

# Radical Right in Central and Eastern Europe; Voting Behavior in a Comparative Perspective

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## Abstract

The thesis deals with the phenomenon of radical right voting in Central and Eastern Europe. The analysis is based on individual and aggregate level data. The goal of the thesis is to pinpoint the basic characteristics of the radical right voters in Central and Eastern Europe. The core assumption of the research design is that the party competition is restrained by the rules of electoral market.

The individual level data analyses aim at identifying potential difference in radical right vote in Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe, as well as identifying the differences of radical right parties in Central and Eastern Europe. The discussion will take account of ideological, socio-economic, demographic and attitudinal characteristics, as well as other relevant explanatory variables. The models are devised on the basis of the proximity, socio-structural and protest vote theories.

The aggregated level data analysis is focused on explaining vote share volatility. It consists of two forms of analysis. The first is the comparison of countries with particularly strong radical right parties with the countries in which these parties are not as successful. This is a cross-sectional analysis. The second type of analysis has the goal to explain the volatility of radical right vote within the countries. Namely, this analysis seeks to explain what causes the increase or decrease in radical right vote share across time. The main goal of this analysis is to confirm the results found using individual level data.