

Liberalization

Database

37 countries, 1973-2013

Codebook

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Content

1	Introduction.....	2
2	Conceptual background.....	2
3	Sources.....	3
4	Coverage, coders, external experts, and data quality	4
5	Variables.....	7
5.1	Metadata.....	7
5.2	General variables.....	7
5.3	Policy description variables	7
5.3.1	Policy Sub-Fields.....	8
5.3.2	Involved Subjects.....	11
5.4	Policy evaluation variables.....	13
5.5	Reference and source variables.....	13
	Appendix: List of Common Sources	14
	References.....	15

1 Introduction

The Liberalization database is a systematic compilation of liberalizing and de-liberalizing reforms in the context of the Liberalization project directed by Klaus Armingeon (University of Bern) and Lucio Baccaro (University of Geneva), and funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Liberalization denotes the removal of market barriers or the loosening of restrictions on free markets. De-liberalization implies a move in the opposite direction: the introduction of restrictions on free market movements.

The database covers 37 advanced capitalist democracies¹ between 1973 and 2013 and identifies a total of 12,426 reform policy changes (i.e., policy discontinuities) in the following 13 policy fields: active labor market policies (almp), competitive and product market regulation (comp), corporate governance (gov), education (edu), employment protection legislation (epl), financial reform (fin), health care (hc), industrial relations (ir), non-employment benefits (neb), pension systems (pen), privatization (pri), tax policies (tax), and vocational education training (voctr).

Each entry (row) in the database comes with contextualizing information on a total of 28 variables, including the content and timing of a reform, its policy and sub-policy fields, the reform process, and the subjects involved in it, as well as the original data source and other meta data. A comprehensive overview of all contextualizing information is provided in section 5. Most importantly, the database provides an index of liberalization and another one of de-liberalization, which serve as measures of the incisiveness of each and every policy change. The construction of these indices is based on Peter Hall's (1993) seminal work on policy changes as well as Baumgartner's (2013) work on status quo changes.

While the database's unit of analysis is the individual reforms, these data can easily be aggregated to obtain the liberalization/de-liberalization indices for each country-year or each country-year-policy-field. The code (in Stata) necessary to perform these transformations is made available online.

When using data from this database, please cite both the database and, where appropriate, the original source. The suggested citation for this database is:

Armingeon, Klaus, Lucio Baccaro, Anna Fill, Jorge Galindo, Stefan Heeb, and Rafael Labanino. 2019. *Liberalization Database 1973-2013*, Bern and Geneva.
<http://liberalization.org/>

2 Conceptual background

In this database, liberalization denotes the removal of market barriers or the loosening of restrictions on free markets (also see Höpner, et al. 2014). De-liberalization implies a move in the opposite direction: the introduction of restrictions on free market movements.

A *reform* is a permanent or temporary liberalizing or de-liberalizing change adopted by the government/parliament and/or interest groups or mandated by the court that qualifies as a policy discontinuity in one of the 13 policy fields covered in this database.

¹ Previously non-democratic countries were included starting in the year when they became democratic.

We distinguish at least three *reform processes*: a reform can be approved and enacted through *law* by political decision makers, it can result from *collective bargaining* between capital, labor, and/or the state, or follow a *court order*.²

All reforms that satisfy this definition are coded and classified according to the following theoretical criteria:

First, the database identifies three kinds of changes in policy based on Peter Hall's seminal work on policy making (Hall 1993). A *first order change* (variable 'pc1') takes place whenever the settings or levels of the basic instruments of a given policy are changed, whereas its goals and instruments remain the same. A *second order change* (variable 'pc2') happens when a policy's goals remain unaltered but its instruments change. A *third order change* (variable 'pc3') entails a modification in the policy's hierarchy of goals. Logically, these changes are nested: most of the time, a third order change will also contain a first and a second order change.

Second, reforms are labeled as modifiers of the status quo. That is, policy reforms are analyzed depending on their capacity to overhaul existing policy arrangements. If a policy change successfully challenges an existing, discredited status quo and modifies it, it is coded as a *status quo change* (variable 'sqc') (Baumgartner 2013).

Third, reforms are evaluated on the basis of how encompassing they are (variable 'encomp') (i.e., whether they touch every possible actor, or are targeted to a sub-group of the potentially affected population) in order to identify segmented or dual paths towards liberalization (e.g. Rueda 2005, Thelen 2014).

