*Table A.1. Search strings.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Party | Populist party | Search string |
| Belgium Flanders | VB  PvdA  PTB | (VB OR “Vlaams Belang” OR “Vlaams Blok” OR “Van Grieken” OR Annemans OR Valkeniers) AND (uitsluiten OR onderhandel\* OR samenwerk\* OR coalitie\* OR “cordon sanitaire” OR sluiten OR kabinet OR regering OR regeren OR samen) (from:de\_NVA) (from:Bart\_DeWever) (from:Vooruit\_nu) (from:conner\_rousseau) (from:johncombez) (from:carogennez) (from:cdenv) (from:wbeke) (from:joachimcoens) (from:openvld) (fromBartSomers) (from:guyverhofstadt) (from:alexanderdecroo) (from:RuttenGwendolyn) (from:egbertlachaert) (from:groen) (from:WouterVanBesien) (from:MeyremAlmaci)  (PvdA OR “Partij van de Arbeid van België” OR Mertens) AND (uitsluiten OR onderhandel\* OR samenwerk\* OR coalitie\* OR “cordon sanitaire” OR sluiten OR kabinet OR regering OR regeren OR samen) (from:de\_NVA) (from:Bart\_DeWever) (from:Vooruit\_nu) (from:conner\_rousseau) (from:johncombez) (from:carogennez) (from:cdenv) (from:wbeke) (from:joachimcoens) (from:openvld) (fromBartSomers) (from:guyverhofstadt) (from:alexanderdecroo) (from:RuttenGwendolyn) (from:egbertlachaert) (from:groen) (from:WouterVanBesien) (from:MeyremAlmaci)  (PTB OR “Parti du travail de Belgique” OR Mertens) AND (uitsluiten OR onderhandel\* OR samenwerk\* OR coalitie\* OR “cordon sanitaire” OR sluiten OR kabinet OR regering OR regeren OR samen) (from:de\_NVA) (from:Bart\_DeWever) (from:Vooruit\_nu) (from:conner\_rousseau) (from:johncombez) (from:carogennez) (from:cdenv) (from:wbeke) (from:joachimcoens) (from:openvld) (fromBartSomers) (from:guyverhofstadt) (from:alexanderdecroo) (from:RuttenGwendolyn) (from:egbertlachaert) (from:groen) (from:WouterVanBesien) (from:MeyremAlmaci) |
| Belgium Wallonia | VB  PvdA  PTB | (VB OR “Vlaams Belang” OR “Vlaams Blok” OR “Van Grieken” OR Annemans OR Valkeniers) AND (exclu\* OR négoci\* OR collabor\* OR coalition\* OR “cordon sanitaire” OR cabinet OR gouvernement OR gouverner OR ensemble) (from:ecolo) (from:jmjavaux) (from:Isabelle\_Durant) (from:Sarahturine) (from:KhattabiZakia) (from:PatrickDupriez) (from:jmnollet) (from:RajaeMaouane) (from:PSofficiel) (from:eliodirupo) (from:PaulMagnette) (from:lecdh) (from:JoelleMilquet) (from:BenoitLutgen) (from:prevotmaxime) (from:MR\_officiel) (from:dreynders) (from:CharlesMichel) (from:OChastel) (from:GLBouchez) (from:defi\_eu) (from:OlivierMaingain) (from:francoisdesmet)  (PvdA OR “Partij van de Arbeid van België” OR Mertens) AND (exclu\* OR négoci\* OR collabor\* OR coalition\* OR “cordon sanitaire” OR cabinet OR gouvernement OR gouverner OR ensemble) (from:ecolo) (from:jmjavaux) (from:Isabelle\_Durant) (from:Sarahturine) (from:KhattabiZakia) (from:PatrickDupriez) (from:jmnollet) (from:RajaeMaouane) (from:PSofficiel) (from:eliodirupo) (from:PaulMagnette) (from:lecdh) (from:JoelleMilquet) (from:BenoitLutgen) (from:prevotmaxime) (from:MR\_officiel) (from:dreynders) (from:CharlesMichel) (from:OChastel) (from:GLBouchez) (from:defi\_eu) (from:OlivierMaingain) (from:francoisdesmet)  (PTB OR “Parti du travail de Belgique” OR Mertens) AND (exclu\* OR négoci\* OR collabor\* OR coalition\* OR “cordon sanitaire” OR cabinet OR gouvernement OR gouverner OR ensemble) (from:ecolo) (from:jmjavaux) (from:Isabelle\_Durant) (from:Sarahturine) (from:KhattabiZakia) (from:PatrickDupriez) (from:jmnollet) (from:RajaeMaouane) (from:PSofficiel) (from:eliodirupo) (from:PaulMagnette) (from:lecdh) (from:JoelleMilquet) (from:BenoitLutgen) (from:prevotmaxime) (from:MR\_officiel) (from:dreynders) (from:CharlesMichel) (from:OChastel) (from:GLBouchez) (from:defi\_eu) (from:OlivierMaingain) (from:francoisdesmet) |
| Netherlands | PVV  FvD  SP | (PVV OR PVV OR “Partij voor de vrijheid” OR Wilders) AND (uitsluiten OR onderhandel\* OR samenwerk\* OR coalitie\* OR “cordon sanitaire” OR sluiten OR kabinet OR regering OR regeren OR samen) (from:VVD) (from:dijkhoff) (from:HalbeZijlstra) (from:MinisterBlok) (from:markrutte) (from:SGPnieuws) (from:keesvdstaaij) (from:christenunie) (from:arieslob) (from:gertjansegers) (from:cdavandaag) (from:WBHoekstra) (from:PieterGeerma) (from:sybrandbuma) (from:MaximeVerhagen) (from:D66) (from:SigridKaag) (from:RobJetten) (from:APechtold) (from:PvdA) (from:PloumenLilianne) (from:LodewijkA) (from:attjekuiken) (from:J\_Dijsselbloem) (from:diederiksamsom) (from:jobcohen) (from:mariettehamer) (from:groenlinks) (from:jesseklaver) (from:bramvanojikgl)  (FvD OR “Forum voor Democratie” OR “Forum” OR “Baudet”) AND (uitsluiten OR onderhandel\* OR samenwerk\* OR coalitie\* OR “cordon sanitaire” OR sluiten OR kabinet OR regering OR regeren OR samen) (from:VVD) (from:dijkhoff) (from:HalbeZijlstra) (from:MinisterBlok) (from:markrutte) (from:SGPnieuws) (from:keesvdstaaij) (from:christenunie) (from:arieslob) (from:gertjansegers) (from:cdavandaag) (from:WBHoekstra) (from:PieterGeerma) (from:sybrandbuma) (from:MaximeVerhagen) (from:D66) (from:SigridKaag) (from:RobJetten) (from:APechtold) (from:PvdA) (from:PloumenLilianne) (from:LodewijkA) (from:attjekuiken) (from:J\_Dijsselbloem) from:diederiksamsom) (from:jobcohen) (from:mariettehamer) (from:groenlinks) (from:jesseklaver) (from:bramvanojikgl)  (SP OR Kant OR Roemer OR Marijnissen OR “Socialistische Partij”) AND (uitsluiten OR onderhandel\* OR samenwerk\* OR coalitie\* OR “cordon sanitaire” OR sluiten OR kabinet OR regering OR regeren OR samen) (from:VVD) (from:dijkhoff) (from:HalbeZijlstra) (from:MinisterBlok) (from:markrutte) (from:SGPnieuws) (from:keesvdstaaij) (from:christenunie) (from:arieslob) (from:gertjansegers) (from:cdavandaag) (from:WBHoekstra) (from:PieterGeerma) (from:sybrandbuma) (from:MaximeVerhagen) (from:D66) (from:SigridKaag) (from:RobJetten) (from:APechtold) (from:PvdA) (from:PloumenLilianne) (from:LodewijkA) (from:attjekuiken) (from:J\_Dijsselbloem) (from:jobcohen) (from:mariettehamer) (from:groenlinks) (from:jesseklaver) (from:bramvanojikgl) |
| Germany | AfD  Die Linke | (AfD OR "Alternative für Deutschland" OR Lucke OR Petry OR Adam OR Meuthen OR Gauland OR Weidel) AND (schließen OR schliessen OR verhandeln OR Verhandlung OR kooper\* OR kordon\* OR ausschließen OR ausschliessen OR Koalit\* OR koalieren OR Regierung OR regieren OR Zusammenarbeit OR zusammenarbeiten OR zusammen) (from:cdu) (from:ArminLaschet) (from:fdp) (from:c\_lindner) (from:philipproessler) (from:spdde) (from:sigmargabriel) (from:MartinSchulz) (from:olafscholz) (from:ManuelaSchwesig) (from:NowaboFM) (from:EskenSaskia) (from:die\_gruenen) (from:Abaerbock) (from:peter\_simone) (from:cem\_oezdemir)  (Linke OR Linkspartei OR Linken OR Kipping OR Riexinger OR Bisky OR Lafontaine OR "Klaus Ernst" OR Lötzsch OR Loetzsch) AND (schließen OR schliessen OR verhandeln OR Verhandlung OR kooper\* OR kordon\* OR ausschließen OR ausschliessen OR Koalit\* OR koalieren OR Regierung OR regieren OR Zusammenarbeit OR zusammenarbeiten OR zusammen) (from:cdu) (from:ArminLaschet) (from:fdp) (from:c\_lindner) (from:philipproessler) (from:spdde) (from:sigmargabriel) (from:MartinSchulz) (from:olafscholz) (from:ManuelaSchwesig) (from:NowaboFM) (from:EskenSaskia) (from:die\_gruenen) (from:Abaerbock) (from:peter\_simone) (from:cem\_oezdemir) |
| Austria | ÖVP | (FPÖ OR Strache OR FPOE OR “Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs”) AND (schließen OR schliessen OR verhandeln OR Verhandlung OR kooper\* OR kordon\* OR ausschließen OR ausschliessen OR Koalit\* OR koalieren OR Regierung OR regieren OR Zusammenarbeit OR zusammenarbeiten OR zusammen) (from:volkspartei) (from:sebastiankurz) (from:MitterlehnerR) (from:neos\_eu) (from:BMeinl) (from:matstrolz) (from:SPOE\_at) (from:kernchri) (from:rendiwagner) (from:diegruenen) (from:WKogler) |

