

Study Description

Title: “Elections, Leadership and Accountability: Political Representation in Portugal, a longitudinal and comparative perspective”

Subtitle: Portuguese Candidate Survey 2011

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Publications (by primary investigators):

Several. See the website of the project (Leadership, Elections, and Accountability: Political Representation in Portugal in longitudinal and comparative perspective) in <http://er.cies.iscte.pt/>

Study Scope

Key words: Electoral campaign Candidates, Political Representation, Linkage between Voters and Representatives.

Top Classification: Elections, Political Elites, Political Representation, Linkage between Voters and Representatives.

Abstract (Description of national project):

In Portugal, conducting the survey was part of a larger research project titled “Elections, Leadership and Accountability: Political Representation in Portugal in longitudinal and comparative perspective”. Taking into account various themes of political conflict (for example: public policies, the left-right divide, the connections with voters, the institutional reform, European integration, deliberative democracy, the pattern of election campaigns and economic crisis), this study intends to analyze, in a comparative and systematic perspective, the attitudes and behaviors of the Portuguese MPs and Candidates between 2008 and 2012/13 with the attitudes and behaviors of MPs and Candidates of the various Western democracies. This analysis allows to study the impact of institutional and political conditions of each system on the process of political representation and the profile of the campaign.

As such, to study in a comparative and longitudinal way (2008-2012/13) the political and parliamentary representation in Portugal, through the study of the orientations, values and behaviors of MPs, the candidates and voters, this project, besides the research network Comparative Candidate Survey, is also part of the PARENEL/Legispar (Parliamentary Representation at National and European Levels), coordinated by Olivier Costa (CNRS Senior research fellow) and Eric Kerrouche (CNRS Senior research fellow) and based at Institut d’Etudes Politiques of Bordeaux (http://www.legipar.sciencespobordeaux.fr/PDF/PARENEL_EN.pdf); and PARTIREP, coordinated by Christian Deschouwer and based at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (<http://www.partirep.eu/index.php?page=project&page2=survey&id=2>).

Abstract (Description of Candidate Survey): The Portuguese 2011 Comparative Candidate Survey questions were combined with questions from the German Candidate Study Survey. Additionally, to these two sets of questions the project coordinators added Portugal-specific questions to fulfill the Project’s goals.

Date of Data Collection: between 27th July 2012 and 31st May 2013¹.

¹ This survey was originally planned for 2013 when the next Portuguese Legislative Elections should have taken place. However, given the exceptional situation of early elections (that took place in June 5, 2011) and the fact that the tender results from Portuguese Science Foundation - FCT (the main funding agency of this research project) were only known in late 2011 and especially only having financial effect from March 2012, we had to apply the questionnaire a little later than the recommended six months after the elections. Moreover, we had to wait for the permission of the National Commission for the Protection of Personal Data to have access to candidates’ address. All this, besides normal delays in fieldwork (4

Country: Portugal

Geographic coverage: Portugal (PT)

Unit of analysis: individuals

Universe: The questionnaire was printed and sent by letter through National Elections Commissions (CNE - Comissão Nacional de Eleições) who have the addresses of each candidate in their personal records. In order to meet the requirements of the National Commission for Data Protection (CNPD) the questionnaire was sent only for those who expressed in a consent form created for this purpose) their consent to provide the address. However, because these addresses were incomplete or inexistent in some cases, we were not able to send the questionnaire to all the candidates. This information gaps were filled in cases where it was possible to send the questionnaire to an institutional address. In the total, were sent 878 questionnaires that correspond to 76, 3% of the universe.

Kind of data: Numeric data; individual micro level

reminders), produced the delay in doing the fieldwork. This delay which was communicated and accepted by the CCS international coordinator (Professor Hermann Schmitt) in due time.

Methodology and Processing

Time-method: cross sectional study

Data collector: CIES-IUL

Sampling Procedure: Complete sample

Mode of Data Collection: Self-completion - Mail questionnaire

Type of Research Instrument: Questionnaire

Number of candidates: The study's universe was made up of 1150 candidates to the Portuguese Parliament in the 2011 Legislative Elections. These candidates were from the 5 major parties/coalitions with representation in the Parliament: BE (Bloco de Esquerda: Left Bloc, a left-libertarian party); CDU (a permanent coalition between the Communists, PCP: Partido Comunista Português, and the Greens, PEV: Partido Ecologista, Os Verdes); PS (Partido Socialista, a catch all center-left party member of the Socialist party family in the EU); PSD (Partido Social Democrata, a catch all centre-right party member of the EPP party family in the EU); CDS-PP (Centro Democrático e Social – Partido Popular, a cadre conservative party member of the EPP party family in the EU) (230 candidates by party/coalition).

Number of respondents: The Survey was answered by 190 candidates (16,5% of the universe and 21,6% of the questionnaires sent). In order to increase the number of answers it was sent four follow up letters reminding the candidates of the questionnaire and the importance of their answer. Beside this we also collected data from the Portuguese MPs Survey (more 67 cases, 5,9% of the universe) once the main structure of the questionnaires are the same and also relied heavily on the comparative questionnaires of the research networks to which the project is related. In this way, we can increase the sample of candidates' answers.

As such, in total we end up with 257 answers (22,3% of the universe and 29,3% of the questionnaires sent).

Response Rate: The Survey was answered by 257 candidates (22,3% of the universe and 29,3% of the questionnaires sent).

File Description

Number of cases: 257

