

# 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/semestrale/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.