The Representative Democracy Data Archive (REPDEM)- potential governments/coalitions dataset

The choice dataset contains an exhaustive list of potential cabinets and coalitions for each government formation opportunity included in the REPDEM basic dataset, with variables recording various attributes of these potential cabinets and coalitions. Each government formation opportunity corresponds to a cabinet in the REPDEM basic dataset.

How to cite

When using these data, please cite the following:

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Structure of the codebook

The following sections then each contain detailed information on

- the name of the variable as it is defined in the dataset,
- the label briefly describing the variable,
- the attached value label,
- relevant additional information on specific coding decisions (where applicable),

For several variables, such as the partisan composition of the cabinet, the information is given using party abbreviations and/or party IDs. Please refer to the corresponding *Party codebook* for further information.

General information on potential cabinets

Variable	Label	Value Label/Format	Additional Information
cab_id	Cabinet ID	First two digits: country Last three digits: cabinet	Each individual cabinet is considered a government formation opportunity, i.e., a point in time when differently constituted governments could, in theory, form.
country_id	Country		
country_id_iso	Country numeric ISO code		ISO 3166-1 standard
potential_government	Members of the potential cabinet	Party IDs; see party codebook	List of potential cabinet parties, in alphanumerical order
unique_id	Unique ID for the cabinet ID and potential government	256-bit hex value	Unique ID based on a SHA256 hash of a concatenated string of cab_id, ., and potential_government. E.g., if cab_id is 1001, potential_government is 10001,10004,10005, the concatenated string is 1001.10001,10004,10005
pcab_status_quo	The potential cabinet has an identical composition to the previous cabinet	0: no 1: yes	The potential cabinet/government has an identical composition to the previous cabinet/government.
pcab_party1-pcab_party20	Potential cabinet party	Party ID; see party codebook	
real_gov	Actual cabinet	0: no 1: yes	Potential cabinet corresponding to the actually formed cabinet.
real_nonpartisan	Actual cabinet is non-partisan	0: no 1: yes	The cabinet that formed is non-partisan, most often with no corresponding cabinet composition containing parties.
pcab_num_parties	Number of potential cabinet parties		The number of political parties in a potential cabinet.
pcab_seats	Potential cabinet seats: lower chamber		The total number of seats held by the parties included in the potential cabinet. Refers to the lower chamber in bicameral systems.
pcab_seat_share	Potential cabinet seats: lower chamber		The share of seats in parliament held by the potential cabinet. Refers to the lower chamber in bicameral systems.
pcab_upper_seats	Potential cabinet seats: upper chamber		The share of seats in the upper chamber of parliament held by the potential cabinet. Only coded in bicameral systems.

pcab_upper_seat_share	Potential cabinet seats: upper chamber		The number of seats in the upper chamber of parliament held by the potential cabinet. Only coded in bicameral systems.
pcab_pm_party_prev	Potential cabinet includes the PM party of the previous cabinet	0: no 1: yes	Does the potential cabinet include the PM party of the previous cabinet?
pcab_largest_party	Potential cabinet includes the largest party in parliament	0: no 1: yes	Does the potential cabinet include the largest party in parliament (the lower chamber)?
pcab_median_first	Potential cabinet includes the party of the median legislator, first dimension	0: no 1: yes	Does the potential cabinet include the party of the median legislator, first dimension?
pcab_median_second	Potential cabinet includes party of the median legislator, second dimension	0: no 1: yes	Does the potential cabinet include the party of the median legislator, second dimension?
pcab_median_economic	Potential cabinet includes party of the median legislator, economic dimension	0: no 1: yes	Does the potential cabinet include the party of the median legislator on the economic left-right dimension?
pcab_coalition	Potential coalition cabinet	0: no 1: yes	Is the potential cabinet a coalition, i.e., does it includes more than one party?
pcab_maj	Potential majority cabinet: lower chamber	0: no 1: yes	Does the potential cabinet have a parliamentary majority (more than 50%+1 seats)? Refers to the lower chamber in bicameral systems.
pcab_upper_maj	Potential majority cabinet: upper chamber	0: no 1: yes	Does the potential cabinet have an upper-chamber parliamentary majority (more than 50%+1 seats)? Refers to the upper chamber in bicameral systems.
pcab_mwc	Potential minimal winning coalition	0: no 1: yes	Is the potential cabinet a minimal winning coalition? A potential cabinet is a minimal winning coalition if it is (i) a coalition and (ii) would lose its majority status if any party is removed from the potential cabinet.
pcab_surplus	Potential surplus majority cabinet	0: no 1: yes	Is the potential cabinet a surplus majority coalition or an oversized coalition? A potential cabinet is a surplus majority coalition if it is (i) a coalition and (ii) would retain its majority status if at least one of its constituent parties could be removed and still retain majority status.

