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RECON
Reconstituting Democracy in Europe

Integrated Project
Priority: 7 - Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

Deliverable No. 62
Workshop on Euroscepticism

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Actual delivery date: 28-29 May 2010

Start date of project: 1 January 2007

Duration: 60 months

Lead contractor for this deliverable:
Partner 7 JUK
Jagellonian University Krakow, Poland

Final Version

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	X
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

1. Introduction

RECON Deliverable No. 62 – *Workshop on Euroscepticism* is part of work package 5, which focuses on civil society and the public sphere in the European Union. WP 5 analyses the conditions, forms and consequences of how civil society and the public sphere shape the democratic reconstitution of Europe. Adopting a cross-national and cross-sectoral comparative perspective, it explores the conditions and dynamics of democratisation from below: the scope of media communication and debates and the mobilisation of citizens' support and resistance to evolving forms of European governance. The research within WP 5 during months 37 to 54 of the project is devoted to empirically mapping, normatively assessing and understanding cross-national variation in the mediating structures between citizens and the developing democratic order in the EU. A key element here is to explore pro- and anti-European cleavage structures by looking at the manifestations and varieties of Euroscepticism and anti-European sentiments expressed during national and European election campaigns. Another, related objective is to investigate the potential of the Internet as a communicative infrastructure of EU democracy.

2. Presentation of the workshop

The workshop 'Euroscepticism and the Future of European Democracy' was held on 28-29 May 2010 at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and was hosted by Zdzisław Mach (JUK), and Hans-Jörg Trenz (ARENA, University of Oslo). RECON researchers and invited guest scholars discussed findings from the sub-project on Euroscepticism in the 2009 European Parliament online election campaign.

With existing scholarly attention predominantly focused on party politics and public opinion, the question of how Euroscepticism is advanced in public and media discourse appears relatively uncharted. The workshop therefore investigated how Eurosceptic discourse is made salient by political actors and journalists through online media. Particular attention was on the Internet as a platform of political contestation and campaigning in the context of EP elections, including an assessment of the performance of professional journalism websites as well as citizens' journalism through commenting, online fora and political blogs. The results were used in order to evaluate the online European public sphere in light of existing knowledge on its 'offline' counterpart, on the one hand, and to assess the nature of Eurosceptic discourse, compare manifestations of Euroscepticism across countries and websites, and study the extent to which Euroscepticism features in the election campaign and results on the other hand.

WP 5 partners have taken stock of the scholarly literature on Euroscepticism in a variety of member states and have identified themes, actors and forums for Eurosceptic discursive practices in the context of campaigns surrounding the European Parliament elections of June 2009. At the workshop, RECON researchers presented individual country chapters covering a representative sample of 12 EU member states including Austria, Germany, the UK, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Greece. All RECON WP 5 partners delivered two inputs for the workshop: one paper on the shape of the EU online public sphere and its democratic assessment and a second chapter on the manifestations of Euroscepticism and the dynamics of EP election campaigning in their country of analysis. Paper presentations were followed by commentaries provided by distinguished scholars in the fields of media and European studies. The invited scholars gave

critical feedback and thus brought an external perspective to the project's conceptual and empirical aspects and set the framework for further discussion and evaluation of findings.

Following introductory remarks by Zdzislaw Mach (JUK) and Hans-Jörg Trenz (ARENA), the workshop opened with presentations of the research framework and the conceptualization of the Euroscepticism project by its coordinators Asimina Michailidou, Hans-Jörg Trenz and Pieter de Wilde (ARENA, University of Oslo). Their papers were commented on by Nick Jankowski (Virtual Knowledge Studio for the Humanities and Social Sciences) and Paul Statham (University of Bristol). The second session aimed to discuss two comparative projects: the Comparative European New Media Election Project presented by Carlos Cunha (Dowling College, New York) and the Euroscepticism Comparative Project findings presented by Pieter de Wilde and Asimina Michailidou. The following parts of the workshop were devoted to the discussion of country case studies: Poland by Natasza Styczynska (JUK); France and Belgium by Amandine Crespy and François Forêt (ULB); Germany and Austria by Kathrin Packham (UniHB) and Hans-Jörg Trenz; United Kingdom by Asimina Michailidou; The Netherlands by Pieter de Wilde; The Czech Republic by Petra Guasti and Zdenka Mansfeldova (ASCR), and; Hungary by Maria Heller, Borbála Kriza and Tamas Kohut (ELTE). The workshop ended with closing remarks by Magdalena Góra (JUK) and Hans-Jörg Trenz. Comments were provided by Barbara Jabłońska (JUK), Dora Husz (European Commission, DG Communication), Ann Zimmermann (University of Århus) and Florence Haegel (Cevipof/Sciences-Po, Paris).

