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 Comșa, Florin Feșnic, Camil Postelnicu
  - University of Sibiu: Andrei Gheorghiță, Cristina Stănuș, Bogdan Voicu
  - University of Bucharest: Claudius D. Tufiș
  - Princeton University: Grigore Pop-Elecheș
  - 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 Feșnic
  - University of Bucharest: Claudiu D. Tufiș
  - University of Southern Denmark: Romana Careja
# National elections, election studies and CSES in the last decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Election</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Survey design</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>CSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Legislative and presidential elections</td>
<td>😊</td>
<td>2-wave panel survey (F2F+F2F)</td>
<td>NRC + Princeton + IPF</td>
<td>Yes Module 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Legislative election</td>
<td>☹</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Presidential election</td>
<td>😊</td>
<td>3-wave panel survey (F2F+CATI+F2F)</td>
<td>NRC + Soros Foundation</td>
<td>Yes Module 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Legislative election</td>
<td>😊</td>
<td>3-wave panel survey (CAPI) + 2-wave panel survey (CAPI) + Cross-sectional survey (CAPI) + Longitudinal panel 2009-2012 (CAPI)</td>
<td>NRC</td>
<td>Yes, still working at data prep. Module 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources of funding

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


  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.