D8.1 - Pilot Elite Study Report

WP8 - Effective contribution to the policy outcome

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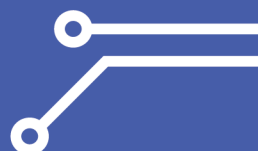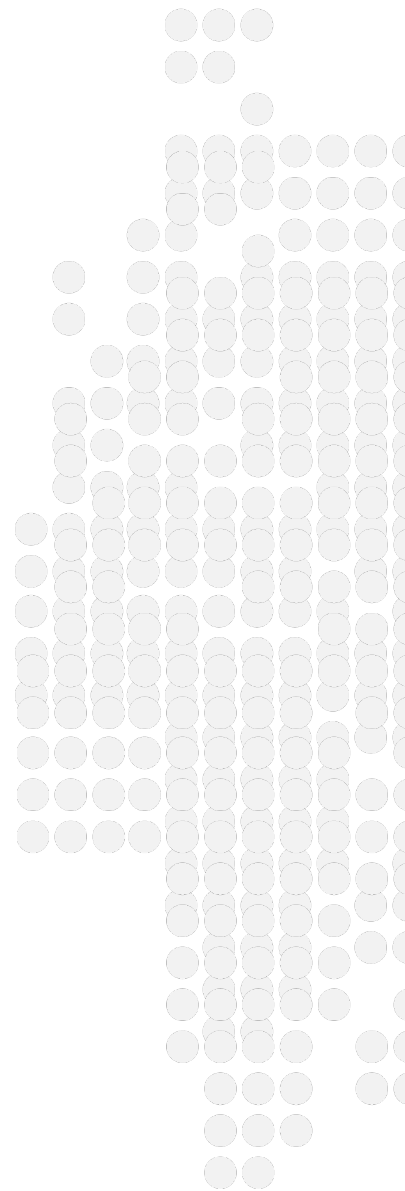
Project details and Deliverable information

Project details

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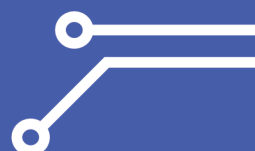|	
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List of abbreviations and definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
GA	Grant Agreement
DoA	Description of Action
EC	European Commission
H2020	Horizon 2020

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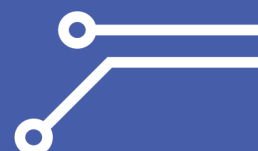
Executive summary

The EU-funded EUComMeet project aims to examine the conditions under which deliberation and representation can be an effective response to the challenges besetting liberal representative democracies. The project experiments with ways of systematically embedding deliberative practices and institutions in the multilevel system of governance and representation of the EU. It also explores how deliberation and participation can help reduce polarisation, strengthen European identity, encourage inclusiveness, and narrow the representative gap between policymakers and citizens. Within this framework, WP8 aims to understand and facilitate the effective contribution of policy proposals coming out of EUComMeet deliberative processes by asking to the most important actors in this process: citizens and policymakers.

This document presents the main lessons obtained through a pilot survey conducted in Spain among political elites at the national, regional and local levels. The information gathered during this process will help us amend and strengthen the design and fieldwork procedures of the final Elite Survey that will be implemented in five EU countries (France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Poland) as a part of WP8 in the EUComMeet project.

With this objective in mind, we have followed the Total Survey Error (TSE) approach for assessing the design and outcomes of the pilot survey. TSE is the dominant paradigm within the field of survey methodology. It allows to describe statistical properties of survey estimates by incorporating different error sources that may arise in the process of designing and conducting any survey.

The TSE paradigm also serves as a general structuring guideline for this document as it presents the survey design in its three dimensions −questionnaire, sample and fieldwork procedures−, evaluates the outcomes obtained in the pilot survey, and includes proposals to minimize sources of error in the final implementation of the survey.

Likewise, we framed these proposals for improvements around the three pillars of this survey. Firstly, we particularly focus on the need of reducing its length in order to limit the cognitive load of respondents and decrease the number of dropouts. Furthermore, it would mean an improvement in the performance of the more relevant questions and the yielding of higher data quality. Secondly, we underline the need for a wider and more heterogenous sample. The cumulation of coverage and non-response errors resulted in right-wing parties being underestimated. Thirdly, regarding the structural fieldwork procedures, we propose changes in the timing of both the launch and reminders during the fieldwork period. In particular, and in contrast with our own, we emphasise the requirement of a fieldwork period without long interruptions.

1. Introduction

The EU-funded EUComMeet project aims to examine the conditions under which deliberation and representation can be an effective response to the challenges besetting liberal representative democracies. The project experiments with ways of systematically embedding deliberative practices and institutions in the multilevel system of governance and representation of the EU. It also explores how deliberation and participation can help reduce polarisation, strengthen European identity, encourage inclusiveness and narrow the representative gap between policymakers and citizens.

Within this framework, WP8 aims to understand and facilitate the effective contribution of policy proposals coming out of EUComMeet deliberative processes. To do so, WP8 research focus on the two main actors concerned: policymakers and citizens. Although previous findings suggest that the policy impact of deliberative events is limited, there is a lack of consensus around why policymakers reject deliberative inputs. Therefore, the first goal is to understand which are the general and specific motivations of policymakers regarding these proposals and which factors make them change. This ties into our second goal: to understand how the policy effected by these proposals impacts on citizens' attitudes and behaviours regarding these participatory processes. WP8 therefore contributes to a greater understanding of the conditions under which deliberative participatory spaces can contribute to the policy-making process, focusing on the role of both policymakers and citizens.

Two different research strategies are adopted to achieve both objectives. The first and most central one is an independent survey with policymakers, which includes a conjoint experiment. Secondly, the research questions regarding citizens are embedded in the surveys designed by WP4 activities.

This deliverable presents the initial design of the elite survey and the results obtained in the pilot study conducted in Spain. It is a practical-oriented report issued with the aim of discussing the challenges we faced in the process of designing and building of the sampling frame and administering the questionnaire. It will also serve to justify the proposals for future improvements vis á vis the final implementation of the survey in the rest of the countries (France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Poland).

We follow the Total Survey Error (TSE) approach as a general structuring guideline for this document. TSE is the dominant paradigm within the field of survey methodology and allows to describe statistical properties of survey estimates incorporating different error sources that may arise in the process of designing and conducting any survey (Figure 1).
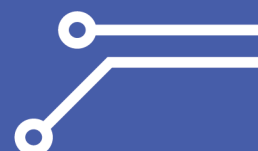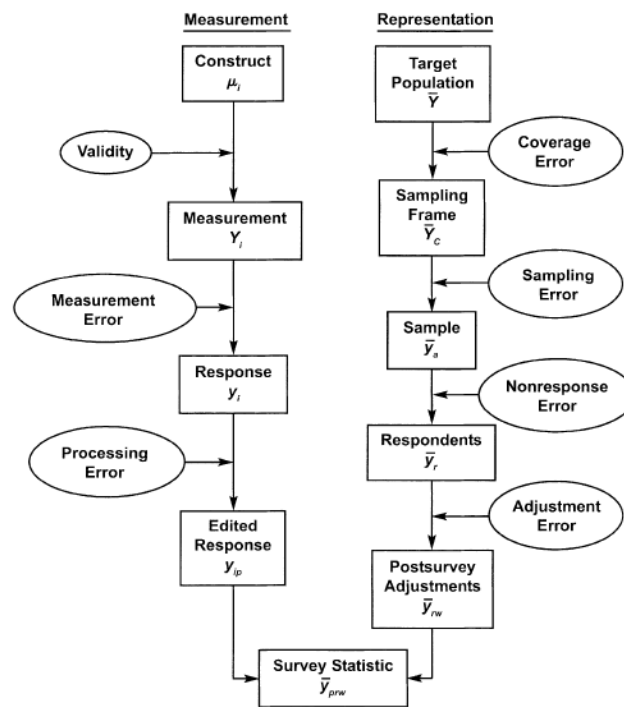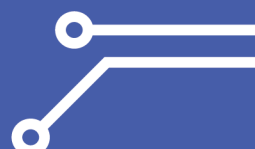
Figure 1: Total Survey Error Approach. Survey life cycle from a quality perspective

Source: Groves et al 2009: page 48

By using this approach, we aim to detect the different sources of error that may affect the estimates of the Elite Survey via the design and application of the questionnaire (measurement) and the sample (representation). By minimizing those errors, we expect improving the overall quality of the data obtained in the final implementation of the survey.

The report is structured as follows. Chapter 2 focuses on the design and fieldwork **process** of the pilot survey regarding the design and application of the questionnaire (2.2.) and the sample (2.3.). In chapter 3 we present the **outcomes** obtained in this process and assess their quality using different indicators pointing to main sources of error. Finally, in chapter 4 we summarize the main conclusions of this assessment and adjust the survey design and fieldwork operations to address areas of concern.

This deliverable is key to preparing and conducting the Elite Survey in the five countries (Sub-task 8.1.4) that will feed the Comparative Elite Attitudes Dataset (Deliverable D8.2 of WP8).

2. Initial design and fieldwork process of the pilot survey in Spain

2.1. General approach and research rationale. Why an elite survey

Deliberative policy outcomes can be seen as an instrument serving different purposes, from narrowing the mass-elite gap (Chambers 1996), with enhanced implementation capacity for collective decisions (e.g., Forester 1989, 1999; Gastil 2000, 23-25; Kapuscinski et al. 2003), to improving the path of policy itself (Halvorsen 2003; Edelenbos & Klijn 2006; Lazer et al. 2015). Nonetheless, previous research has shown that the policy impact of participatory institutions has been limited to date (Klijn & Koppenjan 2000; Font et al. 2018).

We know that several factors affect the likelihood of policy proposal coming out from participatory institutions to be effectively implemented (e.g., low cost). However, in this plight for democratic innovation the role of policymakers, although key in the development of these processes (Bowler et al, 2002; Koskimaa & Rapeli 2020), is often missing. Why do policymakers reject many of these proposals? Is this related to a general reluctance towards proposals coming from the general public? Or is this rejection coming from the diverging political and policy preferences of citizens and elites? (Müller et al, 2012; Elsässer et al, 2017). If our purpose is to ensure the development of effective initiatives that aim to close gap between citizens and policymakers, we need to assess the attitudes and perceptions of the latter group to make them happen.

Thus, the first objective of WP8 is to understand which are the general and specific motivations of policymakers regarding these institutions and their proposals and which factors make them change, to comprehend which are the conditions under which deliberative participatory spaces can make an effective contribution to the policy-making process.

To answer these questions, WP8 team designed a web survey that initially covered two groups of interviewees: politicians and high-rank civil servants[1] belonging to the different territorial levels involved in the project –local, regional, national. We chose online as the survey administration method due to the tight and high-demand agenda of both populations –elected representatives and high-rank civil servants–. Furthermore, face-to-face contact within the pandemic context was unadvisable. Further information on the survey design and pilot fieldwork is described next.

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[1] For the relevance of civil servants in participatory processes, see Gourgues, Mazeaud & Nonjon (2021).

2.1.1   Elite survey contents. The questionnaire

The elite survey has common theoretical issues with ideas addressed at the citizens' surveys (e.g., outcome favourability, self-interest…) to compare both groups. However, it was necessary to specifically address other themes that could affect elites' behaviour, such as general attitudes towards democracy and deliberation or considerations about citizens' policy competence (Koskimaa & Rapeli 2020). The goal was to produce a single framework that was useful for both types of the initially expected interviewees (politicians and high-rank civil servants) and that could also transverse all levels of governance: from local to EU level.

The contents include four thematic blocks, aiming a questionnaire which did not require more than 20 minutes for completion (16 questions, including long batteries in a few cases, plus 12 classification variables).

1. Democracy, citizens, representatives, and their roles.
2. General attitudes towards participatory and deliberative institutions.
3. Which characteristics of deliberative events favour positive attitudes of policymakers.
4. Socio-demographic and other independent variables.

The IESA team made a first proposal (approved by the CSIC Ethics Committee on October 6, 2021) that was later distributed and discussed by the full EUComMeet team, resulting in a slightly revised version that mostly included a few more questions (on policies, identities, and other areas of interest for other partners).

