

A Costly Commitment: Populism, Economic Performance, and the Quality of Bureaucracy

Codebook

Luca Bellodi

luca.bellodi@unibocconi.it

Massimo Morelli

massimo.morelli@unibocconi.it

Matia Vannoni

matia.vannoni@kcl.ac.uk

This file describes the variables in the analysis dataset (*dataset.Rds*). The datasets stored in the file *dataset_right_wing_parties_removed_sequentially.Rdata* contain a subset of the following variables.

Variable name	Description	Value
ISTAT_CODICE_COMUNE	Unique municipality identifier	
year	Calendar year	Numeric
year_election	Election year	Numeric NA = missing
margin	Running variable, margin of victory of populist candidate	Continuous NA = no populist candidate in that election
lag_margin	Margin of victory in previous election (t-5)	Continuous NA = no populist candidate in previous election
future_margin	Margin of victory in next election (t+5)	Continuous NA = no populist candidate in next election
Outcome Variables		
debt_accumulation	Debt accumulation	Continuous NA = missing
debt_repayment	Debt repayment	Continuous NA = missing
cost_overrun_dummy	Share of procurement contracts with cost overruns	Continuous NA = missing
cost_overrun_dummy_5pp	Share of procurement contracts with cost overruns greater than 5%	Continuous NA = missing
cost_overrun_dummy_10pp	Share of procurement contracts with cost overruns greater than 10%	Continuous NA = missing
bur_turnover	Turnover of public managers	Continuous NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise municipality-year without public managers
bur_degree	Share of public managers with postgraduate university degree	1 yes 0 no NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise municipality-year without public managers

Variables on Municipal Employees		
total_employees	Total number of public employees	Continuous NA = missing
total_managers	Total number of public managers	Continuous NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise municipality-year without public managers
total_departures	Total number of public managers leaving the administration	Continuous NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise municipality-year without public managers
total_hirings	Total number of public managers joining the administration	Continuous NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise municipality-year without public managers
voluntary_departures	Number of public managers' departures, category: voluntary departures	Continuous NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise municipality-year without public managers
forced_departures	Number of public managers' departures, category: forced departures	Continuous NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise municipality-year without public managers
other_reasons	Number of public managers' departures, category: other reasons	Continuous NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise municipality-year without public managers
turn_hired	First component of managers' turnover: Number of hirings over total number of managers	Continuous NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise municipality-year without public managers
turn_fired	Second component of managers' turnover: Number of departures over total number of managers	Continuous NA = when total_employees missing, missing, otherwise

		municipality-year without public managers
total_rank_file	Total number of rank-and-file employees (total employees – total public managers)	Continuous NA = missing
turnover_rank_file	Turnover among rank-and-file employees	Continuous NA = missing
rank_file_degree	Share of rank-and-file employees with a university degree	Continuous NA = missing
cod_fisc	Unique municipal fiscal code in employees original data	NA = missing
Other Socio-Demographic and Political Variables		
population_istat	Resident population	Continuous NA = missing
ISTAT_surface_sq_km	Surface in sq.km of municipality	Continuous NA = missing
idro_risk_surface	Surface at hydrogeological risk	Continuous NA = missing
north_region	Municipality is in Northern region	1 yes 0 no
south_region	Municipality is in Southern region	1 yes 0 no
year_term	Government term year	Categorical 1 = 1st year 2 = 2nd year 3 = 3rd year 4 = 4th year 5 = 5th year
councillors	Number of local councillors	Continuous NA = missing
share_f_council	Share of female councillors	Continuous NA = missing
share_f_exec	Share of female members of the executive committee	Continuous NA = missing
parties_council	Number of political parties represented in the council	Continuous NA = missing
degree_mayor	Mayor has a university degree	1 yes 0 no NA = missing
female_mayor	Mayor is female	1 yes 0 no NA = missing

white_collar_dummy	Mayor has white-collar job	1 yes 0 no NA = missing
mayor_secondary_education	Mayor has secondary education (up to high school)	1 yes 0 no NA = missing
age_mayor	Age of mayor	Continuous NA = missing
winning_candidate_was_incumbent	The winning candidate is incumbent	1 yes 0 no NA = missing
winning_party_was_incumbent_all_parties	All parties supporting winning candidates were supporting incumbent	1 yes 0 no NA = missing
winning_party_was_incumbent_at_least_one	At least one party supporting winning candidates was supporting incumbent	1 yes 0 no NA = missing
Variables on Populist Candidate		
FI_candidate	Populist mayoral candidate was supported by Forza Italia	1 yes 0 no NA = no populist candidate in that election
LIGA_VENETA_candidate,	Populist mayoral candidate was supported by Liga Veneta	1 yes 0 no NA = no populist candidate in that election
FDI_candidate,	Populist mayoral candidate was supported by Fratelli d'Italia	1 yes 0 no NA = no populist candidate in that election
PDL_candidate	Populist mayoral candidate was supported by Popolo della Libertà	1 yes 0 no NA = no populist candidate in that election
LEGA_candidate	Populist mayoral candidate was supported by Lege (Nord)	1 yes 0 no NA = no populist candidate in that election
M5S_candidate	Populist mayoral candidate was supported by Movimento 5 Stelle	1 yes 0 no NA = no populist candidate in that election
LEGA_MERIDIONALE_candidate	Populist mayoral candidate was supported by Lega d'Azione Meridionale	1 yes 0 no NA = no populist candidate in that election

n_supporting_populist_parties_populist_candidate	Number of populist parties supporting the mayoral candidate	Continuous NA = no populist candidate in that election
--	---	---