# "Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments" (PPEG)

# Codebook: Governments

Version 2022v1

# Contents

# General Remarks

The database *Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments (PPEG)* combines data on election results and governments in 72 democracies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe. The current version covers the period between 1942 and 2021 and contains information on 3030 political parties, 1011 parliamentary elections, 338 presidential elections, and 1881 governments.

The data is separated in four different files:

- data on parliamentary elections to the national lower chambers

- data on presidential elections

- data on national governments

- combined data on national governments and corresponding parliamentary elections

You can download each of these datasets on https://www.ppeg.wzb.eu.

The Government Data includes information on prime ministers, cabinets, cabinet parties, and their seat shares in the national lower house. In addition, the data documents the distribution of ministerial posts across cabinet parties, the type of government, and reasons for termination for the single cabinets.

In case of questions or comments, please contact ppeg@wzb.eu.

# Coverage

| Country | Time | Political Parties | Cabinets | Unique Observations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albania | 1991-2021 | 13 | 19 | 76 |
| Armenia | 1995-2021 | 10 | 20 | 66 |
| Australia | 1945-2019 | 6 | 40 | 76 |
| Austria | 1945-2021 | 6 | 36 | 81 |
| Azerbaijan | 1995-2020 | 1 | 14 | 21 |
| Barbados | 1986-2018 | 2 | 11 | 11 |
| Belgium | 1946-2020 | 18 | 49 | 182 |
| Bolivia | 1989-2020 | 11 | 15 | 48 |
| Brazil | 1990-2019 | 24 | 18 | 150 |
| Bulgaria | 1990-2021 | 20 | 21 | 53 |
| Canada | 1945-2021 | 3 | 30 | 30 |
| Chile | 1990-2018 | 13 | 9 | 48 |
| Colombia | 1990-2018 | 9 | 10 | 31 |
| Costa Rica | 1990-2020 | 4 | 9 | 16 |
| Croatia | 1990-2020 | 19 | 16 | 65 |
| Cyprus | 1976-2021 | 7 | 25 | 67 |
| Czech Republic | 1990-2021 | 17 | 22 | 69 |

| Country | Time | Political Parties | Cabinets | Unique Observations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark | 1945-2019 | 12 | 40 | 105 |
| Dominican Republic | 1990-2020 | 7 | 10 | 13 |
| El Salvador | 1989-2021 | 9 | 17 | 25 |
| Estonia | 1992-2021 | 10 | 18 | 43 |
| Finland | 1945-2019 | 13 | 58 | 244 |
| France | 1945-2020 | 26 | 72 | 284 |
| Georgia | 1992-2021 | 8 | 23 | 32 |
| Germany | 1949-2021 | 6 | 32 | 67 |
| Greece | 1974-2019 | 8 | 25 | 47 |
| Guatemala | 1986-2020 | 11 | 12 | 20 |
| Honduras | 1982-2022 | 6 | 12 | 15 |
| Hungary | 1990-2018 | 7 | 12 | 33 |
| Iceland | 1944-2021 | 10 | 35 | 83 |
| India | 1952-2019 | 23 | 34 | 92 |
| Ireland | 1944-2020 | 8 | 30 | 55 |
| Israel | 1949-2021 | 63 | 74 | 413 |
| Italy | 1946-2021 | 38 | 72 | 282 |
| Jamaica | 1989-2020 | 2 | 11 | 11 |
| Japan | 1946-2021 | 19 | 62 | 127 |
| Latvia | 1993-2021 | 25 | 26 | 111 |
| Lithuania | 1992-2020 | 19 | 20 | 68 |
| Luxembourg | 1945-2018 | 5 | 22 | 48 |
| Malta | 1947-2020 | 3 | 21 | 23 |
| Mauritius | 1987-2019 | 9 | 17 | 54 |
| Mexico | 1946-2021 | 5 | 26 | 34 |
| Moldova | 1994-2021 | 14 | 26 | 60 |
| Montenegro | 2006-2020 | 9 | 7 | 25 |
| Netherlands | 1946-2022 | 12 | 34 | 110 |
| New Zealand | 1943-2020 | 9 | 35 | 53 |
| Nicaragua | 1990-2022 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| North Macedonia | 1994-2022 | 22 | 15 | 81 |
| Norway | 1945-2021 | 7 | 36 | 73 |
| Panama | 1994-2019 | 8 | 6 | 16 |
| Paraguay | 1989-2018 | 4 | 9 | 12 |
| Peru | 1980-2022 | 23 | 50 | 101 |
| Poland | 1991-2021 | 25 | 27 | 108 |
| Portugal | 1976-2019 | 7 | 26 | 61 |
| Romania | 1990-2021 | 21 | 34 | 119 |
| Russia | 1994-2021 | 9 | 19 | 49 |
| Serbia | 1991-2020 | 24 | 15 | 72 |
| Slovakia | 1990-2021 | 23 | 20 | 74 |
| Slovenia | 1990-2021 | 21 | 20 | 88 |
| South Africa | 1994-2019 | 8 | 10 | 24 |
| South Korea | 1988-2021 | 7 | 33 | 44 |

