B2.1 The True European Voter: A Strategy for Analysing the Prospects of European Electoral Democracy that includes the West, the South and the East of the Continent (TEV)

(COST Action IS0806)

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Funding/ European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

Participating countries:

Non-COST participating countries: (Simon Fraser University), (University of Montenegro)

Duration: May 2009 – May 2014

http://www.true-european-voter.eu/

What is the TEV?

- integrating and expanding the **data bases of electoral research**
- taking stock of past research, broadening the **theoretical understanding of the voting decision**, and **advancing our methodology** to analyse it
- advancing the methodological skills of researchers by **educating the next generation of scholars**

Compared to "The European Voter" (Thomassen 2005) TEV will move forward ...

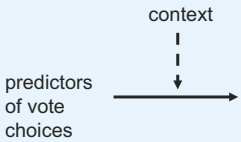
- from individual variables to **multi-item measures of theoretical concepts**
- from several nationally merged data to **one cross-nationally integrated data file**
- from the analysis of "naïve" or conventional rectangular data matrices to **stacked data structures**

The main objective of TEV

Increase the material preconditions and the scholarly competence for analysing variations in the effectiveness of electoral democracy in Europe across countries and over time

The main arguments

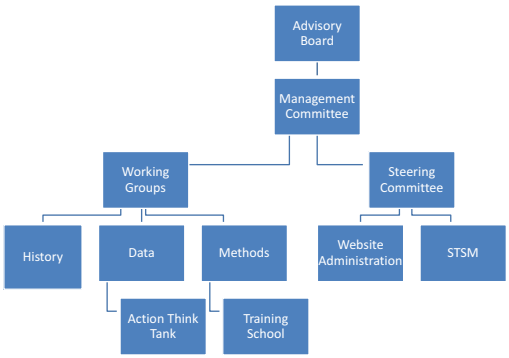
A simple visualization



Relative context dimensions are:

1. the politicisation of social divisions
2. the state of the economy before the election;
3. the consolidation of the electoral and party system;
4. the degree of ideological polarisation;
5. variations in political culture;
6. variations in the institutional setup;
7. multi-level electoral systems and voting

Operationalization



Working Groups

Working Group 1: The History of European Electoral Research

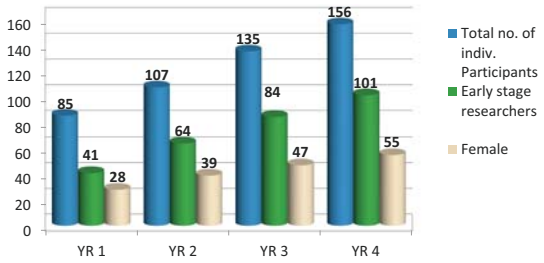
Working Group 2: Creating "The European Voter Database"

Working Group 3: The Methods of Comparative Electoral Research

State of affairs: Education, training and conferences

- **Four highly successful European Winter Schools on Methodological Issues in Comparative Electoral Analysis** so far (Nottingham 2010, Warsaw 2011, Rome 2012, Trento 2013), each involving some 30 to 40 young scholars from all over Europe
- **Four Think Tanks** (Mannheim & Milan 2010, Trento 2011 & 2013), exploring the possibilities and solving practical problems of data harmonisation, restructuring and integration
- **Two international conferences** ("European Conference on Comparative Electoral Research") with the theme: The State of the Art in Comparative Electoral Research (December 2011,Sofia, Bulgaria) and with the theme: The Context of Electoral Behaviour (April 2013, Rhodes, Greece)

TEV Participants



Deliverables

Three book projects:

- one on the **history of electoral research in Europe** (directed by R. Markowski and J. R. Montero)
- one exploring the **newly created TEV data base** (directed by H. Schmitt and P. Segatti)
- one on **methods of electoral research for the 21st century** (directed by C. van der Eijk and A. Jadot)

The estimated size of the final database

- 27 countries *
- 10 NES each*
- 2000 cases each *
- 5 parties each =
- **2 500 000 rectangular data matrices ***
- **500 variables (O & R, micro & macro) =**
- **1 250 000 000 data points (i.e. 1,25 billion)**

Activities

Activities	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Management Committee and Working Groups Meetings	6	6	5	5
Short Term Scientific Missions	2	2	6	6
Training Schools	2	3	1	2
Workshops or Conferences	-	-	2	3