The participants agreed to make the best of the work accomplished with data gathering and coding by preparing two edited volumes. One will focus on the issue of online Euroscepticism during the election campaign (D75). The contributions to this volume have gone through substantive revisions and harmonisation and the manuscript will be submitted to a renowned publisher in January 2011. The second volume will focus on the Internet as a new tool for political communication and the relevance of the so-called 'e-sphere' (D76), also forthcoming in 2011. Both volumes are edited by Trenz, Michailidou and Wilde (ARENA) and will be important outcomes of this WP 5 subproject.

3. Participants

Crespy, Amandine	Université Libre de Bruxelles
Cunha, Carlos	Dowling College, New York
De Wilde, Pieter	ARENA, University of Oslo
Foret, Francois	Université Libre de Bruxelles
Góra, Magdalena	Jagiellonian University Krakow
Guasti, Petra	Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague
Haegel, Florence	Science Po, Paris
Heller, Maria	Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest
Husz, Dora	European Commission, DG Communication
Jabłońska, Barbara	Jagiellonian University Krakow
Jankowski, Nick	University of Nijmegen
Kohut, Tamas	Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest
Kriza, Borbala	Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

Mach, Zdzisław	Jagiellonian University Krakow
Mansfeldova, Zdenka	Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague
Michailidou, Asimina	ARENA, University of Oslo
Packham, Kathrin	University of Bremen
Statham, Paul	University of Bristol
Styczyńska, Natasza	Jagiellonian University Krakow
Trenz, Hans-Jörg	ARENA, University of Oslo
Zimmermann, Ann	University of Aarhus

4. Programme

See attachment.

Programme

RECON Workshop: Euroscepticism and the Future of European Democracy, Jagiellonian University of Krakow

Friday, 28 May:

08:45-09:15	Registration
09.15-09.30	Opening of the Workshop Welcoming words Zdzisław Mach <i>Jagiellonian University Kraków</i> Introductory remarks Hans-Jörg Trenz <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i>
09.30-11.00	Research Framework The internet and EP elections Asimina Michailidou and Hans-Jörg Trenz <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i> Comment Nick Jankowski <i>University of Nijmegen</i> Euroscepticism: A new framework of analysis Pieter de Wilde and Hans-Jörg Trenz <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i> Comment Paul Statham <i>University of Bristol</i>
11.00-11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15-12.30	Comparative findings Comparative European New Media Election Project Carlos Cunha <i>Dowling College</i> Comment Hans-Jörg Trenz <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i> Euroscepticism Comparative Project findings Pieter de Wilde and Asimina Michailidou <i>ARENA, University of Oslo</i> Comment Carlos Cunha <i>Dowling College</i>
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	Country case studies

Poland**Natasza Styczyńska***Jagiellonian University Krakow***Comment****Barbara Jabłońska***Jagiellonian University Krakow***France and Belgium****Amandine Crespy and Francois Foret***Université Libre de Bruxelles***Comment****Florence Haegel***Science Po, Paris*15.30-15.45 *Coffee break*15.45-16.30 **Country case studies****Germany and Austria****Kathrin Packham and Hans-Jörg Trenz***University of Bremen and ARENA, University of Oslo***Comment****Ann Zimmermann***University of Aarhus*16.30-17.30 **Discussion of cases presented**19.30 **Dinner****Saturday, 29 May**

09.00-10.30 **Country case studies****United Kingdom****Asimina Michailidou***ARENA, University of Oslo***Comment****Paul Statham***University of Bristol***The Netherlands****Pieter de Wilde***ARENA, University of Oslo***Comment****Nick Jankowski***University of Nijmegen*10.30-10.45 *Coffee break*10.45-12.15 **Country case studies****The Czech Republic****Petra Guasti and Zdenka Mansfeldova**

Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague

Comment

To be confirmed

Hungary

Maria Heller, Borbála Kriza and Tamas Kohut

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

Comment

Dora Husz

European Commission, Directorate general Communication

12:15-13:45

Lunch

13:45-14:30

Discussion of cases presented

14:30-15:00

Final Discussion and closing remarks

Magdalena Góra and Hans-Jörg Trenz

Jagiellonian University Krakow and ARENA, University of Oslo
