Round 10 Rotating Module

Understandings and Evaluations of Democracy

Abstract and Team Composition

Abstract

There are four major changes in European democracies that call for a repeat module on democracy: 1) New political forces have come to 'storm the democratic stage'; 2) Referendums - the essential instrument of direct democracy - have troubled both the European democracies and the European Union; 3) For many Europeans, the European Union has become the 'enemy'; and 4) A generation of 'outraged' youth has appeared in Europe, as a consequence of the several crises that have affected European democracies.

The European Social Survey is best placed to measure these changes and their implications for European democracy. The first rotating module was fielded in the midst of one of the worst global economic crises, with severe consequences for European democracies (amongst which those we mention above). The repeat module is scheduled in 2020/1, a perfect time span to assess the direction in which democracies are moving following the economic crisis of the early 2010s. By measuring changes in Europeans' attitudes to democracy within and across countries, the ESS will address one of the most crucial themes of today.

Questionnaire Design Team

- Mónica Ferrín, Collegio Carlo Alberto (Italy)
- Hanspeter Kriesi, European University Institute (Italy)
- Claudia Landwehr, Johannes-Gutenberg-University Mainz (Germany)
- Levente Littvay, Central European University (Hungary)
- Enrique Hernández, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)

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