

LABORATORY

Elite's attitude and behaviour

SEMINAR 1

Watching MEPs: data availability and reports

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EUReAct
Jean Monnet Module, AA 2015/2016



OUTLINE

1. The objective of the laboratory: to measure MEPs activities
2. The European Parliament and MEPs: overview
3. MEPs activities: plenary and committees
4. Research experiences: “Antenna Europarlamentare”
5. Dataset and web tools
6. Practical exercises: data gathering



Three questions:

1. Why to measure MEPs activities?
2. What to measure? Which activities in particular?
3. How to measure?

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- MEPs as European political élite
- Behaviour and activities
- Patterns of representation?

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1. Why to measure MEPs activities?
2. What to measure? Which activities in particular?
3. How to measure?

Quantitative: attendance, roll call votes, documents in plenary, committees, delegations.

Qualitative: constituencies, national party, media, campaign

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2. What to measure? Which activities in particular?
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Methods:

quantitative -> data from EP website, other datasets or web tools

Qualitative -> interviews, text analysis



The European Parliament and MEPs: overview

EP POWERS

POLITICAL

Approves appointment of the Commission President and commissioners

LEGISLATIVE

Opinions on commission proposals, ordinary legislative procedure

BUDGETARY

Approval annual budget; committee budgetary control



The European Parliament and MEPs: overview

EP COMPOSITION

- Political groups: at least 25 MEPs from at least one quarter of all member states
- N° 8 (+NI) political groups 8th term 2014/2019
- N° 751 MEPs – max country 96 D – min countries 6 Cyp, Mal, Lux, Est
- Conference of Presidents, Bureau, College of Questors, Conference of Committee Chairs, Conference of Delegation chairs
- N° committees 20 + 3 special committees
- Delegations

The European Parliament and MEPs: overview

EP WORKS and ELECTIONS

- Strasbourg /Brussels
- Plenary / committees
- Electoral law: proportional representation principle
- 28 member states
- About 500 million people



The European Parliament and MEPs: overview

MEPs

- Rights and obligations
- Institutional and political roles
- Agents with 2 principals



MEPs activities: plenary and committees

- Roll call votes, show of hand
- Loyalty/rebel to EP group/National party
- Attendance, Reports, Opinions, Amendments, Questions, declarations, motions for resolutions, speeches
- Networking (EU level), constituencies, national party, media campaign

Research experiences: “Antenna Europarlamentare”(2012)*

WHAT IS IT?

- Focus on Italian Delegation in the EP 7term (2007-2014): socio economic variables
- Activism Index: measurement of MEPs activity performance

* Luca Verzichelli e Stefano Braghiroli

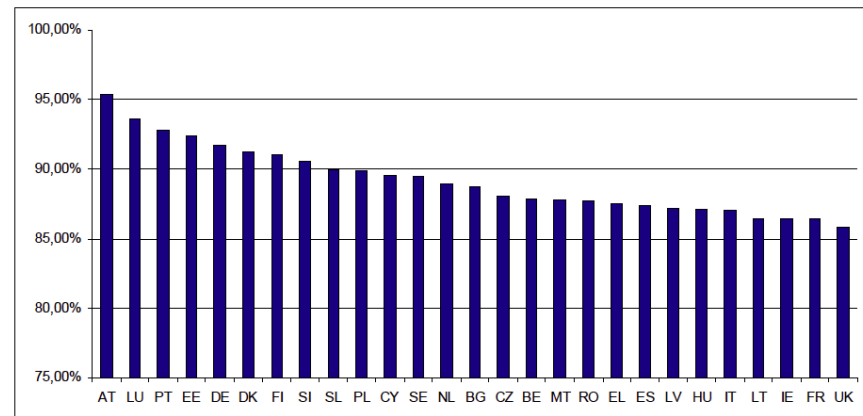


Research experiences: “Antenna Europarlamentare”(2012) *

SOME PICTURES

- 73 MEPs
- Age 56 (PE 57)
- Women 20% (PE35%)
- 1st EU pol. experience 69%
- One + EU legisl. 32%
- 2 Vice Presidents
- 5 Committee Chairs
- 10 Committee Vice Chairs
- 1 Political Group leader
- 3 Political Group v/leaders

Attendance, national delegations.

