

Election Studies in Romania

Where are we now?

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Research networks

Romanian Election Studies (RES) group (resproject.wordpress.com):

- goals: secure funding for election studies in Romania, research design
- since 2008, rather informal structure
- gathering scholars from:
 - University of Cluj: Gabriel Bădescu, Mircea Comşa, Florin Feşnic, Camil Postelnicu
 - University of Sibiu: Andrei Gheorghită, Cristina Stănuş, Bogdan Voicu
 - University of Bucharest: Claudius D. Tufiş
 - Princeton University: Grigore Pop-Elecheş
 - Central European University Budapest: Marina Popescu
- close collaborator: Prof. Paul Sum (University of North Dakota)
- series of books dedicated to electoral competitions in Romania

Romanian Electoral Data project (www.polito.ubbcluj.ro/romanianelectoraldata):

- data archiving and preparation of Romanian surveys including predictors of electoral behaviour
- gathering scholars from:
 - University of Cluj: Cosmin Marian, Toma Burean, Florin Feşnic
 - University of Bucharest: Claudiu D. Tufiş
 - University of Southern Denmark: Romana Careja

National elections, election studies and CSES in the last decade

Year	Election	Data	Survey design	Funding	CSES
2004	Legislative and presidential elections	☺	2-wave panel survey (F2F+F2F)	NRC + Princeton + IPF	Yes Module 2
2008	Legislative election	☹	-	-	No
2009	Presidential election	☺	3-wave panel survey (F2F+CATI+F2F)	NRC + Soros Foundation	Yes Module 3
2012	Legislative election	☺	3-wave panel survey (CAPI) + 2-wave panel survey (CAPI) + Cross-sectional survey (CAPI) + Longitudinal panel 2009-2012 (CAPI)	NRC	Yes, still working at data prep. Module 4
2014	Presidential election	☺	Cross-sectional survey (CAPI)	NRC	Yes (2015) Module 4

Sources of funding

Public funding: **Romanian National Research Council** – 3 research grants over time:

- *Change and stability in Romanian electoral behaviour: 2009-2014* (2012-2015, PN-II-ID-PCE-2011-3-0669), director Mircea Comşa --- funding for the 2012 and 2014 election studies.

- *The 2009 Romanian Presidential Election Study* (2009-2011, ID2174), director Mircea Comşa --- partial funding for the 2009 election study.

- *Political culture and civic involvement in Romania* (2004-2005, A382), director Gabriel Bădescu --- partial funding for the 2004 election study.

Problems:

- unpredictable (both timing of competitions and of receiving the funds)
- severe budget cuts (50-74 percent) – data collection endangered
- pessimistic prospects – no new competitions for grants since 2012

Private funding:

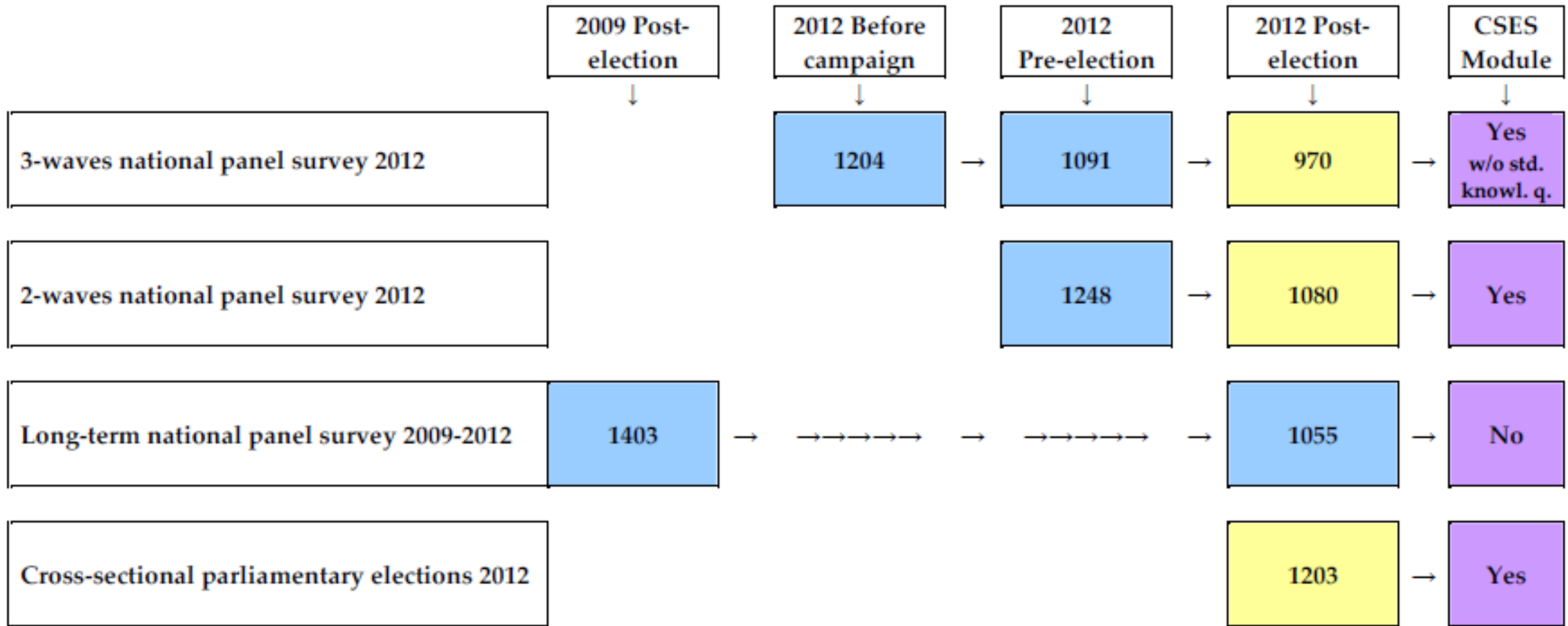
Soros Foundation Romania – saved the 2009 data collection – no prospects for future funding

Princeton University – solid contribution to the 2004 data collection – occasional interest in electoral data

International Policy Fellowship (IPF) – additional contribution to the 2004 data collection – IPF doesn't exist anymore

RES research design – 2012 legislative elections

Samples: two-stage stratified random samples.



RES team: main topics of research

- Turnout: rationalities of voting, estimation of 'real' turnout, accuracy of official voter register, profile of non-voters, life satisfaction and voting, media and turnout.
- Vote choice: impact of party identification, leader effects, economic voting, socio-economic predictors, rationalities of thwarted voters and newcomers, mechanisms of candidate evaluation, value orientations, political sophistication.
- Political parties and elections: radical right, catch-all partyism, party characteristics and magnitude of leader effects.
- Migration and voting.
- Electoral integrity: vote buying, voter intimidation.
- Methodological issues: reducing turnout over-reporting through counter-biasing questions, effectiveness of ICT in reducing turnout over-reporting.
- Exit poll methodology.