The first questionnaire proposal was mostly often based on previous publications on the topic (Jacquet et al, 2020; Junius et al, 2020; Koskimaa and Rapelli, 2020) and on previous questionnaires used by the research team (Font et al, 2015). It was also shaped having in mind the works of external research bodies such as the European Election Survey, European Social Survey and the Eurobarometer, among others. Some questions, originally planned for the local level had to be adapted to the multilevel frame of our questionnaire.
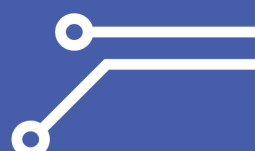
Attribute	Levels of attributes
Platform	Online In-person Mixed (online/in-person)
Issue definition	Participants would receive a very clearly specified topic Participants would receive an open topic The topic would be established by the participants
Number of total participants	A small number of participants A medium number of participants A large number of participants As many participants as possible
Presence of politicians	With politicians Without politicians
Recommendations	Mandatory recommendations Non-mandatory recommendations
Subject centrality	Issue central to my political program Issue not central to my political program
Outcome predictability	Predictable outcome Unpredictable outcome
Representation	Participants that represent the population as a whole Highly educated participants Participants whose voices are normally not heard
Participant's profile	Only individual citizens: one person, one vote Individual citizens and organized stakeholders Mostly organized stakeholders

Table 1: Complete table of attributes and levels of attributes in the Conjoint Experiment

The third block accounts for a conjoint experiment designed to test the effect of several attributes of a potential deliberative event, to be conducted at the local and at the EU level, on the representatives' decision on funding or not funding it. Four tables, showing two different events based on the combination of attributes, were presented to each respondent. The participants in the survey would therefore evaluate 4 different pairs of deliberative events. The conjoint experiment followed a full randomization design of attribute levels with equal probabilities and randomization of the attributes' order at the respondent level[2]. Table 1 shows the complete list of attributes and levels used in the experiment. The final version of the questionnaire in English is annexed at the end of this document. The questionnaire, pre-notification letters, email invitations and follow-ups were translated into Spanish and three co-official languages: Catalan/Valencian; Basque and Galician. Each respondent could select their preferred language at the beginning of the survey.

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[2] The experimental design was pre-registered in As Predicted under the name "EuComMeet - Political Elites' attitudes towards participatory institutions" and with reference code #83746.

2.2. Sampling design

The initial survey design covered two groups of interviewees, politicians and high-rank civil servants, and the different territorial levels involved in the project –local and national. Additionally, we have expanded our scope to the regional level to guarantee that the minimum sample size is accomplished in all countries included in the sample. Information on members of parliaments and assemblies at the regional level is widely available in the six countries and it will not imply much more fieldwork effort. Likewise, having information at the regional level will allow us to compare attitudes towards citizen deliberation and participation among territories with different participatory traditions within each country.

2.2.1.   Universe

The population of politicians invited to answer the survey consist of the following groups:

- At the Federal / National level:
  - All Members of Parliament (MPs) at the Federal
  - /National level;
  - All Members of Senate (MSs);
- At the Regional level
  - All Members of regional Parliaments (MRPs);

- At the Local level:
  - All Members of the municipal council (selected municipalities), including the mayor

	Spain (pilot)	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Poland
National level	**615**	**934**	**785**	**229**	**958**	**571**
• **Members of Parliament**	350	577	709	160	630	460
• **Senators**	265	348	69	60	315	100
Regional level	**1,212**	**1,634**	**1,877**	**95**	**909**	**552**
• **MPs in regional parliaments**						
Local level **(approximation)**	**36**	**44**	**47**	**31**	**35**	**30**
• **Members of municipal council**	30	38	40	25	27	24
• **High-rank Officers**	No info	No info	56	No info	No info	No info

Table 2: Outline of the universe for the Elite Survey
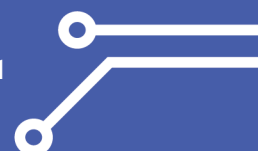
The sample of politicians at the national, regional and local level was meant to be complemented with a sample of <u>high-rank officers</u> at the local level, the governing instance that is closer to the citizens and where most democratic innovations take place. However, after a preliminary attempt of contact, we decided to drop this profile due to the lack of public data available. In most cases, it proved unfeasible to find even who the high-rank officers were in each institution. Furthermore, asking for this data to local governments compromised the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

2.2.2. Expected sample size

	Spain (pilot)	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Poland
	n	n	n	n	n	n
National level	92-154	140-234	118-196	34-57	144-240	86-143
Regional level	182-303	245-409	282-469	14-24	136-227	83-138
Local level						
• Members of municipal council (per municipality)	6-10	7-11	7-12	5-8	6-10	5-7
• Minimum n of municipalities to reach +/- n=200 politicians	30	30	30	30	30	30
• Members of municipal councils	180-300	210-330	210-360	150-240	180-300	150-210

Table 3: Expected Sample Size assuming 15-25% homogeneous RR (a scenario based on Bailer, 2015)

Table 3 shows the expected sample size according to data on the average response rates reported in Bailer's review of surveys in legislative research (2015) and previous experiences of surveys with MPs carried out by Freire et al. (2020) and Pérez Yruela et al. in 2011 (not published). The number of municipalities selected to be included in the sample was adjusted so that the minimum expected sample size for the local level was n=150.

2.2.3. Constructing the sampling frame

The sampling frame is the source material or device from which a sample is drawn, in other words, a list of all those within a population who can be sampled. In our case, this list was composed of the elected politicians in the regional and national chambers of representatives, as well as the councillors, including the mayor, in the municipalities selected to take part in our survey.

At the federal/national and regional levels, the survey targeted the whole population of representatives. The lists of names and contact data of MPs, Senators and parliamentary group leaders are publicly available, so
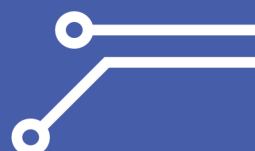
we were able to retrieve this information from the institutional webpages using a combination of automated and manual web scraping techniques.

At the local level the survey targeted a sample of the population. Two different approaches were considered: a simple random sampling from a complete list of the population, where available (i.e., Repertoire National des Élus in France), or targeting the whole population in a sample of municipalities. We opted for this second approach as we were unable to identify a complete list of the elected politicians for most countries. Also, in the French case, the listing lacks contact data for the sampling units. Therefore, it would have still been necessary to search for this missing information on the municipal websites. Using municipalities as clusters eases the process of retrieving contact information to build the sampling frame of elected politicians at the local level, minimising the number of webpages and email or phone contacts needed.

We have selected the 30 biggest cities on each country controlling by regions (NUTS) as the information available on municipal webpages normally works better for bigger cities. Moreover, using this selection strategy we guarantee to factor in the population and urbanisation structure of the six countries for the final samples to be equivalent. We have scrapped websites from those municipalities to construct the list of elected politicians and contacted the municipality to complete the information when it was unavailable on the website.[3]

In the cases where the lack of information affected complete political groups we used, where available, the email address of the specific political group to send the invitation to participate in the survey.

2.3. Fieldwork process

Postal letters officially presenting both the EUComMeet project, and the survey were sent in advance to the top political authorities of the chambers, as well as to the political group leaders, the first week of December 2021. After that initial contact, invitations to participate in the survey were sent on December 15th. Two different procedures were used: on the one hand, we distributed invitations to direct email contacts relying on a univocal link distribution method using an automated email sender, and on the other, invitations to group email addresses for those cases where the individual email contact could not be retrieved. In this second case, emails were directed to the presidency and/or spokesperson of the political group asking them to distribute an anonymous link to the questionnaire among the representatives in their groups. The software used to implement the survey campaign was IdSurvey (https://www.idsurvey.com/en/).

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[3] 359 valid email addresses, 16% of total addresses at the regional and local levels, were obtained using this method.

Four additional reminders were sent on December 21st and on January 10th, 18th and 25th. The response rate at the national level presented, on average, a significant lower response rate. Therefore, we conducted a final round of email and telephone contacts with the spokespersons of the political groups in the National Parliament with the aim of increasing their response rate.

	Dec W1	Dec W2	Dec W3	Dec W4	Dec W5	Jan W1	Jan W2	Jan W3	Jan W4	Feb W1	Feb W2	Feb W3
Questionnaire programming test	X											
Prenotification letters sent		X										
Fieldwork starts, email invitations sent			X									
1st reminder				X								
2nd reminder							X					
3rd reminder								X				
4th reminder									X			
Mail and phone contacts National parliament									X	X		
Fieldwork end												X

Table 4: Fieldwork calendar of the pilot in Spain
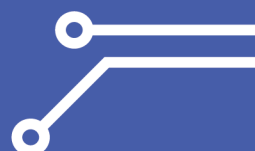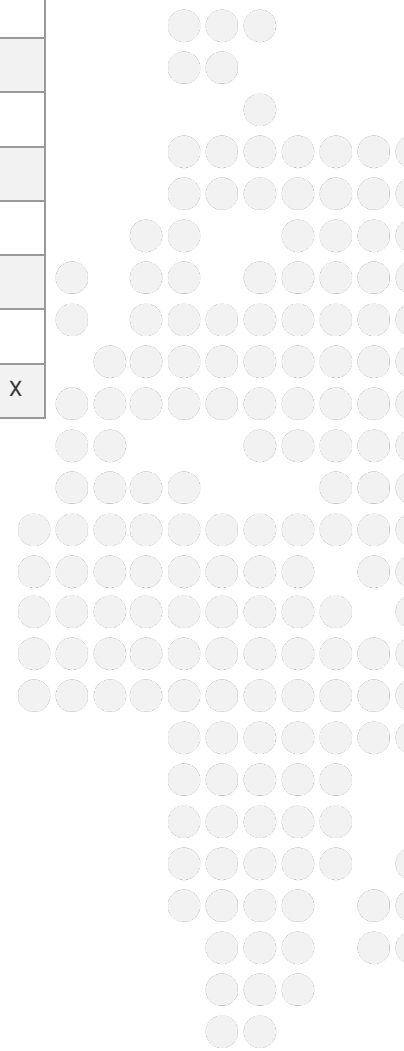
3. Outcomes and quality assessment of the elite pilot survey in Spain

This section presents the outcomes obtained in the pilot survey campaign (CAWI) conducted in Spain between the 15th of December 2021 and the 15th of February 2022. We are not going to focus here on the substantive results of the survey but in the methodological indicators that allow us to assess the performance of the devices designed for the survey (questionnaire, sample and fieldwork procedures) and the sources of error that may affect the quality of the data. The aim of these analyses is to identify areas of improvement so that they can be fixed for the final implementation of the elite survey in the rest of the five European countries. As mentioned, this section will be structured following the TSE approach.

3.1. Assessment of survey errors related to measurement

One of the features that mostly influences the response rates and data quality of a survey is the length of the questionnaire, as it affects the cognitive burden put on the respondents. In our case, the average time to answer the survey was of 27 minutes and the median time was 20 minutes. This length exceeds what is considered as an adequate length for online surveys that according to methodological literature is 20 minutes maximum, the optimum being 10 minutes (Revilla and Ochoa, 2017).

■ Unique session ■ Multiple sessions
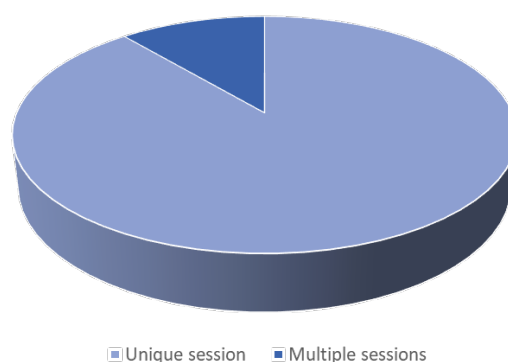
Figure 2: Number of sessions to complete the Elite Survey questionnaire

Two additional indicators support the idea that the questionnaire length may have been perceived as excessive by respondents. On the one hand, 11% of respondents took more than one session to complete the questionnaire (Figure 2). On the other, the number of dropouts, respondents that failed to complete the survey once they started, was quite significant (n=147). Should they had completed the survey, response rate would have increased by 43% (RR1 going from 14% to 20%).

