

Governance Report

Indicators 2015:

Codebook

Final Version
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This document contains information on the data sources used for the development of the Governance Report 2015 Indicators. Included is the variable name (in italics), a short description and a longer more detailed description. The data cover the 28 current member countries of the European Union.

The variable name is the word stem used for variable names in the data files containing the indicators. This distinguishes between the four different pieces of information presented in these data files:

variable_name = raw data for this variable for a given country-year

variable_name_sd = the convergence indicator for this variable

variable_name_se = the standard error of the convergence indicator for this variable

variable_name_propobs = the proportion of countries for which there was no missing data for the calculation of the convergence indicator for this variable

Public Opinion Data

The public opinion data used come from the Eurobarometer. From this we create variables that represent the proportion of respondents who respond affirmatively to the question. Thus values range from 0 (no affirmative responses) to 1 (all affirmative responses). In cases where a question was asked multiple times in a year for a given country the arithmetic mean (average) of responses is used for the year.

common_market_good

Common market is good for country

Eurobarometer Question: "Generally speaking, do you think that (your country's) membership of the European Community (Common Market) is ... "? Higher score means "A good thing", lower score means "A bad thing"

consumer_protect

EU members should jointly decide on consumer protection

Eurobarometer Question: "For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) government, or made jointly within the European Union? Consumer protection / Consumer policy". Higher score means "Should be decided jointly within the European Community/Union", lower score means "Should be decided by the (NATIONAL) government"

benefit_common_market

Common market has benefitted country

Eurobarometer Question: "Taking everything into consideration, would you say that (your country) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Community (Common Market)?". Higher score means "Benefitted", lower score means "Not Benefitted"

energy_policy_eu

EU members should jointly decide on energy policy

Eurobarometer Question: "For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) government, or made jointly within the European Union? Energy policy". Higher score means "Should be decided jointly within the European Community/Union", lower score means "Should be decided by the (NATIONAL) government"

eu_benefit_globalisation

EU improves benefit of globalisation

Eurobarometer Question "To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The EU enables European citizens to better benefit from the positive effects of globalisation". Higher score means "Totally agree", lower score means "Totally disagree"

eu_common_defense

EU members should jointly decide on defence policy

Eurobarometer Question: "Irrespective of other details of the Maastricht Treaty, what is your opinion on each of the following proposals? Please tell me for each proposal, whether you are for it or against it. A common defence and security/military policy among the European Union member states". Higher score means "For", lower score means "Against"

eu_common_forpol

EU members should jointly decide on foreign policy

Eurobarometer Question: "Irrespective of other details of the Maastricht Treaty, what is your opinion on each of the following proposals? Please tell me for each proposal, whether you are for it or against it. One common foreign policy among the member states of the European Union, towards other countries". Higher score means "For", lower score means "Against"

eu_future_optimistic

Optimistic about future of the EU

Eurobarometer Question: "Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the European Union?" Higher score means "Very optimistic", lower score means "Very pessimistic"

eu_protect_globalisation

EU protects against negative effects of globalisation

Eurobarometer Question "To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The European Union helps to protect us from the negative effects of globalisation". Higher score means "Totally agree", lower score means "Totally disagree"

eu_right_direction

EU is going in the right direction

Eurobarometer Question: "At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in The European Union?" Higher score means "Things are going in the right direction", lower score means "Things are going in the wrong direction"

monetary_union

In favour of economic union with single currency

Eurobarometer Question: "What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it. European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro". Higher score means "For", lower score means "Against"

eu_fight_inflation

EU members should jointly fight against inflation

Eurobarometer Question: "For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) government, or made jointly within the European Union? Fighting inflation". Higher score means "Jointly within the EU", lower score means "(NATIONALITY) Government"

eu_decide_tax

EU members should jointly decide on tax policy

Eurobarometer Question: "For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) government, or made jointly within the European Union? Taxation". Higher score means "Jointly within the EU", lower score means "(NATIONALITY) Government"

eu_decide_transport

EU members should jointly decide on transport policy

Eurobarometer Question: "For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) government, or made jointly within the European Union? Transport". Higher score means "Jointly within the EU", lower score means "(NATIONALITY) Government"

trust_ec_council_ministers

Trust in the EC Council of Ministers

Eurobarometer Question: "And, for each of them, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? The EC Council of Ministers". Higher score means "Tend to trust", lower score means "Tend not to trust".

trust_eu

Trust in the EU

Eurobarometer Question: "I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? The European Union". Higher score means "Tend to trust", lower score means "Tend not to trust".

trust_eu_parliament

Trust in the European Parliament

Eurobarometer Question: "And, for each of them, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? The European Parliament". Higher score means "Tend to trust", lower score means "Tend not to trust".

trust_legal_system

Trust in the National Legal System

Eurobarometer Question: "I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? Justice/the (NATIONALITY) legal system". Higher score means "Tend to trust", lower score means "Tend not to trust".

trust_national_government

Trust in the National Government

Eurobarometer Question: "I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? The (NATIONALITY) government". Higher score means "Tend to trust", lower score means "Tend not to trust".

trust_national_parliament

Trust in the National Parliament

Eurobarometer Question: "I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? The (NATIONALITY) Parliament". Higher score means "Tend to trust", lower score means "Tend not to trust".

trust_political_parties

Trust in Political Parties

Eurobarometer Question: "I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? Political parties". Higher score means "Tend to trust", lower score means "Tend not to trust".

