

PolPaL (Political Party Links) Codebook v1.2

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0. How to cite

If you are using PolPaL data, please cite as follows:

Bederke, P., & Kaftan, L. (2026). *PolPaL - Political Party Links* ([DATE]) [Dataset]. [LINK]

→ [Dataset] refers to the name of the downloaded file

Should you use one of the stable data releases, please cite as follows:

TBA

Should you use the PolPaL software code, please cite as follows:

TBA

1. Introduction

PolPaL (Political Party Links) is a comprehensive database designed to facilitate the linkage of political entity data across various datasets and research projects. It provides standardized identifiers and metadata for political entities worldwide, enabling researchers to accurately match information about entities. Standardized identifiers are provided for all political entities mentioned in datasets relevant to the social sciences. For now, we focus on political parties and groupings of political parties such as electoral alliances. For each of these political entities, we furthermore provide information on entity names, name abbreviations, country affiliations, and historical developments such as splits and mergers – whenever this information facilitates difficult linking decisions. By using PolPaL, researchers can ensure consistency in entity identification, reducing errors and improving the reliability of comparative analyses.

PolPaL is maintained by a dedicated team of political scientists committed to supporting the research community. The database is regularly updated to reflect changes in the political landscape and releases of new datasets. We cordially invite researchers to reach out to us if they would like to become part of the PolPaL community.

1.1 Relationship to Party Facts

We build upon Party Facts (Döring & Regel, 2019), which has made invaluable contributions to linking parties across a wide variety of datasets. More precisely, we rely on Party Facts' list of core parties (Bederke, Döring, & Regel, 2023) as a starting point. For this initial list of PolPaL entities, we include their Party Facts names (short name, English name, original name), their Party Facts ID, the assigned Wikipedia URL, and their country, if applicable.[1] While relying on Party Facts for an initial list of PolPaL entities, we extend Party Facts in two important ways:

First, we acknowledge that PolPaL entities are sometimes nested within each other in meaningful ways, e.g., when they are part of an alliance. This creates issues when linking data for two different datasets that take different decisions regarding these nested inter-entity relations. In some cases, information on nested inter-entity relations is needed if one wants to link data on *parties'* votes received in elections with data on the seat distribution among

[1] We also integrate the 2023 stable version of Party Facts (Bederke, Döring, & Regel, 2023) into PolPaL.

party factions in parliament. In other cases, these inter-entity relations will be relevant when comparing parties' success in parliamentary and presidential elections. With PolPaL, users can now track and discover these links between entities more easily and take them into account when merging two datasets.

Second, we add a temporal dimension to mitigate issues with differences in the way in which datasets treat party splits and mergers. For example, one dataset might provide information on the German PDS/Left, treating it as one party, while another will provide information on the PDS and the Left separately, treating the Left as the successor of the PDS. In PolPaL, dataset observations for political parties can now be associated with multiple PolPaL IDs across different points in time.

Finally, trained humans curate and establish links for PolPaL entities, adjusting information on these entities according to PolPaL coding rules (see below).

1.2 Generating data on inter-entity relations

We rely on external sources to generate metadata on PolPaL entities, using Wikipedia as a starting point in most cases. This metadata not only contains party names, but also a list of identified splits, mergers, split-mergers, rebrands, historical names, and membership in groupings such as electoral alliances. For transparency and data quality reasons, we cite every newly generated data point that describes a PolPaL entity. This also allows for corrections in case mistakes have been made.

Given that some cases are quite cumbersome to curate at that level of detail, we want to highlight that this additional information may be added gradually and, hopefully, with the support of the research community (→ **PolPaL_CommunityEngagement**). Importantly, researchers can use PolPaL to link data independent of the curation status. While this additional information makes linking easier for research, researchers can still link data for many entities without relying on inter-entity relations. In the latter case, PolPaL links provide the same functionality and meet the same criteria as links created by Party Facts (Döring & Regel 2019; Bederke, Döring & Regel 2023).

2. PolPaL countries

While PolPaL entities are created independently of PolPaL countries (and in fact are allowed to appear in more than one PolPaL country), we use a list of countries to facilitate the accessibility and browsability of PolPaL entities to humans. Accordingly, PolPaL adopts a deliberately broad and pragmatic conception of the country category for classificatory purposes. PolPaL does not seek to provide an exhaustive list of countries, nor does it systematically trace questions of state continuity or succession across space and time. Researchers interested in such issues are therefore advised to consult the relevant specialized scholarly and historical sources. We follow the R package *countrycode* (Arel-Bundock et al. 2018) for an initial list of countries. We deviate from their list in some instances when we deem it necessary to include additional countries or split existing countries (see 2.1 Coding decisions for PolPaL countries).

Unit definition: The national-level geo-political unit in which a PolPaL entity operates or the European Union.

Disclaimer: *The designation of countries or territories does not imply any judgement by PolPaL or any of its members regarding the legal status of such countries or territories.*

Be aware that our decision to assign countries to PolPaL entities is independent of dataset providers' decisions to assign countries to political entities. A relevant example is the Soviet Union and Russia. Some dataset providers treat these countries as independent countries, while others generate data for both countries under the same name, typically "Russia" (see data provided by V-Dem). When integrating the external data, we follow the original dataset's country categorization. For example, if a dataset provider treats Russia and the Soviet Union as "Russia", we assign the dataset's observations to Russia, too (see the One-Party Membership Dataset). If the dataset provider treats Russia and the Soviet Union as independent countries, we follow the provider's decisions in assigning observations to these two countries. Independent of the decisions taken for each of the external datasets, PolPaL entities operating in these two countries are assigned both to the Soviet Union as well as to Russia, if they operated in both states (see the *Communist Party of the Soviet Union*).

2.1 Coding decisions for PolPaL countries

PolPaL countries are taken from the *countrycode* R package (Arel-Bundock et al. 2018). These are the exceptions to this rule:

- We subsumed the Yemen Arab Republic (1962-1990) and the Kingdom of Yemen (1918-1962) under North Yemen (1918-1990, YAR), distinguishing it from South Yemen/Yemen People's Republic (1967-1990, YPR) and Yemen (since 1990), following Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Yemen, last accessed on 16 December 2025).
- We added the Soviet Union as a PolPaL country [created 2026-04-18].
- We added the European Union as a PolPaL country [created 2026-04-18].
- We added Transnistria as a PolPaL country [created 2026-04-28].
- We added Palestinian Territories as a PolPaL country [created 2026-05-06].

2.2 Mapping countries mentioned in external datasets to PolPaL countries

External datasets may use a different coding schema for countries. When integrating data, we assign the corresponding PolPaL countrycode to the external dataset observation, if available in the PolPaL database. If not available, we add a new PolPaL country to the PolPaL database and create (or assign) the respective PolPaL entities.

Examples:

- If the external dataset separates Denmark and Greenland (see the CLEA Lower Elections Archive), we assign the PolPaL countrycodes for Denmark (DNK) and Greenland (GRL), respectively. Should a dataset only subsume Greenland under Denmark, we assign the PolPaL countrycode for Denmark also to *observations* from Greenland. Nonetheless, PolPaL *entities* of Greenland are also assigned to Denmark (see *Siumut*, ID: 5535).
- If the external dataset includes data points for Russia for the period of 1918 until today, including, hence, the time period of the Soviet Union (see the V-Dem Dataset), we assign the PolPaL countrycode of Russia (RUS) to the external observations. We do not recode country codes or country names in the external dataset for reasons of transparency and to facilitate linking.

- If a dataset codes election results of expats for national elections of their country of origin, the PolPaL countrycode for the *country of origin* is assigned, not the country the expats are *residing* in.

3. PolPaL entities

PolPaL harmonizes information on all parties included in datasets of relevance to the social sciences, without applying any further selection criteria. It assigns a PolPaL ID to each of these parties. We use the core party list of Party Facts (Bederke, Döring & Regel 2023; see Section 1.1 Relationship to Party Facts) as an initial list of PolPaL entities. Hence, PolPaL IDs equal the Party Facts IDs for the majority of PolPaL entities. PolPaL IDs deviate from Party Facts IDs in the following three cases:

1. We divide a Party Facts core party into two or more PolPaL entities (see *DDP/DStP* with the Party Facts ID: 1826, we split the Party Facts core party into two PolPaL parties, the *DDP* (9594) and the *DStP* (9595) because we consider these as two distinct political parties).
2. We combine two or more Party Facts core parties into one PolPaL entity (see the *PAIGC*, ID: 4237, which has two Party Facts IDs (4237and 5792) because it was active both in the Cape Verde as well as in Guinea-Bissau).
3. We create new PolPaL entities not included in the initial list of Party Facts core parties (see *Botswana Movement for Democracy* (9636), the PolPaL entity was newly created as it does not appear in Party Facts).

We furthermore replaced the Party Facts *technical* core parties with more specific PolPaL entities (see Section 3.2 PolPaL independent, PolPaL others, PolPaL residual, and PolPaL unknown). In order to ensure compatibility with Party Facts in the future, we integrated the latest stable release of Party Facts and link the Party Facts core parties to our PolPaL entities.

3.1 PolPaL party and PolPaL grouping

We distinguish between two main types of PolPaL entities: **PolPaL parties** and **PolPaL groupings**. A **PolPaL party** is an identifiable collective political actor whose continuity can be traced across time through organizational, electoral, ideological, parliamentary, or

governmental attributes. We decide whether a PolPaL entity can be described as a party, using the following criteria:

1. **Collective organization**

   The entity is more than an individual candidate or temporary personal label.

2. **Recognizable identity**

   The entity has a name, label, organization, leadership, program, or other marker allowing it to be distinguished from other actors.

3. **Temporal and territorial location**

   The entity's existence is recorded for a particular country or political territory and period.

4. **Cross-dataset traceability**

   At least one reliable source identifies the entity as a political party; other datasets may then be linked to this source.

An entity need not satisfy every condition in every year to be identified as a political party. A party may contest elections in one period, hold parliamentary seats in another, and survive mainly as an organization during a third year. Note that this definition shall facilitate navigation among PolPaL entities and linking. We advise against using this definition for research purposes that rely on precise and theoretically sound distinctions between political parties and other politically active groups.

A **PolPaL grouping** is an identifiable, party-level collective actor with a recognized membership boundary composed of two or more distinct political parties, an explicit or institutionalized basis for collective action, and activity beyond the mere co-occurrence of its member parties. We do not code a grouping from joint presence, joint measurement, or joint behaviour alone. We code it only when the parties are connected by a recognized group-level identity, institution, or intentional coordination arrangement. However, we explicitly exclude government cabinets as it is not the aim of PolPaL to code government cabinets. Table 1 shows examples to clarify the coding decisions that we take.

We do not use any inclusion or exclusion criteria for PolPaL entities that rely on data outside of PolPaL. In particular, we include all PolPaL entities in the database as long as they appear in an external dataset, irrespective of their size. We reserve the right to initially neglect smaller parties in order to achieve broad coverage of the relevant parties and groupings.

*Table 1: Exemplary PolPaL grouping cases and instances for **no** PolPaL grouping*

Case	Example	Code as/Link to…
Several parties run on a joint list for election	For example, the *Alternative Front* was a Malaysian electoral coalition that was active between 1998 and 2004. It consisted of multiple opposition parties that coordinated their electoral competition. The members changed between the two elections it competed in. The *Alternative Front* appears in the *Varieties of Party Identity and Organization* (V-Party) dataset. The observation is linked to the PolPaL grouping *Alternative Front* (ID 8000).	**PolPaL grouping**
Several parties form a joint parliamentary group		**PolPaL grouping**
Party–cabinet or party–government relations	For example, the *Change in Source of Leader Support* (CHISOLS) dataset code the affiliation of the leader of a country. For parliamentary democracies, CHISLOS codes the entire governing coalition. For Austria, as an example, the observation for 2017 is *OVP/FPO*. As the aim of PolPaL is not to code all varieties of government compositions, this **does not constitute a PolPaL grouping**. The observation would be linked to the two separate PolPaL parties, *ÖVP* (ID 1329) and *FPÖ* (ID 463). Importantly, we try to exclude variables from the datasets that refer to government cabinets. In some cases, however, such instances may still appear in PolPaL.	**Multiple PolPaL parties but typically not integrated into PolPaL**
Survey design party cumulation	Survey response categories sometimes cumulate multiple parties in one response category (besides an *others* category). For example, the *World Value Survey* (WVS) cumulates three far-right German parties into one response category (*DEU: REP, NPD or DVU*). As this cumulation is the design choice of the survey authors, this is **not considered as a PolPaL grouping**. Instead, the observation is linked to the three separate PolPaL parties, *The Republicans* (ID 720), *The Homeland* (ID 1723), and *German People's Union* (ID 695).	**Multiple PolPaL parties**
Survey respondent party answer	Should a survey respondent name multiple parties in a survey item, it is **not considered as a PolPaL grouping**. Instead, the observation would be linked to multiple PolPaL parties.	**Multiple PolPaL parties**
Person-level party affiliations	Should a person have multiple party affiliations in a dataset, this is not considered **a PolPaL grouping**. Instead, the observation would be linked to multiple PolPaL parties. If a person has an electoral alliance as their affiliation, the observation is linked to the respective PolPaL grouping.	**Multiple PolPaL parties**
Legislative voting behaviour or issue-specific cooperation	Should a dataset cover cooperations between parties on specific issues/bills and cumulate the party information into one value, it is **not considered as a PolPaL grouping**. Instead, the observation would be linked to multiple PolPaL parties.	**Multiple PolPaL parties**
Textual co-occurrence	Should multiple parties be mentioned together in the same document, it is **not considered as a PolPaL grouping**. Instead, the observation would be linked to multiple PolPaL parties.	**Multiple PolPaL parties**
Parliamentary manifestation of that party; no separate grouping	Should a dataset cover parliamentary groups, groups that are constituted of just one political party, these parliamentary groups are **not considered as a PolPaL grouping**. Instead, the observation is linked to its corresponding PolPaL party.	**One PolPaL party**

3.1.1 PolPaL entity names

We collect information on the names adopted by PolPaL entities over the course of their existence. These include both the official names under which entities contested elections and the names by which they were commonly known in political and public discourse. These explicitly do not refer to the names under which PolPaL entities may appear in external datasets. Such a list of entity names is helpful for researchers to identify the PolPaL entity of interest, especially if such entity has adopted multiple names across its lifespan.

In addition, maintaining a record of alternative entity names and their periods of usage facilitates the semi-automated linking procedure employed by PolPaL. In this process, names contained in newly imported datasets are compared against the names already stored for PolPaL entities within the same country and a comparable time period. Based on the degree of similarity, the PolPaL linking tool generates suggested matches to existing entities.

Missing data can both indicate that the PolPaL entity did not have an alternative name or that we have not yet added an alternative name for this specific PolPaL entity.

3.1.2 PolPaL party changes

Information on entity changes represent the relationship between two different PolPaL entities of the type "party". We track predecessor and successor relationships between PolPaL parties because datasets are often incoherent in how they treat two succeeding parties, making it impossible to link data for these parties if no further information is provided. This greatly facilitates the identification of different political entities, such as in the case of the large variety of French ecological parties (see the *Ecologists*, ID: 5650, the *Greens*, ID: 1108, and the *Ecologist Party*, ID: 8921, and their different historical names).

- **Split**: A significant number of members of a political party are leaving the party and forming a new party. The former political party continues to exist.
- **Merge**:
    - (1) One political party joins into another political party and ceases to exist in its original form.
    - (2) Two or more political parties join together to form a new party. The former political parties cease to exist.
- **Split-Merge**:

    - (1) A significant number of members of a political party are leaving the party and joining another party. The original political party either continues or ceases to exist.
    - (2) A significant number of members of two or more political parties leave their respective parties and form a new party together. The original political parties either continue or cease to exist.
- **Rebrand**: A political party restructures its party organization. This constitutes more than a formal change of the party name. The former political party ceases to exist.
- **Unknown**: Used in case information is available regarding a party change, but it is unclear in what form and to what extent the change has occurred.

