

TRUEDEM: Trust in European Democracies (2023-2025)

Quarterly Project Newsletter - Issue 3 (September 2023)

Key-note Lecture by Co-PI Pippa Norris

TRUEDEM Co-PI Pippa Norris (Harvard University, USA) gives a key-note lecture at the international conference “Trust and Distrust in Governance: Exploring the Impact of Social and Political Dynamics”, organized by the [EnTrust Research Project](#).



Challenges Facing Organized Interests Under a Populist Right-Wing Government in Slovenia

Researchers from the Slovenian TRUEDEM team, Dr. Meta Novak and Dr. Damjan Lajh, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, looked at the challenges facing organised interests (OIs) in Slovenia in the context of political change. Their comprehensive study, entitled Challenges Facing Organised Interests Under a Populist Right-Wing Government in Slovenia, published in 2023, examines the growth of OIs since the 1990s, highlights the constraints posed by limited professionalization, and explores the implications of a democratic backslide following the change of government in March 2020. For those interested in exploring this topic in more detail can access the full research article via the link below:
<https://www.cogitatiopress.com/politicsandgovernance/article/view/5859>

TRUEDEM Workshop on “(Mis)trust and democracy: political polarization in contemporary politics and society”

TRUEDEM workshop on (Mis)trust and democracy: political polarization in contemporary politics and society took place on September 08, 2023, at Metropolitan University Prague, Czech Republic. Presentations included: “Can Winners be Sore Losers?” (by FLORENT FRASQUE and STÉPHANIE ABRIAL, Grenoble Alpes University); “You know, this conference has no legitimacy”: Eurosceptic contestation of the CoFoE (by JAN KOTÝNEK KROTKÝ, University of Wrocław); “A Quantitative review of the literature of trust, 1980-2023” (by CLAUDIU TUFIS, University of Bucharest); “Patterns of mistrust: Human rights in Czech culture wars” (by ZORA HESOVÁ, Charles University in Prague); “Commenting on politics. Anti-Ukrainism in the Czech Republic: the case of Facebook page Plzeňáci in the city of Pilsen” (by PŘEMYSL ROSŮLEK, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen); “Identities, Polarisation and Trust in Post-Rokkanian World” (by LADISLAV CABADA, Metropolitan University Prague). Presentations are accessible at the [project website](#).



TRUEDEM Team in Slovakia: Media Interviews

[Last Day to Submit Candidate Lists Approaching](#). Appearance in ‘Commentaries :24 [Komentáre :24]’, RTVS (Slovak public broadcaster), 30 June 2023. Subject: comment on the submission of political parties’ candidate lists for the Slovak general elections in September 2023.

[New Cabinet Failed to Win Confidence Vote](#). Appearance in ‘Currents :24 [Aktuálne :24]’, RTVS (Slovak public broadcaster), 15 June 2023. Subject: Comment on the Slovak cabinet led by Ľ. Ódor and its legitimacy in light of the parliamentary no-confidence vote.

<https://joj24.noviny.sk/analyzy-24/824867-analyzy-24-slogany-ako-kluc-k-percentam>.

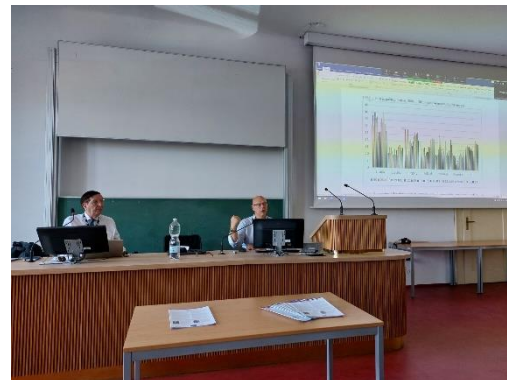
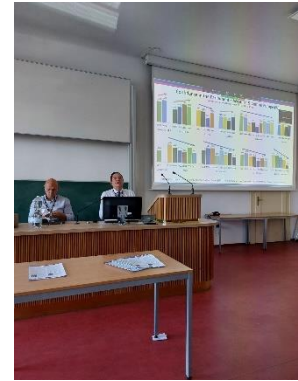
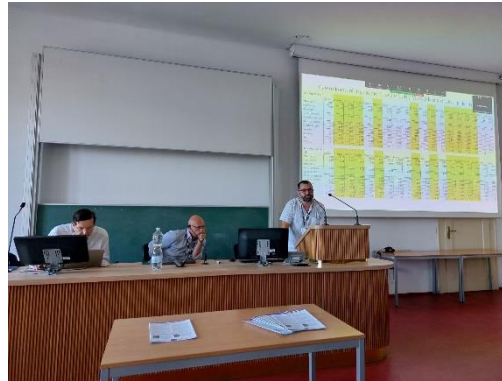
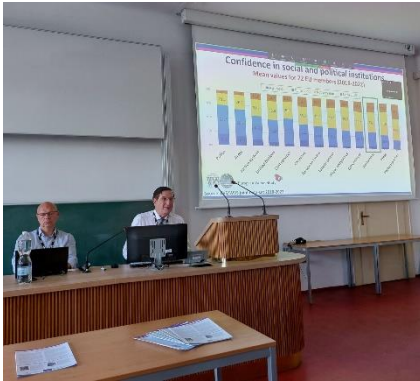
Appearance in ‘Analyses 24 [Analýzy 24]’, TV JOJ (Slovak TV), 16 August 2023. Subject: discussion of the early election campaign (Slovak general elections in September 2023).

