The Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS) is the data collection instrument of this project. It aims at surveying parliamentary candidates in as many countries as are interested in participating – with the hope that these countries maximize variation regarding the political regime, the electoral system applied, and the degree of consolidation of the democratic order.

The purpose of these surveys is twofold:
- To add empirical data to the study of party elites, political recruitment, ideological (de-) polarisation, and political representation.
- To identify the political-structural correlates of individual attitudes and behaviours of party elites in order to add ‘political’ explanations to the ubiquitous ‘sociological’ (modernisation-based) explanation of variation over time and across countries.

Research Goals

1) Provide a systematic and theory-based analysis of variation in contemporary election campaigning for a number of quite different electoral systems in Europe and beyond.
2) Advance the empirical study of the social and economic background, the recruitment, and the political attitudes of candidates standing for office in national legislative elections.

Research Questions

The alleged crisis of political parties highlights individual representatives as an alternative linkage mechanism between citizens and the state. This project studies the election campaigns of candidates regarding a number of problems that become relevant in this regard.
- How frequent is individualised campaigning in legislative elections?
- Which factors foster, which hinder the diffusion of individualised election campaigns?

Selected Publications

- Lieven, Anouk, and Jen Rosewell (2015): “Gendind Politics and Party Preferences: Candidate’s views on political issues in a comparative perspective.” Comparative European Politics: ISSN: 1472-4750 (print); 1740-388X (online) DOI: 10.1057/2015.4

Data

An integrated micro-level data set has been produced at the MZES and is now verified and documented, available at the Swiss Data Archive in Lausanne. It is also being distributed by that archive.