Overview of Electoral Research
Greece

CSES team in Greece
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Presentation prepared for the meeting:
Supporting Election Studies in the Balkans

21-22 April 2012, Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
1st GROUP: ‘beginning’....

1985-1990: Pre-election studies conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE): a state – funded social research institution

- 1985: Comparative Study of Political Culture in South Europe, supervised by Prof. Ilias Nikolakopoulos. The classic political culture comparative study by Almond and Verba (1963) and the research paradigm of the Michigan School served as theoretical and methodological blueprints for the 1985 survey
- 1989a, 1989b, 1990: Observatory of Pre- electoral surveys (Ministry of Interior), supervised by Prof. Ilias Nikolakopoulos
History & organization of the Greek National Election Studies (2)

- **2nd GROUP: 1993, 2000, 2007**
  - Private opinion poll institutions (OPINION and MRB)
    - *for the post-election surveys of 2000 and 2007: copyright permission in process*

  - Panel and post electoral surveys
    - 1996: Comparative National Elections Project (CNEP I), conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) and OPINION, supervised by Prof. Nikiforos Diamandouros
    - 2004: Comparative National Elections Project (CNEP II), conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) and OPINION, supervised by Prof. Christos Lyrinzis
2009: Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES III), conducted by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Dept. of Political Sciences and OPINION, supervised by the Laboratory of Applied Political Research
Deposit of data: January 2012-the Greek dataset will be included in the next data release

The implementation of the CSES can be considered as the first institutional step towards the launching of the Hellenic NES
Important steps towards the first ELNES (1)

- *European Election Studies* (EES) and “Providing an Infrastructure for Research on Electoral Democracy in the European Union" (PIREDEU)
- 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” (Action IS0806)
- Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS) Greek studies of 2007 and 2009 (and 2012 is planned)
Important steps towards the first ELNES (2)

- The Greek Voting Advice Application for the local elections of 2010 and national elections of 2012 [http://www.helpmevote.gr]
- Manifesto Research on Political Representation Project (MARPOR), Social Science Research Centre Berlin (WZB) (coding of Greek manifestos)
- Euromanifestos Project (MZES) (coding of Greek Euromanifestos)
Participation of Greece in other cross-national survey research

- *European Value Survey (EVS 1999, 2008)* under the supervision of the Department of Psychology, School of Philosophy of the University of Athens
- *European Social Survey (ESS) Round1, 2,4,5* under the supervision of EKKE
- *European Election Studies (EES)* under the supervision of the Institute of Greek Politics-Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens
## Presentation of the Greek National Election Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Sample</th>
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## Presentation of the Greek National Election Studies

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>September-October 1996</td>
<td>panel</td>
<td>1196 (1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;) 966 (2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td>EKKE (CNEP I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>March-April 2004</td>
<td>panel</td>
<td>2000 (1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;) 1307 (2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td>EKKE (CNEP II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>November–December 2009</td>
<td>Post-electoral</td>
<td>1022</td>
<td>AUTH (CSES module III)</td>
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</table>
Sampling method (1985-1993)

- Cross-sectional
- Pre-electoral with face to face interviews
- Multistage stratified random sampling with quotas
- Strata: regions and urban/rural
- Quota controls: sex and age
Stratified random sampling

- 9 geographical regions + Athens + Thessaloniki
- Urban >10000, Semi-urban 2000-10000 and Rural <2000
- All large cities >50000 included
- For cities 10000 – 50000 and semi-urban areas 2000-10000 systematic random sampling
- To reduce cost rural areas were selected in the same region with cities already included in the sample
- Proportional to 1981 census data
Second stage of sampling

- Building blocks selected with systematic random sampling
- Sex and age quota in each region
- Sample is representative of the population as far as demographic characteristics are concerned (Of course for sex and age but also occupation, education, etc)
- Athens (special treatment)
  - random sampling
  - 3 visits before replacing (35% non response, i.e. not found-closed doors and refused to answer)
Weights for samples

- No weighting concerning demographic data
- To correctly predict the outcome of the election: weighting according to previous vote
  - For instance, the percentage of 1981 ND voters in the sample of 1985 is much smaller than the vote share of ND in 1981 election
- This is common in South Europe if a major party is out of government and it is not expected to win the election.

- Short term panel
- Pre-electoral and post-electoral interviews
- Multistage sampling
- 1196 (1st) – 966 (2nd) (81%)
- 1639 (1st) – 1307 (2nd) (80%)
Sampling method (2009)

- Cross-sectional
- Post-electoral telephone survey
- Multistage random sampling
- Stratified random sampling with quotas
- Strata: Athens, Thessaloniki, urban, semi-urban and rural
- Sex and age quota
Documentation of the Greek National Data File (1): Overview of the variables

- election 10 [2009]
- election 8 [2004]
- election 6 [1996]
- election 5 [1993]
- election 4 [1990]
- election 3 [1989b]
- election 2 [1989a]
- election 1 [1985]
## Documentation of the Greek National Data File (2): Overview of the variables

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total nr. variables</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>149</td>
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</table>
Step ahead...

The Hellenic National Election Study (ELNES) for the national election of May 2012

A draft list of the variables (a subgroup of which will correspond to the CSES Module IV) to be included to the questionnaire is:

- party attachment (identification and strength), sympathy towards parties and their leaders (based on thermometer’ scores), reasons for party choice, voting probabilities questions (analyzing electoral utilities/ PTVs, e.g. van der Eijk & Franklin 1996), question batteries on political interest and involvement, political communication questions (in collaboration with the media component)
Step ahead...

- left-right positions,
- issue and candidate voting,
- economic and non-economic evaluations (such as retrospective and prospective socio-tropic and egocentric (and non) economic evaluations), government performance issues,
- attitudes towards forms of political protest,
- political participation and voting behavior,
Step Ahead...

- value dimensions, such as attitudes toward moral issues, ethnicity and immigration, political authoritarianism, state intervention, growth,
- the Inglehart battery on materialism-postmaterialist and European issues, as well as general background variables
Parties

How parties are chosen because of candidates

How parties are chosen because of issues

Projection of «issues»

Projection of “candidates”

Candidates

Issues

Projection of «parties»
Candidates

How parties choose candidates

Projection of «issues»

Projection of «parties»

How candidates are chosen because of issues

Projection of “candidates»
Issues

Parties

How issues are chosen because of parties

Projection of «issues»

Projection of «candidates»

Candidates

How issues are chosen because of candidates

Projection of «parties»

Issues
Dimensions

- Left–right
- Liberal–Authoritarian
- European dimension
Tools–Moral

- Voting Advice Application
- ICT and electoral research
- Sophisticated experimental designs

Respect the data!
Reveal hidden interactions!
Κεντρική Μακεδονία