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review paper

THE COMPASS DATASET: A NEW APPROACH TO INDEXING SERBIA'S POLICY TRENDS

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Abstract: In the complex landscape of international relations, understanding and mitigating risks is crucial for formulating effective policies. Currently, in its initial development phase under the scientific COMPASS Project, the COMPASS Dataset represents a comprehensive resource designed to capture and analyse the risks associated with Serbia's foreign, security, and economic policy towards the European Union and China, respectively. This dataset encapsulates a broad spectrum of potential contingencies, categorised and ranked through 33 distinct variables. It is an invaluable tool for policymakers and researchers, offering a granular view of the challenges and opportunities inherent in Serbia's interactions with these significant global players. This paper presents preliminary insights into the COMPASS Dataset, including an analysis of its variables, identification and resolution of initial coding errors, and the overall data structure. Additionally, the paper explores the architecture of the underlying database, highlighting how it supports robust data management and facilitates comprehensive risk assessment. By offering an early exploration of the dataset's specifics, this paper aims to illustrate how the COMPASS Dataset, even at this developmental stage, can inform strategic decision-making and enhance Serbia's policy responses in an increasingly dynamic international environment.

Keywords: Dataset, COMPASS, project, risks, Serbia, EU, China, economics, security, diplomacy.

INTRODUCTION

In social sciences, datasets serve as fundamental tools for collecting and analysing empirical evidence, enabling researchers to explore complex social

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The paper presents the findings of a study developed as a part of the research project "Contributing to Modern Partnerships: Assessments of Sino-EU-Serbian Relations", funded by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (2023-2025), Grant No. 7294, which is implemented by the Institute of International Politics and Economics and the Institute of Social Sciences from the Republic of Serbia.

phenomena and test theoretical models. Effective data collection methodologies ensure that datasets are comprehensive, accurate, and representative, which is crucial for producing reliable and valid results. The so-called "large N datasets", characterised by a substantial number of observations or cases, are particularly valuable in social science research as they provide a robust basis for statistical analysis and generalisation of findings (Foster et al. 2016). These datasets allow the examination of patterns, trends, and relationships across diverse populations and over extended periods.

Data in the social sciences can be gathered from various sources, including surveys, administrative records, and digital platforms, each offering unique insights into human behaviour and societal dynamics. The advent of digital technologies and big data significantly expanded the scope and scale of data collection, enabling the capture of granular details on an unprecedented scale (Foster et al. 2016). By encompassing a vast array of variables and cases, large N datasets facilitate the testing of complex hypotheses and the identification of causal relationships that might not be apparent in smaller datasets. Integrating large N datasets into social science research enhances the rigour and breadth of analysis, providing a more nuanced understanding of social structures and processes. However, the collection and management of such extensive datasets also present challenges, including issues related to data quality, consistency, and privacy. Despite these challenges, large N data remain indispensable for advancing knowledge and informing policy decisions in fields ranging from sociology and political science to economics and public health.

In political science and security studies, numerous datasets have been developed at the global level, but few focus specifically on a single state and provide insights from that state's perspective. The COMPASS Dataset is one such effort, addressing this gap by capturing risks and contingencies related to Serbia's foreign, economic, and security policies. Therefore, this paper aims to present the initial specifics of the COMPASS Dataset before it is populated with data.[1] Due to this aim, the focus of this analysis is on the preliminary exploration of the dataset architecture, the rationale behind the data collection methodology, the approach to assessing and indexing the risks associated with Serbia's policies, and the key variables included in the dataset. The COMPASS Dataset is a groundbreaking initiative designed to shed light on the dynamics

[1] Data can be accessed online via the COMPASS Platform at: data.serbiacompass.com

of Serbia's relationships with the EU and China across three critical domains: politics, security, and economics, with its attributing subdomains.

This paper explores the specifics of the COMPASS dataset, offering a detailed overview of its structure, variables, and the methodologies used for data collection and analysis. As the primary source of information on this dataset, which remains under development as of August 2024, it serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and academics seeking to gain insights into the strategic alliances that influence Serbia's international relations. The paper is organised as follows: it begins by outlining how data are indexed in political science, highlighting the most representative datasets available to researchers. Next, the author presents the rationale for assessing risks in Serbia's policies and the data collection methodology employed, followed by a detailed overview of the structure of the COMPASS Dataset. Finally, the paper concludes by discussing the dataset's utility and potential for future development.