The first two of these dimensions (order changes and status quo changes) are combined to obtain a liberalization index and a de-liberalization index, as synthetic measures of the incisiveness of a given reform. In essence, these indices aim to capture the significance and depth of each liberalizing or de-liberalizing reform. Details on the construction of these indices are provided in section 5.4.

3 Sources

The core sources used in compiling the reforms are the Economic Surveys that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) issues annually or bi-annually for all countries in the database.

Other major sources include the NatLex online database of labor-related reforms published by the International Organization of Labor (ILO), the European Commission's LABREF online database of labor and welfare-related reforms, the Fondazione Rodolfo di Benedetti's databases for pension, employment protection, and unemployment insurance reforms, the EUROFOUND's factsheets and reports for labor regulation and industrial relations, the International monetary fund's (IMF) dataset on Financial Reform (Detragiache, et al. 2008), the OECD's Online Tax Administration Database, and the AIAS' Database on Institutional

² In the respective variable 'refpro,' we also include a fourth category--'other'--for all cases when a reform could not be easily assigned to one of the three main categories. Note that independent of the specific reform process, a reform may also have been triggered and enforced by an international or supranational organization, such as the EU or the IMF. This information is coded in the variable 'inten' discussed below.

Characteristics of Trade Unions, Wage Setting, State Intervention and Social Pacts in 34 countries between 1960 and 2012 (Visser 2013). A detailed list of all used common sources is provided in the appendix. Moreover, each of the 12,426 entries in the database includes a specific reference to the sources used in its coding.

In addition to the input of the internal reform coders involved in the project, we also secured the input of external experts for most countries in the database. Experts were chosen among scholars with a deep, broad, and far-reaching understanding of the political economy of reforms in each country. As a necessary condition, experts were requested to have substantial research experience on the given country, an excellent proficiency of the country's language, and the capacity to use local sources, particularly (but not limited to) the original texts of the laws and regulations under study.

Each external expert (listed in section 4) was brought in as a separate blind coder, contributing with her or his own independent compilation of the top ten most crucial reforms for each policy field and decade (1973-1980; 1981-1990; 1991-2000; 2001-2014). The independent datasets thus obtained consisted of reform descriptions, approval and implementation dates, legal reform names, sources, and an assessment of reform importance, and were used as quasi-blind tests for our primary coding work. After reconciling the external input with the results obtained from our internal coders' work, the original database was finalized with the experts' contributions: missing reforms were included; incomplete descriptions completed; and any discrepancies triple-checked and corrected where needed. The result is a single integrated dataset.

4 Coverage, coders, external experts, and data quality

Table 1 below provides an overview of the countries included in the database, the covered period, the coders for each country, and the consulted external country experts.

The large reach of the dataset makes it difficult to maintain a uniform degree of data quality across countries. This is mainly the result of a lack of homogeneity across sources, which vary considerably in terms of breadth and reliability across both countries and policy fields. Moreover, it was not always possible to find suitable external experts who could help rectify issues related to data quality. Therefore, we also provide an assessment of data quality and completeness for each country in our database below.

The data quality assessment has two parts. We first provide a checklist of the core sources used in the process of coding a country and indicate whether the coder had access to national sources and whether an external expert contributed with his or her input. We then provide a qualitative data quality assessment based on the coder's own understanding of the completeness and depth of the country's dataset. The coder's assessment follows a six-grade scale, with the lowest grade (1) indicating that some significant reforms may not have been identified in part or in full due to the absence of reliable sources. Conversely, the highest grade (6) signals that reform coverage is practically complete, providing in-depth information for all fields. In these cases, the coder found exceptionally good sources, an external expert or an external consultant contributed to the coding, and/or the coder has either native or in-depth knowledge of the country. Tables 2 provides an overview of the data quality assessment and the data sources for all 37 countries in the database.

