

Dataset SVR Recommendations

General information: The dataset `svr_recommendaitons.rda/csv` lists individual recommendations issued by the German Economic Council of Economic Experts (Sachverständigenrat zur Begutachtung der gesamtwirtschaftlichen Entwicklung in Deutschland, abbreviated as SVR from now onwards) for the period between 1990 and 2009.

Recommendations: To identify the individual SVR recommendations trained coders read through the annual expert reports and identified the text parts which were policy recommendations, excluding policy status quo descriptions and projections for the future. The recommendation text was saved in separate text files, which can be found in the folder *“/documents/svr_reports/text format_recommendations only”*.

We used the hierarchical structure of the recommendation text, where each subtitle represents a new topic/new idea. We propose to treat each title and subtitle (up to 5 sub levels) as a separate recommendation, which are saved with further information in this dataset. We recorded all levels in the text, starting with the highest level - the chapter, which is followed by caption level 1, caption level 2 until caption level 5. For example, recommendation 1990005 appears under chapter "Eine kürzere Fassung", caption level 1 (subtitle) "Auf dem Wege zur wirtschaftlichen Einheit Deutschlands" and caption level 2 (subsubtitle) "Die Aufgabe in den neuen Bundesländern - den Aufholprozess breit in Gang setzen" and covers paragrapgs: 71-75 (on page 16-17 of the expert recommendation from 1990-1991 (see 1-1990/91.pdf in folder "documents/svr_reports/pdf format_originals"))).

Policy Areas: Each recommendation was assigned to one of of the 31 policy categories listed in the document *“svr_recommendations_categories.xlsx”* (folder svr recommendations data). Each recommendation was assigned to one or several policy categories. Coders were asked to identify the most important policy area(S) (given the recommendation text) and save these in the variable `policy_field1_original`. Additional policy areas, to which the recommendation is related are mentioned in the variables: `policy_field2_original` and `policy_field3_original`.

Unit of observation: The unit of observation in the dataset is an individual SVR recommendation. In the following we list all variables in the dataset with further information.

Variable	Description
id.recommendation	Id of the SVR recommendation. This id indicates the year of the recommendation was issued and its number (sequential numbering assigned by the coder)
years	years of the annual SVR report (Note that the SVR issues its reports annually in November of each year. The report always refers to two years.)
start.year	first year of the annual SVR report
end.year	last year of the annual SVR report
separate.topic	dummy for a recommendation, 1= recommendation, 0=not a recommendation, just a caption without underlying text.
n.words	number of words in the recommendation. The number of words below each caption, which is counted as one recommendation.

paragraph.number.official	The expert reports have paragraph numbering. We saved the numbers of the paragraphs which belong to one recommendation.
chapter	the name of the chapter to which the recommendation belongs
caption.level1	the name of the caption at level 1 (subtitle) to which the recommendation belongs
caption.level2	the name of the caption at level 2 (sub subtitle) to which the recommendation belongs
caption.level3	the name of the caption at level 3 (sub sub subtitle) to which the recommendation belongs
caption.level4	the name of the caption at level 4 (sub sub sub subtitle) to which the recommendation belongs
caption.level5	the name of the caption at level 5 (sub sub sub sub subtitle) to which the recommendation belongs
caption.level	the caption level of the recommendation, 0=chapter, 1=caption level 1, 2=caption level 2, 3=caption level 3, 4=caption level 4, 5=caption level 5
policy_field1_original	most important policy area(s)
policy_field2_original	additional policy area
policy_field3_original	additional policy area

The R script “1.replication file_Figure1.R” creates the following three variables which indicate whether finance, economy, or social are among the most important policy areas tackled by each recommendation.

- **most.important.finance:** dummy, which indicates whether one of the central aspects of the recommendation tackles financial issues; 1 stays for yes, 0 stays for no.
- **most.important.economy:** dummy, which indicates whether one of the central aspects of the recommendation tackles economic issues; 1 stays for yes, 0 stays for no.
- **most.important.social:** dummy, which indicates whether one of the central aspects of the recommendation tackles social issues; 1 stays for yes, 0 stays for no.