The Eurotower Strikes Back:
Crises, Adjustments and Europe's Austerity Protests

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Coding Notes for Monthly Data

"The Eurotower Strikes Back" article includes an analysis of original data based on strikes and protests events in a subset of European countries. The events were collected from news articles retrieved (scraped) from the online archives of the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) and the New York Time (NYT) in April 2014. The dataset contains the following variables coded as described:

year - 2001 to 2013

country - nominal: each of the EU countries under analysis - Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, the UK and Ireland.

countryn - numerical value for each of the analyzed countries.

month - nominal: month from January to December.

monthn - numerical value for each month.

date - string variable for the first of the month (for calculations).

firstnews/secondnews/thirdnews - binary variables. The value 1 is assigned when we have access to a news article that reports a strike/protest for that country-month. The "firstnews" variable is coded 1 based on the chronological first article released on that month (e.g. news on strikes in Germany releases on 2 May 2002). If there are more articles released on that month (e.g. May in Germany), then the following articles are coded as 1 under "secondnews" and, eventually, "thirdnews" (e.g. the article of the 7 May 2002 in Germany is coded as 1 under "secondnews", because it chronologically comes after the May 2nd article).

firstnews_date/secondnews_date/thirdnews_date - string date variables where the release date of the news articles is recorded (DD/MM/YY). "firstnews_date" is recorded if the *firstnews* is 1; "secondnews_date" is recorded if the *secondnews* is 1; and "thirdnews_date" is recorded if *thirdnews* is 1.

numberstrikeevents - a count variable that corresponds to the amount of strikes identified for each month. It is the sum of the *firstnews/secondnews/thirdnews*. (For example, in May 2002 for Germany we know of 3 waves of strikes (because of 3 distinct news articles on them), so this variable takes the number of 3.)

economicstrike - a binary variable that takes the value 1 if the content of the article matches the following definition of strike : "Active refusal by employees to work under the conditions required by employers. These strikes arise principally in response to economic conditions (defined as an economic strike and meant to improve wages and benefits) or labour practices (intended to improve work conditions). These strikes are not general strikes." 0 otherwise.

politicalstrike - a binary variable that takes the value 1 if the content of the article matches the following definition of strike: "Stoppage or disruption of work by a substantial proportion of workers in a number of industries in an organized endeavour to achieve policy or political objectives. Involves a shut down of public transportation, hospitals, mail delivery, and other public utilities and services in protest. These strikes are related to general strikes and can be linked to demonstrations (e.g. by the non-working population)." 0 otherwise.