INDEXING DATA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Indexing data in political studies is not a recent innovation. While efforts to index certain occurrences were made during the 1980s and 1990s, more systematic and comprehensive indexing of political phenomena has become increasingly prevalent since the early 2000s. In some cases, coding can be applied retroactively, spanning several decades back (Vanhanen 2000). Plantin (2019) advances the scholarly debate on the organisation of data processing in social and political science datasets, arguing that the structure of data processing is directly shaped by the archive's conception of a valid dataset. According to this author, a valid dataset is one that appears "pristine" upon completion of its processing, reflecting a high standard of organisation and integrity (Plantin 2019). This shift is largely attributable to technological advancements, particularly the development of sophisticated software and the widespread availability of the internet, which have significantly enhanced the capacity for data collection, organisation, and analysis. In political science, numerous well-established datasets serve as essential tools for analysing conflicts, governance, and political dynamics globally. Among the most prominent, the ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data) tracks political violence and protests worldwide, and the UCDP (Uppsala Conflict Data Programme) offers detailed data on organised violence, including armed conflicts. The COW (Correlates of War) dataset focuses

on interstate and intrastate wars, and the GTD (Global Terrorism Database) provides comprehensive data on global terrorist attacks. The PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo) and SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) datasets contribute to conflict studies by offering data on armed conflicts, military expenditures, and arms transfers. In addition, datasets like the EPR (Ethnic Power Relations) examine the political power dynamics of ethnic groups, while the NAVCO (Nonviolent and Violent Campaigns and Outcomes) documents campaigns against governments. Several datasets focus on specific regions or types of conflict, such as the SCAD (Social Conflict in Africa Database) and the CACE (Cities and Armed Conflict Events). Others track electoral violence (DECO), internal violence (IVI), or human rights violations. The GDELT (Global Database on Events, Language, and Tone) captures global political events through media analysis. For democracy and governance, Polity IV, Freedom House, V-Dem, and the Bertelsmann Transformation Index are widely used to assess regime types and democratic quality. These datasets, alongside others focusing on protests and social movements, such as the Protest Event Dataset and the Social Movements Dataset, provide a rich foundation for researchers exploring political trends and conflicts worldwide. The following text gives a brief overview of four major datasets comparable to the COMPASS Dataset: the ACLED, V-Dem, GDELT, and the Polity series.

The ACLED dataset is renowned for its comprehensive tracking of political violence and protest events worldwide, encompassing battles, explosions, and violence against civilians. The ACLED employs a rigorous methodology, gathering data from a broad spectrum of sources, including local media reports, NGOs, and international organisations (ACLED 2024). This event-based dataset is updated weekly and spans over 240 countries and territories, with its unit of analysis being the individual event (ACLED 2024). This granularity allows for the detailed disaggregation of conflict data, enabling researchers to conduct nuanced analyses of political violence patterns across various temporal and regional contexts. For instance, trends in protest activity or the effects of specific events on broader conflict dynamics can be systematically examined. With nearly 9 million downloads in 2021 alone, the ACLED has established itself as a critical resource for academic research and policy development. Similarly, the V-Dem dataset offers a detailed examination of democracy, providing a multidimensional perspective on governance through over 470 indicators covering aspects such as electoral processes, civil liberties, and political participation (V-Dem 2024). The V-Dem data is collected by a

network of country experts who independently code these indicators based on extensive research. The unit of analysis in V-Dem is primarily the country-year, enabling researchers to track temporal changes in democratic qualities (Coppedge et al. 2020). Spanning from 1789 to the present and covering over 200 polities, the V-Dem methodology ensures reliability through consensus coding by multiple experts for each indicator (Coppedge et al. 2020). Its findings have become indispensable for analysing global democratic trends, influencing both academic studies and policy assessments.

The Polity project, focused on coding the authority characteristics of states, facilitates the study of regime types and transitions by categorising regimes on a spectrum from autocracy to democracy using a 21-point scale (Centre for Systemic Peace 2020). The Polity5 dataset covers major independent states from 1800 to 2018, providing particularly valuable data for examining regime changes and their impact on political stability and conflict dynamics (Centre for Systemic Peace 2020). The country/year serves as the unit of analysis, allowing for longitudinal studies that assess how shifts in regime authority influence broader political trends. Polity's data collection, which draws on both historical records and contemporary assessments, has made it one of the most extensively utilised datasets in political science research.

