

FSD3349 PARLAMENTTIKESKUSTELUJA NELJÄSTÄTOISTA MAASTA 1994-2013

FSD3349 PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES IN FOURTEEN COUNTRIES 1994-2013

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A brief guide to parliamentary data collection

Collecting the data

- Ten policy areas (Foreign & Security, Fiscal, Environment, Education, Health, Civic, Science & Technology, Social, Consumer, Crime)
 - Education, Health, Foreign & Security and Crime are quite clear.
 - Environment. Quite self-explanatory. Ranges from discussions about international treaties to fight the global warming to the establishment of national parks etc.
 - Social policy. Quite wide category, from wage, labour and housing issues to the discussions about pensions and youth problems.
 - Science & Technology. Self-evident but still quite wide. The Science part overlaps with education in many cases.
 - Consumer. This is little bit tricky as it almost always overlaps with other policy areas. Question usually is about focus of the bill: For example the field of telecommunications usually falls under Science & Technology but if the perspective of the bill is for a large part on the need for better internet connections for the people, then it also fits under consumer policy.
 - Fiscal. Probably the most common of all policy areas. Almost anything that has to do with money, appropriation, banking and privatization, could be put here.
 - Civic policy (as I have understood it) contains a variety of different kinds of bills, ranging from for example the amendments of constitution and voting rights to the foundation of equal rights committees.
- 20 years and approximately 6 discussions per year. Total of 120 discussions per country.
- Aim for an even spread throughout the years and policy areas.
 - This is not always possible, but we should aim for this as it makes the data
- Collect the first day of discussion of the so-called 2nd reading of the law making process.
 - Starts with an opening statement given by person who is responsible for the law (Usually a minister, but in some cases only a member of parliament)

- Opening statement usually deals with the reasons for why this bill is needed. After the statement the discussion goes on with different MP's arguing why they do or do not support the bill in question.
- The discussion should be at least two statements long (Minister's statement + one answer to that). As the discussions have to be chosen randomly there are no other criteria regarding the length of the discussion.