

ELECTORAL RESEARCH IN CROATIA

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Relevant academic institutions

- Faculty of Political Science
 - mainly political scientists
- The “Sociologist Group” from Split
 - sociologists
 - face-to-face interviews, representative samples, 1992-1997
 - electoral campaign research (quantitative and qualitative content analysis of media)
 - PULS – commercial public opinion poll agency
- Institute “Ivo Pilar”
 - psychologists
 - face-to-face interviews, representative samples, 1992-1999, 2000-2003

Project “Elections, Parties, and Parliament in Croatia” (Faculty of Political Science)

- **Documentation Centre** (“political” legislation, election results, party statutes and platforms, biographical data of MPs)
- **Face-to-face pre-election survey** (1990, 1992, 1995, 1997*, 2000, 2003, 2007)
- **Parliamentary elite mail-survey** (1992, 1998, 2002)
- **Local elite mail survey** (1999, 2005)
- **Election campaign study** (content analysis of media messages and TV-clips, 2003, 2007, 2011)
- **Comparative Manifesto Project** (1990-2011)
- **EurElite project** (1990-2007)
- **CSES** (postelection face-to-face survey – 2008, 2012)
- **COST Action “True European Voter”** (2010-2013)
- **EUvox** – EU parliamentary elections 2014

Core concepts and indicators included in the surveys (1990-2012)

- ❑ Information on politics* (1990-2012)#
- ❑ Interest in elections (1990-2012)#
- ❑ Party membership (1990-2012)
- ❑ Vote intention (1990-2012)
- ❑ Reason for vote (1990-2012)
- ❑ Social values (1990-2012)#
- ❑ Political issues* (1990-2012)#
- ❑ Left-right (1990-2012)
- ❑ Religious beliefs (1990-2012)
- ❑ Satisfaction with life* (1990-2012)

- ❑ Social distance towards minorities (1992-2012)

- ❑ Party identification* (1995-2012)
- ❑ Democracy* (1995-2012)

- ❑ Attitudes towards discrete parties (2000-2012)
- ❑ Confidence in institutions* (2000-2012)
- ❑ Perception of economic situation* (2000-2012)

Samples

- size: 2608 (1990), 2359 (1992), 1144 (1995), 1126 (2000), 1153 (2003), 1081 (2007)
- Sampling: two- and three-stage samples.
 - Localities were randomly chosen from regionally and rural/urban stratified list of localities (1990-2003). In 2007 randomly adjusted for size
 - Individuals were randomly chosen from the voter lists (1990-2000). In 2003 households were chosen in *random walk* manner, respondents randomly. In 2007. households were chosen randomly from the telephone list, individuals randomly.
- Response rate: around 50%, in decline

Names

- Ivan Šiber
- Ivan Grdešić
- Mirjana Kasapović
- Nenad Zakošek
- Vlasta Ilišin
- Dražen Lalić
- Goran Čular
- Nebojša Blanuša
- Andrija Henjak
- Dario Nikić Čakar
- Daniela Širinić

Main findings 1

- application of the Lipset/Rokkan cleavage theory to explain the structure and functioning of the Croatian party system (Zakošek 1991, 1998, 2001; Čular 1999, 2004; Zakošek/Čular 2004; Čular/Henjak 2013; Henjak/Zakošek/Čular 2013)
- political (party) identities created early in the 1990 have been still constraining party competition and voter behavior (party system stability)

Main findings 2

- political consequences of the electoral system (Kasapović, 1990-2011)
- Mirjana Kasapović and Ivan Grdešić were members of the working group of the Croatian parliament that in 1999 set up the existing electoral system in Croatia

Main findings 3

- “political biography” of voters (related to the WW II) affects the vote choice and voters’ party identity (Šiber, 1997, 2001)
- interpretation presented as a special cleavage line overlapping with the ideological dimensions, but it could also be seen as a surrogat for PID in the context of one-party communist system that helped transmitting old political conflicts to the new multi-party system 50 years after

Main findings 4

- ❑ the patterns of recruitment of the parliamentary elites in Croatia (Ilišin/Čular 2014)
- ❑ a longitudinal account of the changes in programmatic party competition 1990-2011 (Nikić Čakar, Čular 2012)
- ❑ socio-psychological account of the voters' perceptions of Croatia in the EU (Šiber/Blanuša 2010)

Joining to the CSES project

- **April 2007** - Köln
- **March 2008** (elections: November 23, 2011) – Module 3 – post-electoral face-to-face survey
- two important decisions for the Croatian project:
 - turning from pre- to post-electoral survey
 - turning from students as interviewers to a commercial opinion poll agency
- **January 2012** (elections: December 4, 2011)– Module 4 – post-electoral face-to-face survey

Problems with application of the Modules

- March 2008
 - Module 3 was completely applied as an integrated block with only some additional question batteries – not a part of the Croatian longitudinal survey
- January 2012
 - Module 4 was not applied as an integrated block of questions due to the fact that this time it was only a part of the longitudinal survey
 - Some questions from the Module 4 were omitted and some put in different form
 - Croatian data not included in the overall CSES dataset since the judgement was that deviations were too serious

Module 4 as applied in Croatia 2012

- Question that were omitted completely:
 - Q2 – IMPROVING STANDARD OF LIVING
 - Q4 – GOVERNMENT ACTION - DIFFERENCES IN INCOME LEVELS
 - Q10 - LIKE-DISLIKE – LEADER
 - Q17g - MOBILIZATION: INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT - WHO - MULTIPLE MENTIONS
 - Q18 - MOBILIZATION: PERSONAL CONTACT
 - Q19 - MOBILIZATION: SIGN UP FOR ONLINE INFORMATION OR ALERTS
 - Q21 - HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS
 - Q23b - FIND ANOTHER JOB - SPOUSE/PARTNER

Module 4 as applied in Croatia 2012

- Questions that were put in different form:
 - Q3 - STATE OF ECONOMY – one-step question instead of two-step
 - Q17 - MOBILIZATION: INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT - one-step question instead of two-step
 - Q20b - POLITICAL INFORMATION ITEM - 2ND – unemployment expressed in absolute numbers and not percentage

Module 4 as applied in Croatia 2012

- Original questions reformulated in order to fit CSES versions:
 - Q9 - LIKE-DISLIKE – PARTY – original scale changed from 5 to 11 points
 - Q11 - LEFT-RIGHT – PARTY
 - Q12 - LEFT-RIGHT – SELF – original scale changed from 10 to 11 points

The future

- the end of the steady public financing of the project that served as a sort of an “infrastructure” project for electoral research in a broader sense
- several smaller projects applied within the new financial scheme in Croatian science and for the EU projects
- the question is whether there will be thematic and financial opportunity to integrate CSES Module 5 in some of them, since the new proposals are more specific in topic and do not always mean face-to-face or telephone post-election surveys