Macroeconomic Data

The macroeconomic data used come from the World Bank's World Development Indicators and AMECO, the annual macroeconomic database of the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN). Variable descriptions that include the term "GDP Adjusted:" at the beginning of their description were transformed by us to be as a proportion of GDP. The GDP data used for this is included as the variable `gdp`, and comes from AMECO.

fem_youth_unemployment

Unemployment youth female (%)

Unemployment youth female (% of female labor force ages 15-24) (World Development Indicators)

youth_unemployment

Unemployment youth total (%)

Unemployment youth total (% of total labor force ages 15-24) (World Development Indicators)

tertiary_enrolment

School enrollment tertiary (%)

School enrollment tertiary (% gross of the total population of the five-year age group following on from secondary school leaving) (World Development Indicators)

inflation

Inflation consumer prices (annual %)

Inflation consumer prices (annual %) (World Development Indicators)

unemployment

Unemployment rate total (%)

Unemployment rate: total: (Based on the individual member states definitions) EUROSTAT (AMECO Database)

tax_burden

Current tax burden: total economy

Current tax burden: total economy: ESA 2010 (AMECO Database)

current_expenditure

Total current expenditure: general government

Total current expenditure: general government: ESA 2010 (AMECO Database)

gov_lending_borrowing

Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-): general government

Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-): general government: ESA 2010 (Including one-off proceeds relative to the allocation of mobile phone licences) (AMECO Database)

implicit_interest_rate

Implicit interest rate: general government

Implicit interest rate: general government: Interest as percent of gross public debt of preceding year (Under the excessive deficit procedure) (based on ESA 2010) (AMECO Database)

government_debt

General government consolidated gross debt

General government consolidated gross debt: (Under the excessive deficit procedure), based on ESA 2010 and former definitions (linked series) (AMECO Database)

gdp

GDP

Gross domestic product at current market prices (AMECO Database)

gdp_per_capita

GDP per capita

Gross domestic product at current market prices per head of population (AMECO Database)

yield_curve

Yield curve

Yield curve (AMECO Database)

short_term_interest_rate

Real short-term interest rate

Real short-term interest rates deflator GDP (AMECO Database)

disposable_income

Net disposable income: households and NPISH (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Net disposable income: households and NPISH (AMECO Database)

household_saving

Net saving: households (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Net saving: households (AMECO Database)

net_exports_goods

Net exports of goods (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Net exports of goods at current prices (National accounts) (AMECO Database)

current_transactions_balance

Balance on current transactions with the rest of the world (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Balance on current transactions with the rest of the world (National accounts) (AMECO Database)

total_exports

Total exports of goods (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Total exports of goods: Foreign trade statistics (AMECO Database)

intra_eu_exports

Intra EU exports of goods (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Intra EU exports of goods: Foreign trade statistics (1960-1998 Former EU-15) (AMECO Database)

extra_eu_exports

Extra EU exports of goods (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Extra EU exports of goods: Foreign trade statistics (1960-1998 Former EU-15) (AMECO Database)

total_imports

Total imports of goods (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Total imports of goods: Foreign trade statistics (AMECO Database)

intra_eu_imports

Intra EU imports of goods (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Intra EU imports of goods: Foreign trade statistics (1960-1998 Former EU-15) (AMECO Database)

extra_eu_imports

Extra EU imports of goods (% GDP)

GDP Adjusted: Extra EU imports of goods: Foreign trade statistics (1960-1998 Former EU-15) (AMECO Database)

Convergence Clubs

Below is the definition of the country groups used to define “convergence” clubs in the generation of convergence indicators.

Early EU Members (Original 15)

The 15 countries that made up the EU as of 1995.

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK

Original Euro Members

The 12 EU member countries that adopted the Euro in the period of 1999 to 2001.

Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain

Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain

The 5 countries of the original Euro members that were hit hardest by the Eurozone crisis.

Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain

Post-Communist Countries

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

Links to Original Data Sources

AMECO the annual macro-economic database of the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN):

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/ameco/index_en.htm

Eurobarometer http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

World Bank World Development Indicators: <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators>