take place in September, would take place on July 7th.

This project focuses on how Greek political leaders (maybe the 2 main rivals, representing the biggest parties?) shaped their way in the time between the announcement of the elections and the day that they will take place.

1. What is your main research question?

On the one side, I would like to examine which parts of Greece the main political leaders visited in the time mentioned, to give speeches, participate in events of their local organizations, etc. Which parts of the country did the visit? Where did they start their tour from and where will they focus in the last, crucial week for example? Are there areas of the country that they visited at the same time? Are there ares of the country that they did not visit, and if so which, and why?

On a second level, I would like to dig into their speeches during the mentioned events. Which topics come again and again into the political discourse and how do they reproduce them? Are there similarities in their speeches, for example in the topics mentioned (e.g. immigration), are there common expressions?

1. What is your data sources?

Up to now the majority of the sources I have came across comes from the websites of the political parties themselves. There, through the Press Releases I can (quite manually) get access to which places they visited and when and create databases on them. With regard to their speeches, most of them are published on the websites as well, but in some cases I noticed that only longer or shorter parts were published and not the full texts.

The website of SYRIZA, the country’s leading left-side party, that is currently at the government is this one: <https://www.syriza.gr>

And here is an example of the speech he gave just today at a small city in the north of Greece. They have uploaded the full text: <https://www.syriza.gr/article/id/81756/Al.-Tsipras:-Theloyme-mia-Ellada-ths-anaptykshs-gia-oloys.html>

Nea Dimokratia’s party, which is the main right-side party and the most likely next government of the country, has this website: <https://nd.gr>

Here is an example of a full speech of him published in the website: <https://nd.gr/paroysiasi-toy-kyvernitikoy-programmatos-tis-neas-dimokratias-apo-ton-proedro-toy-kommatos-k-kyriako>

So, I think that for gathering the data I would have to manually track their trips, through the Parties’ websites and additional news sources that follow them closely and create the databases, and for the speeches I could also get them from the websites as well.

1. How will you transform the data into your own data set?

I think that would happen mostly by scraping.

1. How can this data set be geocoded?

I honestly have no idea about that. But I could definitely use some guidance!

1. On the map, what level of study would be displayed: Country, State, City, neighborhood?

I think it would be useful to use a City parameter, since for example one politican might travel to a wider region, but visit and/or give speeches to two different cities of it. So I believe the City parameter would be the most useful.

1. What information would be displayed when you click on/rollover a country?

I have two thoughts on that. Maybe it would be interesting to present the date in which the politician visited the area, but what could be more interesting is if the information displayed was for example a quote of 1-2-3 lines of the words of a politician during the speech he gave there? Something that he referred to, a topic of importance that he mentioned, or something new to the program that he announced just there (as they visit the cities they tend to make new promises and announce new parts for their program, if they get elected).

Start by everything, filter with name, take the links

Scrap

Get the links

Take the name

Date

person

Exact location

Who did they talk to? What kind of speech

speech