<https://www.rtvsk.sk/radio/archiv/11340/2119181>. Appearance in ‘Openly with Anna Vargová [Otvorene s Annou Vargovou]’, Rozhlas a televízia Slovenska (Slovak Radio), 14 August 2023. Subject: the impact of the political cases during the election campaign on people’s trust.

Appearance in ‘Democracy in times of crises and uncertainties: How to restore our lost trust?’ [Demokracia v čase kríz a neistôt: Ako obnoviť našu stratenú dôveru?], 25 August 2023. Subject: public debate on trust in democracy in Slovakia.

TRUEDEM Panel at the ECPR General Conference

The project was presented in a thematic panel at the 2023 [European Consortium for Political Research General Conference](#). This panel comprised the first findings of the 2023-2025 “TRUEDEM: Trust in European Democracies” research project funded by the Horizon program of the European Commission. The panel included Christian Haerpfer (University of Vienna), Kseniya Kizilova (ICSR), Ladislav Cabada (Metropolitan University Prague), Jakub Charvat (Metropolitan University Prague), Bogdan Mihai Radu (Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai), Anja Kolak (University of Ljubljana), Meta Novak (University of Ljubljana), Alenka Krašovec (University of Ljubljana), and Damjan Lajh (University of Ljubljana).



TRUEDEM Panel at the IPSA Congress of Political Science

The Argentinian capital hosted the World Congress of Political Science in July, organized by the International Political Science Association (IPSA). TRUEDEM had our project panel included into the program of the 2023 IPSA Congress of Political Science. We discussed the issues of political trust in Europe and other continents with Anu Realo (UK), Jüri Allik (Estonia), Yasmina Abouzzohour (Morocco), Michael Robbins (United States), Yevgenya Paturyan (Armenia), Sara Melkonyan, Armenia, Daniel Moreno Morales (Bolivia), Christian Haerpfer (Austria), Kseniya Kizilova (Austria), Aaron Martin (Australia). The panel explored causal links between various forms of social capital and trust on one hand, patterns and trends of social, economic and political development of communities and societies in different cultural environments on the other. In particular, papers addressing the role of social capital and trust in the pandemic management and the impact of the pandemic on trust and social capital were presented.

Among the participants were researchers from Slovenia, including Prof. Dr. Alenka Krašovec, Prof. Dr. Damjan Lajh and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Meta Novak, all from the Center for Political Science Research at the Faculty of Social Sciences University of Ljubljana, as well as core members of the TrueDem Slovenia project team. This short interview was also published in the magazine Svobodna Slovenija ([more http://svobodnaslovenija.com.ar/slovenski-raziskovalci-na-mednarodnem-politoloskem-kongresu-v-buenos-airesu/](http://svobodnaslovenija.com.ar/slovenski-raziskovalci-na-mednarodnem-politoloskem-kongresu-v-buenos-airesu/)).

New Project Reports Available

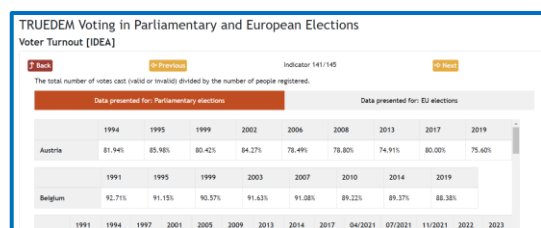


D1.1. Literature Review & Research Paper on Measuring Trust (2023Jul31) by Norris P.

This report provides an up-to-date survey of literature and a comprehensive overview of existing approaches in the social sciences to measuring trust and trustworthiness, including interpersonal and institutional forms of trust. Part 1 sets out the conceptual framework and unpacks the definitions and approaches in the literature which have developed since the mid-twentieth century across diverse disciplines. It identifies three alternative perspectives, based on individual personality traits, learnt values in societal cultures, and agency performance theories.