pcab_govtype	Potential government type	1: Min 2: Maj 3: MWC 4: Sur 5: Non	Minority cabinet: Holds less than 50 % plus one seat in parliament. Single-party minority cabinets are likewise coded as 'Min' Single-party majority cabinet: Holds 50% plus one seat in parliament. It is not a coalition. Minimal winning coalition: Is turned into a losing coalition by the subtraction of any of the coalition parties, i.e., if it loses a coalition party it holds less than 50 % plus one seat. Surplus majority coalition: Can lose a coalition party and still be winning, i.e., control 50 % plus one seat or more in the parliament A non-partisan cabinet, e.g., appointed by a president to hold an election
pcab_prefrange	Cabinet preference range, RILE		The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale
pcab_prefrange_logit	Cabinet preference range, RILE, logit scaled		The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on the logit scaling (Lowe et al. 2011) of the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale.
pcab_prefrange_prosser	Cabinet preference range, Prosser (2014) left-right scale		The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on Manifesto Project's data, but using the categories suggested by Prosser (2014) for constructing the left-right scale.
pcab_prefrange_prosser_logit	Cabinet preference range, Prosser (2014) left-right scale, logit scaled		The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on Manifesto Project's data, but using the categories suggested by Prosser (2014) for constructing the left-right scale, and the data have been logit-scaled (see Lowe et al. 2011).
pcab_prefrange_ches_lrecon	Cabinet preference range, CHES, left-right economic scale		The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon).
pcab_prefrange_ches_lrgen	Cabinet preference range, CHES, general left-right scale		The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right scale (lrgen).
pcab_wpolar	Cabinet polarization, RILE, weighted SD		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale.

pcab_wpolar_logit	Cabinet polarization, RILE, weighted SD, logit scaled		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale. Logit-scaled data (see Lowe et al. 2011).
pcab_wpolar_prosser	Cabinet polarization, RILE, weighted SD		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on Prosser's (2014) suggested categories in the Manifesto Project data for the general left-right dimension.
pcab_wpolar_prosser_logit	Cabinet polarization, RILE, weighted SD, logit scaled		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on Prosser's (2014) suggested categories in the Manifesto Project data for the general left-right dimension. Logit-scaled data (see Lowe et al. 2011).
pcab_wpolar_ches_lrecon	Cabinet polarization, CHES, left-right economic scale		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon).
pcab_wpolar_ches_lrgen	Cabinet polarization, CHES, general left-right scale		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right economic scale (lrgen).
pcab_polar	Cabinet polarization, RILE		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale.
pcab_polar_logit	Cabinet polarization, RILE, logit scaled		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on the logit scaling (Lowe et al. 2011) of the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale
pcab_polar_prosser	Cabinet polarization, Prosser (2014) left-right scale		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on Prosser's (2014) suggested categories in the Manifesto Project data for the general left-right dimension
pcab_polar_logit_prosser	Cabinet polarization, Prosser (2014) left-right scale, logit scaled		Cabinet is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in cabinet, based on the logit scaling (Lowe et al. 2011) on Prosser's (2014) suggested categories in the Manifesto Project data for the general left-right dimension
pcab_polar_ches_lrecon	Cabinet polarization, CHES, left-right economic scale		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon).

pcab_polar_ches_lrgen	Cabinet polarization, CHES, general left-right scale		Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right scale (lrgen).
pcab_connected_ches_lrecon	Connected potential cabinet, CHES, left-right economic scale		Ideologically connected cabinet. Party ranks (connected status) are based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon).
pcab_mw_connected_ches_lrecon	Minimal winning connected potential cabinet, CHES, left-right economic scale		Minimal winning and ideologically connected cabinet., Party ranks (connected status) are based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon). A minimal winning coalition requires all coalition parties to achieve a parliamentary majority.
pcab_connected_ches_lrgen	Connected potential cabinet, CHES, general left-right scale		Ideologically connected cabinet. Party ranks (connected status) are based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right scale (lrgen).
pcab_mw_connected_ches_lrgen	Minimal winning connected potential cabinet, CHES, general left-right scale		Minimal winning and ideologically connected cabinet., Party ranks (connected status) are based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right scale (lrgen). A minimal winning coalition requires all coalition parties to achieve a parliamentary majority.