

MPs Survey 2012-13

PORTUGUESE DATABASE – CODEBOOK¹

This database is the result of conducting the research project titled “Elections, Leadership and Responsibility: Political Representation in Portugal a longitudinal and comparative perspective” based at the Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology of the Lisbon University Institute (CIES/IUL), coordinated by André Freire, José Manuel Leite Viegas, Marco Lisi and Ana Maria Belchior. The research assistant was Inês Lima. The goal of which is to study the process of political representation in the Portuguese parliament.

This project, besides the research network 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) is also part of the Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS), coordinated by Hermann Schmitt and based at Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (MZES) (<http://www.comparativecandidates.org/>); and also PARTIREP, coordinated by Christian Deschouwer and based at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (<http://www.partirep.eu/index.php?page=project&page2=survey&id=2>).

The Portuguese study was funded by Portuguese Science Foundation (FCT); Portuguese Parliament (Assembleia da República); Ministry of Internal Affairs (DGAI-MAI – Direcção-geral da Administração Interna); and also have the institutional support of the National Election Commission (CNE – Comissão Nacional de Eleições).

From this research context, the MPs Survey was combined with a larger survey that also included questions from other surveys such as the Common Core Questionnaire of the Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS), the German Candidate Study survey (GCS), (CITREP) and the Irish Elections Study (IES). To those questions the project coordinators added Portugal-specific questions to fulfill the project’s goals. In the end, the survey for the Portuguese deputies had 17 analytic dimensions and 76 major questions (many of which were further subdivided).

¹ For more methodological information about the surveys application please see: Lima, Inês e Silva, Sofia Serra da (2014), “Procedimento de recolha e tratamento de dados no estudo da representação política”, Freire, André; José Manuel Leite Viegas e Marco Lisi (coord.) *Crise Económica, Políticas de Austeridade e Representação Política*, Lisboa, Assembleia da República, Colecção Parlamento.

Methodological note on the survey's application

The study's universe was made up of 230 deputies of the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic (parliamentarians in office during the period in which the field work was conducted). These MP's 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).

Interviewers contracted by CIES/IUL (Sociology and Political Science majors at the university) were responsible for data collection under supervision of the "Elections, Leadership and Responsibility: Political Representation in Portugal a longitudinal and comparative perspective" project team.

The survey was answered by 123 deputies (53.5% of Parliamentarians), with the field work having been conducted between June 27, 2012 and April 11, 2013. Twelve interviewers were trained by the project team regarding the survey. Personal, face to face, interviews were conducted based on a structured questionnaire that lasted approximately 45 minutes. We also sent this questionnaire by letter to the MPs institutional addresses and received some of them were filled by hand.

In preparation for the survey's application, meetings were held between the interviewers, project leaders, and office heads/public relations personnel of all parliamentary groups to determine the best strategy to contact the deputies.

Weighting

A preliminary analysis of the data noted some detours relative to population distribution regarding sex and political party, requiring the weighting of the sample.

Because there is generally an elevated number of substitutions among Portuguese deputies, two different compositions from Assembly of the Republic were considered in order to calculate the weighting: the official make up after the 2011 legislative elections published in the government's Diário da República (http://www.cne.pt/sites/default/files/dl/resultados_ar2011.pdf); and the Assembly's make up in March 2012 as represented in the Parliament's official website (<http://www.parlamento.pt/DeputadoGP/Paginas/Deputados.aspx>).

In accordance with the two different distributions (2011 and 2012), two new weighting variables were created:

- **Weight1_2011** – Weight regarding the results of the 2011 elections (official list). Refers to the distribution of deputies elected in 2011.

- **Weight2_2012** – Weight regarding the constitution of the assembly at 1st March 2012. Refers to the distribution of deputies in office on 1st March 2012.

Given the differences observed in the structure of the deputy population on these two occasions, the use of weighting regarding the 2012 distribution was recommended, given that it was closer in time to the data collection.

1.1. Example of calculating the weighting

Imagine if you want to calculate the weight for a female MP from Socialist Party regarding the constitution of the assembly at 1st March 2012:

1st) you need to know how many MPs from the feminine sex and from Socialist Party were in office on 1st March 2012 (data calculated from database with the MPs Biographies 2011, Project *"Elections, Leadership and Accountability: political representation in Portugal, a longitudinal and comparative perspective"*. Some of this biographic information was collected in <http://www.parlamento.pt/DeputadoGP/Paginas/Deputados.aspx>).

2nd) Calculate: *nr. female MPs from PS Party in office /230*

i.e. $(20/230)*100= 8,7$

3rd) Then calculate: $\{N \text{ sample} * (nr. \text{ female MPs from PS Party in office } /230)\}$

i.e. $123*0,087= 10,70$

4th) Then you need to know how many female MPs from Socialist Party answered the MPs Survey (through running a frequency on your database)

i.e. $N=6$

5th) And then weight result of the calculation:

$\{(N \text{ sample} * nr. \text{ female MPs from PS Party in office } /230) /nr. \text{ female MPs from PS Party answered the MPs Survey}\}$

i.e. $10,70/6=1,78$

6th) Finally, computes the weight (1, 78) inserting it in all cases in which it applies.

NORMS FOR QUOTATION

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Freire, A., Viegas, J. M. L. & Lisi, M. (2013a) 'Portuguese MPs survey: 2011 legislative election', Research project at ISCTE-IUL and CIES-IUL, *'Elections, Leadership and Accountability: Political Representation in Portugal in a Longitudinal and Comparative Perspective'*, FCT: PTDC/CPJ-CPO/119307/2010, available online at: <http://er.cies.iscte-iul.pt/>

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