Table 1: Countries and periods covered, coders and external experts

Country	Period covered	Coder	External expert
Australia	1973-2013	Anna Fill	Gaby Ramia, University of Sydney
Austria	1973-2013	Anna Fill	-
Belgium	1973-2013	Rafael Labanino	Stephan Kampelmann, Université Libre Bruxelles
Bulgaria	1991-2013	Rafael Labanino	Simeon Mitropolitski, University of Ottawa
Canada	1973-2013	Rafael Labanino	Colten Goertz, University of Saskatchewan
Croatia	1992-2013	Jorge Galindo	Predraj Bejacovic, Institute of Public Finance of Croatia
Cyprus	1980-2013	Jorge Galindo	-
Czech Republic	1988-2013	Rafael Labanino	Vahalik Bohdan, VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava
Denmark	1973-2013	Anna Fill	-
Estonia	1989-2013	Stefan Heeb, Rafael Labanino	Jüri Kõre, University of Tartu (almp, neb, epl, ir, pen); Egert Juuse, Tallinn U of Technology (fin, comp, pri, tax)
Finland	1973-2013	Rafael Labanino	-
France	1973-2013	Stefan Heeb	Sébastien Lechevalier, EHESS
Germany	1973-2013	Anna Fill	-
Greece	1973-2013	Jorge Galindo	Aris Trantidis, King's College London
Hungary	1987-2013	Rafael Labanino	Irme Szabo, Central European University
Iceland	1974-2013	Jorge Galindo	-
Ireland	1973-2013	Jorge Galindo	Megan Curran, University College Dublin
Israel	1999-2013	Anna Fill	-
Italy	1973-2013	Jorge Galindo	-
Japan	1973-2013	Stefan Heeb	Shinichi Yuhara, Waseda University
Latvia	1989-2013	Aldo Madariaga, University of Tartu	Aleksandrs Cepilovs, Tallinn University of Technology (fin, comp, gov, pri, almp, neb, pen, ir, epl)
Lithuania	1989-2013	Aldo Madariaga, University of Tartu	Vytautas Žukauskas, Lithuanian Free Market Institute
Luxembourg	1973-2013	Anna Fill	-
Malta	1973-2013	Jorge Galindo	Clyde Caruana, University of Malta
Netherlands	1973-2013	Anna Fill	Pieter Tuytens, LSE
New Zealand	1973-2013	Anna Fill	-
Norway	1973-2013	Rafael Labanino	-
Poland	1989-2013	Rafael Labanino	Magdalena Smyk, University of Warsaw
Portugal	1974-2013	Jorge Galindo	-
Romania	1990-2013	Rafael Labanino	Dragos Adascalitei, Central European University
Slovak Republic	1988-2013	Rafael Labanino	Brian Fabo, Center for European Studies, Brussels
Slovenia	1989-2013	Anna Fill, Rafael Labanino	Matej Rojec, University of Ljubljana (pri, fin, epl, ir)
Spain	1976-2013	Jorge Galindo	Victor Hernández, FEDEA
Sweden	1973-2013	Rafael Labanino	Patrik Vulkan, Goteborg University
Switzerland	1973-2013	Stefan Heeb	Alexandre Afonso, Leiden University
United Kingdom	1973-2013	Anna Fill	Megan Curran, University College Dublin (all policy fields except edu); Nicolo Durazzi, LSE (edu)
United States	1973-2013	Jorge Galindo	Keshley Shoub, UNC-Chapel Hill

Table 2: Data Quality Assessment

The researchers had access to OECE Economic Surveys entries (except of Bulgaria), to the IMF Article IV Consultations & Selected Issues (except of Japan) and to the ICTWSS database at the Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS) (except of Croatia) for almost all countries.

Country	Coder's assessment of data quality	External expert	Internal coders' access to national sources	LABREF*	EurWORK*	fRDB-IZA Social Reforms Database	OECD Tax Database	IMF Finance Dataset
Australia	3	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Austria	6	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium	4	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bulgaria	3	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Canada	3	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Croatia	2	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Cyprus	1	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Czech Republic	5	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Denmark	4	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Estonia	5	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Finland	4	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
France	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	6	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greece	3	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hungary	6	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Iceland	2	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Ireland	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Israel	3	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Italy	6	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Japan	5	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Latvia	4	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Lithuania	4	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Luxembourg	2	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Malta	5	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Netherlands	3	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Zealand	3	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Norway	3	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Poland	4	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Portugal	4	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Romania	4	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Slovak Republic	4	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Slovenia	1	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Spain	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sweden	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Switzerland	6	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
United Kingdom	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
United States	5	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

5 Variables

5.1 Metadata

id	Unique ID for each reform
coderid	Identification number for each coder, in alphabetical order: 1 Anna Fill, 2 Jorge Galindo, 3 Rafael Labanino, 4 Stefan Heeb.

5.2 General variables

country	Country name
iso	International Standard for country codes: ISO 3166-1 code (ALPHA-3). ISO country codes: AUS Australia, AUT Austria, BEL Belgium, BGR Bulgaria, CAN Canada, HRV Croatia, CYP Cyprus (Greek part), CZE the Czech Republic, DNK Denmark, EST Estonia, FIN Finland, FRA France, DEU Germany, GRC Greece, HUN Hungary, ISL Iceland, IRL Ireland, ISR Israel, ITA Italy, JPN Japan, LVA Latvia, LTU Lithuania, LUX Luxembourg, MLT Malta, NLD Netherlands, NZL New Zealand, NOR Norway, POL Poland, PRT Portugal, ROU Romania, SVK Slovakia, SVN Slovenia, ESP Spain, SWE Sweden, CHE Switzerland, GBR United Kingdom, USA United States of America.
iso3n	International Standard for country codes: ISO 3166-1 numeric code (numeric-3). ISO numeric country codes: 36 Australia, 40 Austria, 56 Belgium, 100 Bulgaria, 124 Canada, 191 Croatia, 196 Cyprus (Greek part), 203 the Czech Republic, 208 Denmark, 233 Estonia, 246 Finland, 250 France, 276 Germany, 300 Greece, 348 Hungary, 352 Iceland, 372 Ireland, 376 Israel, 380 Italy, 392 Japan, 428 Latvia, 440 Lithuania, 442 Luxembourg, 470 Malta, 528 Netherlands, 554 New Zealand, 578 Norway, 616 Poland, 620 Portugal, 642 Romania, 703 Slovakia, 705 Slovenia, 724 Spain, 752 Sweden, 756 Switzerland, 826 United Kingdom, 840 USA.
year	Year of reference. By default, this is the year in which the reform was approved (variable 'appr_year'). If the approval year is not available, the year of implementation (variable 'imp_year') is used.
eu	Dummy variable adopting a value of 1 for each European Union member state from the year of its accession onward. 0 for non-members.
emu	Dummy variable adopting a value of 1 for each European Monetary Union (Eurozone) member state from the year of its accession onward. 0 for non-members.
poco	Dummy variable adopting a value of 1 for post-communist countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia). 0 for others.

5.3 Policy description variables

measure	legal or officially recognized name of the reform
refpro	Reform process. Indicates how the reform was approved and enacted: Adopts a value of 1 for collective bargaining, 2 for court order, 3 of law and 4 for other.

field	Policy field of reference with description, category codes, and labels:	
almp	Active labor market policies, excluding vocational training. ALMP refers to any reform directed at helping the unemployed to return to work, including job placement services, benefit administration, and labor market programs, such as training and job creation.	1
comp	Competition and product (goods and services) market regulation, excluding finance. COMP refers to any form of regulation aimed at safeguarding competitive conditions in markets for goods and services and at preventing the emergence of monopolies or oligopolies.	2
edu	Education, excluding vocational training. EDU refers to any set-up directed at financing or providing education.	3
epl	Employment protection legislation. EPL refers to any kind of regulation framing the contractual relationship between employer and employee in any aspect of the employment relationship, especially the employer's freedom to hire and fire at will.	4
fin	Financial sector regulations. FIN refers to any regulation regarding the set-up of the financial system (e.g. liberalization of capital movements).	5
gov	Corporate governance. GOV refers to any regulation regarding the ownership structure of private firms.	6
hc	Health care policies. HC refers to any set-up directed at financing or providing health care coverage.	7
ir	Industrial relations. IR refers to any regulation regarding the bargaining relationship between employers and employees (e.g. right to strike, trade union organization, or bargaining levels).	8
neb	Non-employment benefits. NEB refers to any form of transfers directed at supporting people without a paid job or with a wage insufficient to cover household needs.	9
pen	Pension policies. PEN refers to any program directed at providing insurance for old age, survival, and disability.	10
pri	Privatization or nationalization (excluding healthcare, education facilities). PRI refers to the sale of production assets (goods/services) previously held by the state.	11
tax	Personal or corporate income taxes. TAX refers to changes regarding personal income, wealth, and corporate taxation, including social security contributions.	12
voctr	Vocational training. VOCTR refers to any set-up directed at financing or providing vocational education and training.	13
field_str	Policy field of reference in string format (equivalent to value labels of variable 'field')	

