**COMPARATIVE AGENDAS PROJECT**

**SWEDEN**

**DATA REPORT**

**ELECTION MANIFESTOES OF ALL PARTIES**

**REPRESENTED IN THE RIKSDAG IN THE**

**PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS 1976-2010**

**(with 2017 update)**

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1. **Introduction**

Sweden is a new addition to the Comparative Agendas Project (CAP) as of January 2013. The Swedish project seeks to develop systematic measures of the policy agenda and politics of the executive and legislative branches of government over time. Activities that have been, or that are currently being collected and coded, include decrees, laws, interpellations, motions, and election manifestoes to national elections.

The data report at hand only considers the latter entry - election manifestoes to national elections, i.e. to the Swedish Riksdag. Election manifestoes of all parties represented in the Swedish Riksdag 1976–2010 are included. The report contains important information about this material and should be consulted before any analysis of the data takes place. The informational purpose of the report is threefold. Firstly, to explain the collection of election manifestoes. Secondly, to explain the main principles of the coding procedure. Thirdly, to provide a summary of the variables in the dataset.

For data reports on other types of data, please consult the appropriate reports which can be found at the Swedish country profile page at the CAP:s website <http://www.comparativeagendas.info>.

1. **Collection of election manifestoes**

All party election manifestoes are collected from the open data verse of the Swedish National Data Service (SND) under the auspices of University of Gothenburg, <http://snd.gu.se/en>. It should be noted that only election manifestoes are included in this project, and not general party manifestoes which may also be found at the SND website.

Election manifestoes of all parties that made it into parliament at one or several occasions over the period 1976–2010 are included. The stipulated period includes eleven general elections: 1976, 1979, 1982, 1985, 1988, 1991, 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010. Nine different parties have been represented in the Riksdag over this period: Vänsterpartiet/the Left Party (V), Socialdemokraterna/the Social Democratic Party (S), Miljöpartiet/the Greens (Mp), Centerpartiet/the Centre party (C ), Folkpartiet/the Liberal People’s Party (Fp), Moderaterna/the Conservatives (M), Kristdemokraterna/the Christian democrats (Kd), and Sverigedemokraterna/the Sweden democrats (Sd). In total, 61 election manifestoes were presented by these parties over the given period. In the election of 2006, the joint election manifesto of M, Fp, Kd and C (Alliansen/the Alliance) is coded instead of each party’s separate manifesto. Likewise, in the election of 2010, the joint manifestoes of i) M, Fp, Kd and C (Alliansen/the Alliance) as well as the joint manifesto of ii) S, V, and Mp is coded instead of each party’s separate manifesto.

It should be noted that the length of manifestoes varies greatly, both across parties and across time. By way of illustration, S election manifesto in 1976 consists of only 40 semi-sentences whereas the Alliance’s manifesto in 2010 consists of 1236 semi-sentences. This variation must be taken into account given the quality of analysis.

1. **Coding of election manifestoes**

The data have been coded as part of the Swedish Policy Agendas Project. As for all data in the Agendas Project, the coding procedure follows the CMP handbook available at the project’s webpage in which the analytical unit of analysis is the semi-sentence. All activities are coded according to the same content scheme. The Swedish content scheme is a slight adaptation of CAP master codebook, which in turn is a modified version of the original American “Policy Agendas codebook” (see <http://www.policyagendas.org/>). The Swedish codebook consists of 22 major topics with corresponding sub-topics codes. The Swedish codebook is available in English at the Swedish country profile page indicated above.

