

# Political budget cycles with informed voters: evidence from Italy

## Data description

### 1) Geographical and other municipal characteristics

#### 1. Municipality names

The panel of municipalities is obtained using the Ministry of Internal Affairs' *Rilevazione del corpo elettorale*, for all years **1992-2013** (June).

<http://amministratori.interno.it/semestrare/html/archivio.htm>

(Downloaded 4/8/15)

#### 2. Population data (1992-2013)

We use Census data (1991 and 2001) and interpolate the missing years between those Censuses assuming a constant growth rate. For the years 2002 to 2010 we use the Demo ISTAT data:

<http://demo.istat.it/>

(Downloaded 25/3/15)

Also, to integrate, we use the ISTAT population census data at the municipal level, 1991-2011: (Indicatori comunali ai confini 2011)

These are also used to construct the Census variables for human and social capital, and ethnic homogeneity.

Source: <http://ottomilacensus.istat.it/download-dati/>

#### 3. Other geographical data

##### i. Altitude, Surface

Data from ENEA (Ente per le nuove tecnologie, Energia e Ambiente)

<http://clisun.casaccia.enea.it/Pagine/Comuni.htm>

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### 2) Municipal Balance Sheets data

These data are scraped with a Python script.

Source: <http://finanzalocale.interno.it/apps/floc.php/in/cod/4>

Raw data on debt are taken from Openbilanci, send via e-mail by Depp Srl.

**NB:** These data are deflated to 2005 euros using data from FRED (St. Louis) GDP deflator (see below)

### 3) Elections results and municipal administrators data

#### 1. Municipal elections

Those data, available as an Access Database sent by M. Baragona (from the Ministry), contain data on parties, votes and voters for the last municipal elections in Italy (1997-2013).

#### 2. Municipal administrators (mayors, council and committee members)

Those data are obtained from the Database of all public administrators in Italy, in .txt format, for the years 1992-2013.

<http://amministratori.interno.it/AmmIndex5.htm>

(Downloaded 4/8/15)

### 4) Other municipal data

#### 1. Google Trends

Google Trends interest over time index of the search "bilancio consuntivo", 2006-2014.

Source: <http://www.google.com/trends/explore>

#### 2. Maps files with borders of all municipalities in 2001: /Raw/Other/Maps\_files

#### 3. GDP Deflator (used to deflate balance sheet quantities), 2005 = 100.

OECD Main Economic Indicators - complete database 1955-2014

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/data-00052-en>

#### 4. Newspapers data

- i. Data on daily sales of several newspapers by province: from ADS (Dati Territoriali Dichiarati e certificati), 2003-2012.

Source : [http://www.adsnotizie.it/dati\\_certificati\\_territorio.asp](http://www.adsnotizie.it/dati_certificati_territorio.asp)

- ii. Factiva data on newspaper entries. Results from a search done on 8/dec/16, on the words "bilancio consuntivo" and "rendiconto", searching over all local newspapers that also appear in the ADS list.