Description of the Dataset „Ethnic minorities in democracies“

The dataset on “Ethnic minorities in democracies” covers countries since 1945 from Western and Eastern Europe, North and South America and Oceania, where ethnic minority groups are politically relevant and exceed one per cent of the population. Ethnic minorities are defined as autochthonous or ethno-nationalist minorities based on perceived common origin, shared language, culture or religion (Cederman, Wimmer, and Min 2010, 13; Fearon 2003, 197; Horowitz 1985, 17–18). Hence, it includes pluri-ethnic democracies (Freedom House (2011) ≤ 4 and Polity IV (Marshall and Gurr 2011) ≥ 6) with at least two ethnic groups and more than 500’000 inhabitants. In cases where the two ratings (Freedom House and Polity IV) differed, the country was only included if it is rated at most one scale-point below the democracy threshold (on the measure where it was not rated as democratic). For countries with interrupted democratic periods only the latest democratic period was counted (e.g. Turkey). Countries with a recent breakdown of democracy (e.g. Venezuela) were excluded from the dataset.

Datasets on ethnic minorities often suffer from selection bias, because one needs to decide which of the at least 5000 existing ethnic groups to include (Birnir et al. 2014; Hug 2013; Kymlicka 1995). In order to reduce problems of selection bias I chose politically relevant (salient) ethnic groups on the basis of the EPR dataset on ethnic power relations (Cederman, Wimmer, and Min 2010) and the Minority at Risk dataset (Minorities at Risk Project 2009). The combination of both datasets reduces the selection bias associated with datasets on ethnicity (especially with MAR) (Hug 2013).

The variables are based on an extension of MAR data and indicators based on newly collected data.

Extension of MAR data

Three indicators are based on MAR data (violent and non-violent protest, economic discrimination). In order to increase the coverage of these indicators and gather data for all groups and countries in the dataset I consulted country specific sources and reports.

Economic Discrimination:

- Minority Rights Group International : http://www.minorityrights.org (main source, used for: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Costa Rica, Finland, Guyana, Macedonia, Spain, UK, Uruguay)
- Wheatley, J., 2004. Obstacles Impeding the Regional Integration of the Javakheti Region of Georgia. ECMI Working Paper, 12(September). (Georgia)

Rebellion:

According to Birnir (2011) only very few of the group that MAR does not cover have engaged in violent protest against the state. Therefore, I did a google search for all groups and countries where data on rebellion was missing and concluded that no violent rebellion had occurred, when the google search did not yield any results.
Protest:

In contrast to violent protest, non-violent protest occurs more often, also for groups that are not covered by MAR (e.g. parts of the French speaking population of Switzerland, Flemish population of Belgium). It was not possible to reliably code those protests for all missing countries with additional information. In particular, it was only possible to code the level of non-violent protest for Ukrainians and Byelorussians in Estonia and Latvia (replaced with values for the Russian minority, since many argue that these groups highly overlap and since they rarely mobilize independently).

Newly compiled indicators

Descriptive Representation in Parliament:

The dataset provides a measure of the overall descriptive representation in parliament (i.e. in minority parties and mainstream parties). For this purpose, the share of minority MPs was compared to the share of the minority in the population. Perfectly proportional descriptive representation is given, when the share of minority MPs corresponds to the minority’s share in the population.

Main sources:

- Human rights reports (main source): http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrppt/
- Years before 1999: http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=chrhp

Additional sources:

- Albania: http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/albania/16856
- Canada:
- Moldova:
  o  http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=41184&no_cache=1#VbnjKEZKaDl
- New Zealand:
- Romania:
- Switzerland:
  o  Staatskalender Schweiz:  http://www.amtsdruckschriften.bar.admin.ch
- United States:
  o  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans_in_the_United_States_Congress

For some countries where ethnic minority groups live very concentrated, the number of MPs who are elected from a certain district was used as a proxy, when no other information was available. This concerns Wales in the UK, and the Basque region in France.

**Representation in Ethnic Minority Parties**

In addition to descriptive representation in parliament the share of minority MPs which is elected through ethnic minority parties is accounted for in the dataset. For this purpose a party is defined as ethnic when its representatives are primarily elected by members of one ethnic group and their main political appeal is based on ethnicity.

Sources for the identification of minority parties


Additional sources for election results


**Representation in Government:**

Main Source:

- Years before 1999: [http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=crhrp](http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=crhrp)

Additional Sources:


**Language Rights:**

Main source:

Additional sources: