

# Accompanying Note CPDS – CHES – CMP Data Connection

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This is an explanatory note on the R code allowing to connect data from the Comparative Political Data Set with the Chapel Hill Expert Survey (Jolly et al., 2022), and the Manifesto Project Dataset (Lehmann et al., 2024). The data connection allows calculating weighted scores of CHES and CMP variables for governments and parliaments as reported in the CPDS. The code and necessary documents will be updated annually to conform with the newest CPDS versions.

In order to calculate the government and parliament scores, the following documents are needed:

From the [CPDS-Website](#):

- R-File “Step1\_CPDS-CHES-MP-Connection.R”
- R-File “Step2\_Weighted\_Scores\_Connection.R”
- RData File “all.countries.long.25.RData”
- Excel File “CPDS 1960-2023 (Update 2025).xlsx”
- Output-file from CPDS by Government Code “cpds\_by\_government\_2025.csv”

From other sources:

- CHES Trend File ([CHES Website](#)) “1999-2019\_CHES\_dataset\_means(v3).csv”
- Manifesto Project Database ([MP Website](#)) “MPDataset\_MPDS2024a.csv”

When using data from this data set, please quote both the code and original datasets (CPDS, CHES, CMP). Please quote this code as:

*Angela Odermatt. 2025. CPDS – CHES – CMP Data Connection 1960-2023. Princeton: Princeton University.*

*Armingeon, Klaus, Sarah Engler, Lucas Leemann and David Weisstanner. 2025. Comparative Political Data Set 1960-2023. Zurich/Lueneburg/Lucerne: University of Zurich, Leuphana University Lueneburg, and University of Lucerne.*

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## 1 Parliament and Government Scores

The main output of the data connection are weighted scores of CHES or CMP variables by parliaments and governments. The following two paragraphs describe how they are calculated.

**Parliament Scores** In a first step, every unique parliament grouped by country and between elections is assigned an identifier (variable `parl.nr`). This is used as the baseline for calculating the scores. Next, the value of the chosen variable from CMP/CHES is weighted with the seat shares of the respective party in parliament (seat share in % \* CMP/CHES variable). In the final step, the weighted values are grouped by parliament number and added together. Thus the variable `parl.score` gives the average value of the whole parliament of the CMP/CHES (e.g. `lrgen`) weighted by seat share.

**Government Scores** The procedure for the government scores is basically the same as for the parliamentary values, except that the government parties have to be identified first. To do this, the merged data set is combined with CPDS by Government to create a binary variable for government parties. Weighted values of the CMP/CHES variables are then calculated for the individual government parties. To do this, their seat shares in parliament are divided by the sum of the seat shares of all governing parties (`gov.wgts` = seat share of the governing party \* CMP/CHES variable / sum of the seat shares of all governing parties). Lastly, the sum of these weighted values for the overall government is calculated. Accordingly, the variable `gov.score` contains the sum of the values of the CMP/CHES variable of the governing parties weighted according to their relative shares of the total government seat share in parliament.

## 2 Variables

### 2.1 General Variables

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <code>country</code>         | Country names.   |
| <code>countryn</code>        | Country code numbers: 1 Australia, 2 Austria, 3 Belgium, 4 Bulgaria, 5 Canada, 6 Croatia, 7 Cyprus (Greek part), 8 Czech Republic, 9 Denmark, 10 Estonia, 11 Finland, 12 France, 13 Germany, 14 Greece, 15 Hungary, 16 Iceland, 17 Ireland, 18 Italy, 19 Japan, 20 Latvia, 21 Lithuania, 22 Luxembourg, 23 Malta, 24 Netherlands, 25 New Zealand, 26 Norway, 27 Poland, 28 Portugal, 29 Romania, 30 Slovakia, 31 Slovenia, 32 Spain, 33 Sweden, 34 Switzerland, 35 United Kingdom, 36 USA. |
| <code>year</code>            | Year of observation.   |
| <code>cpds.party</code>      | Identifier for CPDS party-coding. Provides together with the country name a unique identifier for parties. Codings can be found in the appendix of the codebook to the main CPDS data set ( <a href="#">Codebook</a> ).  |
| <code>elect</code>           | Date of previous elections.<br><u>Source:</u> CPDS main dataset.   |
| <code>parl.seat.share</code> | Seat share of a party in parliament.<br><u>Source:</u> CPDS main dataset.  |

### 2.2 Manifesto Project and CHES Variables

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <code>cmp_id.ches</code> | Connection CHES provides to parties coded in the Manifesto Project. Due to different coding rules regarding coalitions and merging parties, not all made connections overlap with the ones provided in the CPDS data connection.<br><u>Source:</u> CHES Trend File. |
| <code>party.cmp</code>   | Unique party ID in the Manifesto Project Database.<br><u>Source:</u> Manifesto Project Database.  |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>per401</b>      | Example variable imported from Manifesto Project. The name of this variable will be different depending on the chosen variable for calculating the parliament and government scores.<br><u>Source:</u> Manifesto Project Database. |
| <b>pervote.cmp</b> | Vote shares in parliament as reported by the Manifesto Project.<br><u>Source:</u> Manifesto Project Database.  |
| <b>lrgen</b>       | Example variable imported from CHES. The name of this variable will be different depending on the chosen variable for calculating the parliament and government scores.<br><u>Source:</u> CHES Trend File.                         |
| <b>vote.ches</b>   | Vote shares in parliament as reported by CHES.<br><u>Source:</u> CHES Trend File.  |

## 2.3 Parliament and Government Scores

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>parl.nr</b>        | Unique ID for parliaments in a country.  |
| <b>parl.wgts</b>      | Chosen Manifesto- or CHES-variable weighted by the seat share a party has in parliament.   |
| <b>parl.score</b>     | Sum of parl.wgts within a parliament. In other words, by seat shares weighted average of the chosen Manifesto/CHES variable for the whole parliament.  |
| <b>govnr</b>          | Unique ID for governments in a country.  |
| <b>gov</b>            | Name of the leader of government.  |
| <b>govsup</b>         | Sum of seat shares of all government parties in parliament.  |
| <b>yearinfluence</b>  | Years in which a government was more than 8 months in power.<br><u>Source:</u> CPDS by Government. Accordingly, this rule can be changed in the provided R- or STATA-Code to any number of months. |
| <b>gov.p</b>          | Dummy indicating whether a party was in government or not.   |
| <b>gov.seat.share</b> | Seat shares in parliament for individual government parties.   |
| <b>govsup.seat</b>    | Sum of gov.seat.share for individual governments.  |
| <b>gov.wgts</b>       | Chosen Manifesto- or CHES-variable weighted by the seat share a government-party has in parliament.  |
| <b>gov.score</b>      | Sum of gov.wgts within a government. In other words, by seat shares in parliament weighted average of the chosen Manifesto/CHES variable for the whole government.                                 |
| <b>n.gov.party</b>    | Number of parties in government. For technocratic governments, this variable is recoded to NA.   |

## References

Jolly, S., Bakker, R., Hooghe, L., Marks, G., Polk, J., Rovny, J., Steenbergen, M., & Vachudova, M. A. (2022). Chapel hill expert survey trend file, 1999–2019. *Electoral studies*, 75, 102420.

Lehmann, P., Franzmann, S., Al-Gaddoaa, D., Burst, T., Ivanusch, C., Regel, S., RiethmÄijller, F., Volkens, A., Wessels, B., & Zehnter, L. (2024). The manifesto data collection. manifesto project (mrg/cmp/marpol). version 2024a.