The GDELT Project marks a significant advancement in the use of big data within the social sciences, offering a real-time global database that monitors news media across diverse platforms and over 100 languages (GDELT 2024). The GDELT analyses news articles to identify events, sentiments, themes, and emotions related to global societal changes. The unit of analysis within the GDELT is highly flexible, ranging from individual events to broader thematic trends, which allows researchers to explore the complex relationships between media coverage, public sentiment, and political developments. Updated every 15 minutes, the GDELT is one of the largest open-access spatio-temporal datasets, enabling timely and comprehensive analyses on topics ranging from conflict forecasting to social movements (GDELT 2024).

RATIONALE FOR SERBIA'S POLICIES RISK ASSESSMENT

The rationale for assessing Serbia's policies through a risk assessment and data collection methodology arises from the country's unique geopolitical positioning amid current global instability and uncertainty. Serbia's policies are particularly relevant given the current geopolitical climate characterised by

instability and uncertainty. To date, no systematic and organised dataset specifically capturing contingencies from the perspective of the Republic of Serbia has been developed. Furthermore, except for general toolkits within the political science and security studies (Buzan, Wæver & de Wilde 1998, Howell 2001, Bremmer & Keat 2009), there are no specific methodological tools developed to assess Serbia's potential strategy creation in this domain. Serbia's current foreign policy position is characterised by a complex balancing act between its aspirations for European Union (EU) membership and its strategic partnerships with Russia and China. As of 2024, Serbia has aligned with only 47% of EU foreign policy declarations, significantly lower than other candidate countries in the region (EWB 2024). This limited alignment is largely due to Serbia's refusal to impose sanctions against Russia, reflecting its reliance on Russian support regarding the contentious issue of Kosovo. Despite its EU membership aspirations, public sentiment in Serbia shows a growing scepticism towards European integration, with around 51% of citizens opposing EU membership (EWB 2024). This scepticism is intertwined with national priorities, particularly the preservation of Kosovo as an integral part of Serbia, which remains a cornerstone of national identity and policy (Cvijić 2024). Serbia's foreign policy is also marked by a pragmatic approach to international relations. The country has been cultivating ties with both Western powers and Eastern allies, positioning itself as a pivotal player in the Western Balkans. High-profile visits from global leaders such as Xi Jinping and Emmanuel Macron in 2024 further underscored Serbia's strategic importance in regional stability and economic cooperation. While general frameworks from political science and security studies provide some insight, they fail to account fully for the nuanced and evolving *risks* Serbia faces. Therefore, a focused approach to data collection and risk assessment is essential for understanding modern Serbia's foreign, security, and economic policies and informing more strategic decision-making.

COMPASS Dataset architecture

The COMPASS Dataset is a disaggregated dataset characterised by its individual-level granularity, providing detailed and specific information about each contingency event. Within this dataset, each observation corresponds to a unique *contingency*, distinguished by a unique identifier—*compassID*—and accompanied by descriptive details such as *shortName* and description, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the nature and context of each event.

In the COMPASS dataset, a *contingency* is defined as an event or action that has the potential to influence the rise of risks in one or more key areas—politics, security, or economics (Lađevac et al. 2024). Each contingency serves as a discrete unit of entry, capturing specific occurrences that may impact Serbia's foreign policy, security, or economic stability (Lađevac et al. 2024). These contingencies are indexed with detailed information, including risk likelihood, consequences, and overall risk assessments, which allows for systematic analysis and management of risks across Serbia's strategic partnerships. The COMPASS Dataset shares similarities with established datasets like the ACLED and UCDP by focusing on the systematic tracking and analysis of risks associated with Serbia's foreign, security, and economic policies. However, it fills a niche by specifically addressing the complexities and unique challenges of Serbia's interactions with major global players, such as the European Union and China, which are often overlooked in broader datasets. Table 1 summarises key features across these four datasets.

Table 1: Summary of key specifics of well-known datasets and COMPASS Dataset

Dataset	Focus	Data Source	Analytical Unit	Update Frequency
ACLED	Political violence & protests	Local media reports, NGOs	Individual events	Weekly
V-Dem	Democracy indicators	Expert coding	Country-year	Annual
UCDP	Armed conflicts and risks	Experd coding	Country-year	Annual
Polity	Regime authority & transitions	Historical records & assessments	Country-year	Annual
GDELT	Global news events & sentiments	News media (print/broadcast/ web)	Events & themes	Every 15 minutes
COMPASS	Contingencies and risks for Serbia's position in the international system	Expert coding; open source news; institutional reports and announcements; Delphi method	Contingency: event, process, statement, meeting, institutional activity	Real-time data with a maximum one- to two-month lag

Source: Compiled by the author

The COMPASS dataset captures a wide array of variables organised into three main groups: Technical Variables, Risk-Related Variables, and Attributive Variables, each serving distinct purposes for analysing the relationships between Serbia, the EU, and China in politics, security, and economics (Lađevac et al. 2024). This section outlines the significance and mechanics of each variable type, demonstrating how they collectively enhance the dataset's ability to analyse Serbia's foreign, security, and economic policy contingencies.