5.3.1 Policy Sub-Fields

subfield Policy sub-fields by policy field with category codes and labels

ALMP	
activation requirements	101
direct job creation	102
hiring subsidies	103
public employment services	104
training for the unemployed	105
other	106
COMP	
abuse of dominant position	201
entry rules and barriers	202
foreign ownership	203
mergers and acquisitions	204
opening hours	205
price controls	206

public procurement	207
regulatory authority	208
subsidies	209
other	210
EDU	
admission criteria	301
education financing	302
education provision	303
performance	304
tuition fees	305
workforce management	306
other	307
EPL	
collective dismissal	401
individual dismissal	402
non-permanent contracts	403
notification period	404
part-time work	405
severance payment	406
trial period	407
vacations and leaves	408
other	409
FIN	
capital account restrictions	501
credit controls & reserve req	502
entry barriers	503
financial products	504
interest rate controls	505
ownership	506
securities market	507
supervision & regulation	508
other	509
GOV	
accounting standards	601
bankruptcy legislation	602
minority shareholder protection	603
ownership structure	604
other	605
HC	
health care access	701
health care financing	702
insurance	703
ownership criteria	704
patient copayment	705
pharmaceuticals	706
productivity requirements	707
reimbursement	708
workforce management	709
other	710

IR	
arbitration	801
collective bargaining framework	802
minimum wage	803
strike rights	804
wage setting	805
working time	806
other	807
NEB	
amount & replacement rate	901
duration	902
eligibility	903
social security contributions	904
other	905
PEN	
benefits	1001
compatibility	1002
computation/formula	1003
contribution	1004
contribution period	1005
early retirement	1006
eligibility	1007
funding	1008
indexation	1009
occupational pension schemes	1010
part-time pension schemes	1011
pension funds	1012
pension taxation	1013
private pension schemes	1014
replacement rate	1015
retirement age	1016
other	1017
PRI	
substantial privatization	1101
formal privatization	1102
restitution ³	1103
other	1104
TAX	
corporate income tax	1201
personal income tax	1202
social security contributions	1203
other	1204
VOCTR	
firm-based training	1301
school-based training	1302
other	1303

³ Restitution = compensation for the forced socialization of property.

5.3.2 Involved Subjects

invsb Involved subjects. Groups of people or sectors a reform is targeted to. Distinguished by policy fields with category codes and labels:

ALMP, EPL, IR, NEB, PEN

all	101
agricultural workers	102
disabled	103
employees	104
employers	105
industry workers	106
irregular workers	107
long-term unemployed	108
non-unionized workers	109
older	110
parents	111
pensioners	112
people from regions with high unemployment rates	113
people at risk of exclusion	114
private sector workers	115
public sector workers	116
regular workers	117
school leavers	118
self-employed	119
sick	120
unemployed	121
unionized workers	122
unions	123
work councils	124
workers with reduced working hours	125
women	126
youth	127
other	128

COMP, PRI

all	201
agriculture	202
manufacture	203
energy	204
transport	205
communications	206
finance	207
construction	208
retail	209
services	210
pharmaceuticals	211
other	212

EDU

all	301
pre-primary education	302

primary education	303
secondary education	304
higher education	305
other	306
FIN	
all	501
banks	502
central bank	503
insurance companies	504
other financial institutions	505
securities companies	506
other	507
GOV	
all	601
managers	602
board members	603
shareholders	604
privately held companies	605
publicly traded companies	606
other	607
HC	
all	701
hospitals	702
general practitioners	703
patients	704
employers	705
employees	706
pensioners	707
unemployed	708
pharmacies	709
doctors	710
other	711
TAX	
all	1201
SMEs	1202
large firms	1203
married couples	1204
capital income	1205
labour income	1206
employers	1207
employees	1208
pensioners	1209
other	1210
VOCTR	
all	1301
apprentice	1302
school leavers	1303
students	1304
other	1305