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| Country | Time | Political Parties | Cabinets | Unique Observations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 1977-2020 | 10 | 17 | 31 |
| Sweden | 1945-2021 | 7 | 34 | 71 |
| Switzerland | 1944-2021 | 7 | 78 | 311 |
| The Bahamas | 1987-2021 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 1986-2020 | 4 | 10 | 11 |
| Turkey | 1950-2018 | 17 | 44 | 93 |
| Ukraine | 1994-2021 | 23 | 27 | 72 |
| United Kingdom | 1945-2019 | 4 | 29 | 32 |
| Uruguay | 1990-2020 | 6 | 7 | 15 |
| USA | 1949-2021 | 2 | 39 | 42 |
| Venezuela | 1989-2019 | 6 | 14 | 17 |

## Sources

Government data and cabinet compositions were collected from Keesing's Record of World Events, Blondel and Müller-Rommel (2001) and Woldendorp, Keman and Budge (2000).

After 2017, different additional sources were considered. These include government homepages, the European Journal of Political Research (Political Data Yearbook), and Wikipedia.

## Notes on included governments

A government is defined as any administration that is formed after an election and continues in the absence of:

- a change of Prime Minister; or

- a change in the party composition of the cabinet; or

- resignation in an inter-election period followed by re-formation of the government with the same Prime Minister and party composition; or

- an election to the national lower chamber on a different date than the presidential election in presidential systems.

This definition is based on Woldendorp, Keman and Budge (2000, 10).

## Notes on vote and seat shares

If necessary, single government parties were aggregated as electoral alliances in order to facilitate an optimal match with the corresponding parliamentary election results. Due to

this, an electoral alliance can be a government party and a supporting party at the same time.

See the Codebook "Parliamentary Data" for detailed information on the collection and calculation of political parties' vote and seat shares in the corresponding lower house elections.

## Notes on presidential systems

In presidential systems (e.g. Mexico, Peru, or South Korea) and semi-presidential systems with strong presidents (e.g., Russia or Georgia), the data does not document the total number of ministers, the distribution of ministerial posts, the number of government parties, or the government seat share in the national parliament. Here, the type of government is automatically set to "Presidential Cabinet" (see variable *tog*). Exceptions are Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and the United States. For these countries, all variables are given.

## Notes on expert and caretaker governments

In the case of expert and caretaker governments (see variable *tog*), the data does not document the distribution of ministerial posts or the government seat share in the national parliament.

# Variable Information

**iso3c**

*ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 codes*

Three-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.

**iso2c**

*ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code*

Two-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.

**cname__en**

*Country name (English)*

**edate**

*Date of national lower house election*

If the election lasted for several days, the last date was coded. By-elections for single seats or districts are unconsidered.

**idate**

*Date of inauguration of the Prime Minister/head of state*

The inauguration was coded as the date ...

- the Prime Minister and the Government Programme was confirmed in a formal vote of confidence; or
- on which the Prime Minister was sworn in by the King/Queen; or
- on which the Prime Minister was appointed by the President of the Republic; or
- on which the Ministers were sworn in.

If the swearing-in of the Prime Minister and the approval of the Government Programme took place on two different days, the swearing-in was considered to be the date of inauguration. If only the approval date of the Government Programme is known, this date was taken as the date of inauguration.

**pm**

*Name of Prime Minister (Surname, First Name)*

**tog**

*Type of government*

Coding:
    SPMa: Single Party Majority
    MWC: Minimum Winning Coalition
    OC: Oversized Coalition
    SPMi: Single Party Minority
    MPMi: Multi Party Minority
    EC: Expert or Caretaker Government
    Pres: Presidential Cabinet
    Other: Other


**rft**

*Reason for termination of government*

Coding:
    ElecParl: Election of parliament
    ResPM: Resignation of PM
    ResPMHealth: Resignation of PM due to ill health/death
    Diss: Dissension
    LoPS: Lack of parliamentary support
    IoHS: Intervention of head of state
    ElecPres: Election of president
    Other: Other
    Notappl: Not applicable

The code *Notappl* was used for governments that were still in office at the time of the data release.


**party_id**

*Alphanumeric party code*

Code consists of the iso2c country code and the database-specific party code (see coding below). E.g., the code FR9 denotes the French Communist Party (PCF).

Coding:
    1-599: Political parties
    600-799: Electoral pacts and electoral pacts that transformed
            into political parties
    800-879: Regional/Local electoral pacts
    880-989: Other parties that are part of an electoral pact
    993: Special coding, e.g. "Initiative Committee"
    994: Spoilt votes
    995: Against all candidates
    996: Minorities
    997: Others/Independent candidates
    998: Independent/Non-partisan candidates
    998.5: Independent candidates in the cabinet
    999: Other parties
    999.5: Members of "other parties" in the cabinet

**cmp** | *Manifesto Project party code*

See https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu.

Use the variables *cname_en*, *edate*, and *cmp* to join this data with the Manifesto Project data.

**cmp_parfam** | *Manifesto Project party family coding*

See *https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu.*

Coding:
    10: Ecological party
    20: Socialist party
    30: Social democratic party
    40: Liberal party
    50: Christian democratic party
    60: Conservative party
    70: Nationalist party
    80: Agrarian party
    90: Ethnic and regional party
    95: Special issue party
    98: Electoral Alliances without a dominant party
    999/NA: Missing information.

**pinitials** | *Party name abbreviation*

**pname_en** | *English translation of party name*

**pname_or** | *Original party name*

**pm_party** | *Party of Prime Minister*

Binary variable indicating whether the respective party is the party of the head of state.

**gov_party** | *Government party*

Binary variable indicating whether the respective party is a government party.

**support_party** | *Supporting party*

Binary variable indicating whether the respective party is a supporting party that has not officialy signed a coalition agreement.

The coding of supporting parties is based on formal support agreements if mentioned in the sources. This information is probably incomplete in some countries.


**nmin** | *Total of number of ministers per government*

A minister is defined here as a person who acts as the head of a ministry. In principle, all cases are coded as ministerial posts that refer in some way to the fact that the person heads a ministry. If formulations such as "to act as minister of..." were used in the sources, it was also assumed that this is a ministerial function in the sense of the definition.

Our priority lies with identifying the number of ministerial posts for governments immediately after elections to the national lower chambers took place. The data quality of all other cabinets varies across countries and needs to be inspected individually by the user.


**nminpp** | *Number of ministers per party*

This variable is always set to missing for Expert or Caretaker Governments ($tog =$ EC) and Presidential Cabinets ($tog =$ Pres).

Our priority lies with identifying the distribution of ministerial posts for governments immediately after elections to the national lower chambers took place. The data quality of all other cabinets varies across countries and needs to be inspected individually by the user.