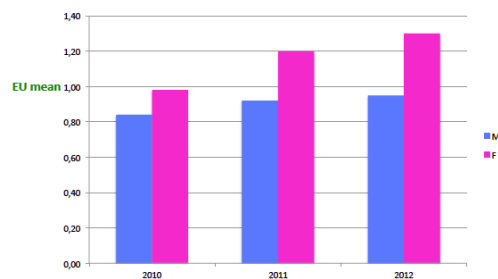


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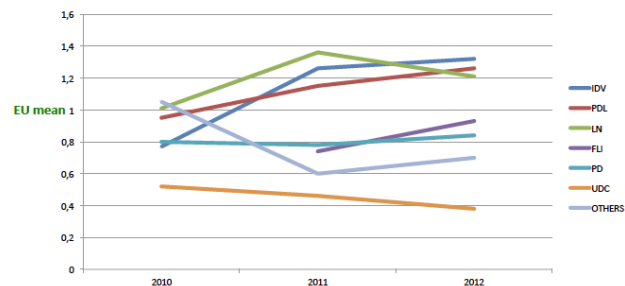
Research experiences: “Antenna Europarlamentare”(2012) *

SOME PICTURES

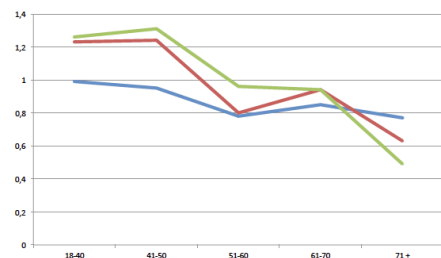
GENDER and ACTIVISM



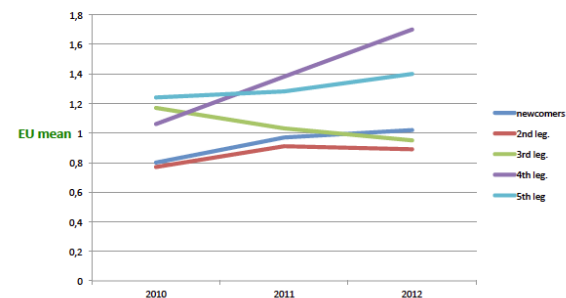
National Parties' Activism Trends



AGE and ACTIVISM



N° OF LEGISLATURES and ACTIVISM



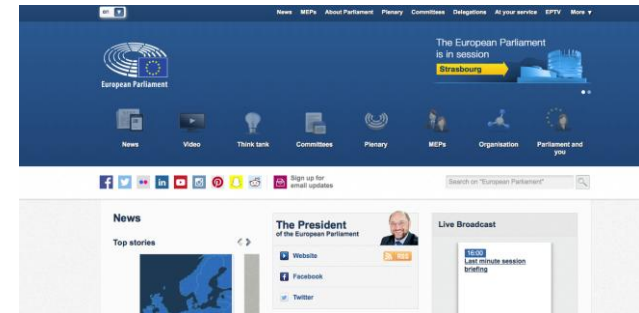
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Dataset and web tools

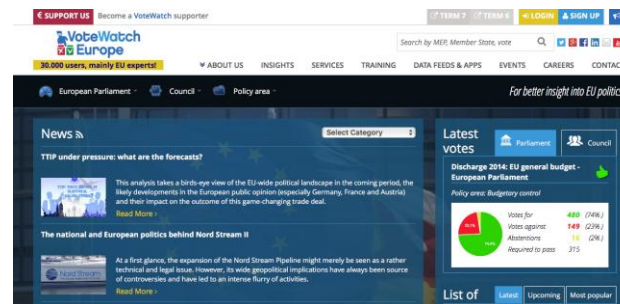
EP Website:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>



Votewatch:

<http://www.votewatch.eu>



Mepranking:

<http://www.mepranking.eu>





EXERCISE:

1. Theoretical framework: what do we want to observe and why?
 - National delegations
 - National parties
 - EU groups
 - Single MEPs es: party leaders, newcomers, institutional roles etc.
2. Gathering data – Download the form and use of the sources just introduced

Activity index and different methods will be analyzed during next laboratory.



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**