B3.3 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)

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What was the TEV about?
- 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 moves 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

What were the TEV’s main objectives?
- 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

context → predictors of vote choices

vote choices

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

Education, training and conferences
- Five highly successful European Winter Schools on Methodological Issues in Comparative Electoral Analysis (Nottingham 2010, Warsaw 2011, Rome 2012, Trento 2013, Mannheim 2014), each involving some 30 to 40 young scholars from all over Europe
- Four Think Tanks (Mannheim & Milan 2010, Trento 2011 & 2013, Milan 2014), exploring the possibilities and solving practical problems of data harmonisation, restructuring and integration
- Three international conferences (“European Conference on Comparative Electoral Research”) with the theme: The Context of Electoral Behaviour (April 2013, Rhodes, Greece) and a Final Conference (April 2014, Thessaloniki, Greece)

Publications

The New European Voter (to be edited by H. Schmitt, P. Segatti and C. van der Eijk)

A multitude of national-specific papers have been published using the TEV data. Several comparative papers using TEV data are in progress.

Size of the final database
- 22 countries
- 157 National Election Studies
- About 2000 cases each
- About 3.5 parties each
- 582 variables (original and recoded, micro & macro)
- 1,716,739 cases in a „stacked“ rectangular data matrix

TEV Participants

Activities

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