Dataset documentation:
The membership dynamics of 37 Transnational City Networks (TCNs)

Data summary

Dataset captures the memberships of 37 Transnational City Networks (TCNs), such as the C40, Metropolis, EUROCITIES, 100 Resilient Cities, or the Arab Town Organization. In contrast to national city associations, TCNs have international memberships and their agendas address transnational issues, such as climate change, migration, peacekeeping, or other policy fields where urban diplomacy is relevant (Acuto, 2016).

In April 2020, these TCNs had a total or 24,530 memberships of cities, municipalities, and other sub-national governments (referred to as cities subsequently). These memberships are composed of 19,600 unique cities in 198 countries around the world. The size of each TCN ranges between 9 and 8,868 cities[1].

For 12 of these TCNs, the data captures not only current members (as of early 2020), but also former city members. With a total membership of 3,322 in 2020, these TCNs have lost 324 cities since 2014. While some networks lost none, others have lost up to around 100 members, which is nearly half of their current size. These fluctuations may reflect the struggle of some TCNs for sustainability (Davidson et al., 2019).

Collection purpose

The data was collected to serve as comparative evidence for evaluating the program of one of the featured TCNs. The data allows to contrast in which regions TCNs are differently represented and active. The set was enriched with variables, such as city population, to explain variations and membership dropouts, though no significant findings could be made.

The set includes an Excel workbook with dynamically coded tables and pivot charts. This workbook can be used for ready-made analytics, as well as to extend or manipulate the data.

Data sources

All data has been collected from public sources between March and July 2020.

1. TCN memberships have been obtained from the networks' official websites or through official reports. Only full members are considered.
2. Data on former memberships has been deduced by looking at former membership overviews (as in 1.). These were retrieved through the Internet Archive (2020)

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[1] The Council of European Municipalities and Regions and United Cities and Local Government is excluded, because of too-large memberships.

Waybackmachine back until 2014, were available. For an example see United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2016) or World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (2016).

3. Population figures were added to the dataset through Brinkhoff; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2020; 2018).
4. Further explanatory variables on country-level, such as GDP per capita or other socio-economic indicators were obtained from the World Bank (2020).

References

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