*Table A.2. Twitter accounts of mainstream parties & party leaders (2006-2021)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Party accounts in sample | Party accounts with Twitter | | Party leaders in sample | Party leaders with Twitter | | Total number of Twitter accounts | |
|  | # | # | % | # | # | % | # | % |
| Austria | 4 | 4 | 100 | 12 | 7 | 58.3 | 16 | 68.8 |
| Belgium Flanders | 5 | 5 | 100 | 15 | 13 | 86.6 | 20 | 90.0 |
| Belgium Wallonia | 5 | 5 | 100 | 21 | 16 | 76.2 | 26 | 80.8 |
| Germany | 4 | 4 | 100 | 20 | 13 | 65.0 | 24 | 70.8 |
| Netherlands | 7 | 7 | 100 | 26 | 22 | 84.6 | 33 | 87.9 |
| All countries | 25 | 25 | 100 | 94 | 71 | 75.5 | 119 | 80.7 |

Note. Only Twitter accounts of party leaders that already were founded during the leader mandate were included.

*Table A.3. Overview of mainstream parties and party leaders for different countries and account information (on May 1 2021).*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Actor | Join date | Twitter handle | In office | Out office | Followers | Tweets |
| Austria |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Die Grünen | Jun 2011 | @diegruenen |  |  | 50 308 | 20 420 |
| Werner Kogler | Jun 2010 | @Wkogler | 17.10.2017 |  | 69 299 | 17 379 |
| Ingrid Felipe | (no account) |  | 26.06.2017 | 17.10.2017 |  |  |
| Eva Glawischnig | (no account) |  | 03.10.2008 | 26.06.2017 |  |  |
| SPÖ | Mar 2009 | @SPOE\_at |  |  | 47 185 | 15 833 |
| Pamela Rendi-Wagner | Feb 2015 | @rendiwagner | 25.09.2018 | - | 48 360 | 727 |
| Christian Kern | Mar 2011 | @KernChri | 25.06.2016 | 25.09.2018 | 118 449 | 2 991 |
| Werner Faymann | (no account) |  | 02.12.2008 | 25.06.2016 |  |  |
| NEOS | Sep 2012 | @neos\_eu |  |  | 43 142 | 62 545 |
| Beate Meinl-Reisinger | Dec 2011 | @Bmeinl | 23.06.2018 |  | 50 674 | 13 755 |
| Matthias Strolz | May 2010 | @matstrolz | 27.10.2012 | 23.06.2018 | 91 004 | 19 409 |
| ÖVP | Dec 2007 | @volkspartei |  |  | 32 545 | 11 922 |
| Sebastian Kurz | Jun 2009 | @sebastiankurz | 15.5.2017 | - | 475 296 | 9 446 |
| Reinhold Mitterlehner | Dec 2013 | @MitterlehnerR | 8.11.2014 | 15.5.2017 | 17 736 | 1 121 |
| Michael Spindelegger | (no account) |  | 20.5.2011 | 8.11.2014 |  |  |
| Josef Pröll | (no account) |  | 28.11.2008 | 20.5.2011 |  |  |
| Flanders (Belgium) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groen | Aug 2007 | @groen |  |  | 45 676 | 35 654 |
| Wouter Van Besien | Mar 2013 | @WouterVanBesien | 25.10.2009 | 15.11.2014 | 19 074 | 1 260 |
| Meyrem Almaci | Dec 2011 | @MeyremAlmaci | 15.11.2014 | - | 27 110 | 4 531 |
| Vooruit (SP.A) | Mar 2009 | @vooruit\_nu |  |  | 40 313 | 30 549 |
| Caroline Gennez | Sep 2014 | @carogennez | 21.10.2007 | 18.09.2011 | 2 964 | 2 081 |
| Bruno Tobback | (No account) |  | 18.09.2011 | 12.06.2015 |  |  |
| John Crombez | Jan 2011 | @johncrombez | 12.06.2015 | 08.11.2019 | 42 311 | 13 070 |
| Conner Rousseau | Mar 2015 | @conner\_rousseau | 08.11.2019 | - | 25 863 | 629 |
| CD&V | Aug 2008 | @cdenv |  |  | 46 457 | 18 445 |
| Marianne Thyssen\* | Nov 2013 | @mariannethyssen | 15.05.2008 | 23.06.2010 | 39 507 | 3 623 |
| Wouter Beke | Mar 2012 | @wbeke | 22.12.2010 | 06.12.2019 | 61 608 | 8 556 |
| Joachim Coens | Jan 2011 | @joachimcoens | 06.12.2019 | - | 11 541 | 4 756 |
| Open VLD | Feb 2009 | @openvld |  |  | 47 213 | 20 392 |
| Bart Somers | Apr 2009 | @BartSomers | 19.07.2004 | 07.06.2009 | 26 374 | 7 359 |
| Guy Verhofstadt | Oct 2012 | @guyverhofstadt | 07.06.2009 | 12.12.2009 | 462 904 | 6 987 |
| Alexander De Croo | May 2009 | @alexanderdecroo | 12.12.2009 | 08.12.2012 | 161 331 | 9 293 |