If, in the case of single-party governments ($tog =$ SPMa or $tog =$ SPMi), the total number of ministers was documented in the source but the exact party affiliation of the ministers was missing, all posts were assigned to the party of the prime minister.

**v_share_wgt**  |  *Weighted share of votes gained by each party in the national lower chamber*

Weighted share of votes gained by each party calculated as follows:

$$\text{v\_share} * \text{prop} + \text{v\_share\_2ndtier} * \text{maj},$$

where *v_share* is the vote share gained by proportional vote and *v_share_2ndtier* is the vote share gained by majority vote. *prop* and *maj* denote the corresponding weights defined as the sizes of the corresponding tiers in relation to the absolute number of seats in the national lower house.

$$\text{prop} = \text{seats/total\_seats}$$

$$\text{maj} = \text{seats\_2ndtier/total\_seats}$$

Always set to missing for independent ministers and those who are members of "other parties" (*party_id*: 998.5 and 999.5).

See the Codebook "Parliamentary Data" for detailed information on the collection and calculation of political parties' vote and seat shares in the corresponding lower house elections.

**estimate**  |  *Estimated election results*

Binary variable indicating whether the number of votes gained by the respective party and the corresponding vote share has been estimated based on the votes gained by an electoral alliance.

Calculated if political parties have been part of an electoral alliance and the seat share of the single parties were known, but not their vote shares. In this case, the vote shares were estimated as follows:

$$(\text{seat\_p/seat\_a}) * \text{vote\_a},$$

where seat_p denotes the seats won by the party in question, seat_a the seats won by the corresponding electoral alliance, and vote_a the votes won by the electoral alliance.

In some cases, two or more political parties presented joint lists in single districts (e.g., Belgium 1946-58 or Norway 1949-1981). Here, the votes of the joint lists were distributed to the individual parties according to their total vote share in the respective election.

**s__share**                    *Share of seats gained by each party in the national lower chamber*

Variable includes seats won in all tiers in the case of segmented electoral systems. Always set to missing for independent ministers and those who are members of "other parties" (*party_id*: 998.5 and 999.5).


**share__remark**               *Remark on missing vote and seat shares*

Gives a brief explanation for missing vote and seat shares of governing parties. Reasons include memberships in electoral alliances, combined lists, the founding of new parties or insufficient information in the sources.


**gov__seat**                   *Total seat share of government parties*

This variable is always set to missing for Expert or Caretaker Governments (*tog* = EC) and Presidential Cabinets (*tog* = Pres).


**gov__seat__remark**           *Remark on gov_seat*

In some cases, *gov_seat* does not equal the sum of the seat shares of the single governing parties. For example, the variable was adjusted in the event of splits or mergers of existing government parties and resulting changes in the distribution of seats. In addition, in a few cases *gov_seat* contradicts the documented *type of government* (tog) because our sources do not provide sufficient information on the composition of the government.

The variable *gov_seat_remark* comments such special cases and the corresponding adjustments.


**ngovparties**                 *Number of government parties*

This variable is always set to missing for Expert or Caretaker Governments (*tog* = EC) and Presidential Cabinets (*tog* = Pres).


**region**                      *Region of country*

Regions as defined in the World Bank Development Indicators.

| | |
|---|---|
| **continent** | *Continent of country* |
| | Continents as defined in the World Bank Development Indicators |
| **eu_member** | *Membership European Union* |
| **eu_east** | *East European member of the European Union* |
| **eu_since** | *Year of entry in European Union* |
| **eu_exit** | *Year of withdrawal from the European Union* |
| **oecd** | *Membership OECD* |
| **oecd23** | *Membership OECD-23* |
| **oecd_since** | *Year of entry in OECD* |

# References

Blondel, Jean and Ferdinand Müller-Rommel. 2001. *Cabinets in Eastern Europe*. New York: Palgrave.

Woldendorp, Jaap, Hans Keman and Ian Budge. 2000. *Party Government in 48 Democracies (1945-1998). Composition, Duration, Personnel*. Dordrecht/Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers.