

OPTED

Integrating Political Organizations into the OPTED Platform

Christoph Ivanusch, Pola Lehmann, Paul Balluff & Michele Scotto di Vettimo



Disclaimer

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation Action under Grant Agreement no. 951832. The document reflects only the authors' views. The European Union is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

Dissemination level

Public

Type

Report



OPTED

Observatory for Political Texts in European Democracies:
A European research infrastructure

Integrating Political Organizations into the OPTED Platform

Deliverable 4.4

Authors: Christoph Ivanusch¹, Pola Lehmann¹, Paul Balluff² & Michele Scotto di Vettimo³

¹ WZB Berlin Social Science Center

² University of Vienna

³ University of Exeter

Due date: September 2023

1. Introduction

This deliverable (D4.4) builds on previous work from WP4 and other work packages to integrate political organizations in the OPTED platform currently under development. To this end, we make the WP4 inventory of existing text collections from political organizations (Greene, Ivanusch, Lehmann, Schober et al., 2021) available through the platform, which has been developed over the course of the project (see D3.2: Balluff, Stecker, Boomgaarden & Waldherr, 2023; D9.4: Banducci, Scotto di Vettimo, Gelovani, Theocharis & Dhamal, 2022; D9.5: Scotto di Vettimo, Banducci, Balluff, Gelovani & Theocharis, 2023). We make use of this infrastructure to offer information about and access to texts produced by political organizations, as proposed in the project description (see Task 4.4). The following deliverable first provides a brief introduction to the WP4 inventory as well as the OPTED platform and then describes how users can query the platform to find information on political parties and relevant text resources.

The inventory created by WP4 contains information on existing data sets/corpora that include texts by political parties and interest groups. The inventory covers more than 30 European countries and several different types of texts, such as party manifestos, party and interest group press releases or party statutes. Previous deliverables have already described the inventory and its coverage (D4.2; Greene, Ivanusch, Lehmann & Schober, 2021) as well as the accessibility and usability of the contained text collections in more detail (D4.3; Ivanusch, 2021).

The OPTED platform, whose development preview is now available and will soon be open to the public, allows users to navigate and query different types of political actors (e.g. media sources, political parties) and related text collections. The goal is to make text resources more visible and easier to find and help users link different available text sources from the same actor, the same legislative period or the same discourse, for example. This way, the platform will allow a variety of users to identify relevant data sources as well as related information for their own use cases. Furthermore, the platform also contains information on (text analysis) tools and scientific publications. The exact platform architecture and the properties of the current prototype are described in more detail in other deliverables from WP3 and WP9 (see D3.2: Balluff, Stecker, Boomgaarden & Waldherr, 2023; D9.4: Banducci, Scotto di Vettimo, Gelovani, Theocharis & Dhamal, 2022; D9.5: Scotto di Vettimo, Banducci, Balluff, Gelovani & Theocharis, 2023).

To contribute to the platform and further develop it, we have taken several steps to integrate the WP4 inventory on texts from political organizations in the platform.¹ We have streamlined the names of political parties and assigned a unique identifier to each individual political party. To this end, we have used Wikidata IDs as well as IDs by the Party Facts database (<https://partyfacts.herokuapp.com/>). This common identifier allows us to prevent duplicates, link different resources and add further information to each party and/or resource. In an additional effort to increase the usability and linkability of the data within OPTED and beyond,

¹ So far, we have integrated political parties and related resources in the platform. In a next step, we will integrate interest groups as well.

we have modified some of the variables used in the inventory to link them to variables used in inventories of other WPs.

The next section gives more information on how users can make use of our integrated inventory and find the available resources from political organizations on the platform. The platform will be available for the public on October 1st at <https://meteor.opted.eu>.

2. Query for Political Parties on the OPTED Platform

The platform allows users to perform different queries and search for different types of resources. This section provides step-by-step examples that introduce the resources related to political parties available on the platform as well as relevant queries.