| Gwendolyn Rutten | May 2009 | @RuttenGwendolyn | 08.12.2012 | 22.05.2020 | 71 689 | 12 018 |
| Egbert Lachaert | Jun 2009 | @egbertlachaert | 22.05.2020 | - | 18 257 | 8 821 |
| N-VA | Mar 2009 | @de\_NVA |  |  | 72 221 | 72 890 |
| Bart De Wever | May 2010 | @Bart\_DeWever | 23.10.2004 | - | 166 559 | 438 |
| Wallonia (Belgium) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ecolo | Apr 2008 | @Ecolo |  |  | 28 797 | 13 362 |
| Jean-Michel Javaux | Apr 2008 | @jmjavaux | 14.07.2004 | 05.03.2012 | 28 822 | 9 428 |
| Isabelle Durant | Oct 2010 | @Isabelle\_Durant | 14.07.2004 | 22.10.2009 | 8 682 | 2 792 |
| Sarah Turine | Jan 2009 | @Sarahturine | 22.10.2009 | 05.03.2012 | 4 409 | 1 591 |
| Olivier Deleuze | (no account) |  | 05.03.2012 | 22.03.2015 |  |  |
| Emily Hoyos | (no account) |  | 05.03.2012 | 22.03.2015 |  |  |
| Zakia Khattabi | Jul 2020 | @KhattabiZakia | 22.03.2015 | 10.11.2018 | 4 947 | 944 |
| Patrick Dupriez | Sep 2013 | @PatrickDupriez | 22.03.2015 | 10.11.2018 | 4 935 | 6 369 |
| Jean-Marc Nollet | Oct 2012 | @jmnollet | 10.11.2018 | - | 15 591 | 13 717 |
| Rajae Maouane | Jun 2012 | @RajaeMaouane | 10.11.2018 | - | 5 243 | 4 244 |
| PS | Feb 2011 | @ Psofficiel |  |  | 22 341 | 9 092 |
| Elio Di Rupo | Apr 2007 | @eliodirupo | 04.04.2000 | 06.12.2011 | 279 918 | 7 704 |
| Elio Di Rupo | Apr 2007 | @eliodirupo | 22.11.2014 | 19.10.2019 | 279 918 | 7 704 |
| Thierry Giet | (no account) |  | 06.12.2011 | 17.01.2013 |  |  |
| Paul Magnette | Feb 2009 | @PaulMagnette | 17.10.2013 | 22.11.2014 | 91 149 | 3 186 |
| Paul Magnette | Feb 2009 | @PaulMagnette | 19.10.2019 | - | 91 149 | 3 186 |
| Cdh | Jan 2011 | @lecdh |  |  | 13 286 | 7 655 |
| Joëlle Milquet\* | Feb 2017 | @JoelleMilquet | 18.05.2002 | 01.09.2011 | 4 640 | 2 631 |
| Benoît Lutgen\* | Jan 2017 | @BenoitLutgen | 01.09.2011 | 26.01.2019 | 4 427 | 232 |
| Maxime Prévot | Apr 2013 | @prevotmaxime | 26.01.2019 | - | 7 905 | 428 |
| MR | Jan 2010 | @MR\_officiel |  |  | 29 686 | 17 650 |
| Didier Reynders | May 2009 | @dreynders | 11.10.2004 | 28.01.2011 | 172 196 | 25 666 |
| Charles Michel | Dec 2009 | @CharlesMichel | 28.01.2011 | 13.10.2014 | 267 817 | 7 423 |
| Olivier Chastel | Apr 2010 | @OChastel | 13.10.2014 | 29.11.2019 | 24 727 | 9 084 |
| George-Louis Bouchez | Sep 2010 | @GLBouchez | 29.11.2019 | - | 22 882 | 49 464 |
| Défi | Mar 2010 | @defi\_eu |  |  | 6 527 | 12 800 |
| Olivier Maingain | Dec 2012 | @OlivierMaingain | 01.10.1995 | 01.12.2019 | 6 938 | 3 988 |
| François De Smet | Oct 2010 | @francoisdesmet | 01.12.2019 | - | 6 017 | 7 271 |
| Germany |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Die Grünen | Apr 2008 | @Die\_Gruenen |  |  | 570 111 | 19 922 |
| Robert Habeck | (no account) |  | 27.01.2018 | - |  |  |
| Annalena Baerbock | Nov 2013 | @Abaerbock | 27.01.2018 | - | 242 324 | 4 289 |
| Simone Peter | Jul 2012 | @peter\_simone | 19.10.2013 | 27.01.2018 | 35 110 | 39 451 |
| Claudia Roth | (no account) |  | 02.10.2004 | 19.10.2013 |  |  |
| Cem Özdemir | Jan 2009 | @cem\_oezdemir | 15.11.2008 | 27.01.2018 | 232 543 | 12 595 |
| SPD | Mar 2009 | @spdde |  |  |  |  |
| Saskia Esken | May 2013 | @EskenSaskia | 06.12.2019 | - | 394 115 | 51 287 |
| Norbert Walter-Borjans | Mar 2016 | @NowaboFM | 06.12.2019 | - | 53 229 | 5 433 |
| Malu Dreyer | (no account) |  | 01.10.2019 | 6.12.2019 |  |  |
| Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel | (no account) |  | 10.09.2019 | 01.10.2019 |  |  |
| Manuala Schwesig | Jul 2013 | @ManuelaSchwesig | 03.06.2019 | 10.09.2019 | 158 491 | 10 259 |
| Andrea Nahles | (no account) |  | 22.04.2018 | 03.06.2019 |  |  |
