

CHAPTER THREE

The Content and Structure of EAST PaC for Ukraine, Poland, and Hungary, 1985–2014

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This chapter describes the content and structure of the East European Parliamentary and Candidate data (EAST PaC) for Ukraine, Poland, and Hungary, 1985–2014. The main sources of these data are official records found in each country's electoral commissions. Details on the methodology for EAST PaC – collecting, cleaning, and matching – are found in Chapters Four, Five, and Six.

Table 1 summarizes the sources and scope of EAST PaC data. While Ukraine and Hungary have only post-Communist elections, Polish data goes back to the Communist Party controlled elections of 1985. All told, EAST PaC covers three countries, 29 years, 23 elections, and 97,439 unique candidates.

Table 1. *Summary of EAST PaC Data Ukraine, Poland, and Hungary*

	Ukraine	Poland	Hungary
House of Parliament	Verkhovna Rada	Sejm and Senat	Orszaggyules
Period covered	1990–2014	1985–2011	1990–2010
Number of elections	8	9	6
Number of unique candidates	35,791	46,426	15,222
Main source of data	Central Election Commission [Центральна виборча комісія]	National Electoral Commission [Państwowa Komisja Wyborcza]	National Election office [Nyilvantartóes Valasztási Hivatal]

EAST PaC data are separated into each country: one for Ukraine, one for Poland, and one for Hungary. Table 2 is a visual representation of the elections in these countries of Central and Eastern Europe over time. Electoral volatility within the electoral systems led to special elections (Details on these elections are found later in the book, in *Part Three: Context*) Ukraine and Poland have had a few special elections, while Hungary has had only regular, four-year elections since their first post-Communist election held in 1990. Only in 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006 and 2007 do elections overlap across nations.

Table 2. *Elections Covered in EAST PaC, 1985–2014*

Year	Ukraine	Poland	Hungary
1985		X	
1989		X	
1990	X		X
1991		X	
1992			
1993		X	
1994	X		X
1995			
1996			
1997		X	
1998	X		X
1999			
2000			
2001		X	
2002	X		X
2003			
2004			
2005		X	
2006	X		X
2007	X	X	
2008			
2009			
2010			X

2011		X
2012	X	
2013		
2014	X	

The structure of EAST PaC is similar to that of panel data. These data are matched over time, meaning that the same candidate can be identified whenever they appear across successive elections. Table 3 is a visual representation of the structure of these data; it is the same structure across all EAST PaC data files. As a simple illustration, for “Country Z,” we present three generic candidates: A, B and C. Variables are specific for each election year. For example, Variable Y 1990 applies only to the 1990 election, and not to the elections of 1994 and 1998. Variable Y 1994 applies only to the 1994 election, and not to the elections of 1990 or 1998. In this illustration, the letter X represents the value of the variable; “missing” indicates no value for that variable.

In Country Z:

Candidate A ran for office only once, in 1994. They have a value in Variable Y 1994, and have missing values in the variables for the other election years.

Candidate B ran for office every year: 1990, 1994, and 1998. They have values in all variables: Variable Y 1990, Variable Y 1994, and Variable Y 1998.

Candidate C was a candidate in 1990. But in 1994, this person did not run for office and thus was not a candidate that election year. This person re-emerged as a candidate in 1998. They have values only in Variable Y 1990 and Variable Y 1998, the years in which they appear as a candidate.

Table 3. *Generic Structure of EAST PaC Data*

Unique Candidate ID	Variable Y 1990	Variable Y 1994	Variable Y 1998
Candidate A	missing	X	missing
Candidate B	X	X	X
Candidate C	X	missing	X

In each election year, for each country, there is a different configuration of candidates. Table 4 presents the number of candidates per country and per election year. As discussed in Table 3, some candidates appear in multiple elections; thus, the total number of unique candidates cannot be computed from this table.

Table 4. *Candidates per Election Year in the Countries of EAST PaC*

Election Year	Ukraine	Poland	Hungary
1985		867	
1989		2352	
1990	2815		3340
1991		7592	
1993		9471	
1994	6536		5187
1997		6953	
1998	6219		4256
2001		7937	
2002	6954		3378
2005		11281	
2006	7588		2795
2007	4848	6572	
2010			2471
2011		7535	
2012	5201		
2014	6432		

AVAILABLE VARIABLES

EAST PaC relies on official sources and thus has a limited array of variables that varies by country and election year. Table 5 presents the demographic variables available for each EAST PaC country. Name, year of birth, and gender are consistently available across all countries and all elections. Occupation is available in raw form for the 2006 - 2014 elections in Ukraine, and for Poland it is available in various forms

between 1989 and 2011, and in Hungary, occupation is not available at all. Education is available only in Ukraine and from 1994 to 2014.

Table 5. *Demographic Variables in EAST PaC, 1985–2014*

Variable	Ukraine (1990–2014)	Poland (1985–2011)	Hungary (1990–2010)
Full Name	ALL	ALL	ALL
Year of Birth/Age	ALL	ALL	ALL ^a
Gender	ALL	ALL	ALL
Occupation	2006–2012 ^b	1989–2011	None
Education	1994–2014	None	None

ALL = all elections; [Year] = election years in which these variables are available.

^a In 2010, there is a relatively high percent of missing values on the variable, Year of Birth. For an explanation, see Chapter Six, this book.

^b These data are available in raw form, upon request. They are not archived along with the rest of the data.

ELECTORAL CHARACTERISTICS

Electoral variables vary across elections, but there are some core variables that each country has (Table 6). Party and district are available across all countries and elections. Votes received (except for Poland in the 1980s) and whether the candidate was elected is also generally available. However, list position is only available in Ukraine from 1998 and in Poland from 1991 and in Hungary only in 2010.

Table 6. *Electoral Variables in East PaC, 1985–2014*

Variable	Ukraine (1990–2014)	Poland (1985–2011)	Hungary (1990–2010)
Party	ALL	ALL	ALL
District	ALL	ALL	ALL
List Position	1998–2014	1991–2011	2010
Votes Received	ALL	1991–2011	ALL
Elected or Not	ALL	ALL	ALL

ALL = all elections; [Year] = election years in which these variables are available.

Electoral rules change and thus EAST PaC contains electoral variables that are specific for each country and each election. The array of such special variables for Ukraine and Poland are below (Tables 7 and 8). For Hungary, see Appendix Two.

Table 7. *Variables in EAST PaC Unique to Ukraine per Election Year, 1990–2014*

Election Year	Variables Unique to Ukraine per Election Year
1990	Okrug, Oblast, number of votes received in the first round, won first round, elected for the second round, number of votes received in the second round, won second round
1994	Okrug, Oblast, number of votes received in the first round, won first round, elected for the second round, number of votes received in the second round, won second round, was a candidate in additional elections, number of votes received in the additional elections, won first round of additional elections, elected to the second round of additional elections, number of votes received in the second round of additional elections, won second round of additional elections, new district if assigned for additional elections
1998	Okrug districts for majoritarian candidates, oblast for districts, blocks for elections, candidates by majoritarian system, candidates by party lists, candidates by both, party lists and majoritarian system, votes by majoritarian system, won by party list or majoritarian system
2002	Okrug districts for party candidates from which they campaign, oblast for these districts, oblast that candidate actually lives in, majoritarian or party candidate, blocks for elections
2006	Okrug districts for party candidates from which they campaign, oblast for these districts, oblast that candidate actually lives in, blocks for elections
2007	Oblast that candidate actually lives in, blocks for elections
2012	Okrug districts for party candidates from which they campaign, oblast for these districts, oblast that candidate actually lives in, majoritarian or party candidate
2014	Okrug districts for party candidates from which they campaign, oblast for these districts, oblast that candidate actually lives in, majoritarian or party candidate

Table 8. *Variables in EAST PaC Unique to Poland per Election Year, 1985–2011*

Election Year	Variables Unique to Poland per Election Year
1985	Limited to the Sejm and only contains age, gender, type of electoral list (district or national), and electoral district
1989	Data for Sejm and Senat, and has the same as 1991 to 2011, except it has type of electoral list (coded same as in 1985) and does not have list position or party affiliation
1991	For the Sejm: Type of electoral list, regular or supplementary elections
1993	For the Sejm: Type of electoral list, regular or supplementary elections, party affiliation and party electoral list
1997	For the Sejm: name of party committee, name of party affiliation/membership, and party electoral list
2001	For the Senat: Party affiliation and party electoral list
2005	Nothing unique for this election year
2007	Nothing unique for this election year
2011	Place of residence (name of village/town). For Senat: Electoral one-seat constituencies and Electoral committee.

CONCLUSION

EAST PaC data provides a way for scholars to empirically test theories of accountability, representation and political inequality in countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Collected mainly from official sources, EAST PaC spans decades and almost two dozen elections; it contains nearly a hundred thousand candidates, from those who ran but never won to those who ran and won quite a few times. EAST PaC is as near a complete record of candidates in Ukraine, Poland, and Hungary as one may find: it allows scholars and citizens to accurately quantify the electoral process and track the careers of politicians from the biggest parties to the smallest. Used as it is, or harmonized with survey and non-survey data, EAST PaC is the rare window into the electoral politics of the tumultuous post-Communist era and beyond.

EAST PaC data are publicly available free of charge and are archived in the Polish Data Archive (and soon in other leading data archives).