Technical Variables are foundational elements that provide metadata for the dataset (Lađevac and Stekić 2024). These variables ensure the integrity, organisation, and traceability of the data. The variable ***no*** assigns an ordinal number to each contingency, allowing for systematic organisation within the dataset. As a unique alphanumeric identifier, ***compassID*** enables precise referencing of individual contingencies, ensuring unambiguous tracking throughout the dataset (2024: 7). Further, the ***lastEdit*** variable records the date of the most recent modification made to a contingency's attributes, thus maintaining an audit trail of changes over time (2024: 7). The ***enteredBy*** variable captures the initials of the team member responsible for entering the data, fostering accountability within the dataset's curation process (2024: 7).

Risk-Related Variables are designed to capture and evaluate the risks associated with each contingency, making them central to the dataset's capacity for risk assessment and management (Lađevac and Stekić 2024). The variables ***riskProb1***, ***riskProb2***, and ***riskProb3*** quantify the likelihood of various risks, each assessed independently, reflecting different phases or dimensions of risk exposure (2024: 9). Correspondingly, ***riskConseq1***, ***riskConseq2***, and ***riskConseq3*** evaluate the potential consequences or impacts should these risks materialise, providing a comprehensive understanding of the severity of risks in the context of Serbia's interactions with international actors (2024: 9). These assessments culminate in the ***overallCOMPASSrisk*** variables, which aggregate likelihood and consequence assessments into an overarching risk score for each contingency (2024: 9). Additional variables such as ***ifDisputed*** and ***disputedDesc*** track whether disputes exist regarding the risk assessments and provide descriptive details about such disputes, enhancing the transparency and robustness of the risk evaluation process. The ***riskMitigation*** variable indicates whether risk mitigation strategies are in place, supporting a proactive approach to managing identified risks (2024: 9). The ***hasRiskTerm*** variable is a binary indicator that signifies whether a specific risk has a defined

term, with values coded as 0 (no) or 1 (yes), while ***riskTermLevel*** categorises the duration of the risk term into 1 (short-term), 2 (medium-term), or 3 (long-term), thus providing insight into the temporal scope of the risk (2024: 9, 10).

Attributive Variables serve to describe the contingencies themselves, offering detailed contextual information for analysis (2024: 11). The ***shortName*** and ***description*** variables provide a concise title and a general summary of the contingency, respectively, while ***longDesc*** offers a more comprehensive description where needed. To facilitate thematic analysis, the dataset categorises contingencies into three broad areas—***politics***, ***security***, and ***economics***—through the ***area*** variable, with further granularity provided by the ***subArea*** variable, which allows for more specific classification, such as human security or foreign direct investment (2024: 11). The actor/s variable identifies the key stakeholders involved in each event, ranging from statesmen to international organisations, while ***geoRef*** specifies the geographical relevance of the contingency, typically distinguishing between China and the EU. Finally, the ***year***, ***month***, and ***day*** variables capture the temporal occurrence of each event, enabling longitudinal analysis of trends and developments over time (2024: 11). Variable ***ifCont*** is another binary variable that denotes whether a contingency is subject to risk assessment (0 for no, 1 for yes), indicating its relevance to risk management. The ***hasDesc*** variable identifies whether a description exists for a contingency, helping to provide context, and ***hasSrb*** serves a similar function by indicating if a Serbian language description is available. When ***hasSrb*** equals 1, the ***srbDescr*** variable provides the actual Serbian textual description, enhancing regional and linguistic accessibility. Finally, ***relatedCont*** lists any contingencies that are related or connected to the current one, aiding in the analysis of interdependencies between events (Lađevac and Stekić 2024).