| Olaf Scholz | May 2009 | @OlafScholz | 13.02.2018 | 22.04.2018 | 133 344 | 5 611 |
| Martin Schulz | Nov 2008 | @MartinSchulz | 19.03.2017 | 13.02.2018 | 680 634 | 4 725 |
| Sigmar Gabriel | May 2012 | @sigmargabriel | 13.11.2009 | 19.03.2017 | 288 612 | 3 633 |
| FDP | May 2009 | @fdp |  |  | 372 376 | 19 012 |
| Christian Lindner | Mar 2010 | @c\_lindner | 07.12.2013 | - | 452 823 | 17 185 |
| Philip Rösler | Sep 2008 | @ philipproesler | 16.05.2011 | 07.12.2013 | 17 770 | 3 769 |
| Guido Westerwelle | (no account) |  | 05.05.2001 | 16.05.2011 |  |  |
| CDU | Feb 2009 | @cdu |  |  | 350 992 | 25 678 |
| Armin Laschet | Sep 2012 | @ArminLaschet | 16.01.2021 | - | 143 410 | 15 692 |
| Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer | Jun 2009 | @akk | 08.12.2018 | 16.01.2021 | 125 129 | 8 348 |
| Angela Merkel | (no account) |  | 10.04.2000 | 08.12.2019 |  |  |
| Philip Rösler | Sep 2008 | @ philipproesler | 16.05.2011 | 07.12.2013 | 17 770 | 3 769 |
| The Netherlands |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| GroenLinks | Jan 2008 | @groenlinks |  |  | 146 714 | 20 784 |
| Jesse Klaver | Nov 2008 | @jesseklaver | 12.05.2015 | - | 290 406 | 3 262 |
| Bram van Ojik | Jul 2012 | @BramvanOjikGL | 8.10.2012 | 12.05.2015 | 13 968 | 326 |
| Jolande Sap | (no account) |  | 16.10.2010 | 05.10.2012 |  |  |
| Femke Halsema | (no account) |  | 19.01.2004 | 17.12.2010 |  |  |
| PvdA | Jul 2007 | @PvdA |  |  | 156 681 | 18 139 |
| Lilianne Ploumen | Dec 2020 | @PloumenLilianne | 14.01.2021 | - | 21 154 | 293 |
| Lodewijk Asscher | Jun 2009 | @LodewijkA | 23.03.2017 | 14.01.2021 | 337 649 | 15 379 |
| Attje Kuiken | Mar 2009 | @attjekuiken | 12.12.2016 | 23.03.2017 | 14 739 | 8 907 |
| Diederik Samsom | Jan 2009 | @diederiksamsom | 20.03.2012 | 12.12.2016 | 145 389 | 23 574 |
| Jeroen Dijsselbloem | Apr 2009 | @J\_Dijsselbloem | 20.02.2012 | 20.03.2012 | 96 461 | 1 952 |
| Job Cohen | Mar 2010 | @JobCohen | 17.06.2010 | 20.02.2012 | 36 245 | 408 |
| Mariëtte Hamer | Apr 2009 | @mariettehamer | 22.01.2008 | 17.06.2010 | 14 015 | 3 381 |
| D66 | Apr 2009 | @D66 |  |  | 221 767 | 25 706 |
| Sigrid Kaag | Nov 2017 | @SigridKaag | 17.03.2021 | - | 96 714 | 1 502 |
| Rob Jetten | Apr 2009 | @RobJetten | 9.10.2018 | 17.03.2021 | 54 154 | 20 744 |
| Alexander Pechtold | Oct 2008 | @Apechtold | 24.06.2006 | 9.10.2018 | 638 190 | 13 140 |
| CDA | Mar 2009 | @cdavandaag |  |  | 56 781 | 37 509 |
| Wopke Hoekstra | Oct 2017 | @WBHoekstra | 31.03.2021 | - | 52 152 | 976 |
| Pieter Heerma | Jun 2012 | @PieterHeerma | 21.05.2019 | 31.03.2021 | 12 256 | 4 539 |
| Sybrand Buma | Apr 2011 | @sybrandbuma | 14.10.2010 | 21.05.2019 | 83 111 | 2 132 |
| Maxime Verhagen | Jul 2008 | @MaximeVerhagen | 17.06.2010 | 14.10.2010 | 87 128 | 18 312 |
| ChristenUnie | Dec 2008 | @christenunie |  |  | 37 335 | 10 014 |
| Arie Slob | Jun 2009 | @arieslob | 22.02.2007 | 17.06.2010 | 73 787 | 14 999 |
| Arie Slob | Jun 2009 | @arieslob | 28.04.2011 | 10.11.2015 | 73 787 | 14 999 |
| Gert-Jan Segers | Mar 2010 | @gertjansegers | 10.11.2015 | - | 61 408 | 43 660 |
| SGP | May 2010 | @SGPnieuws |  |  | 18 557 | 2 291 |
| Kees van der Staaij | Mar 2010 | @keesvdstaaij | 27.03.2010 | - | 92 112 | 5 382 |
| Bas van der Vlies | (no account) |  | 22.05.1986 | 27.03.2010 |  |  |
| VVD | Jul 2010 | @vvd |  |  | 254 415 | 18 494 |
| Klaas Dijkhoff | Jan 2009 | @dijkhoff | 25.10.2017 | 17.03.2021 | 91 861 | 19 956 |
| Halbe Zijlstra | Mar 2010 | @HalbeZijlstra | 01.12.2012 | 13.10.2017 | 25 550 | 447 |
| Stef Blok\* | Nov 2017 | @ministerblok | 07.10.2010 | 20.09.2012 | 33 703 | 1130 |
| Mark Rutte | Oct 2008 | @markrutte |  |  | 152 901 | 76 |