First, users can search the platform to find political parties in European countries. Therefore, the landing page allows to search for different entity types, among them also the entity type “Political Party”. For more specific demands, users can filter by country and further variables through the (advanced) query (see Figures 1 and 2). Based on this search, users are provided with a list of political parties. This way users can, for example, gather information about relevant parties in a given country. As an example, Figure 2 provides a list of parties in Austria. The platform allows to navigate to each listed party and provides information about the party as well as the related resources contained on the platform (see Figure 3). The entry for each party thereby provides different details on the party, such as the (abbreviated) name, colour, Wikidata ID, Party Facts ID or URL of the party website, helping, for example, to link the party to other resources. Besides this general information, the entries also list and link to archives and data sets that contain (text) data related to each party. This, first allows user to get a quick overview over existing sources, second helps them identify the source most useful for their own query/research and third gives them quick access to these resources. The example in Figure 3 lists two archives that store press releases and party statutes of the Austrian People’s Party as well as several data sets including the party. Users can then click on the individual resources and get further information on them, such as the authors, a short description, the URL and/or DOI as well as information on the geographical and temporal coverage (see Figure 4). Furthermore, the descriptions of several resources also include additional information on the type of access to the resource (e.g. free, registration required, restricted), the availability of full texts, the file format (e.g. txt, pdf, csv, sav, dta, Rdata) as well as included meta variables (e.g. party name, date/year, language). This helps users to quickly navigate to the source that is not only in line with their substantial interest, but also – in a more practical sense – to find a resource that the user can easily work with depending on their set-up. Moreover, the platform does not only allow to link parties to relevant data archives or data sets, but also to publications that focus on the respective party.

Figure 1 QUERY FOR LIST OF POLITICAL PARTIES ON LANDING PAGE

Contribute

You want to help us and add entries to the database? You can contribute through various means:

- Add media organisations and news sources to our inventory.
- Make **your text analysis tool** more visible by adding it to the inventory.
- You know a data base or corpus that contains full-text data? Share it with the community by adding it

Guides & Materials

Read more detailed instructions and documentation on using or contributing to the inventory.

- [detailed guide for adding news sources to the inventory.](#)
- [teaching materials \(e.g., slides, syllabi\) for using the inventory in the classroom.](#)

Figure 2 LIST OF POLITICAL PARTIES AFTER QUERY

Name	Type	Countries
Austrian People's Party	PoliticalParty	Austria
Bündnis Zukunft Österreich	PoliticalParty	Austria
Christian Party of Austria	PoliticalParty	Austria
Citizens' Forum Austria	PoliticalParty	Austria
Die Grünen – Die grüne Alternative	PoliticalParty	Austria
Federation of Independents	PoliticalParty	Austria
Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs	PoliticalParty	Austria
Hans-Peter Martin's List	PoliticalParty	Austria
Kommunistische Partei Österreichs	PoliticalParty	Austria
Left	PoliticalParty	Austria

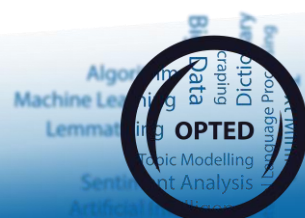



Figure 3 DETAILS ON POLITICAL PARTY

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Austrian People's Party

Type: PoliticalParty | Created: 2023-08-23 | UID: 0x1c61e97 | OPTED ID: politicalparty_at_austrianpeoplesparty | [Something not right?](#)

General Information

Also known as	Österreichische Volkspartei, ÖVP
Abbreviated Name	ÖVP
Color	
Wikidata	Q186867
Partyfacts ID	1329
URL	https://www.dievolkspartei.at/

Location

Country	Austria
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Data Access

Following data archives include text data.

APA-OTS	from: 1998	full texts
Political Party Database	Thomas Poguntke et al. from: 1988 to: 2020	full texts

Datasets

Following datasets include the political party.

AUTNES Content Analysis of Campaign Facebook Pages 2017	Müller, Wolfgang C. et al. from: 2017 to: 2017	full texts
AUTNES Content Analysis of Party Facebook Pages 2013	Wolfgang H. Müller et al. from: 2013 to: 2013	full texts
AUTNES Content Analysis of Party Leader Statements 2002	Müller, Wolfgang C. et al. from: 2002 to: 2002	full texts
AUTNES Content Analysis of Party Leader Statements 2006	Müller, Wolfgang C. et al. from: 2006 to: 2006	full texts
AUTNES Content Analysis of Party Leader Statements 2008	Müller, Wolfgang C. et al. from: 2008 to: 2008	full texts

Publishes

- [volkspartei \(Twitter\)](#)

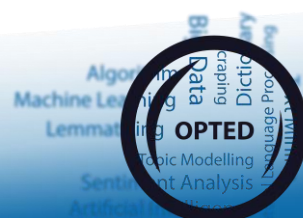


Figure 4

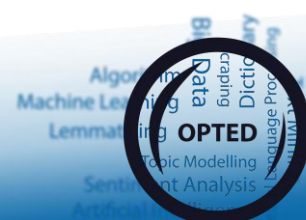
DETAILS ON LINKED DATA SETS (EXAMPLE: AUTNES CONTENT ANALYSIS OF CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK PAGES 2017)

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AUTNES Content Analysis of Campaign Facebook Pages 2017

Type: Dataset | Created: 2023-08-23 | UID: 6x1c61fcd | OPTED ID: dataset_autnescontentanalysisofcampaignfacebookpages2017 | [Something not right?](#)

General Information	
Author(s)	Müller, Wolfgang C. Bodlos, Anita Ennsner-Jedenastik, Laurenz Gahn, Christina Graf, Elisabeth Haselmayer, Martin Huber, Lena Maria Meyer, Thomas M. Reidinger, Verena
Description	Data set including a content analysis of issues in facebook posts from parties in Austria during the national election campaign 2017
URL	https://data.aussda.at/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi%3A10.11587%2F17OKDP
DOI	10.11587/17OKDP
About	
Conditions of Access	Registration Required
Fulltexts available	Yes, fulltexts are available
Text types	Social Media
Language(s) in dataset	German
Countries covered in dataset	Austria from: 2017 to: 2017
Start Date of coverage	2017-09-04
End Date of coverage	2017-10-14
Dataset File Format	sav (SPSS) dta (STATA) RData
Included Meta Variables	Date Author Party Name
Included Conceptual Variables	Party Communication Issue Saliency
Sources included	
Shows how many of the sources listed in this inventory are included in the dataset.	
Total	6
Sources	Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs Austrian People's Party Liste Peter Pilz Die Grünen – Die grüne Alternative Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs NEOS – Das Neue Österreich und Liberales Forum



Second, users can directly search the platform for data sets and text types (e.g. manifestos, press releases, party statutes). This is enabled on the landing page, where users cannot only search for political parties and other institutions but also select the entity types “Data Archive” and “Dataset” (see Figure 5). By selecting one of these entity types, users can further specify the type of text that they are interested in. Options relevant to the inventory of WP4 are manifestos, party websites, press releases, public speeches, social media, statements and party statutes, but several other options exist as well (e.g. related to parliamentary activities or journalistic texts). Again, users can further specify their search by filtering on a number of variables through the advanced query (e.g. country).

Figure 5 QUERY FOR SPECIFIC DATA SETS AND TEXT TYPES ON LANDING PAGE

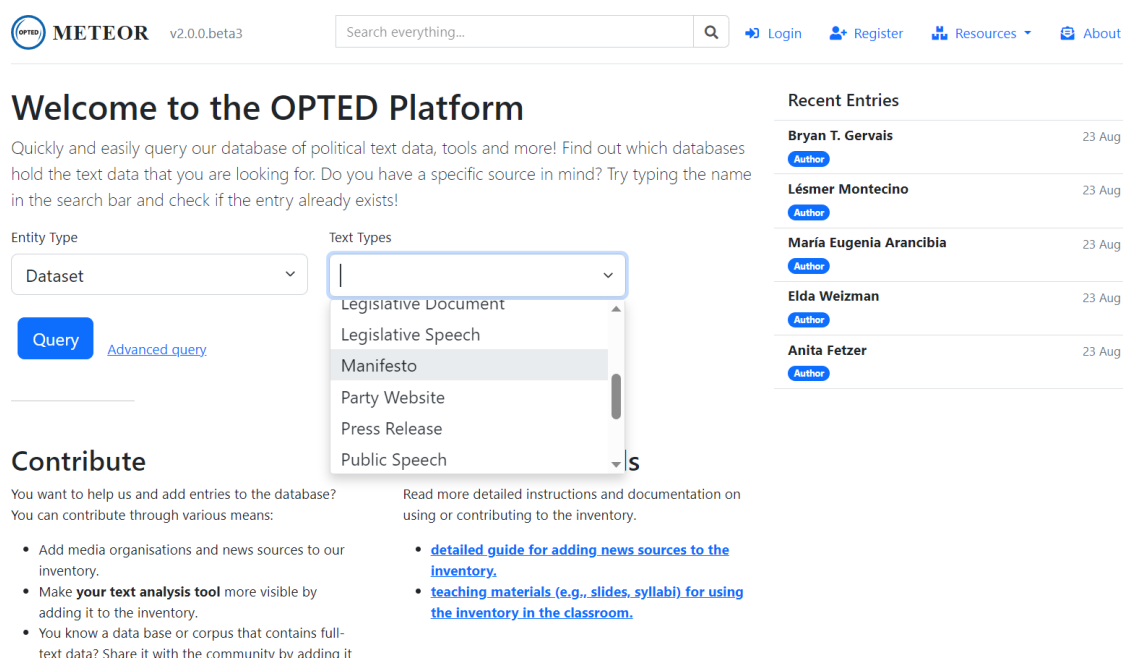



Figure 6 demonstrates the output from a query for data sets focusing on party manifestos. This overview lists and links to the different resources and provides some additional information on the geographical coverage of each entry (see variable “Countries”). Using this list, users can directly navigate to the relevant data sets and obtain information about them (see Figure 7). As described earlier, for each resource users can find information on the authors, a short description, the URL and/or DOI, information on the geographical and temporal coverage as well as additional information on the type of access to the data (e.g. free, registration required, restricted), the availability of full texts, the file format and included meta variables. Furthermore, the platform also provides the opportunity to link the listed data archives/data sets to related publications, such as articles that have used the respective data archive or data set in the analysis.

Figure 6 LIST OF DATA SETS AFTER QUERY


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Name	Type	Countries	Query
AUTNES Content Analysis of Party Manifestos 2002 Müller, Wolfgang C. et al.	Dataset	Austria	<div style="text-align: right;">Total results: 14</div> <p>Free text search</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Entity Type</p> <input type="text" value="Dataset"/> x <p>Countries <input type="radio"/> and <input type="radio"/> or</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Channel</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Languages <input type="radio"/> and <input type="radio"/> or</p> <input type="text" value="Select multiple..."/> <p>Text Types <input type="radio"/> and <input type="radio"/> or</p> <input type="text" value="Manifesto"/> x <p>Sources Included <input type="radio"/> and <input type="radio"/> or</p> <input type="text" value="Select multiple..."/> <p>Concept Variables <input type="radio"/> and <input type="radio"/> or</p> <input type="text" value="Select multiple..."/>
AUTNES Content Analysis of Party Manifestos 2006 Müller, Wolfgang C. et al.	Dataset	Austria	
AUTNES Content Analysis of Party Manifestos 2008 Müller, Wolfgang C. et al.	Dataset	Austria	
AUTNES Content Analysis of Party Manifestos 2013 Müller, Wolfgang C. et al.	Dataset	Austria	
AUTNES Content Analysis of Party Manifestos 2017 Müller, Wolfgang C. et al.	Dataset	Austria	
Comparative Agendas Project E. Scott Adler et al.	Dataset	Germany, Eur...	
Det kongelige bibliotek	Dataset	Denmark	
European Parliament Elections – Euromanifesto Study (Documents 1979 - 2014) ...	Dataset	Austria, Czech...	
Manifesto Corpus Burst, Tobias et al.	Dataset	Austria, Czech...	
NSD Norsk senter for forskningsdata Sikt - Norwegian Agency for Shared Servic...	Dataset	Norway	
Political Documents Archive Kenneth Benoit et al. (2009)	Dataset	Austria, Czech...	
Regional Manifesto Project Gómez Fortes, Braulio et al.	Dataset	United Kingd...	
Rijksuniversiteit Gronningen	Dataset	Netherlands	
Scottish Party Election Manifestos Greene, Zachary et al.	Dataset	United Kingd...	

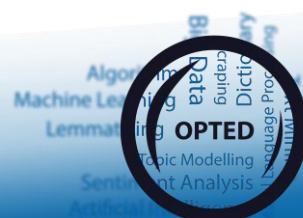


Figure 7

DETAILS ON LINKED DATA SETS (EXAMPLE: SCOTTISH PARTY ELECTION MANIFESTOS)

Scottish Party Election Manifestos

Type: Dataset | Created: 2023-08-23 | UID: 0x1c61cc2 | OPTED ID: dataset_scottishpartyelectionmanifestos | [Something not right?](#)

General Information	
Author(s)	Greene, Zachary McMillan, Fraser
Description	dataset of Scottish election manifestos; related publication https://doi.org/10.1080/17457289.2020.1727486
URL	https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/PH8XZO
DOI	10.7910/DVN/PH8XZO

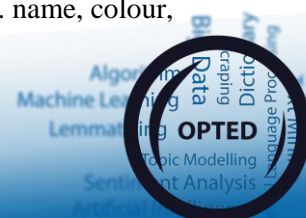
About	
Conditions of Access	Free
Fulltexts available	Yes, fulltexts are available
Text types	Manifesto
Language(s) in dataset	English
Countries covered in dataset	United Kingdom from: 1999 to: 2016
Start Date of coverage	1999-01-01
End Date of coverage	2016-01-01
Dataset File Format	TXT
Included Meta Variables	Year Party Name
Included Conceptual Variables	Party Communication

Sources included	
Shows how many of the sources listed in this inventory are included in the dataset.	
Total	5
Sources	Scottish Labour Party Scottish Liberal Democrats Unionist Party Bo'ness Branch SNP Scottish Green Party

Research	
Following publications are related to this dataset.	

3. Summary

This deliverable (D4.4) has introduced the integration of the WP4 inventory of existing text collections from political organizations in the OPTED platform. While the platform architecture and the (technical) features of the current prototype are presented in more detail in deliverables from WP3 and WP9 (see D3.2: Balluff, Stecker, Boomgaarden & Waldherr, 2023; D9.4: Banducci, Scotto di Vettimo, Gelovani, Theocharis & Dhamal, 2022; D9.5: Scotto di Vettimo, Banducci, Balluff, Gelovani & Theocharis, 2023), this deliverable (D4.4) presents the functionalities that are relevant to search for resources related to political organizations and how these can be useful to researchers. We provide exemplary searches for political parties as well as data archives/data sets containing text collections of political parties. First, we show how users can use the platform to search for political parties in different European countries, find information about them (e.g. name, colour,



Wikidata ID, Party Facts ID or party website URL) and about relevant (text) resources related to the parties. Second, we demonstrate an exemplary search for data archives/data sets that contain text collections of political organizations, such as party manifestos, press releases or party statutes. Here, the platform lists and links to relevant resources and provides information on them (e.g. authors, URL, DOI), their geographical and temporal coverage as well as their properties (e.g. availability of full texts, file format, meta variables).

These features provide users with a number of benefits when it comes to data collection and linking. First, the platform lists relevant political actors and resources. This allows users to quickly gather information about relevant political organizations in specific countries and get a quick overview over existing data archives and data sets. Second, the information provided by the platform for each political organization and resource helps users identify the source most useful for their own query/research and gives them quick access to these resources. As the platform provides details on the coverage (e.g. region, time) and properties (e.g. availability of full texts, file format) of each listed resource, users can quickly find the resource most suitable to their research interests, (technical) capabilities and workflows. Third, the detailed information provided for each resource and the architecture of the platform also allow users to identify different available text sources for linking based on specific variables, such as country, political actor or time period. This way, the platform serves as a central hub that provides comprehensive information on political organizations and related text resources.

To sum up, the integration of political organizations and related (text) collections in the OPTED platform gives users first an easy and quick access to information on political organizations and available text resources and second enhances the linkage between political organizations and actors and texts on which information has been gathered in other WPs. Now users can search for a broad range of actors and resources that are relevant in contemporary democracies. They can find information about media outlets, political organizations (e.g. political parties) and institutions (e.g. parliaments) as well as the resources (e.g. text collections) related to them. Furthermore, the platform contains information about (text analysis) tools and scientific publications. These features, and the provided links between them, allow users to find information and resources relevant to their own use cases and therefore support research on various phenomena in contemporary democracies. In the next steps WP4 will add more political organizations (i.e. interest groups) and related resources, while the whole project will keep working on further developing the platform (e.g. user interface) and adding additional (types of) resources to fully implement the OPTED platform. In addition, an important task for the future is to develop routines that allow continuous updating and curation of the platform itself and the stored resources to keep them up to date.

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