

# SENTIMENT ANALYSIS OF AUSTRIAN POLITICAL PARTIES - GROUP 6

**Research Question:** Do Austrian political parties exhibit significant differences in the sentiment of their press releases before and after transitioning from opposition to government?

## MOTIVATION

It is often stated that political parties in the opposition mainly criticize the government.

We were curious about this hypothesis and wanted to examine whether the change of Austrian political parties from opposition to government is actually resulting in a change of sentiment in the press statements published by these parties.

## DATA & METHODOLOGY

**Sample (2006-2021):** Press releases from the political parties *Grüne*, *FPÖ* and *SPÖ*, 12 months before and after swearing-in

**Data:** We built a webscraper to download press releases by political parties published on APA-OTS

**Sentiment Analysis:** German Sentiment Bert for every press release, Sentiment Score between 1 (negative) and 3 (positive)

**Statistics:** T-tests with the mean values of the Sentiment Score

## RESULTS

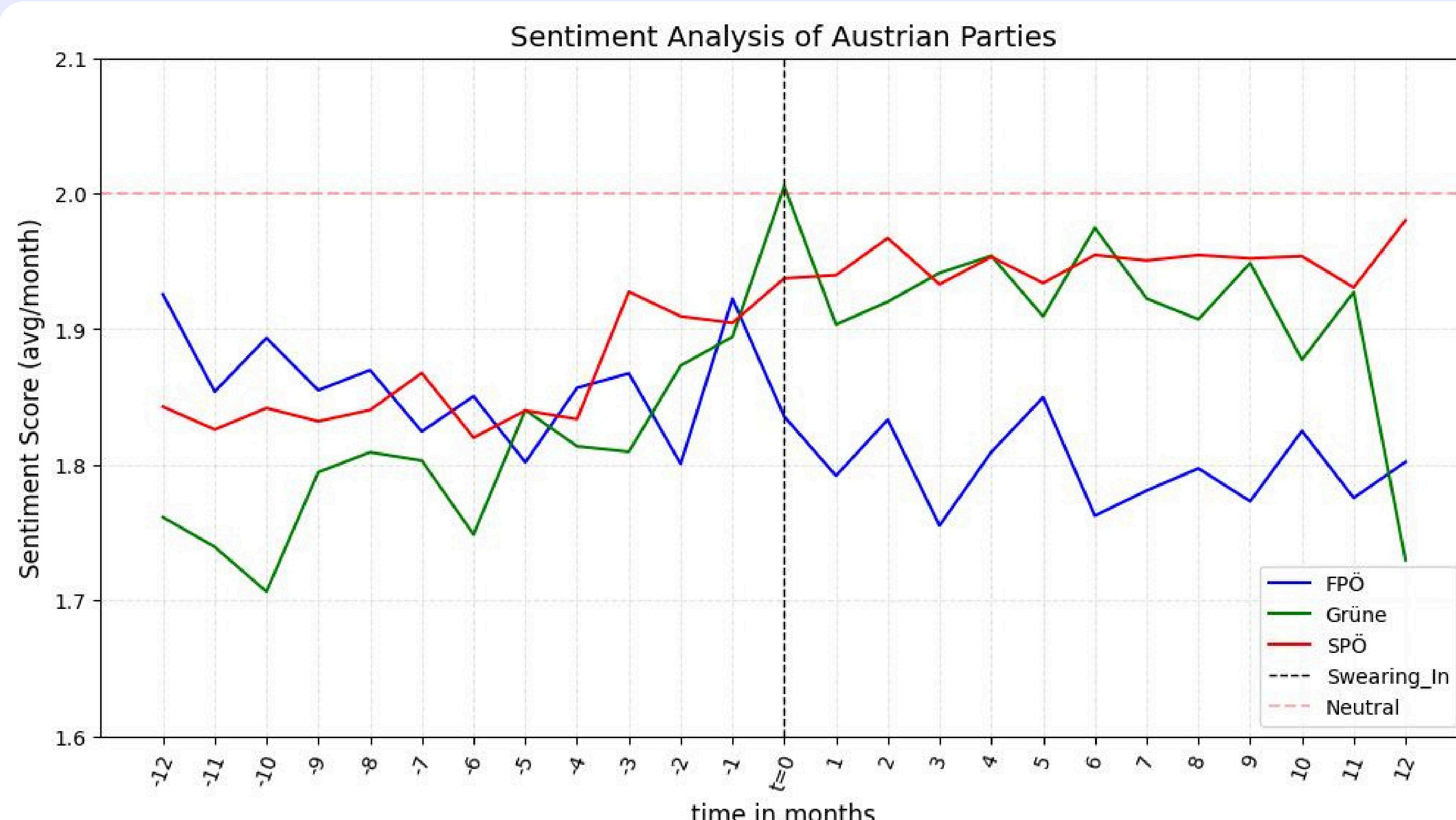


Figure 1, Monthly average of sentiment score 12 months before and after swearing-in

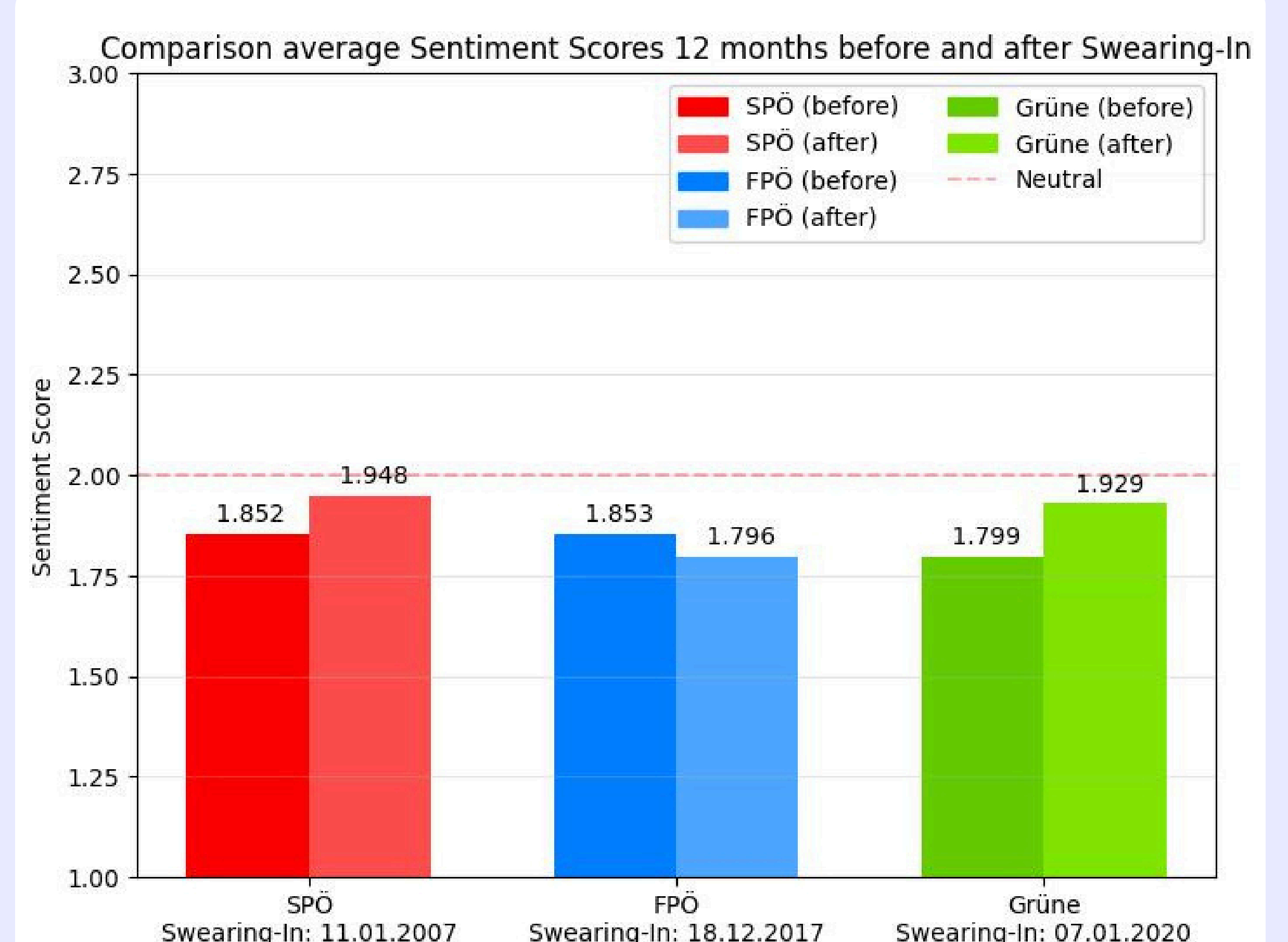


Figure 2, Comparison of average sentiment scores

## STATISTICS

	sample size	% change	Stddev. before/after	t-Value	p-Value
FPÖ	1922	-3,08%	0.289 / 0.341	3.926	<.001
SPÖ	9143	5,18%	0.294 / 0.167	-19.413	<.001
Grüne	1326	7,24%	0.336 / 0.209	-7.043	<.001

## REFERENCES



### Course

Foundations of Computational Social Systems, 13.01.2025

### Authors

Fabian Müller  
Clemens Schweizer  
Thomas Walchhofer  
Quirin Weigert



## CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

### Results

- Significant differences in sentiment  
-> Grüne and SPÖ more positive  
-> FPÖ more negative
- Sentiment in general more negative than positive before/after swearing-in

### Limitations

- Data (only official press releases)
- External Factors (COVID, Election Campaigns)
- Time-Factor (change of communication)

### Future Research

- Comparison with other parties staying in governmental responsibility/opposition
- Extending the data pool by adding statements of individual party members and other news-outlets
- Considering external factors in the analysis