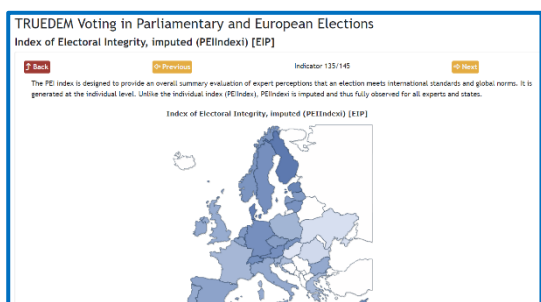
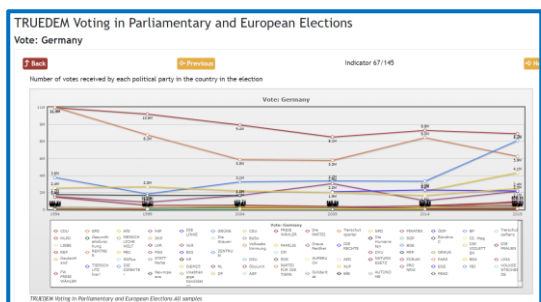
Part 2 reviews the pros and cons of alternative techniques and methods commonly used in research seeking to understanding trust and

trustworthiness. This includes game simulations, field observations, laboratory and field experiments, case studies, formal modelling, expert surveys, longitudinal macro and micro panel surveys, and cross-sectional comparative surveys. Debate continues about the advantages of using experiments, facilitating causal inference about relationships through manipulating the context, as widely employed in behavioural economics and social psychology, compared with using descriptive observational data from social surveys, maximizing generalizability in any observed relationships, the approach most common in political science, comparative sociology, and studies of public opinion. The conclusion in Part 3 suggests that mixed methods are the most appropriate research design for the TRUEDEM project, combining the capacity to observe general cross-national patterns and time-series trends through large-scale representative surveys conducted across European societies with the use of survey experiments, testing the reliability and validity of our measures and facilitating causal inference.

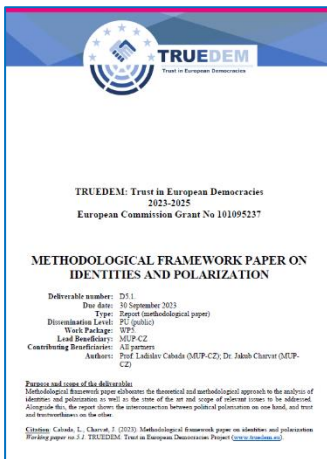


D2.1. Longitudinal cross-country database on voter turnout in European countries (2023Sept30) by Fruncillo D., Addeo F., Ammirato M., Delli Paoli A., Maddaloni D.

The database comprises secondary data on elections, turnout and contextual indicators for 1990-2023 for 31 European countries. The data is presented for national parliamentary (low chamber) and EU Parliament elections. Data sources include national and European voter registry and statistics, International IDEA, V-Dem, Eurostat, Electoral Integrity Project etc. The database consists of several sections, including: (1) country information and codes (11 indicators); (2) democracy status (7 indicators); (3) electoral system (21 indicators); (4) corruption (7 indicators); (5) media pluralism (3 indicators); (6) country development (4 indicators); (7) inequalities (5 indicators); (8) demography (6 indicators); (9) political fragmentation (2 cross-country indicators and number of votes and seats per each party in every country in elections in 1990-2023, resulting in 7500 variables); (10) perceptions of electoral integrity (13 indicators); (11) voter turnout (10 indicators). Data can be downloaded in SPSS, Stata, SAS, csv. Codebook and frequency tables available. Online data analysis allows quick access to



frequency distributions over time for one or multiple countries, building and exporting graphs and tables.



D5.1. Methodological framework paper on identities and polarization (2023Sept30) by Cabada L., Charvat J.

The aim of this theoretical and methodological paper is to present the current Political Science and, more broadly, Social Sciences and Political Sociology debate on the contemporary development of identities and cleavages, and their impact and consequences of this development on political polarization. Alongside this, we seek to show the interconnection between political polarization on the one hand, and trust and trustworthiness on the other. In the first part of the paper, we reflect on the composition of the most important “post-Rokkianian” cleavages in contemporary Europe and the Western world. Our analysis reflects three levels, i.e. national (looking for specific national cleavages embedded in specific national heritages); (macro)regional (reflecting the assumed specificities concerning the

East-West axis, but also North-South); and European. On the basis of previous work, we suggest that current forms of polarization within European societies and the societies of the EU Member States emerge as a set of new and reshaped cleavages. Based on the continuity of crises (fiscal and financial, migration, COVID-19, etc.), which are generally referred to as poly-crisis, we can observe the emergence of two “ideal-typical” social groups, referred to as “cosmopolitan liberals” and “counter-cosmopolitan traditionalists”. Such development is accompanied by the polarization of European and, more generally, Western societies. In particular, some of the aforementioned crises have exacerbated such polarization between the “winners” and “losers” of the transformation from (post)modern industrial society towards a knowledge and information society. Finally, we show how the above-mentioned transformations of identities and polarization can be captured by research. Here we specifically highlight the paradigmatic tension between socioeconomically and socio-culturally based approaches and explanations.

TRUEDEM Project Presentation in Ukraine

On September 30, 2023, a presentation of the TRUEDEM project took place as part of the offline event “[World of Science in Karazin University](#)”. This event was aimed at popularizing science among different segments of the population. The interdisciplinary approach of the TRUEDEM project to the study of political trust - at the intersection of sociology, political science, psychology, public administration, intercultural studies and law - aroused great interest among visitors.



TRUEDEM Trust in European Democracies

Cross-country comparative comprehensive investigation of public perceptions of trust and trustworthiness (2023-2025)

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