These categories are applied in a deliberately flexible manner. Users may use the information as an indicative signal of party succession but should independently assess whether the recorded changes are appropriate for their specific analytical or empirical use case. We have collected this information to facilitate linking, not to provide a theoretically sound conceptualization of party changes. **We only code changes between PolPaL parties; PolPaL groupings do not have predecessor or successors.** In the case that a grouping becomes a party the parties linked to the grouping merge into the new party.

While we aim for comprehensive coverage, this information is currently available only for a subset of entities. Missing data can both indicate that no change has taken place for a specific PolPaL party or that we have not yet incorporated a change for this specific party. Users should not treat this information as a complete record of all PolPaL party changes. Additional public documentation will make our progress in coding inter-party relations transparent.

3.1.3 PolPaL grouping members

Information on PolPaL grouping members identifies the members (PolPaL parties) in a PolPaL grouping. PolPaL parties may participate as members in PolPaL groupings such as electoral alliances or parliamentary factions. We additionally record the temporal extent of such memberships. Note that PolPaL groupings themselves cannot serve as members of other PolPaL groupings. In cases such as the French *Renaissance* (previously called *La République en Marche !*, ID: 5857), which is itself a grouping and part of the grouping *Ensemble* (ID: 9793), we code all *members* of Renaissance as members of Ensemble instead of coding Renaissance

as a member of Ensemble directly. This information offers users more flexibility in linking data from different datasets, not only in this French case (see also *CDU/CSU*, ID: 211).

Although we aim for completion, missing data might indicate that we have not yet coded a relationship between a PolPaL party and a PolPaL grouping, or that no relationship exists. Users should not treat this information as a complete record of all PolPaL grouping memberships, nor as a theoretical contribution to the study of electoral alliances or other party groupings. Additional documentation will make our progress in coding party-grouping relations transparent.

3.2 PolPaL independent, PolPaL others, PolPaL residual, and PolPaL unknown

Besides **PolPaL parties** and **PolPaL groupings**, four additional types of PolPaL entities are included in the PolPaL database:

- **PolPaL independent**
- **PolPaL others**
- **PolPaL residual**
- **PolPaL unknown**

These PolPaL entities are comparable to the *technical* core parties in Party Facts (Bederke, Döring, & Regel 2023), but in a simplified manner. Instead of one of these PolPaL entities for each country, these PolPaL entities only exist once but are assigned to all PolPaL countries. The external observations linked to these PolPaL entities do not contain meaningful information that should be linked with each other.

The entity type **independent** covers two types of observations in external datasets: observations for individual politicians (e.g., *Nancy Pelosi*) and observations of summarized groups of independents (e.g., *Independents*). Note that we do not cover these observations systematically, and only if they co-appear in columns that also link to political parties. **PolPaL others** covers external observations that group multiple parties in one observation without specifying the parties (e.g., *others (etc)*, *other right*, *other left*). **PolPaL residual** covers a variety of external dataset observations that cannot be linked to any other PolPaL entity. These are often external, dataset-specific observations, such as residual survey responses (e.g., *Abstained*, *Did not vote*, *Don't know*) or residual vote counts in electoral datasets (e.g., *Invalid votes*, *No-seat*, *Appointees*). Importantly, external dataset observations that state *Unknown*

are also covered by the PolPaL residual entity. Finally, **PolPaL unknown** covers all external dataset observations that cannot be clearly identified as party, grouping, others, independent, or residual. **Note that external dataset observations that are called *Unknown* are not linked to this PolPaL entity, but to the PolPaL residual entity.**

4. Data available for download from the website

PolPaL offers different data tables for download to access and re-use the data from the PolPaL database. We describe each table below in greater detail. Moreover, we provide the R scripts for replicating the extraction of external observations from external datasets. For further information on the data model consult → **PolPaL_DataModel** and → **PolPaL_DataModel-extendedVersion**.

4.1 PolPaL Linkages of External Data

Table containing the linkages of PolPaL entities to external data entries.

