UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

EU-GenDip Dataset

Dataset on Gender and EU Diplomatic Representation, 2011 - 2024

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Citation

Scholars who wish to use this dataset in their research are kindly requested to use the following citation:

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The GenDip Program

The main aim of the GenDip program is to identify and analyze the changing nature of gender in and of diplomacy. The program constitutes an integrated part of the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg and was founded by Professor Ann Towns in 2014.

The Dataset

The EU-GenDip dataset includes **all bilateral EU ambassadors in 2011–2024 coded by gender**. The dataset consists of 2,422 data points.

The European External Action Service (EEAS) was created in 2011 to externally represent the European Union. It is world's only supranational diplomatic service and one of the largest diplomatic services in the world. The EU is represented through 135 (bilateral) EU delegations (2024), each of them headed by an EU ambassador/head of delegation. EU's diplomatic system is staffed by EU civil servants and diplomats from diplomatic services of EU member states. The EU delegations were preceded by European Commission's delegations prior to 2011.

Although the two first appointees to the office of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy ("EU foreign minister") were female, women were significantly

underrepresented in the EEAS in its early days.[1] Now, after fourteen years since the inception of the service, we can observe patterns and test hypotheses about gender representation in EU ambassadorial appointments. Currently, with **38.06% of EU ambassadors being female** (2024), the EU is significantly above world's average but also far from achieving gender parity.

The EU-GenDip dataset is made compatible with the main GenDip dataset, allowing for comparative analyses.

Users are encouraged to build on this dataset to expand it by data points (EU ambassadors in multilateral postings, heads of European Commission's delegations, subsequent postings after 2024) and/or variables (nationality, career background, etc.).

In case of questions regarding the dataset, please contact Monika de Silva (monika.de.silva@gu.se).

The Data Collection Process

Data was collected from official EU sources: websites of the EEAS, the European Commission, and the EU delegations. The EU publishes press releases on ambassadorial appointments and nominations through its official channels.

When data on an ambassadorial appointment was missing or unclear (e.g., regarding the start of a new posting) additional sources were consulted: biographical ambassador information (CVs, LinkedIn, social media), email inquiries to the EEAS, and diplomatic lists of the hosting states.

If more than one person served as an EU ambassador within a given year, the person who served the longest portion of the year was coded.

Variables

year

The year for which the data is valid.

cname_send

Name of the sending entity (European Union).

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[1] T. Novotná, (2015), 'Women in the EEAS and EU Delegations: Another Post-Westphalia Change?', in J. Bátora and D. Spence (eds.), The European External Action Service: European Diplomacy Post-Westphalia? Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, pp. 426-436.

main_posting

The variable *main_posting* refers to the main (and resident) posting of the diplomat.

Ambassadors are often accredited to several countries simultaneously, so that one individual serves as main and resident ambassador in one capital and as a concurrently side-accredited ambassador to others. We thus created a variable, *main_posting*, to indicate what is usually the resident posting. This variable enables analyses of individuals rather than postings (as one individual can have several postings - though only one main posting - per year).

The number of EU's main postings grew significantly over time: from 109 delegations in 2011 to 135 delegations in 2023/2024.

1 = main posting

0 = side accreditation

cname_receive

Name of the receiving country. The name is written according to the ISO 3166-1 standard: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search

gender

The gender classification of the diplomat.

The coding is based on titles (e.g. Mr/Mrs) and pronouns used when referring to the diplomat (she/her, he/him). We have not yet encountered an ambassador that is classified as something other than man or woman.

0 = man

1 = woman

98 = embassy closed

99 = missing data

ccode_receive

Country numeric code of the receiving country based on ISO 3166-1 numeric codes and ISO 3166-3. The latter standard specifies former codes for countries that do no longer exist. All numeric country codes are unique, which makes this variable the best suited one for merging datasets (in combination with year).

Source: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search and https://www.iso.org/standard/72484.html

9999 = missing data

ccodealp_receive

A three-letter code of the sending country based on the ISO-3166-1 alpha3 English standard.

Source: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search/code/ and https://www.iso.org/standard/72484.html

When information has been unavailable at the ISO page, we have also used information from Statistics Canada: https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/subjects/standard/sccai/2011/scountry-desc

9999 = missing data

ccodeCOW_receive

Correlates of Wars (COW) country code number according to Singer and Small (1994).

9999 = missing data

region_receive

Geographical region of the receiving country. *NB!* This coding does not take political or cultural affiliations into account.

0 = Africa

1= Asia

2 = Central and North America (including the West Indies)

3 = Europe (including Russia; excluding Nordic countries)

4 = Middle East (including Egypt, Israel, and Turkey)

5 = Nordic countries

6 = Oceania

7 = South America