Lobby Organizations in Banking and Finance

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Policy makers and public have to understand the real positions of various stakeholders in the policy making process. Data from the EU Transparency Register and the Orbis database was already combined to construct a multiplex lobby network [1]. In this study we make a step further, and analyze actual responses of lobby organizations to public consultations [2]. We collected data about 565 lobbyists, registered in the EU Transparency Register, that responded to 21 public consultations in the area of Banking and Finance, from June 2014 to November 2017. Three aspects of the lobbyists are analyzed: (i) their formal categorization in the Transparency Register, (ii) their self-declared goals and activities, and (iii) their actual responses to the public consultations. We first construct a network linking organizations which respond to the same consultations and detect communities in it. We then further partition the communities into clusters, based on the similarities of the answers to the consultations. We find that the response interests and co-voting patterns add a crucial dimension to understand the engagement of the lobbyists in the policy making process. A web application, **Lobby Profile Explorer** (https://kt.ijs.si/lobby/), supports interactive exploration of the lobby network and pairwise comparison of responses by the organizations.

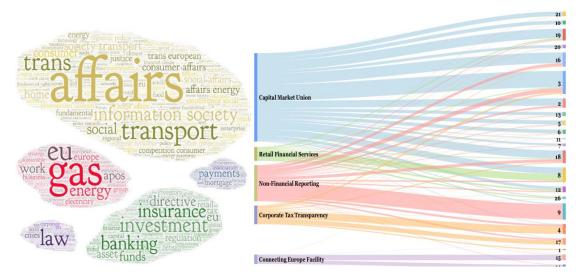


Figure 1: Tag clouds (left-hand side) are clusters of self-described goals and activities of the 565 lobby organizations. A Sankey diagram (right-hand side) links the co-voting communities to public consultations in the area of Banking and Finance (1 to 21).

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References

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