Variable	Description
countrycodePolpal	The country code as used in PolPaL.
entryEntityId	The ID of the entity as used in the external dataset.
entryEntityIdVar	The name of the variable in the external dataset that contains the external entity ID.
entryEntityNameShort	The short name (abbreviation) of the entity as used in the external dataset.
entryEntityNameShortVar	The name of the variable in the external dataset that contains the entity's short name.
entryEntityNameEnglish	The English name of the entity as used in the external dataset.
entryEntityNameEnglishVar	The name of the variable in the external dataset that contains the entity's English name.
entryEntityName	The common name of the entity as used in the external dataset.
entryEntityNameVar	The name of the variable in the external dataset that contains the entity's common name.
entryCountry	The country of the observation as used in the external dataset.
entryCountryVar	The name of the variable in the external dataset that contains the country.
entryYear	The year of the observation as used in the external dataset.

entryYearVar	The name of the variable in the external dataset that contains the year.
entryMonth	The month of the observation as used in the external dataset.
entryMonthVar	The name of the variable in the external dataset that contains the month.
entryDay	The day of the observation as used in the external dataset.
entryDayVar	The name of the variable in the external dataset that contains the day.
polpalId	The ID of the PolPaL entity that is linked to the external observation.
nameShort	The short name (abbreviation) of the PolPaL entity.
nameEnglish	The English name of the PolPaL entity.
name	The common name of the PolPaL entity.
entityType	Type of the PolPaL entity. • PARTY • GROUPING • INDEPENDENT • OTHERS • RESIDUAL • UNKNOWN • UNASSIGNED
multipleLinks	Indicator, whether multiple PolPaL entities are linked to the external observation. • TRUE • FALSE Build based on number of existing links between entry and PolPaL entities, created upon download.
linkStartYear	Start year for the validity of the set link. Only relevant if the entry has no date information and is assigned to two or more distinct PolPaL entities. Equals startYear in the table LinksEntryToEntity of the PolPaL data model.
linkStartMonth	Start month for the validity of the set link. Only relevant if the entry has no date information and is assigned to two or more distinct PolPaL entities.

	Equals startMonth in the table LinksEntryToEntity of the PolPaL data model
linkStartDay	Start day for the validity of the set link. Only relevant if the entry has no date information and is assigned to two or more distinct PolPaL entities. Equals startDay in the table LinksEntryToEntity of the PolPaL data model
linkEndYear	End year for the validity of the set link. Only relevant if the entry has no date information and is assigned to two or more distinct PolPaL entities. Equals endYear in the table LinksEntryToEntity of the PolPaL data model
linkEndMonth	End month for the validity of the set link. Only relevant if the entry has no date information and is assigned to two or more distinct PolPaL entities. Equals endMonth in the table LinksEntryToEntity of the PolPaL data model
linkEndDay	End day for the validity of the set link. Equals endDayin the table LinksEntryToEntity of the PolPaL data model
projectKey	Identifier of the external project used in PolPaL.
datasetKey	Identifier of the external dataset used in PolPaL.
versionKey	Identifier of the external version used in PolPaL.
dateDownloaded	The date the external dataset version was downloaded.
usedFile	The name of the file of the external dataset version used.
uniqueObservationId	Unique PolPaL ID of the observation in the external data; automatically created when integrating the external data into PolPaL. A combination of: versionKey--entryCountry--entryYear-entryMonth-entryDay--entryPartyIdVar--entryPartyId

4.2 PolPaL Entities

Table containing PolPaL entities.

Variable	Description
popalId	The unique ID of the PolPaL entity.
nameShort	Latest common abbreviation of the PolPaL Entity in its original language.
nameEnglish	Latest common English name of the PolPaL Entity.
name	Latest commonly used (non-English) name of the PolPaL Entity.
entityType	Type of the PolPaL entity.
wikipediaUrl	URL of the corresponding Wikipedia page of the PolPaL Entity.
wikidataId	Wikidata ID of the PolPaL entity.
countries	The country/countries the entity is assigned to. Multiple country assignments are separated by "||". Equals the variable countrycodePolpal.

4.3 PolPaL Groupings with Members

Table containing PolPaL groupings and their members. Each member represents one row assigned to the respective grouping.

Variable	Description
grouping_PolPaL_ID	The PolPaLId of the PolPaL grouping entity. Equals the groupingId in the GroupingMembers table of the data model.
grouping_nameShort	The short name (abbreviation) of the PolPaL entity that is the grouping. Equals the variable nameShort in the Entities table of the data model, if the entity is type GROUPING in entityType.

grouping_nameEnglish	The English name of the PolPaL entity that is the grouping. Equals the variable nameEnglish in the Entities table of the data model, if the entity is type GROUPING in entityType.
member_PolPaL_ID	The PolPaLId of the PolPaL entity that belongs to the grouping. Equals the variable entityId in the GroupingMembers table of the data model.
member_nameShort	The short name (abbreviation) of the PolPaL entity that belongs to the grouping. Equals the variable nameShort in the Entities table of the data model, if the entity is type PARTY in entityType.
member_nameEnglish	The English name of the PolPaL entity that belongs to the grouping. Equals the variable nameEnglish in the Entities table of the data model, if the entity is type PARTY in entityType.
startYear	Start year of the entity's membership in the grouping.
startMonth	Start month of the entity's membership in the grouping (if available).
startDay	Start day of the entity's membership in the grouping (if available).
endYear	End year of the entity's membership in the grouping (if available).
endMonth	End month of the entity's membership in the grouping (if available).
endDay	End day of the entity's membership in the grouping (if available).

4.4 PolPaL Entity Names

This table stores all names assigned to the entities. Each row contains one alternative name with the PolPaLId in the first column.

Variable	**Description**
polpalId	The ID of the PolPaL entity.
nameShort	The short name (abbreviation) of the PolPaL entity.

nameEnglish	The English name of the PolPaL entity.
name	The common name of the PolPaL entity.
entityType	Type of the PolPaL entity. • PARTY • GROUPING • INDEPENDENT • OTHERS • RESIDUAL • UNKNOWN • UNASSIGNED
entityNameShort	The short name (abbreviation) of the alternative name.
entityName	The full alternative name of the entity.
language	Language of the alternative name.
startYear	Start year of the period the name was adopted.
startMonth	Start month of the period the name was adopted (if available).
startDay	Start day of the period the name was adopted (if available).
endYear	End year of the period the name was no longer in use (if available).
endMonth	End month of the period the name was no longer in use (if available).
endDay	End day of the period the name was no longer in use (if available).

4.5 R Scripts for Importing External Data

The respective R script that was used to extract the metadata and observations from the external dataset. We provide these scripts for transparency reasons. Using these scripts, researchers can fully replicate the creation of external observations for PolPaL.

4.6 PolPaL Countries and Territories

This table contains all countries appearing in PolPaL.

Variable	Description
countrycodePolpal	The country code as used in PolPaL.
isCountry	Indicator, whether the entry is a country or territory. • true • false
countryname	Name of the country or territory.
region	The region/continent the country or territory belongs to.

4.7 Projects, Datasets, Versions Overview

This table contains information on all projects, datasets and versions integrated in PolPaL.

Variable	Description
projectKey	Identifier of the external project.
projectNameShort	The short name (abbreviation) of the project.
projectName	The full name of the project.
projectUrl	Link to the project's website.
projectDescription	Description of the project.
datasetKey	Identifier of the external dataset.
datasetNameShort	The short name (abbreviation) of the dataset.
datasetName	The full name of the dataset.
datasetUrl	Link to the dataset's website.
datasetDescription	Description of the dataset.
versionKey	Identifier of the external dataset version.
version	Version number/label of the dataset version.
versionName	Full name of the dataset version.
versionUrl	Link to the version's website.
versionCitation	Citation to use when referencing this version of the dataset.

5. References

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6. Version history

- If variable names in the export tables differed from those in the data model, translations were added.
- Information on integrating politicians was taken out, as this is still in progress.
- Typos any similar mistakes were corrected.