Table 2. COMPASS Dataset variables

Group	Variable Name	Description
Technical variables	*no*	Ordinal number of the contingency within the COMPASS Dataset
	compassID	Unique identifier of the contingency in the Dataset
	lastEdit	Date of last edit of the contingency attributes
	enteredBy	Initials of the team member who coded the contingency
Risk-related variables	*riskProb1, riskProb2, riskProb3*	Likelihood of risk occurrence for different risks
	riskConseq1, (2), (3)	Consequence of risk occurrence for different risks
	overallCOMPASSrisk1, (2), (3)	Overall risk assessment for different risks
	ifDisputed	Whether the attributed risk is disputed
	disputedDesc	Description of the state of dispute, if applicable
	hasRiskTerm	Whether there is a specific term associated with each risk
	riskTermLevel	Level of the risk term, if applicable
	riskMitigation	Whether there is a specific contingency plan or mitigation strategy associated with each risk
Attributive variables	*shortName*	Short name of the contingency
	description	Description of the contingency
	longDesc	Long description of the contingency, if available
	ifCont	Whether the contingency undergoes risk assessment
	area	Categorisation of the contingency into politics, security, or economy
	subArea	Predefined sub-areas within which the contingency falls
	actor/s	Actors or entities associated with the contingency

Group	Variable Name	Description
Attributive variables	*geoRef*	Geographic actor relevant to the contingency
	year	Year of the contingency
	month	Month of the contingency
	day (IA)	Day of the contingency, if applicable
	hasDesc	Whether the contingency has a description
	hasSrb	Whether the contingency has a Serbian description
	srbDescr	Serbian description of the contingency, if available
	relatedCont	Related contingencies, if applicable

Source: Lađevac and Stekić 2024

The dataset, hosted on the COMPASS Platform at data.serbiacompass.com, is curated to serve a diverse range of users, including scholars, students, university teachers, state institutions and bodies, media professionals, and the general public (COMPASS Project 2024).

Designed with inclusivity and accessibility in mind, it is freely accessible to anyone interested in gaining insights into the subject matter it covers. Its open-access nature underscores a commitment to transparency and democratisation of knowledge, allowing users to explore and analyse the data without any restrictions. Methodologically, the COMPASS Dataset is bolstered by its incorporation of expert-driven insights (Lađevac et al. 2024). The Delphi method, a structured and iterative process for eliciting expert consensus, is utilised to refine risk assessments. Through multiple rounds of consultation, experts provide cumulative evaluations, allowing the mapping of the key risk areas in Serbia's foreign relations. Additionally, public opinion surveys are conducted to juxtapose expert opinions with the general public's perspectives, ensuring a more holistic view of the potential risks.

Accessibility and Utility

The COMPASS Dataset represents a substantial empirical resource that facilitates academic research and study within the fields of international relations, political science, and risk management. Scholars can use the dataset

to conduct a rigorous analysis of contingencies impacting Serbia's foreign policy, economic interests, and security. By offering granular data on the likelihood, consequences, and overall risk of specific events, the COMPASS Dataset enables researchers to identify patterns, draw comparisons, and contribute to scholarly discourse on state-level risk management (Lađevac et al. 2024). Moreover, the dataset's disaggregated nature allows a deep investigation into how individual contingencies shape the broader strategic landscape. This wealth of data opens up possibilities for academic publications, conference presentations, and research collaborations, providing a robust foundation for contributing to the theoretical and practical understanding of risk in international relations.

The COMPASS Dataset offers university educators a valuable resource for enhancing their curriculum by integrating real-world data into the classroom. By providing detailed case studies and examples of contingencies affecting Serbia's international relations, the dataset allows educators to contextualise theoretical concepts within practical scenarios. This approach encourages critical thinking and analytical skills among students, who can engage with the dataset through assignments, research projects, or interactive learning sessions. In addition to enriching lecture materials, the dataset can be utilised in seminars and workshops, enabling students to explore the intricacies of foreign policy decision-making processes and risk assessments. Through the use of the COMPASS Dataset, educators can bring real-time geopolitical developments into academic settings, fostering a more dynamic and applied learning environment.

For policymakers and governmental bodies, the COMPASS Dataset offers invaluable insights into Serbia's strategic partnerships and the associated risks. State institutions can leverage this empirical data to inform policy-making, strategic planning, and decision-making processes. By providing detailed information on individual contingencies—such as political agreements, security pacts, or economic collaborations—the dataset helps policymakers assess the probability and consequences of various risks to Serbia's national interests. This granular analysis enables the development of targeted strategies to mitigate potential threats, address emerging challenges, and strengthen governance effectiveness. Additionally, the ability to track historical and ongoing contingencies allows state actors to monitor trends

and adjust policies as new data becomes available, ensuring that Serbia remains agile in a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape.

