Constituency characteristics

1. MEPs from more technologically savvy districts/member-states will be more likely to use twitter

=WEF global IT scores at <http://www.weforum.org/issues/global-information-technology>

=Or, alternatively, ICT Statistics database (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ICTEYE/Indicators/Indicators.aspx>)

1. MEPs from wealthier districts/member states will be more likely to use twitter

=Eurostat per capita GDP in PPS (EU28=100) at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tec00114&plugin=1>

1. MEPs from districts/member states with a lower median age will be more likely to use twitter

=See <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2177.html>. Are there not other sources out there?? I can’t find any good median age stats from Eurostat or OECD.

1. MEPs from districts/member states with less free media will be more likely to use twitter

=Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index 2014. Get .csv at the bottom of <http://rsf.org/index2014/en-eu.php>

MEPs’ personal characteristics

(5) Young MEPs will be more likely to use twitter

=Our age variable

(6) Women MEPs will be more likely to use twitter

=Our gender variable

(7) MEPs with shorter tenures of EP service will be more likely to use twitter

=Our tenure variable. \*Where are we on this?

(8) Left MEPs will be more likely to use twitter

=We need to code “left vs. right”. I’d propose putting ALDE on the left, since we’re interested in openness/transparency and liberal parties have traditionally stressed these issues. Thus, EPP/ECR/EFDD are “right” and S&D/GUE-NGL/Greens are “left.” \*We will have to code individual Non Inscrits MEPs manually.

1. Members of minority/opposition party groups will be more likely to use twitter

=Create a new variable. EPP/S&D/ALDE=0, all others=1

1. Members from less cohesive party groups will be more likely to use twitter

=Create a new continuous variable = ((100 - (June 1, 2014-January 15, 2015 total cohesion score)). Easy to generate from <http://www.votewatch.eu/en/term8-political-group-cohesion.html>

Structural/strategic characteristics

1. The more seats a member’s party has lost in the most recent election, the more likely the MEP will be to use twitter

=Have to think about operationalization. I would suggest [(National party’s share of 2009 EP vote) – (National party’s share of 2014 EP vote)]. Where do we get the data for this? Perhaps the most convenient place I’ve seen is at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/seats-member-state-percent.html> in the (strange) two-tabbed column on the right of the page. One tab gives country-by-country/party-by-party percent of vote received in 2009. The other tab gives country-by-country/party-by-party percent of vote received in 2014. Anyway to pull this data for all states from the site, or do we have to do it manually?

1. MEPs elected via more candidate-centered electoral systems will be more likely to use twitter (e.g., Chen 2010, p. 7)

=Code each member-state by category of electoral system. 0=closed list PR; 1=PR with preferential voting; 2=single-transferrable vote. Use the infographic at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplibrary/InfoGraphic-2014-European-elections-national-rules.pdf>