Note.\* Means party account was created after the mandate of the political leader (and hence no Tweets were included). Some party leaders are included multiple times in case of non-consecutive terms as party president.

*Table A.4. Overview of pairs (mainstream party vs. populist party) per country*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Party 1 | Party 2 | Party 3 | Total |
| Belgium-Flanders | VB | PvdA |  |  |
| Groen | 9 | 1 |  | 10 |
| Vooruit | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |
| CD&V | 9 | 4 |  | 13 |
| Open VLD | 12 | 5 |  | 17 |
| N-VA | 63 | 7 |  | 70 |
| Belgium-Wallonia | VB | PTB / PvdA |  |  |
| Ecolo | 3 | 1 |  | 4 |
| PS | 1 | 10 |  | 11 |
| CdH | 1 | 6 |  | 7 |
| MR | 13 | 21 |  | 34 |
| DéFi | 30 | 19 |  | 49 |
| Austria | FPÖ |  |  |  |
| Die Grüne | 104 |  |  | 104 |
| SPÖ | 183 |  |  | 183 |
| NEOS | 388 |  |  | 388 |
| ÖVP | 51 |  |  | 51 |
| Germany | AfD | Die Linke |  |  |
| Bündnis-Die Grünen | 134 | 14 |  | 148 |
| SPD | 116 | 12 |  | 128 |
| FDP | 43 | 30 |  | 73 |
| CDU‎/CSU | 106 | 73 |  | 179 |
| The Netherlands | PVV | FvD | SP |  |
| GroenLinks | 10 | 3 | 25 | 38 |
| PvdA | 12 | 1 | 19 | 32 |
| D66 | 63 | 23 | 12 | 98 |
| CDA | 211 | 0 | 4 | 215 |
| CU | 7 | 6 | 2 | 15 |
| SGP | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| VVD | 45 | 3 | 1 | 49 |

*File A.5. Evolution of claims on ruling with populist parties over time (2006-2021)*

**.**

*Table A.6. Overview of claims on government participation with populist parties.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | % | N |
| Timing of claims (national elections) |  |  |
| Claims in pre-election period | 27.8 | 533 |
| Claims in post-election period | 6.40 | 123 |
| Claims in non-election period | 65.8 | 1,263 |
| Country / Region |  |  |
| Austria | 37.8 | 726 |
| Belgium – Flanders | 5.80 | 111 |
| Belgium – Wallonia | 5.50 | 105 |
| Germany | 27.5 | 528 |
| The Netherlands | 23.4 | 449 |
| Populist party ideology |  |  |
| Radical left-wing populist party | 13.9 | 266 |
| Radical right-wing populist party | 86.1 | 1,653 |
| Populist party |  |  |
| AT: FPÖ | 37.8 | 726 |
| BE: PTB/PvdA | 3.90 | 74 |
| BE: VB | 7.40 | 142 |
| DE: AfD | 20.8 | 399 |
| DE: Die Linke | 6.70 | 129 |
| NL: FvD | 2.00 | 38 |
| NL: PVV | 18.1 | 348 |
| NL: SP | 3.30 | 63 |
| Party family mainstream party |  |  |
| Green | 15.8 | 305 |
| Socialist | 18.5 | 355 |
| Christian Democrats / Conservatives | 21.7 | 416 |
| Liberal | 37.8 | 725 |
| Regionalist parties | 6.20 | 119 |
| Party actors |  |  |
| AT: Die Grünen | 5.40 | 104 |
| AT: SPÖ | 9.50 | 183 |
| AT: NEOS | 20.2 | 388 |
| AT: ÖVP | 2.70 | 51 |
| BE: Groen | 0.50 | 10 |
| BE: Ecolo | 0.20 | 4 |
| BE: SP.A / Vooruit | 0.10 | 1 |
| BE: PS | 0.60 | 11 |
| BE: Open VLD | 0.90 | 17 |
| BE: MR | 1.80 | 34 |
| BE: CD&V | 0.70 | 13 |
| BE: CdH | 0.40 | 7 |
| BE: N-VA | 3.60 | 70 |
| BE: DéFi | 2.60 | 49 |
| NL: GroenLinks | 2.00 | 38 |
| NL: PvdA | 1.70 | 32 |
| NL: D66 | 5.10 | 98 |
| NL: CDA | 11.2 | 215 |
| NL: CU | 0.80 | 15 |
| NL: SGP | 0.20 | 2 |
| NL: VVD | 2.60 | 49 |
| DE: Bündnis-Die Grünen | 7.70 | 148 |
| DE: SPD | 6.70 | 128 |
| DE: FDP | 3.80 | 73 |
| DE: CDU | 9.30 | 179 |
| (Un)willingness |  |  |
| Willing to rule with populist party | 8.50 | 164 |
| Unwilling to rule with populist party | 91.5 | 1,755 |
| Negotiation | 2.19 | 42 |
| Populist party in government before | 20.5 | 393 |

*Table A.7. Overview of claims on (un)willingness to rule with populist parties per party.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name political party | Willigness to rule with populist parties |  | Unwillingness to rule with populist parties |  | Total |
| Flanders | 17 |  | 94 |  | 111 |
| Groen | 1 | 10.0% | 9 | 90.0% | 10 |
| SP.A / Vooruit | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 100.0% | 1 |
| CD&V | 0 | 0.0% | 13 | 100.0% | 13 |
| Open VLD | 0 | 0.0% | 17 | 100.0% | 17 |
| N-VA | 16 | 22.9% | 54 | 77.1% | 70 |
| Wallonia | 10 | 9.5% | 95 | 90.5% | 105 |
| Ecolo | 1 | 25.0% | 3 | 75.0% | 4 |
| PS | 8 | 72.7% | 3 | 27.3% | 11 |
| CdH | 1 | 14.3% | 6 | 85.7% | 7 |
| MR | 0 | 0.0% | 34 | 100.0% | 34 |
| Défi | 0 | 0.0% | 49 | 100.0% | 49 |
| Netherlands | 87 | 19.4% | 362 | 80.6% | 449 |
| GroenLinks | 25 | 65.8% | 13 | 34.2% | 38 |
| PvdA | 17 | 53.1% | 15 | 46.9% | 32 |
| D66 | 10 | 10.2% | 88 | 89.8% | 98 |
| CDA | 3 | 1.4% | 212 | 98.6% | 215 |
| SGP | 2 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 2 |
| VVD | 27 | 55.1% | 22 | 44.9% | 49 |
| CU | 3 | 20.0% | 12 | 80.0% | 15 |
| Austria | 40 | 5.5% | 686 | 94.5% | 726 |
| Die Grüne | 1 | 1.0% | 103 | 99.0% | 104 |
| ÖVP | 36 | 70.6% | 15 | 29.4% | 51 |
| SPÖ | 0 | 0.0% | 183 | 100.0% | 183 |
| NEOS | 3 | 0.8% | 385 | 99.2% | 388 |
| Germany | 10 | 1.9% | 518 | 98.1% | 528 |
| Bündnis-Die Grünen | 8 | 5.4% | 140 | 94.6% | 148 |
| SPD | 2 | 1.6% | 126 | 98.4% | 128 |
| CDU‎/CSU | 0 | 0.0% | 179 | 100.0% | 179 |
| FDP | 0 | 0.0% | 73 | 100.0% | 73 |
| Total | 164 | 8.5% | 1755 | 91.5% | 1,919 |

*Table A.8. Overview of elections per country.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Country | Dates of national or federal legislative elections |
| Austria | 2006  2008  2013  2017  2019 |
| Belgium | 2010  2014  2019 |
| Germany | 2009  2013  2017  2021 |
| Netherlands | 2010  2012  2017  2021 |

*Table A.9. Descriptives per country.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | M | SD | Min | Max | N |
| Incumbency status mainstream party |  |  |  |  |  |
| Austria | 0.12 | 0.32 | 0 | 1 | 726 |
| Flanders | 0.71 | 0.46 | 0 | 1 | 111 |
| Wallonia | 0.37 | 0.49 | 0 | 1 | 105 |
| Germany | 0.58 | 0.49 | 0 | 1 | 528 |
| Netherlands | 0.20 | 0.40 | 0 | 1 | 449 |
| LR score populist party |  |  | 0 | 1 | 726 |
| Austria | 83.49 | 0.00 | 83.49 | 83.49 | 726 |
| Flanders |  |  | 13.00 | 96.62 | 111 |
| Wallonia |  |  | 13.00 | 96.62 | 105 |
| Germany |  |  | 12.15 | 88.00 | 528 |
| Netherlands |  |  | 13.68 | 88.00 | 449 |
| LR Score mainstream party |  |  |  |  |  |
| Austria | 49.54 | 14.21 | 24.6 | 64.73 | 726 |
| Flanders | 61.29 | 12.08 | 25.76 | 70.05 | 111 |
| Wallonia | 57.99 | 12.53 | 26.41 | 66.89 | 105 |
| Germany | 46.43 | 14.73 | 29.31 | 62.5 | 528 |
| Netherlands | 53.49 | 14.75 | 20.45 | 87.53 | 449 |
| Vote share populist party |  |  |  |  |  |
| Austria | 24.1 | 3.24 | 16.2 | 26.0 | 726 |
| Flanders | 6.62 | 3.72 | 3.7 | 12.0 | 111 |
| Wallonia | 9.07 | 3.05 | 3.7 | 12.0 | 105 |
| Germany | 9.14 | 3.50 | 0 | 12.6 | 528 |
| Netherlands | 9.88 | 3.39 | 1.8 | 16.6 | 449 |
| Vote share mainstream party |  |  |  |  |  |
| Austria | 13.08 | 10.45 | 0 | 37.5 | 726 |
| Flanders | 15.25 | 5.60 | 4.4 | 20.3 | 111 |
| Wallonia | 5.19 | 3.14 | 1.8 | 11.7 | 105 |
| Germany | 20.96 | 11.29 | 4.8 | 41.5 | 528 |
| Netherlands | 10.43 | 5.06 | 2 | 26.6 | 449 |

*Table A.10. Examples coding.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Inclusion | Exclusion |
| Policy-seeking |  |  |
| Inclusion / Moderation vs. Extremist | N/A | “CDU general secretary Hermann @groehe on government formation “Die Linke remains a danger for our democracy” http://bit.ly/wemyJR #cdu #linkspartei /umg”  (Germany, @CDU, 26/01/2012, Die Linke) |
| Policy / Idelogical (in)gruence | “The cooperation with #FPÖ was excellent in terms of substance and I am happy with everything we have been able to implement with our government. - @sebastiankurz # zib2”  (Austria, @ÖVP, 28/05/2019, FPÖ) | “@wbeke: @cdenv does not make any government agreement with Vlaams Belang. With or without cordon. Ideological difference is simply too large.”  (Flanders, @cdenv, 03/01/2013, VB) |
| Office-seeking |  |  |
| Numerical | "I have always known that there would be much opposition if you support a coalition with #FPÖ. On that moment, it was the only option for collaboration.” @sebastiankurz # oe24tv  (Austria, @volkspartei, 24/05/2019, FPÖ) | “After the many informal and formal discussions, it became clear that no mathematical majority with the VB could be found. Always a third party is needed and no other party was prepared to rule with VB – in any formula.”  (Flanders, @nva, 13/08/2019, VB) |
| Competence | “When progressive parties work together, we can reach much more than independently from each other. I hope that we can have a real progressive ballot box agreement with a joint commitment for a new government: together we can change The Netherlands.”  (Netherlands, @JesseKlaver, 19/02/2021, SP) | “@rendiwagner: A party that creates such a chaos such as FPÖ, is no government party. It should not be a coalition partner for any party in Austria.” #ZiBspezial  (Austria, @SPOE\_at, 18/05/2019, FPÖ) |
| Experience | N/A | “Angela Merkel: This country will not benefit from an experimental government with Die Linke”  (Germany, @CDU, 21/10/2018, Die Linke) |
| Reliability | N/A | “We do not want to exclude parties, but trust is the basis of politics. CDA will not rule with PVV again.”  (Netherlands, @CDA\_vandaag, 03/02/2017, PVV) |
| Self-isolation | N/A | “Despite a new invitation to negotiate, PTB refuses to take up its responsibilities. Once more, it lets its voters down. Despite this refusal, le @PSOfficiel will continue to work hard for the future of Wallonia and of FWB”.  (Wallonia, @PSOfficiel, 16/06/2019, PTB-PvdA) |
| Prior ruling experience | N/A | “No, we do not cooperate with PVV anymore. We have a very bad memories to that collaboration.”  (The Netherlands, @CDA\_Vandaag, 25/02/2017, PVV) |
| Vote |  |  |
| To protect / preserve  democracy | “@bartpeek As Mark has already indicated himself for a few times, in a democratic country such as NL we do not exclude any party.”  (The Netherlands, @VVD, 25/05/2010, PVV) | “What is undemocratic about not wanting a coalition with a party which erodes democratic values?” #virtualdiscussion on #cordonsanitaire.  (Flanders, @wbeke, 30/11/2016, VB) |
| Electoral strategy | “@fritsvl VVD does not exclude any party in advance, including the PVV. http://bit.ly/9qIIbC We hope that we can count on your vote!”  (The Netherlands, @VVD, 08/06/2010, PVV) | @a\_steinhauser: do not stay at home. Vote for the Greens this time. With us there will be no FPÖ in the government, no dirty campaigning, …  (Austria, @Gruene\_Austria, 03/10/2017, FPÖ) |