The COMPASS Dataset is a vital tool for media professionals engaged in investigative journalism and reporting on international relations (COMPASS Project 2024). By providing access to disaggregated and detailed data on specific contingencies, journalists can use the dataset to craft well-researched, in-depth analyses of events affecting Serbia's foreign policy, economic agreements, and security posture. The dataset's transparent and accessible nature makes it an essential resource for producing accurate, evidence-based reports that inform public discourse. Media outlets can also use the dataset to highlight emerging risks, identify trends in Serbia's international partnerships, and provide expert commentary on how these factors may shape the country's future strategic direction. Ultimately, the COMPASS Dataset enhances the quality of journalism by enabling reporters to ground their narratives in robust empirical data, offering the public a clearer understanding of Serbia's role in global affairs.

The COMPASS Dataset democratises access to information by allowing the general public to explore and engage with data previously inaccessible (COMPASS Project 2024). Whether driven by personal interest, civic engagement, or educational pursuits, individuals from diverse backgrounds can use the dataset to gain a deeper understanding of Serbia's international relations. The open-access platform empowers users to explore contingencies and risks relevant to Serbia's politics, security, and economic policies, fostering greater transparency and public awareness. By providing an avenue for curiosity-driven inquiry, the dataset enables users to examine real-world geopolitical events, understand their potential impacts, and stay informed about Serbia's evolving strategic landscape. This resource not only enhances public knowledge but also encourages informed civic participation and dialogue on issues of national importance.

One of the COMPASS Dataset's most significant strengths is its design for continual expansion. The dataset is constantly updated with new contingencies, ensuring it remains relevant in evolving geopolitical dynamics. This adaptability makes it a crucial tool for stakeholders who need up-to-date information on Serbia's foreign policy landscape.

CONCLUSION

The COMPASS Dataset is a key breakthrough in data-driven policy analysis and risk management relating to Serbia's relations with the European Union and China. It provides a detailed and comprehensive tool for understanding the intricacies of international relations by systematically recording and categorising a wide range of potentially conceived risks across political, security, and economic domains. The fine design of this dataset, containing 33 differentiated variables with detailed descriptions for each eventuality, is unlikely to be matched in granularity and depth, thus becoming such a useful tool for researchers, policymakers, and educators alike. The underpinning of robust data collection methodologies and emphasis on accuracy and comprehensiveness underscore the reliability and usefulness of this dataset.

With open access offered to many different kinds of users, the academic community, state institutions, and citizens, the COMPASS Dataset enables transparency toward a better society that is more informed and more engaged. This enables users to explore intricate details of the foreign policy landscape in Serbia, furthering evidence-based decision-making and strategic planning. It is an open-access resource hosted on the COMPASS platform.[2] With this dataset, one can appreciate that it is open to a very wide and heterogeneous audience or users, thereby increasing its potential impact on any research effort within the academic community, policy development, and public discourses. The COMPASS Dataset not only offers a comprehensive framework for indexing Serbia's policies but also provides a cutting-edge tool for analysing and categorising risks in Serbia's foreign policy. Leveraging vast amounts of granular data on small-level contingencies enhances the empirical foundation for understanding the complexities of international relations and risk management. For policymakers, this dataset offers a refined and detailed perspective, enabling them to craft strategies that anticipate and mitigate emerging foreign policy challenges.

In academic contexts, researchers gain access to an enriched data source for exploring the nuanced dynamics of Serbia's international positioning. Educators, in turn, can integrate real-world data into their curriculum, using the dataset's insights to highlight case studies and engage students in practical

[2] Available at: data.serbiacompass.com

applications of foreign policy analysis. Moreover, the COMPASS Dataset is designed for continual expansion, ensuring its relevance in rapidly evolving geopolitical landscapes, thus supporting state institutions in staying ahead of global shifts.

This type of continuous development will unquestionably help users understand and keep pace with new trends and risks, further cementing the role of such a dataset as one of the key instruments in strategic analysis and policy development. As an open dataset, it readily underpins collaboration and data sharing for more cooperative approaches toward global challenges. The COMPASS Dataset provides a much-needed contribution to the social sciences, mainly in international relations and risk assessment. Its granular and structured way of data capture and data analysis provides a very powerful tool for enhancing Serbia's policy responses and strategic decisions. Given the fact that this is going to be an evolving dataset, it will, without doubt, have an increasingly vital role in shaping fairly informed and efficient policies in an ever-changing global environment. With the magnitude of the data collected, the COMPASS Dataset represents not only the state of the risks Serbia faces but also a development path toward the promotion of informed and forward-looking policymaking that, in turn, can help such a country increase its resilience and strategically position itself at the global level.

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