The data are coded by one single coder over the period December 2012–November 2014. The coder received one week of intensive training before coding commenced. Inter-coder reliability was ensured by having an external and equally trained coder, Christoffer Green-Pedersen, re-code random parts of the material. In total, five manifestoes were cross-coded to ensure the reliability of assigned codes. A final test of intercoder reliability was made by recoding different parts of the 2006 manifesto of the Alliance. 243 quasi-sentences were recoded with Krippendorff’s Alpha scores of 0.84 at the main topic level and 0.66 at the sub-topic level

The coder was throughout the coding procedure in continuous contact with other members of the CAP network in order to discuss particular questions about coding and the coding scheme. Also, a special variable allowed the coder to indicate cases where she was in doubt about the assigned content code and these cases were then discussed with other members of the network, and sometimes recoded, at the end of the coding procedure.

1. **Summary of dataset variables**

The dataset consists of eight variables which are summarized below.

*Year*

The variable year indicates the year of the general election and thereby also the start of the parliamentary session.

*Party*

The variable party indicates the party and ranges from 1-11. Please note that value 10 and 11 are for the two coalition arrangements between the centre-right and left-green parties respectively. Values are the following:

1=V

2= S

3=Mp

4=C

5=Fp

6=M

7=Kd

8=Nd

9=Sd

10=Alliansen (M, Fp, C, Kd)

11=De Röd-Gröna (S, Mp, V)

*Government*

Government is a dummy variable and takes the value of 1 if the party is in majority position and the value 0 if the party is in opposition.

*Text*

Text is a string variable and contains the textual information of each semi-sentence.

*Code*

Code is the content code assigned to each semi-sentence and corresponds with the Swedish topic codebook.

*EU*

The code EU is a dummy variable with the value 1 indicating weather or not the semi-sentence explicitly refers to the EU or any of its predecessors (such as the EC), to any EU institution or agency (such as the Commission or Frontex), to any EU treaty or policy (such as the Lisbon Treaty or the Common Agricultural Policy), to any parts of the monetary union (such as the single currency or the ERM), and/or to any constitutional aspects of the Swedish EU membership (such as referenda, balance of competences). When ‘Europe’ or ‘European’ are used in a synonymic manner for the EU, this is also coded as 1.

It should be noted that only explicit mentions of any of the above are coded as 1. Mentions that deal with for instance fisheries quotas without any inclusion of any of the above are not coded as 1 even though there is an obvious connection to the EU (quotas are exclusively regulated at the EU level, for instance).

*Heading*

Heading is a dummy variable. The value 1 indicates if the semi-sentences is part of a heading in the manifesto. The variable is however of limited use as not all manifestoes use headings in their manifesto and/or it has not been possible to make out given the format manifestoes are presented in at the SND website.

*Comments*

The last and final variable Comments is a string variable. Comments are included here for cases for which coding was not straightforward. It is used only rarely.

**References**

Websites, visited November 2014:

The American Policy Agendas Project, <http://www.policyagendas.org/>

The Comparative Agendas Project, <http://www.comparativeagendas.info>.

Swedish National Data Service, <http://snd.gu.se/en>

**Update of data 2017**

In 2017, the data was updated with the manifestos from the 2014 election and the party manifesto of the Green party for the 1991 election, which had not previously been coded. Despite the Green party not winning representation in 1991, the party was considered relevant because it had won representation in 1988. The manifestos were collected from the SND. As the elections before, the joint manifesto of the “Alliance” was coded because this manifesto was considered the politically most relevant one. The existence of a joint manifesto signals to the electorate that the four parties run with the same agenda.

The variables coded were the same as before, though “government” and “heading” were not coded.

As before, the coding unit is “quasi-sentences” as defined by the CMP dataset. This time coding was done by Christoffer Green-Pedersen. As test of coding reliability was done using the 1991 manifesto of the Green party. This manifesto was recoded by Nina Elisabeth Liljeqvist.

First, the division of sentence into quasi sentences was tested, reaching a Krippendorf Alpha score of 0.7 for the 134 sentences. For the 108 sentences agreed on as “quasi sentences” to code, test of the content variables were then performed. For the sub-category level, the Krippendorf Alpha score was 0.66, for the main-category level 0.8 and for the EU variable 0.95.