*Table A.11. Coding scheme (unit of analysis = Tweet)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable name | Description | Categories | Coding |
| Day | Day of the tweet | XX |  |
| Month | Month of the tweet | XX |  |
| Year | Year of the tweet | XXXX |  |
| Date | Full date of tweet | XX.XX.XXXX |  |
| Election | Was the tweet sent in an election year? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Classification of (federal, regional or national) elections based on official country data on elections |
| Pre-election | Was the tweet sent in the pre-election period (i.e., a period of 3 months up until the Election Day) | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Classification of (federal, regional or national) elections based on official country data on elections |
| Post-election | Was the tweet sent in the post-election period (i.e., a period of 3 months after Election Day) | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Classification of (federal, regional or national) elections based on official country data on elections |
| Country | Country of the tweet actor (party/party president) | 1 = “Belgium-Flanders”  2 = “Belgium-Wallonia”  3 = “Austria”  4 = “Germany”  5 = “The Netherlands” |  |
| Belgium-Flanders | Tweet comes from actor in Belgium-Flanders | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” |  |
| Belgium-Wallonia | Tweet comes from actor in Belgium-Wallonia | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” |  |
| Austria | Tweet comes from actor in Austria | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” |  |
| Germany | Tweet comes from actor in Germany | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” |  |
| The Netherlands | Tweet comes from actor in The Netherlands | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” |  |
| Twitter\_Date | Date that actor joined Twitter | XX-XX-XXXX |  |
| Followers | Number of followers (on May 1, 2021) | Continuous | Via Tweepy in Python (followers\_count) |
| Tweets | Number of total tweets sent (on May 1, 2021) | Continuous | Via Tweepy in Python (statuses\_count) |
| Level | What governance level does the tweet refer to? | Categorical  1. Local  2. Regional (in federal countries)  3. Federal/National | Based on full assessment of the tweet, using explicit references |
| Handle | Twitter handle of actor (party / party president) | Nominal | Twitter handle (retrieved from Twitter) |
| Name | Name of the actor (of the party or party president) | Nominal | Official name of party or president |
| Tweet | Full text/content of the tweet (in original language) | Nominal | Full tweet text as appeared on Twitter |
| VoteShare | Vote share of party (percentage) that actor belongs to (based on prior national/federal elections) | Continuous, time-variant | Via ParlGov database |
| Type | Which type of populist party does the tweet refer to | 1. Radical Right-Wing Populist Party (RWPP)  2. Radical Left-Wing Populist Party (LWPP) | Based on classification of The PopuList |
| Populist | Which populist party does the tweet refer to | 1. PvdA-PTB  2. VB  3. SP  4. PVV  5. FvD  6. FPÖ  7. Die Linke  8. AfD |  |
| VoteSharePopulist | Vote share of the populist party (percentage) the tweet refers to (based on prior national/federal elections) | Continuous, time-variant | Via ParlGov database |
| LRScore | Left-right score of the author (party or party president) of the tweet | Continuous, 0-100, time-variant | Via Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) for 2010, 2014 & 2019 |
| LRScorePopulist | Left-right score of the populist party that the tweet refers to | Continuous, 0-100, time-variant | Via Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) for 2010, 2014 & 2019 |
| Negotiation | Is the mainstream actor (= author of tweet) at the time of the tweet involved in negotiations with the populist party to form a (regional/national) government? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Scored for N-VA (with VB) in 2019; PS (with PTB) in 2019; CDA and VVD in 2010 (with PVV); ÖVP with FPÖ in 2017. |
| PopGov | Has the populist party been part of a national or regional government before or did it support a minority cabinet before? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Scored for FPÖ (as part of Schlüssel-I in 2000-2005); for PVV (after support for Rutte I in 2010) |
| DiffLRScore | Difference between the left-right score of the mainstream party (= author of the tweet) and the populist party that the tweet refers to | Continuous, range from -100 to 100, time-variant | Via Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) for 2010, 2014 & 2019 |
| Effective number of parties | Score for how many parties, weighted for size, are in a party system in a given election | Continuous | ParlGov data |
| Inclusion | Does the mainstream party mention that they are/would be willing to cooperate and/or rule with the populist party? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| Exclusion | Does the mainstream party mention that they are/would be not willing to cooperate and/or rule with the populist party? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| Policy\_Extremist | Does the mainstream party mention that the populist party is in any way extremist or that inclusion would result in moderation or less extremist views? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| “PolicyCongr”  Policy (in)congruence | Does the mainstream party refer to ideological or policy congruence or incongruence of the populist party (i.e., difference, that they are too distant)? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| “Office”  Office-seeking motivation | Scored as ‘1’ if one of the variables below is present | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| Numerical | Does the mainstream party refer to numerical reasons / (lack of/need for a) majority as reason to motivate inclusion or exclusion of the populist party in/from government? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| Experience | Does the mainstream party refer to (lack of) experience as reason to motivate inclusion or exclusion of the populist party in/from government? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| Competence | Does the mainstream party refer to (lack of) competence as reason to motivate inclusion or exclusion of the populist party in/from government? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| Reliability | Does the mainstream party refer to (lack of) reliability as reason to motivate inclusion or exclusion of the populist party in/from government? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| Self\_isolation | Does the mainstream party refer to whether populist party is willing (or not) to rule as reason to motivate inclusion or exclusion of the populist party in/from government? | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet using manifest elements |
| Vote | Scored as ‘1’ if one of the variables below is present | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet |
| RespectSignal | Does the mainstream party refer to whether inclusion or exclusion of populist party in/from government is still in line with the majority of the voters’ wishes | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet |
| Electoral strategy | Does the mainstream party refer to whether they will ensure either inclusion or exclusion of populist party in/from government | Binary  0 = “No”  1 = “Yes” | Based on full assessment of tweet |

*Table A.12. Correlation matrix for claims.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Perceived extremism vs. moderation-inclusion | Policy or ideological (in)congruence | Office-seeking reasons | Vote-seeking reasons |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Perceived extremism or moderation-inclusion | 1 |  |  |  |
| Policy or ideological (in)congruence | -0.235\*\*\* | 1 |  |  |
| Office-seeking reasons | -0.540\*\*\* | -0.149\*\*\* | 1 |  |
| Vote-seeking reasons | -0.020\*\*\* | -0.096\*\*\* | -0.065\*\*\* | 1 |

*Table A.13. Combinations of claims in tweets.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Perceived extremism vs. moderation-inclusion | Policy or ideological (in)congruence | Office-seeking | Vote-seeking |
| Perceived extremism vs. moderation-inclusion |  | 5 (0.26%) | 58 (3.02%) | 61 (3.18%) |
| Policy or ideological (in)congruence |  |  | 69 (3.60%) | 5 (0.26%) |
| Office-seeking |  |  |  | 60 (3.13%) |
| Vote-seeking |  |  |  |  |

*Table A.14. Timing of tweets according to election periods.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Pre-election period | Post-election period | Non-election period | All periods |
| Not willing to rule with populist parties | 90.1% | 75.6% | 93.6% | 91.5% |
| Willing to rule with populist parties | 9.9% | 24.4% | 6.4% | 8.5% |
| Total | 27.8% | 6.4% | 65.8% | 100.0% |