

## How previous intermediate data sets and programs were employed to create the final data set(s)

Below we describe how we constructed the final data sets:

- SIN19932001.dta: we downloaded the data on local politicians (1985-2007) publicly available from the Ministry of Interiors (<http://amministratori.interno.it/>). The original data was organized by year (every politician in office as of December 31<sup>st</sup>). We rearranged the data by term, keeping the information about the first year in office. We then merged this data with the electoral data that we also received from the Ministry of Interiors (1993-2007), and with the budget data (1993-2007) made available by *Ancitel* (<http://www.ancitel.it/s.base/bilancicomuni.cfm>). Other additional information, still from *Ancitel*, was then added (e.g., census population, demographics).

To the purpose of this paper, we only used the information referring to 1993-2001, and to municipalities with population between 3300 and 6700.

- CENSUS2001.dta: this is an extract of the original dataset from the Ministry of Interiors, containing the population distribution according to the 2001 Census.