

Europeans' Understandings and Evaluations of Democracy

Abstract:

There are major concerns in our days on the apparent dissatisfaction that affects most of the European democracies and its causes. However, until now, no study has provided us with specific data on citizens' particular attitudes towards democracy. The proposed module concerns Europeans' perceptions of democracy and shall address these limitations. First, we shall bring clarity to the often used indicators of support for and satisfaction with democracy. Second, we shall create individual-level indicators designed to permit comparison with the existing macro-level indices on the quality of democracy. Thirdly, we shall be able to tackle the causes of dissatisfaction and the effects of democratic attitudes on people's political behaviour. In order to do this, we shall focus our analysis on a) people's beliefs and expectations about what a democracy should be, and b) people's evaluations of their own democracies.

Team:

- Hanspeter Kriesi, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- Leonardo Morlino, Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane, Italy
- Pedro Magalhaes, University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Sonia Alonso, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin for Sozialforschung, Germany
- Mónica Ferrín, European University Institute, Italy