5.4 Policy evaluation variables

lib_delib	Dummy variable: 1 for a liberalizing reform, 0 for a non-liberalizing reform.
sqc	Status quo change. Dummy variable: 1 for a change in the status quo, 0 for a change that has not threatened the status quo. Based on Baumgartner's (2013) work on status quo changes.
pc1	First order policy change. Dummy variable: 1 for a first order policy change according to Hall (1993): a reform that modifies the settings of the considered policy field. 0 otherwise.
pc2	Second order policy change. Dummy variable: 1 for a second order policy change according to Hall (1993): a reform that modifies the instruments used by the considered policy field. 0 otherwise.
pc3	Third order policy change. Dummy variable: 1 for a third order policy change according to Hall (1993): a reform that brings a modification of goals in the considered policy field. 0 otherwise.
encomp	Encompassing. Dummy variable: 1 for an encompassing reform: a reform that affects every possible member of the target group. 0 otherwise.
lib	Liberalization incisiveness index. Weighted index of the incisiveness of a liberalizing (or de-liberalizing, see variable 'delib' below) reform based on Peter Hall's (1993) seminal work on policy changes and Baumgartner's (2013) work on status quo changes. The index was constructed based on the following procedure: status quo changes (variable 'sqc') and third order policy changes (variable 'pc3') are multiplied by 1, second order policy changes are multiplied by 2/3, and first order policy changes are multiplied by 1/3. The resulting products are summed up for each liberalizing reform (based on variable 'lib_delib'). This yields a theoretical maximum value of 3 (1 for sqc + 1/3 for pc1 + 2/3 for pc2 + 1 for pc3) and a theoretical minimum of 0 for each of the 12,426 reforms in the database. When collapsed to the level of country-years with the help of the Stata code made available online, variable 'lib' is the sum of all weighted reforms that take place across all reform policy fields in a given year (and country-year-policy-field, respectively).
delib	De-liberalization incisiveness index. Its construction is equivalent to the one of variable 'lib,' but for de-liberalizing reforms as indicated by variable 'lib_delib'.

5.5 Reference and source variables

source_main	Main source used to describe and code the reform.
source_add	Any additional source(s) used in the coding process.

Appendix: List of Common Sources

OECD Economic Surveys: OECD country surveys on macroeconomic and economic policy developments of all member states as produced annually (with gaps) by the OECD, and available in the OECD iLibrary.

IMF Article IV Consultations & Selected Issues: Following a requirement stated by Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF develops a (usually) yearly consultation on each country member. The staff report is presented to the Executive Board and converted into a public document including both country analysis and policy recommendations. Complementary to mandatory consultations, the IMF staff also elaborates Selected Issues documents for each country, which are focused on specific aspects. Available from the IMF's documents database.

LABREF: LABREF provides a comprehensive set of data on the measures adopted by the EU Member States in policy fields likely to have a direct impact on labor market performance (EPL, NEB, ALMP, VOCTR, PEN and IR). It contains information on the number, type, and design of measures, which can easily be compared across countries. It includes all EU countries and compiles data from the year 2000 onwards. Qualitative tables are available online on the EU website.

frDB-IZA Social Reforms Database on Pensions, NEB & EPL: Created by the frDB, this database provides information about social reforms in the EU15 Countries (except Luxembourg) over the period 1987-2005. The database focuses on reforms in four policy fields: EPL, PEN, NEB, and Migration Policies. The qualitative tables are available upon request. See:

http://www.frdb.org/page/data/scheda/frdb-iza-social-reforms-database/doc_pk/9027
(last accessed 2019-01-21)

OECD Tax Database: The OECD tax database provides comparative information on personal income taxes, non-tax compulsory payments, corporate and capital income taxes and taxes on consumption levied in the 34 OECD member countries. The online dataset is available at:

<http://www.oecd.org/tax/tax-policy/tax-database.htm> (last accessed 2019-01-21)

NATLEX: NATLEX is the database of national labor, social security and related human rights legislation maintained by the ILO's International Labor Standards Department. It contains over 80,000 records covering 196 countries with no time limits (from the 1800's to current legislation). See: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home?p_lang=en (last accessed 2019-01-21)

EurWORK: EurWORK gathers all Eurofound's resources on working conditions and industrial relations. It features articles covering each major reform or political development in these fields. See: <http://eurofound.europa.eu/observatories/eurwork> (last accessed 2019-01-21)

IMF Financial Reform dataset: The database provides a multi-faceted measure of reform, covering seven aspects of financial sector policy. The database provides a graded (rather than a binary) score for each dimension and allows for reversals. Covers financial reforms for 91 economies over the period 1973–2005. See:

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2016/12/31/A-New-Database-of-Financial-Reforms-22485> (last accessed 2019-01-21)

ICTWSS Database on Institutional Characteristics of Trade Unions, Wage Setting, State Intervention and Social Pacts: The ICTWSS database, compiled by Jelle Visser (2013) at the Institute for Advanced Labor Studies (AIAS) of the University of Amsterdam, covers four key elements of modern political economies: trade unionism, wage setting, state intervention and social pacts. The database contains annual data for all OECD and EU member states, with some additional data for emerging economies, and runs from 1960 until 2012. See:

<http://www.uva-aias.net> (last accessed 2019-01-21)

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