Figure 3 plots the number of respondents that have answered each question for partial interviews. This way we will be able to identify specific questions that may have triggered dropouts in this survey.
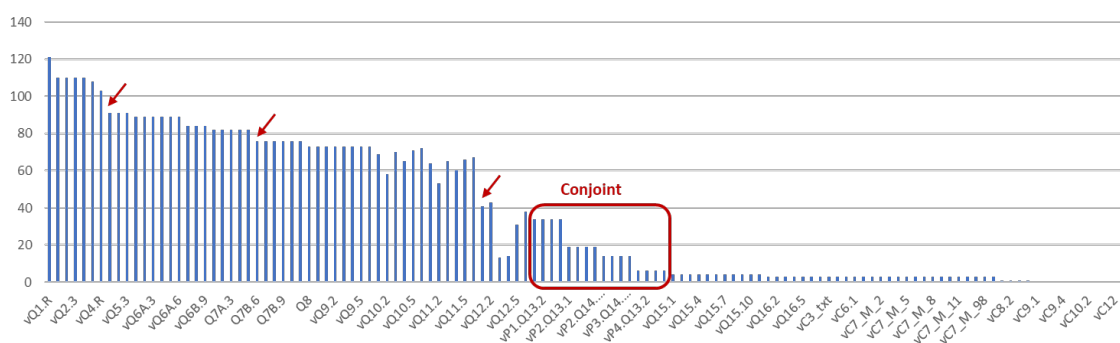
Figure 3: Respondents by survey question in partial interviews

Dropouts are most important for Q5 and Q12, both of them drag and drop ranking questions, and for the second screen of Q7 (a long battery of 11 items presented in two screens). Dropouts also intensify with each repetition of the Conjoint experiment.

3.1.1.   Democracy, citizens, representatives, and their roles

As it was mentioned, for the sake of understanding the relation between elites and the new wave of democratic innovations, it is crucial to firstly analyse their attitudes around representative democracy. There are major concerns about the public's apparent dissatisfaction with the way democracy actually works in most European countries (Ganuza & Font, 2018; Lavezzolo & Ramiro, 2018; Mair, 2013). Within this context, it is of major importance to have a comprehensive view of how this is reflecting upon political representatives.

In this block of questions, we cover three main ideas: firstly, the elites' evaluation of existing institutions; secondly, their evaluation of the qualities that make up an effective decision-maker; and thirdly, the role and relationship between civil society and representatives within democratic societies. The objectives behind these ideas are twofold. On the one hand, we aim to assess the elites' attitudes towards the existing democratic state of affairs, and on the other hand, to open up a normative reflection of how democracy should work.

Questions 1 to 7 cover this first block. We will next analyse the distribution of answers in order to verify their coherence in line with the objectives outlined above, and to account for potential changes in their framing to better achieve such objectives.

We start off with traditional questions of political satisfaction that have been put into practice before by other public opinion research bodies, such as the Global Attitudes Survey (2019) and the European Social Survey (2014). Q1 (Figure 4) focuses on evaluating the state of the country's democracy as a whole. It is
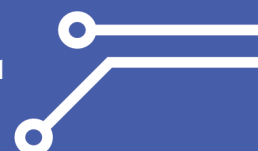
complemented by Q2 (Figure 5), which gauges the feeling around the main institutions that compose the Spanish democratic system. We used a funnel technique in order to avoid contamination between the respondents' general views on democracy and their assessment of the institutions that form it: they were first asked about their general impressions and then asked about the specific bodies. As observed in both figures, the average rating for Q1 was slightly higher than that for all the institutions asked for in Q2.
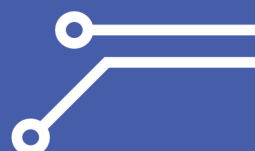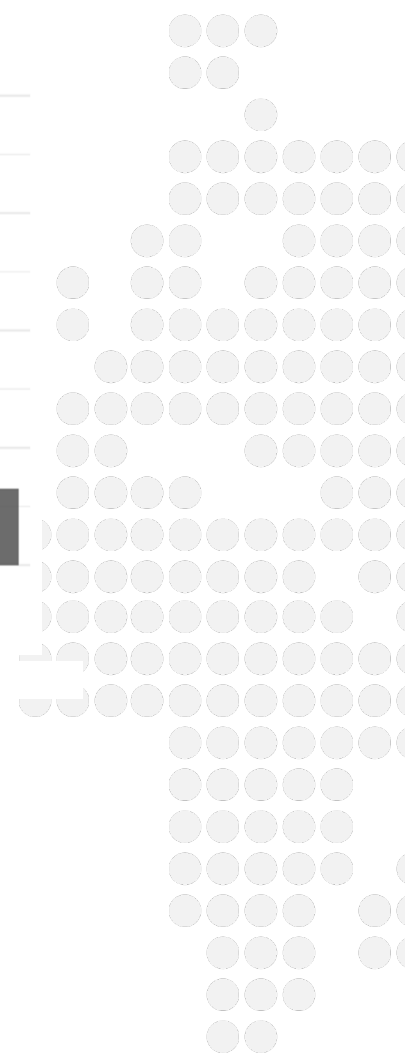
Q1:
On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Spain?

Figure 4: Question 1

Q2: How satisfied are you with the functioning of each of the following institutions?

Q2.1: **EU**

Q2.2: **National Parliament**

Q2.3: **Local Council**

Q2.4: **Political parties**
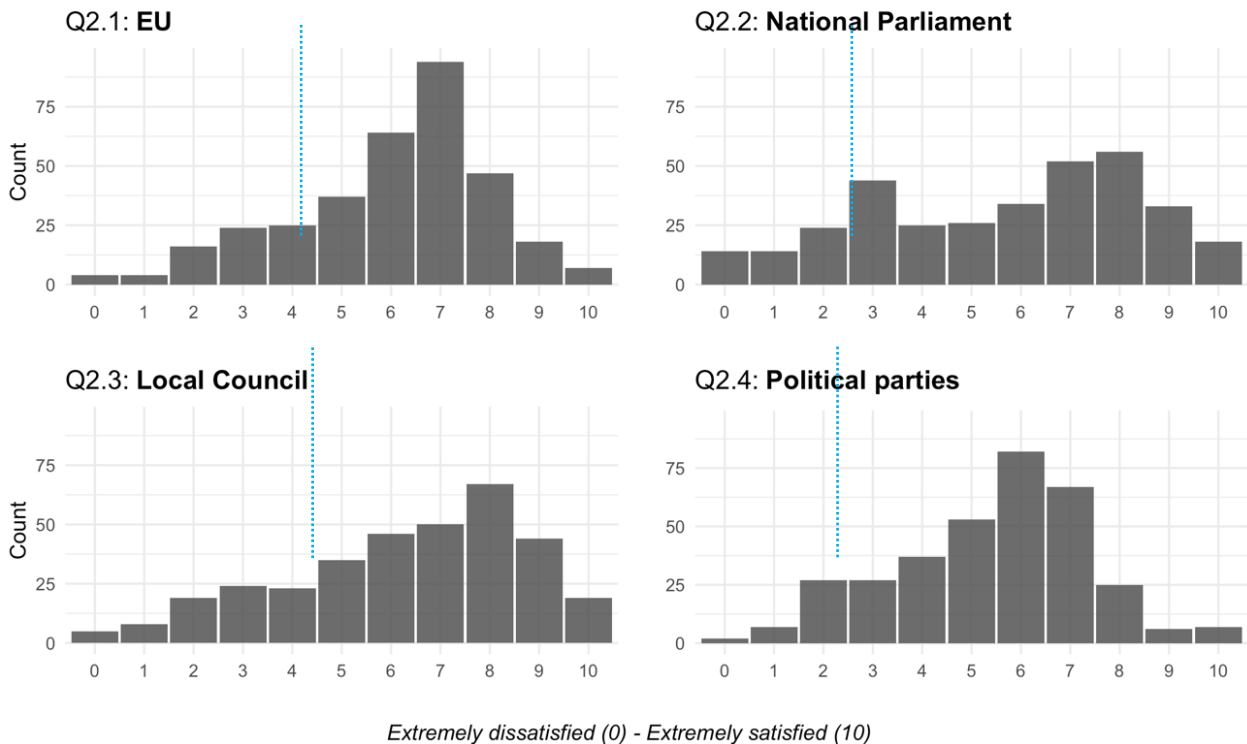
Extremely dissatisfied (0) - Extremely satisfied (10)

Figure 5: Question 2

Question 3 and 4 focus on understanding how democracy in Spain should work, hence accounting for the more normative objective of this block. Particularly, it aims to introduce the debate on how (if) civil society should be included in decision-making, a core concept expanded upon in the following questions. We based our question on the stealth democracy literature, reusing the Process Scale used in the works of Font, Wojcieszak & Navarro (2015: 159). Figure 6 shows the distribution of answers.

Q3:
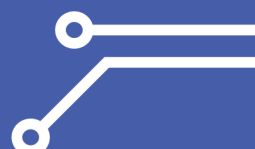
We want to know your opinion on how political decisions should be made in Spain.
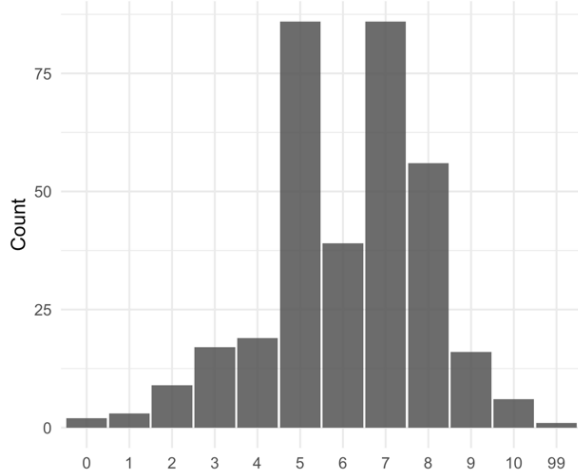
Q4:

How do you think decisions are currently taken in Spain?
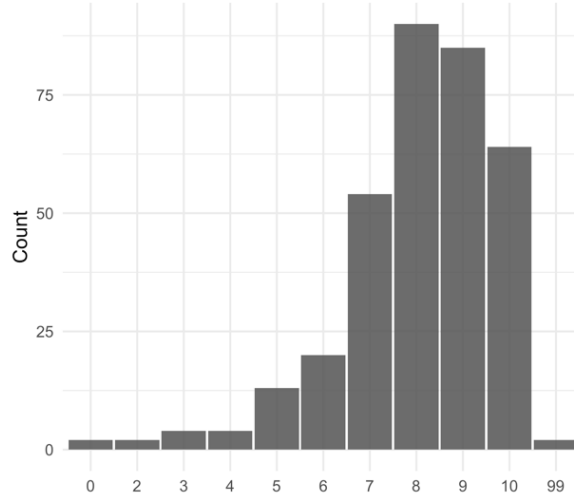
Citizens making all decisions (0) - Politicians making all decisions (10)

Figure 6: Question 3 & 4

Q5: Certain qualities are perceived as important when evaluating political decision-makers

Please rank the following characteristics from most to least important
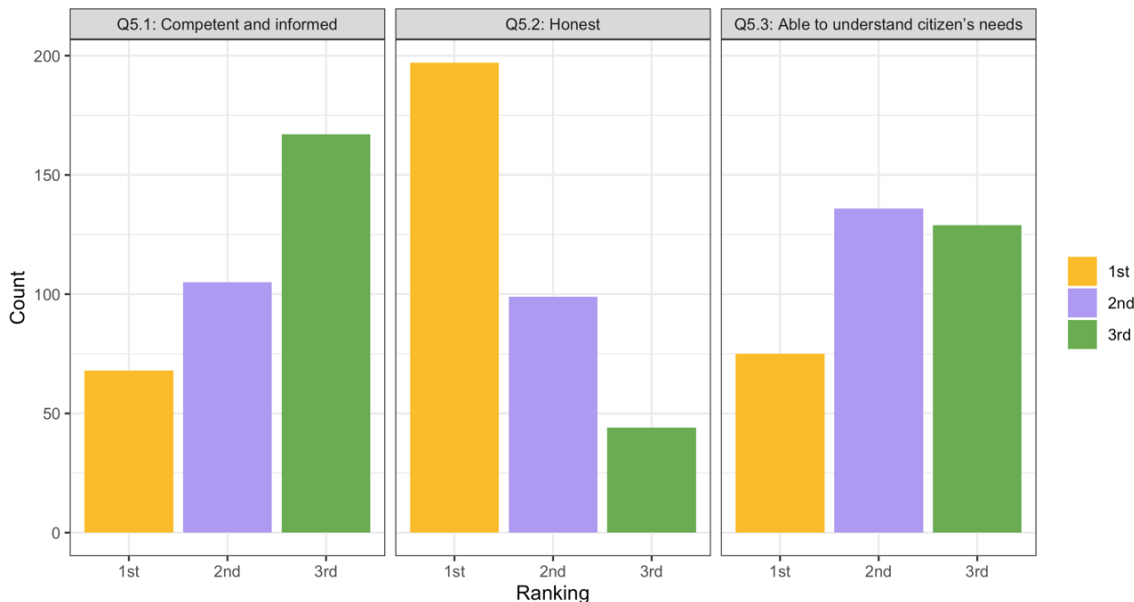
Figure 7: Question 5

Despite the dropouts when reaching Q5, the question does not present rates of non-response for the elites that continued the survey. Respondents were asked to rank the importance of some qualities that make up for a good policymaker. While all three options provided are desirable qualities for such profiles, the rank order design, in contrast with other types of question designs, forces respondents to take a stance and rate as most important one single quality over the others. This grants more insights into the real preferences of
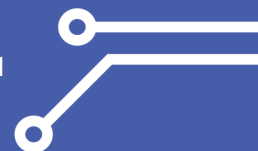
our respondents. Furthermore, the drag-and-drop approach to ranking has proven to perform as the best method when only a few options are involved (Blasius, 2012), although it might prove problematic for the users answering through their mobile phones. As seen in Figure 7, there seemed to be a consensus about honesty being perceived as the most important trait. This question fits into the aim of evaluating the different qualities that make an effective decision-maker and is complemented by Q6. This question expands upon Q5 adding citizens and experts to the mix and thus tapping into the works of Pilet et al. (2022).

It is therefore not surprising to find that, on average (and median), the evaluation of politicians is higher than for the experts and citizens, as seen in table 5. For the format question, we maintained the eleven-point scale as it has proven to give higher quality results than other scales (Schwarz et al, 2021), in addition to facilitating the interpretation of results

Q6	Mean	Median
6.1: Most citizens have all the competences required to make political decisions	4.7	5
6.2: Most citizens are honest	5.9	6
6.3: Most citizens are capable of understanding the needs of the public	5.2	6
6.4: Most experts have all the competences required to make political decisions	5.4	5
6.5: Most experts are honest	5.6	6
6.6: Most experts are capable of understanding the needs of the public	5.0	5
6.7: Most politicians have all the competences required to make political decisions	5.4	6
6.8: Most politicians are honest	5.9	6
6.9: Most politicians are capable of understanding the needs of the public	5.6	6

Table 5: Mean and median responses for Question 6, calculated without the 99 and 98 values

The last question of this block, Q7, refers to the role of citizens and representatives in a democratic society. Participants were asked to express their agreement or disagreement with a number of statements regarding institutional and elite responsiveness to public opinion. This question aims to explore respondents' perceptions towards the relationship between civil society and representatives. For an easier visualization, we have divided the 11 items into two different plots, that corresponds to the two-screen divide.

Figure 8 presents the descriptive answers for the first 5 items and Figure 9 of the latter 6. There seems to be a slight tendency to respond positively, pointing towards the eventuality of an acquiescence bias, particularly noticeable in the first item of response. The increase in dropouts when reaching this question presents the
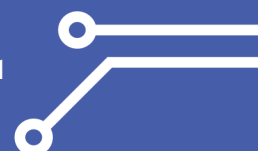
need to 1) reduce the length of the statements 2) shorten the list of items, or 3) reframe the statements into individualised questions. This as stated by Couper et al (2013) or Saris & Gallhoffer (2014), would yield data of higher quality.
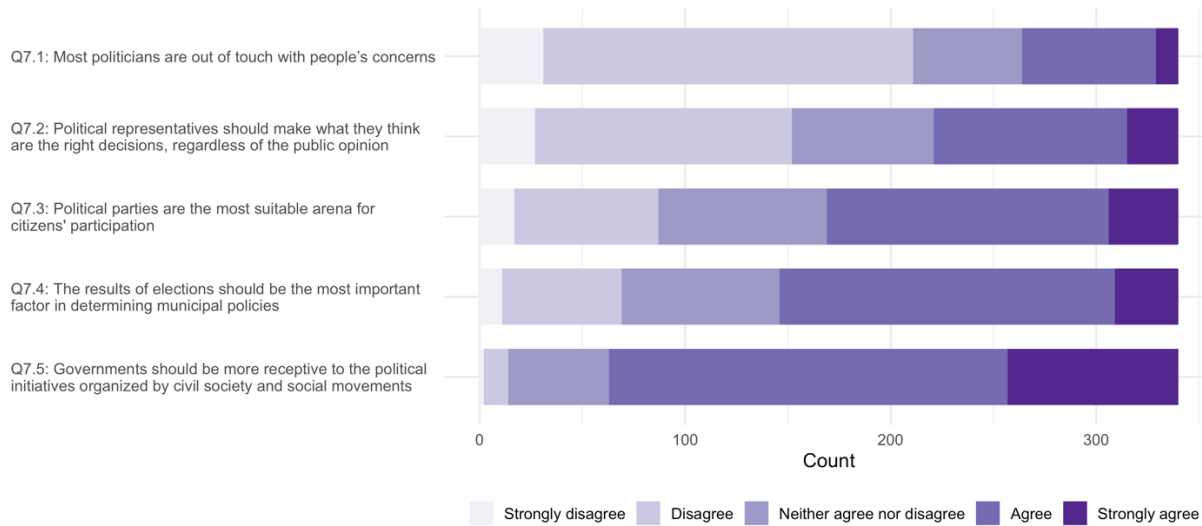
Figure 8: Question 7 (5 first items)
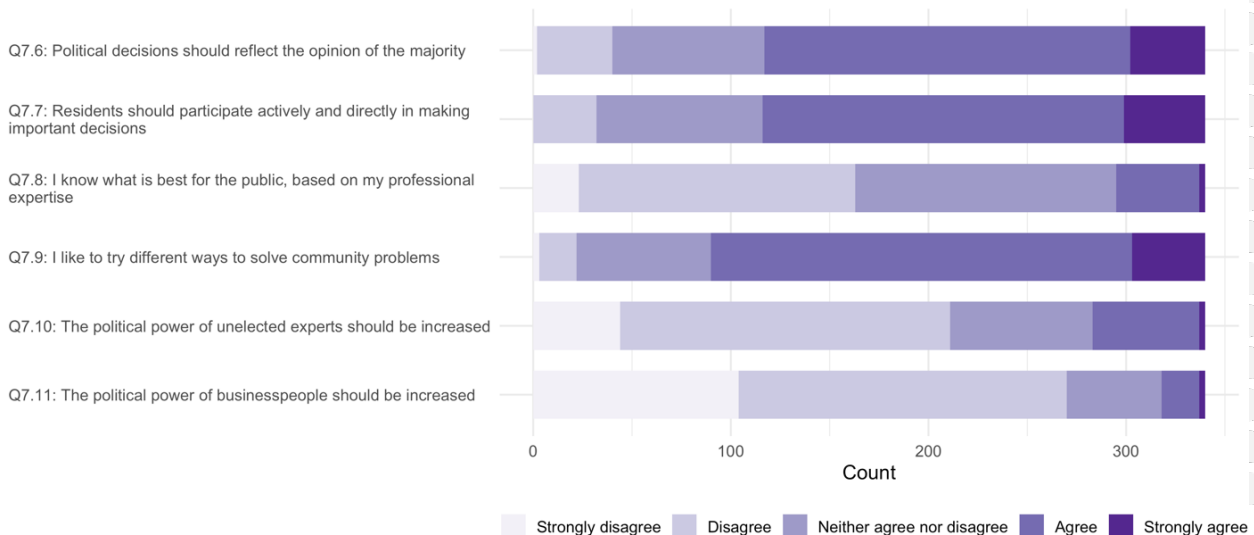
Figure 9: Question 7 (6 last items)

3.1.2.   General attitudes towards participatory and deliberative institutions

Previous research has shown some of these attitudes towards different participatory institutions, particularly referenda and mini-publics. The aim of this next block of questions is therefore to build on this research and
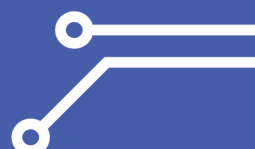
further expand on it by including in the analysis the elites' perception towards other participatory institutions (e.g., opinion surveys or participatory budgeting).

The first step was to capture how much information elites have regarding these innovations. Following this preliminary scan, the objective was to understand which initiative is perceived as more effective, which taps into the more general debate of features that aid to favour (or discourage) the support for these developments. The last part of this block aims to examine the goals (Baltz, 2021) and expected outcomes of these institutions: which are the main reasons to develop them, and which are their most expected outcome.

Q8: Knowledge of methods to involve citizens in political decisions
Please, write down the names of a maximum of two of these methods or describe them briefly
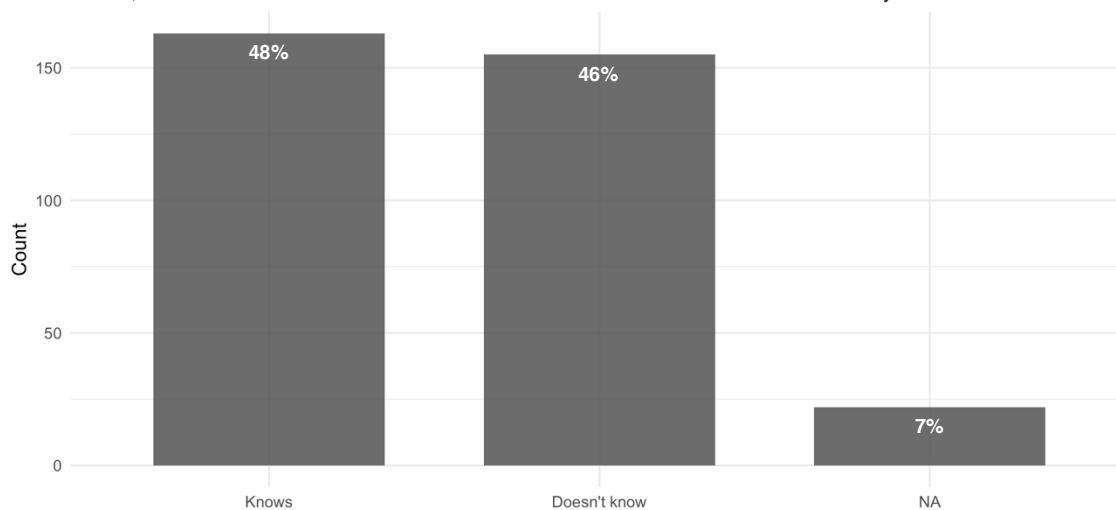
Figure 11: Question 8

Q9:
Have you heard of...?
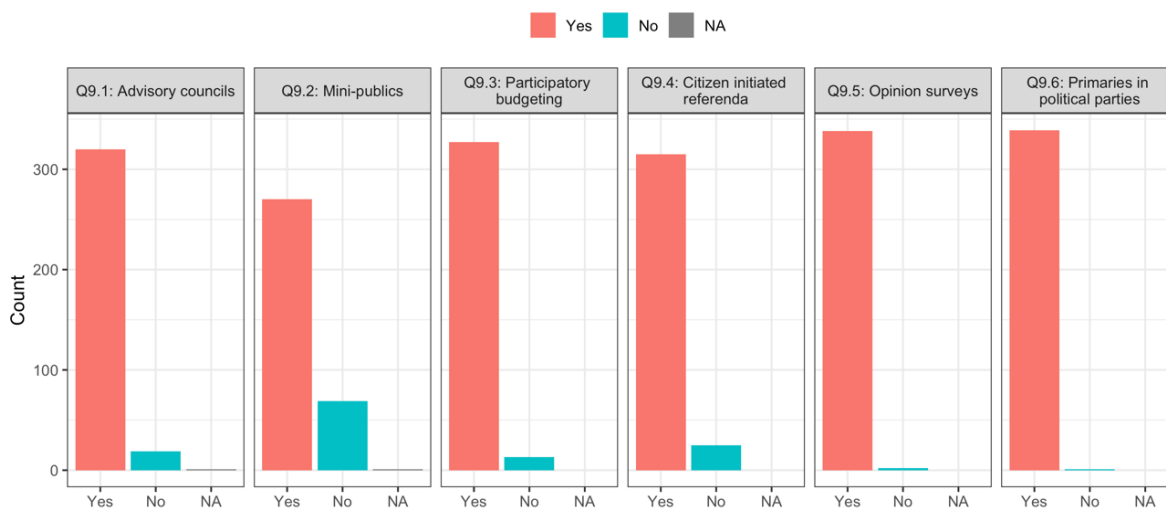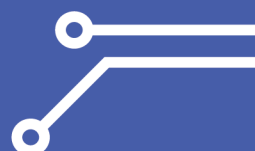
Figure 10: Question 9

Q10:

And, have you ever participated in…?
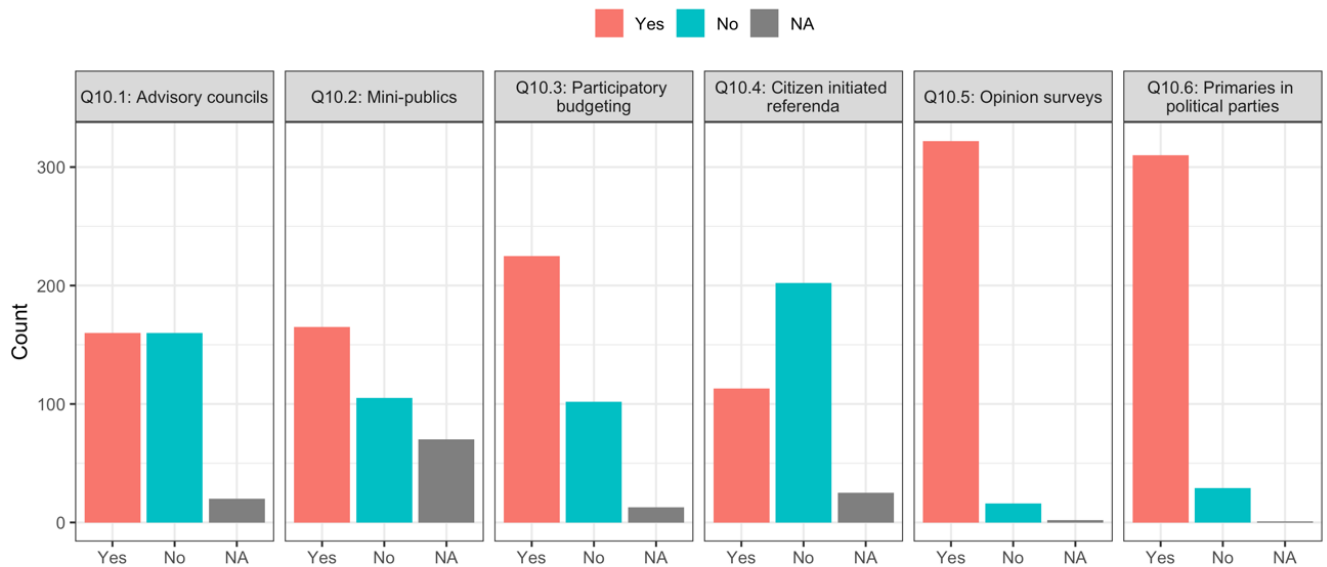
Figure 12: Question 10

In Q8 (Figure 10) participants were asked to write down and briefly describe a maximum of two methods that involve citizens in policymaking. The question was inspired by the 2661 study of the Spanish Sociological Research Centre (CIS). Figure 11 presents the frequencies and percentages of the respondents who wrote either 1 or 2 processes ('Knows') as well as the percentage of elites' who failed to write something and marked *No lo sé* ('Doesn't know'). The remaining 7% refused to answer. This question was formatted as an open-ended question to capture their real, spontaneous knowledge about participatory experiences before directing them towards the institutions of interest.

Q8 is coupled with Q9. Here, we asked about the knowledge behind specific processes in order to break down the awareness of each institution. As seen in Figure 11, most respondents had heard about all of the participatory innovations, with mini-publics being the least known institution. However, Figure 12 (n=320) shows that a smaller proportion of respondents had taken part in the participatory experiences that they stated to have heard about in the previous question. There are, nonetheless, two exceptions: opinion surveys and primary elections. A wide majority of respondents had participated in these experiences, both of which are intrinsically related to representative democracy.

Q11: Using a 10-point scale, please indicate how do you evaluate…
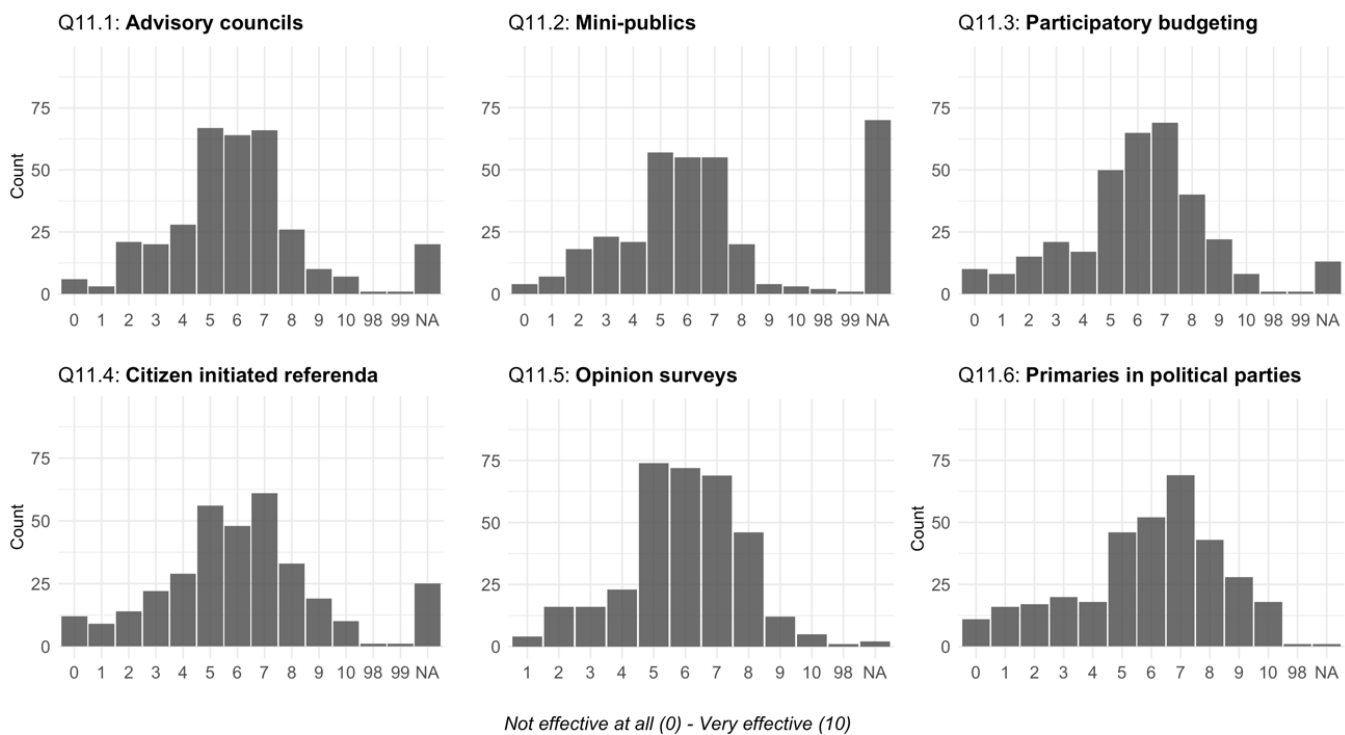
Figure 13: Question 11

Q11 (Figure 13) had a double purpose. Firstly, it aimed to capture a third dimension –after knowledge and involvement– by examining the elites' perception towards each experience, and secondly, it corroborates the differences in awareness pointed at in Q9 and Q10. As seen, the non-response rate is much higher when asked to evaluate the bottom-up participatory institutions, particularly magnified for the case of mini-publics. It is worth noticing that the non-response rate is not reflected in the number of participants who decided to click on the 'Don't Know' (DK) or 'Not 'Applicable (code 98,99 in Figure 13), but on the number of respondents who went onto the next question without pressing any option (code NA in Figure 13). This blurs the intentionality of the silent answers and cancels the distinction between respondents who admitted their unawareness and the ones who dismissed the question.

Q12 aimed to answer the last part of this block: the expectations, and outcomes of the participatory processes. Participants were asked to rank three of the six objectives presented, in order of importance. The question was inspired by a similar one used for the "Ideologies and Participatory Institutions" (IPI) dataset. As observed in Figure 14, to achieve greater efficacy and efficiency at political decision-making was ranked several times as the 1st objective. However, many respondents also chose not to include this objective in the ranking (expressed in NAs in Figure 14). Based on this, it is worth focusing on the most ranked choice: the expectation of such processes to reduce social injustices. The potential for participatory processes to inform

elites about citizens' preferences was barely included in the ranking —note the high frequency of NAs for this answer—, making it the least important objective. Again, it is worth pinpointing that the mobile phone population might find this method more challenging.

Q12: What do you think should be the main objective of a participatory process?
Please, rank your top three of the following objectives according to how important they are to you
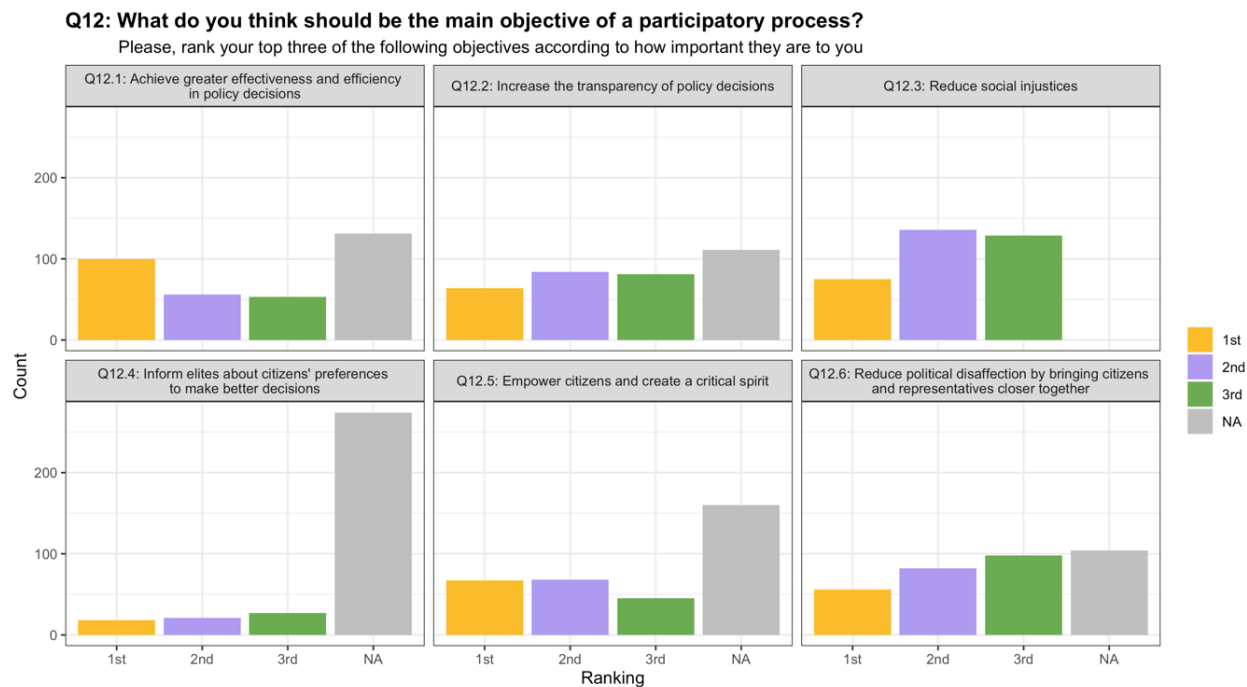
Figure 14: Question 12

To alleviate the cognitive burden for the conjoint experiment, we decided to place the remaining questions of this block right after the experiment. Thus, Q15 and Q16 aim to explore the features and shortcomings that help drive support and opposition for these developments. The question items were mostly inspired by Jacquet et al (2020). The non-response rate plus the high number of dropouts when reaching this battery, marks the need of shortening it.

For Q16, participants needed to evaluate the importance of some potential shortcomings of deliberative events. We based most of the categories in the stealth democracy literature, in particular the works of Liao & Schater (2017) and Canal (2017). Again, the results in Figure 15 display the potential for acquiescence bias, with the bulk of answers being reduced to the 'Important' category. Nonetheless, Q16 was formatted as 5-answer category, which, consistent with the results found by Revilla et al (2014) serves to yield higher quality data. In terms of descriptive content, the question shows that the most important problems are perceived to be related to the (lack of) role of the citizen (16.1, 2 and 5), rather than on how their involvement might affect the internal workings of the government (16.3, 4).

Q16:
How important to you are each of these potential problems of involving citizens in policy-making?
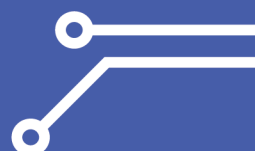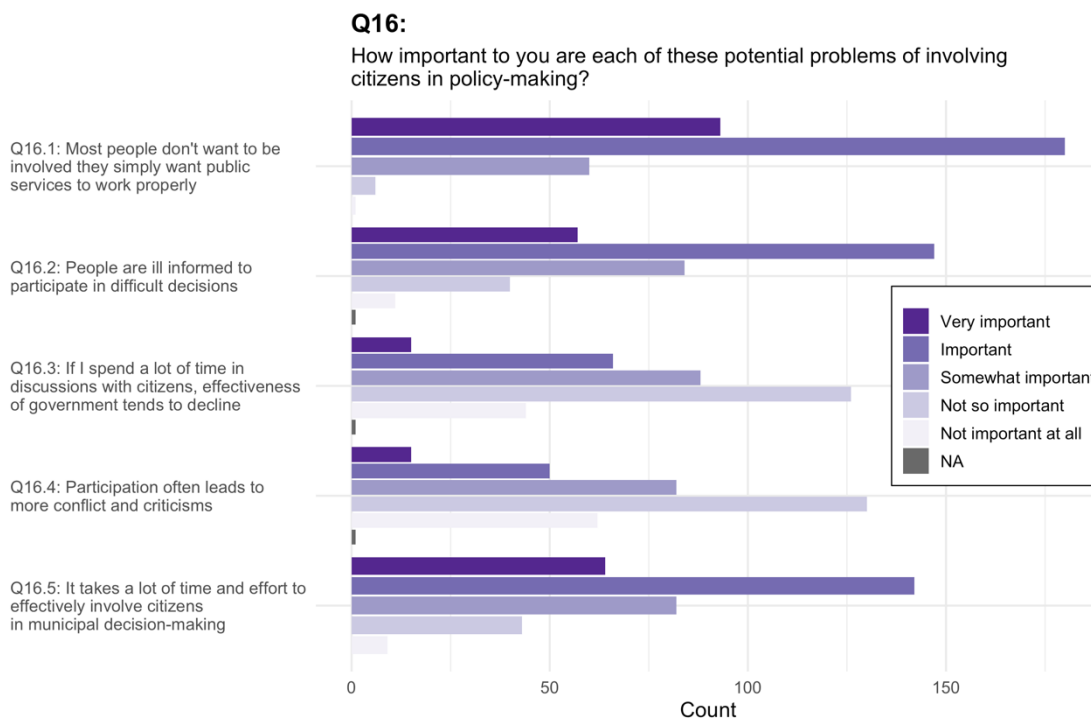
Figure 15: Question 16

3.1.3. Which characteristics of deliberative events favours positive attitudes of policymakers?

To study which characteristics of deliberative processes are most attractive for policymakers, we designed a conjoint experiment as a tool to uncover such preferences. This experimental method has been increasingly used in political science to break down the plurality of factors that affect a decision, such as the preference for a candidate (Chang Kang et al, 2021; Franchino & Zucchini, 2015). A conjoint analysis assumes that the result of choosing a certain preference is made up of the joint decision and assessment of several characteristic (or *attributes*, in conjoint language). This situation reflects the challenges of real-life choices: for instance, the preference for a candidate will be the result of the sum of all their traits, which makes it difficult to discern the weight of each one. This experimental approach makes it possible to identify and estimate non-parametrically the causal effects of many treatment components simultaneously, thus isolating their respective influences (Hainmueller et al, 2014). The multifaceted nature of deliberative events therefore presents an opportunity to advance this type of analysis.

Our experiment put respondents in the position of a town councillor, asking them to choose between pairs of deliberative events to decide which one they would put into place. The deliberative events were described by 9 different attributes and their corresponding levels, presented in two adjoining tables. We followed a fully-

randomised design, which meant that randomization occurred across respondents, tables and attributes. Each participant was exposed to 4 such randomly generated comparison tables (4 tasks) on separate screens, meaning that they evaluated a total of 8 hypothetical deliberative events. Despite the order being randomised across respondents, the order in which attributes were presented was held fixed across all 8 tables for each individual respondent, following Hainmueller et al., (2014) and Druckman et al., (2019). Table 6 shows the exposure of each attribute level across the 4 tasks. The experiment was introduced mid-way through the survey to not overstrain the cognitive load of the respondent.
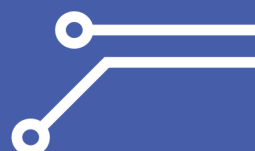
Attributes	Levels	%
Platform	Mixed	34%
	Online	32%
	In-person	34%
Issue definition	Participants would receive an open topic	32%
	Participants would receive a very clearly specified topic	34%
	The topic would be established by the participants	34%
Number of participants	As many participants as possible	25%
	A large number of participants	25%
	A medium number of participants	26%
	A small number of participants	24%
Presence of politicians	With politicians	51%
	Without politicians	49%
Recommendations	Non-mandatory recommendations	51%
	Mandatory recommendations	49%
Subject centrality	Issue central to my political program	50%
	Issue not central to my political program	50%
Outcome predictability	Unpredictable outcome	50%
	Predictable outcome	50%
Representation	Highly educated participants	33%
	Participants whose voices are normally not heard	33%
	Participants that represent the population as a whole	34%
Participants' profile	Mostly organized stakeholders	32%
	Only individual citizens	34%
	Individual citizens and organized stakeholders	34%

Table 6: Percentage of exposure of each attribute level across the 4 tasks

After each pair of deliberative tables, we measured the preferences for each process in two different ways. Firstly, we asked respondents to rate each deliberative event on a 7-point scale (Q13). Secondly, we asked respondents to report a preference for one of the events if they were to be developed in their municipality (Q14.1) or at the EU level (Q14.2). The choice-based question forces respondents to make trade-offs,
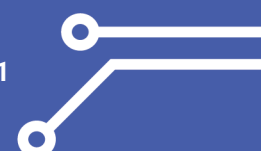
enabling us to see which of the attributes influences a particular deliberative event to be chosen. A preliminary analysis gave us promising results about the effects of these attributes on the elites' preferences.

However, it is worth noticing that the number of participants who reported a preference for one of the events, in both the municipality and EU scenarios, decreases across tasks (Figure 16). This is a result of the non-response rate increasing in both cases, slightly higher when asked about their preference for the EU level (Figure 17).

This event, together with the increasing dropout rates with each task, points towards the need of looking for ways to reduce the cognitive burden of the conjoint experiment. A reduction in the attribute levels or a shortening in the length of their description might perhaps help alleviate the cognitive load.
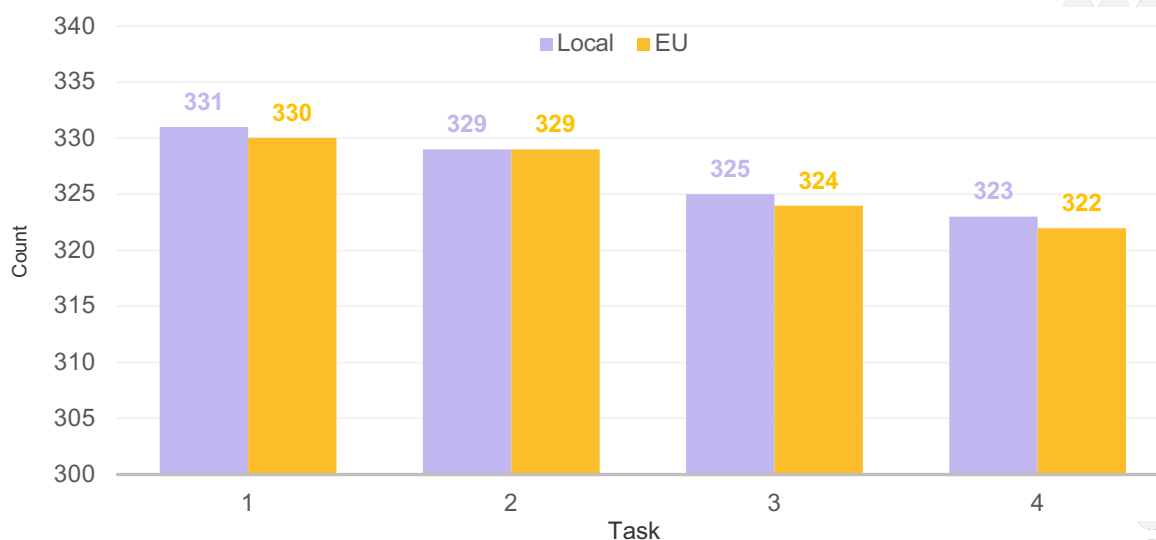
Figure 16: Participants who answered Q.14.1 (local) and 2 (EU), by task
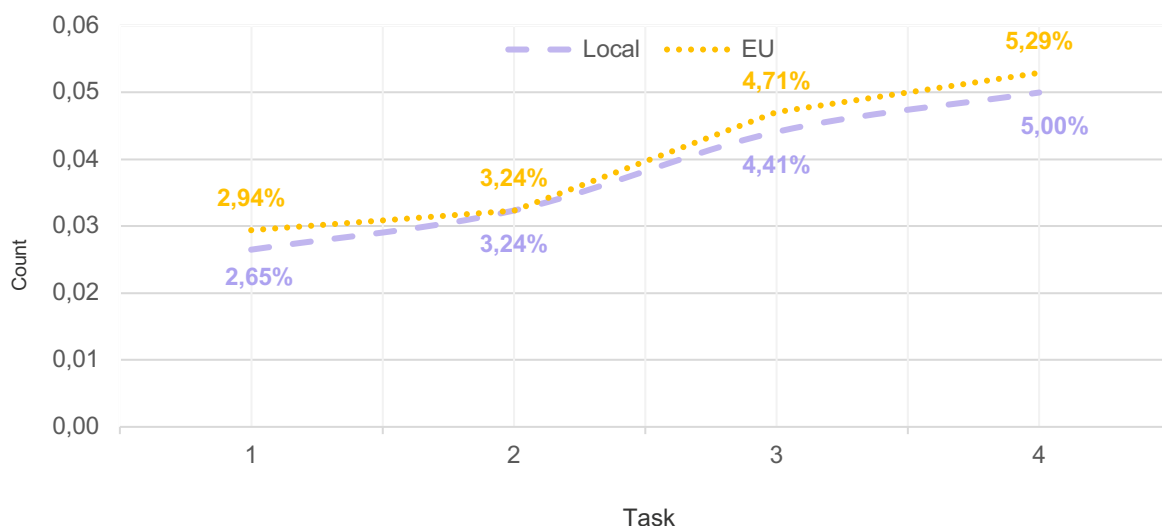
Figure 17: Percentages of DK/NA by task

The effects of complex grid batteries in the quality of answers (Couper et al., 2012) can be further extrapolated to the conjoint design: the more information on screen –represented by the number of rows– the higher the effort to complete the task. Continuing this parallelism, long grids such as our conjoint list might induce to scrolling, further hampering the ability to visualize all attributes at a glance. Reducing the number of levels for the longest attributes might therefore 1) reduce the cognitive load by presenting less items (rows) to analyse; and 2) downsize the physical space of the table eliminating the need to scroll. We therefore thoroughly advice condensing the levels for the attribute *Number of participants* into three levels. Limiting the number of levels of either the *Representation* or the *Participants' profile* attributes might also be fitting. However, it is worth analysing the substantive trade-offs.

3.1.4.   Socio-demographic and other independent variables

The questionnaire included a final block of socio-demographic variables (C1 to C3), and one with the left-right spectrum (C4). We also added questions that captured the experience of trust and identity of the elites (C5 and C6), which could help advance the aims of other work packages, as well as other independent variables that provided information about participants' political expertise (C9 to C12). Furthermore, we included questions related to the specific policy positions and policy areas of interest –the environment, inequalities, and the economy– relevant for the EUComMeet project (C7 and C8).

In terms of sociodemographics, we see that all questions performed well. The bulk of participants are highly educated, which corresponds to the nature of the survey's population. In addition, we can see in Figure 18 that the majority placed themselves to the left of the ideological scale (mean = 3.76, median = 3). This result might correlate with the samples' underrepresentation of right-wing political groups (table 11 and table 13), something that would be expanded upon in the following section.
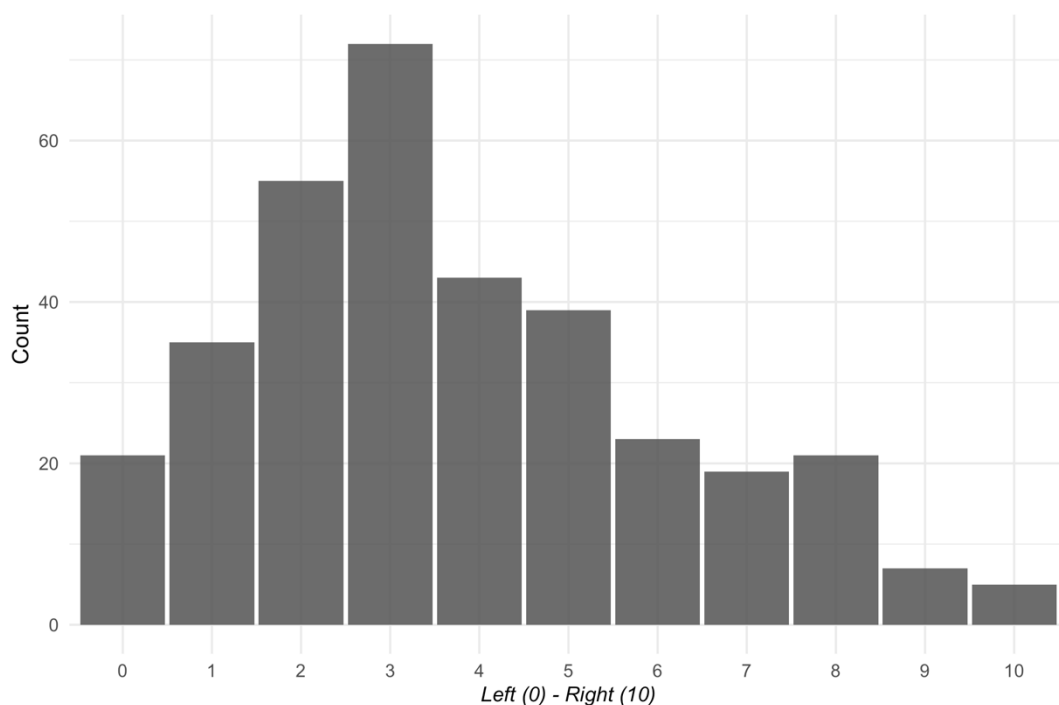
Figure 18: Participants' ideological distribution

With regards to policy-related questions, C7 was based on the British Social Attitudes Survey (2020), IMAJINE (2020) and the 513 Special Eurobarometer. C8 was inspired by the Eurobarometer's Most Important Problem (MIP) question, but to maintain the spotlight on the issues of interest as much as possible, we reduced the battery of problems.

3.2. Assessment of survey errors related to representation

3.2.1. Coverage and sampling frame

As described in the previous section, the sampling frame with the names and contact data of elected representatives had to be constructed either by a) scrapping public information via the institutional websites or b) through direct contact with the institution via email and/or phone calls, asking for those representatives

whose contact information was not publicly available. This strategy worked well at the regional and local levels where public information lacked most.

The table below shows the coverage rate obtained with the sampling frame of individual email addresses constructed at each territorial level. As observed, the coverage rate is balanced across levels although decreasing with the territorial level.

	n	Web scrapped emails	Direct contact emails	Total emails	Coverage rate (%)
National - Parliament	350	310	-	310	89%
National - Senate	265	228	-	228	86%
Regional chambers	1212	834	198	1032	85%
Local chambers	1012	636	161	797	79%
Total	**2839**	**2008**	**359**	**2367**	**83%**

Table 7: Sampling frame coverage by territorial level

For 7 political groups in 3 regional parliaments and 15 in 9 municipalities we had to rely solely on the email address of their political group in order to invite their members to take part in the survey. However, as we show in the next subsection covering response rates, this strategy proved to be quite unsuccessful as just 4 completed interviews were obtained using this strategy.

	n	Total emails	Coverage rate (%)
Regional parties	471	432	92%
Local parties	40	36	90%
Socialist party	948	833	88%
Unidas Podemos / IU / Others left	191	167	87%
Other	48	40	83%
Vox	149	119	80%
Ciudadanos	215	163	76%
Popular party	735	554	75%
Not attached to parties	42	23	55%
Total	**2839**	**2367**	**83%**

Table 8: Sampling frame coverage by political party or group
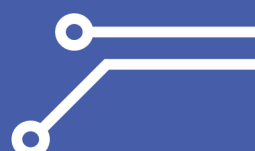
As for the coverage of the sampling frame by political party, most parties and/or groups of parties had a coverage rate over 80%, whereas Ciudadanos and the Popular Party fell behind with a coverage rate of 75-76%. In any case, we did not suffer from coverage problems; with the exception of the political group of elected representatives not attached to a party, but this is a residual group that represents less than 1.5% percent of all cases.

3.2.2.   Response rate and sampling size

A total of 534 out of 2367 contacts started the interview. Of these, 340 completed the questionnaire entirely and 147 partially. Of the 340 contacts who completed the interview, 336 were reached using a univocal link sent to the representative's institutional email address. Only 4 were reached using the anonymous link sent to the spokesperson/president of the political group.

The overall response rate including partial interviews (AAPOR RR2) is of 20% and 14% when we count complete interviews exclusively (AAPOR RR1). The incomplete surveys therefore meant a significant loss and had an important impact on the final sample size.

	n	Complete interviews	Partial interviews	Total interviews	Response rate (%)	
					Total	Complete
State level	538	61	41	102	19%	11%
Regional level	1032	157	61	218	21%	15%
Local level	797	119	45	164	21%	15%
Total	**2367**	**337**	**147**	**484**	**20%**	**14%**

Table 9: Response rates and sampling size by territorial level

Table 9 presents the distribution of response patterns across territorial levels. Response rates were very similar in the regional and local levels whereas there was a significant decrease at the national level, -2% considering all interviews and -4% considering just complete interviews. When we further analyse the data at the national level and delve into the differences by chambers, we see that the Senate has a 15% RR1, in line with the rest of chambers at the regional and local level. Therefore, the Spanish Congress was the chamber which presented the atypical behaviour regarding the response rate (RR1 7%).

The average response rates at the regional and local levels also entail different behaviours depending on the region, with some of them close to 30% RR1, such as Navarre and Balearic Islands and others with poorer performance. In any case, most of the regions that fall under the global average RR1 do so by a small margin; with the exception of Extremadura (RR1 9%) and, more particularly, of the autonomous community of
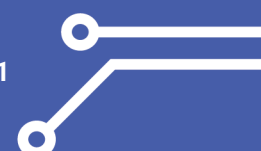
Valencia, where none of the representatives in their regional parliament took part on the survey, lowering in this way the overall response rate of the region. A closer supervision of fieldwork should be followed in the implementation of the final Elite Survey so that ad-hoc response-enhancing measures can be taken when the fieldwork is still on-going.

	n	Complete interviews	Partial interviews	Total interviews	Response rate (%)	
					Total	Complete
Comunidad Foral de Navarra	76	22	8	30	39%	29%
Islas Baleares	73	20	2	22	30%	27%
La Rioja	58	14	3	17	29%	24%
Galicia	46	10	2	12	26%	22%
Castilla y León	52	10	2	12	23%	19%
País Vasco	120	22	19	41	34%	18%
Región de Murcia	60	11	2	13	22%	18%
Asturias	67	11	3	14	21%	16%
Cataluña	242	38	14	52	21%	16%
Andalucía	202	31	11	42	21%	15%
Castilla La Mancha	59	9	2	11	19%	15%
Aragón	96	12	6	18	19%	13%
Canarias	79	10	4	14	18%	13%
Cantabria	62	8	4	12	19%	13%
Comunidad de Madrid	245	30	17	47	19%	12%
Extremadura	90	8	3	11	12%	9%
Comunidad Valenciana	202	10	4	14	7%	5%
Total	**1829**	**276**	**106**	**382**	**21%**	**15%**

Table 10: Response rates and sampling size by region (for representatives in regional and local chambers)

Regarding the response patterns by political group or party (table 11), we find that councillors from local parties, and those participants from Vox and the Popular Party present response rates that are lower than average. In the case of Vox and the Popular Party this pattern reinforces lower coverage rates. For this reason, both parties are underrepresented in the final dataset.
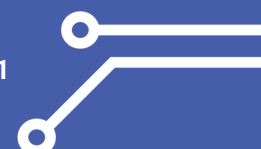
	n	Complete interviews	Partial interviews	Total interviews	Response rate (%)	
					Total	Complete
Joint groups	40	9	2	11	28%	**23%**
Unidas Podemos / IU / Others left	206	38	11	49	24%	**18%**
Regional parties	403	67	34	101	25%	**17%**
Ciudadanos	161	27	6	33	20%	**17%**
Not attached to parties	23	4	0	4	17%	**17%**
Socialist party	833	135	52	187	22%	**16%**
Vox	120	12	5	17	14%	**10%**
Local parties	34	3	1	4	12%	**9%**
Popular party	547	42	36	78	14%	**8%**
Total	**2367**	**337**	**147**	**484**	**20%**	**14%**

Table 11: Response rates and sample size by political party or groups of parties

3.2.3. Bias, post-stratification and adjustment

Tables 12 and 13 present the distribution of the population and of the final sample obtained in the pilot survey, considering only complete interviews. As a cumulative result of coverage and non-response errors, we find some deviations in the distribution of the survey data as compared to the distribution of the population.

As we underlined in the previous sections, it proved more challenging to find email addresses for the members of the local councils, resulting in a coverage rate lower than average for the local level. Likewise, response rates were significantly lower in the Spanish Parliament than in the rest of chambers. As a result, both territorial levels are somewhat underrepresented in the final data, whereas the representatives in the regional chambers are overrepresented. However, we do not see this is a cause for concern as the biggest deviation, that for the national level, is about 3%.
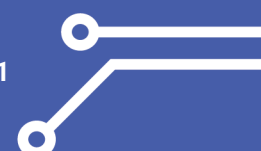
	Population distribution		Sample distribution		
	n	**%**	**n**	**%**	**Difference**
National - Parliament	350	12	26	8	-4%
National - Senate	265	9	34	10	+1%
Regional chambers	1212	43	157	47	+4%
Local chambers	1012	36	119	35	-1%
Total	**2839**	**100**	**337**	**100**	

Table 12: Survey bias by territorial level

Of more concern is the distribution of the obtained sample by parties and groups of parties as we find that left-wing parties are significantly overrepresented, in contrast with their underrepresented right-wing counterparts. The biggest deviations are found in the main parties on each section of the ideological scale, Socialist Party (+7%) and Popular Party (-14%).

	Population distribution		Sample distribution		
	n	**%**	**n**	**%**	**Difference**
Regional parties	471	17%	67	20%	+3%
Local parties	40	1%	3	1%	0%
Socialist party	948	33%	135	40%	+7%
Unidas Podemos / IU / Others left	191	7%	38	11%	+3%
Joint groups	48	2%	9	3%	+1%
Vox	149	5%	12	4%	-1%
Ciudadanos	215	8%	27	8%	0%
Popular party	735	26%	42	12%	-14%
Not attached to parties	42	1%	4	1%	0%
Total	**2839**	**100**	**337**	100	

Table 13: Survey bias by political party or group of parties

We are unaware if this particular outcome is limited to the Spanish context and/or the specific moment when the fieldwork took place, but it would be advisable to pay extra attention to representatives of this profile to counteract this kind of bias during the final Elite Survey fieldwork. As an alternative solution, post-stratification could be used to give to each political group a weight proportional to their position within the population.
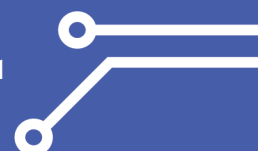
3.3. Assessment of fieldwork procedures

In this section, we review the fieldwork protocols and procedures used in the pilot of the Elite Survey in Spain. As mentioned, fieldwork started on December 15th, 2021, and ended two months later on February 15th, 2022.

Figure 19 shows the cumulative number of interviews registered by day of fieldwork and points to the dates where the invitation and the four reminders were sent. Several lessons can be learned from this process. Most interviews are completed in two to three days after the invitation or reminder is sent. After sending the first reminder, the figures rapidly plateaued corresponding to the Christmas holidays[4], that in Spain include the first days of January. The third reminder was less efficient than the previous ones (just 27 interviews completed after it). The numbers recovered after the fourth reminder that was labelled as the last chance to participate in the survey. We feel that this sequence worked well considering the long Christmas pause, and that a fifth reminder would have failed to significantly increase response rates. It would be advisable to avoid long breaks during the fieldwork period when carrying out the final Elite Survey.

The day and time of the days when the interviews were completed are further affected by the days and the moment of the day when the invitations and reminders were sent (Invitation on Tuesday, one reminder on Monday and three reminders on Wednesday). Two thirds of the interviews were completed on Tuesday and Wednesday.
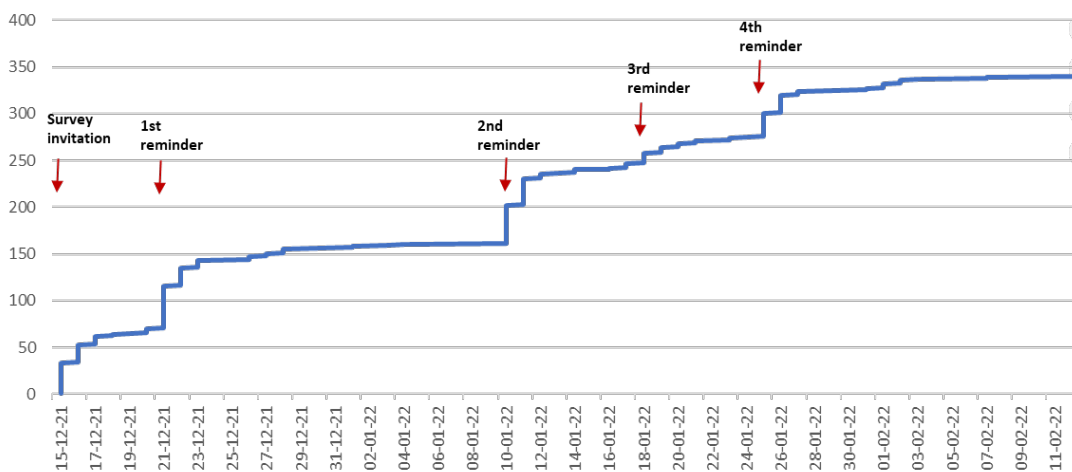
Figure 19: Cumulative number of interviews by day of fieldwork

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[4] This closeness with the Christmas holidays also affected the time of arrival of prenotification postal letters, that in some cases got their recipients after the email invitation had arrived.
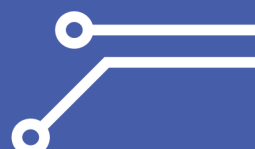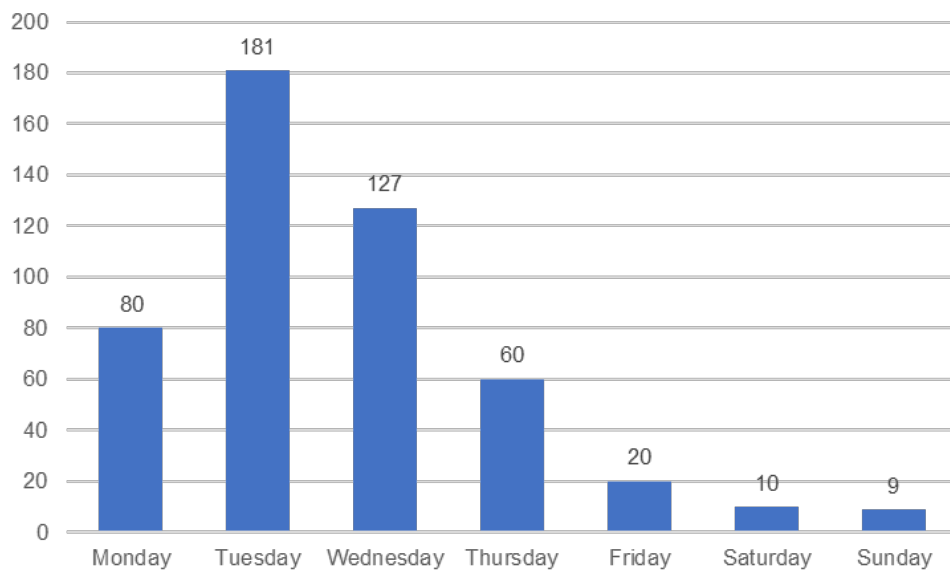
Figure 20: Interviews (complete + partial) by day of the week
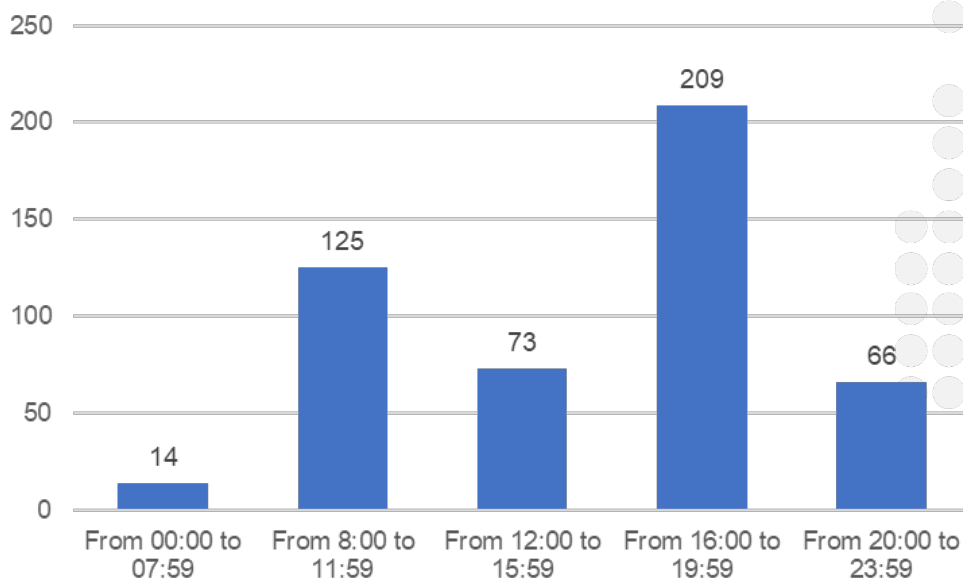
Figure 21: Interviews (complete + partial) by time of the day

Also, the invitation and reminders were sent every time around 16.00 hours and it is in that slot of time where most answers were collected (43%). We feel that a more balanced mix of days and times for sending the reminders would result in more homogeneous response patterns.

Regarding the devices used to complete the questionnaires, most respondents (almost 2 in 3) used their PCs whereas the rest used their smartphones mostly. This information is very relevant when choosing the design
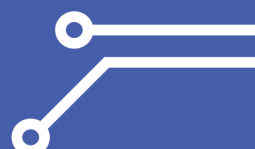
model for the questionnaire. The programming protocol asked for a mobile-first approach in the design of the questionnaire, and this should be maintained in the final implementation of the survey.
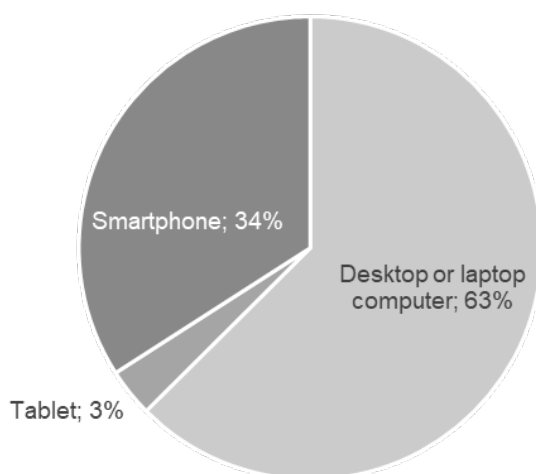
Figure 22: Device used to access questionnaire (Total accesses n=534)

For fieldwork supervision we used two kinds of information: on the one hand, data received from the survey managers at the Laboratory for Political and Social Analysis – LAPS in the University of Siena, and on the other, information from the potential respondents that used the channels of direct communication with the research team. These were provided in the pre-notification letters and email invitation and reminders. Once the fieldwork started, we received several emails and phone calls demanding further information on the research, alerting of technical problems and other issues. In these communications we detected some concerns regarding data protection and cybersecurity. The URL that gave access to the questionnaire was excessively parameterized and some respondents were wary of the Italian domain. The use of domain masks and/or shortened URLs may help to counteract these concerns.

We also conducted checks of the data collected at different moments to assess fieldwork progress. However, we did that with the global data and missed information of specific dynamics in some chambers such as the National Parliament and the regional parliament of the Comunidad Valenciana. More systematic and in-depth supervision of datafiles, chamber by chamber and week by week must be done so that low response rates can be detected and ad-hoc response enhancing measures can be applied.

4. Lessons and proposals

This final section of the document summarizes the conclusions reached in the assessment of the data and outcomes of the pilot elite survey in Spain. We also point out here to some adjustments in the design of the survey and changes in the fieldwork procedures with the aim of increasing the quality of the data obtained in the Elite Survey in five countries (Sub-task 8.1.4) that will feed the Comparative elite attitudes dataset of the EUComMeet Project (Deliverable D8.2 of WP8).

4.1. Proposals regarding questionnaire

The most important concern regarding the measurement chapter has to do with the length of the questionnaire. The interview is too long for a web survey, and this has supposed a significant burden for some respondents according to indicators such as the number of sessions used to complete the survey and/or the number of dropouts. Questionnaire should be shortened so that the average duration is 15 to 20 minutes instead of the current 27 minutes. Considering the results obtained in Spain, we propose the following measures aimed to decrease questionnaire length:

1. Remove those survey questions that are less relevant to answer the research question or that present measurement problems, such as a high partial non-response rate and respondent skipping.
2. Improve the performance of relevant questions that have not worked well such as the drag-and-drop rank questions (potentially problematic for respondents that answered the survey on smaller screens) or long batteries by using alternative question formats or simplifying them (removing some items and shortening the sentences).
3. Although the conjoint experiment has worked well, an important number of respondents have abandoned the interview on each task repetition. We feel that the survey experiment design would benefit if the presentation was simpler. We propose reducing the number of levels for the attribute *Number of participants* from four to three levels. In addition, it might be advisable to limit the number of levels of either the *Representation* or the *Participants' profile* attributes. Adjusting the conjoint table size so that it can be presented in a single screen (no scrolling required) is crucial to lighten up the cognitive effort required to respondents when confronting the tasks proposed in the experiment.
4. The complete questionnaire should be programmed following a mobile-first approach with the aim of optimizing the usability and survey experience of mobile respondents (one third of the sample).
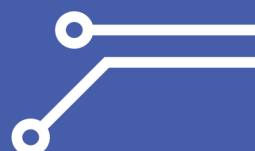
4.2. Proposals regarding sampling design and construction

The most important change in the design of the sample has been forced by the evidence that the universe of high-rank officers was not accessible. Public information on who they are and how to contact them is not available in most territorial levels and countries. Dahlberg (2007) warns that elites sometimes often disregard their institutional e-mail. Perhaps asking them for their preferred contact mode via telephone first might be a safer option to secure our sample. Also, there are GDPR concerns that make almost impossible constructing a good quality sampling frame for this population. For all the above reasons, the final Elite Survey will focus exclusively on the policymakers. The overall sampling design have performed quite well for this population, and we have reached a good coverage rate in all three territorial levels and a reasonable response rate for most chambers and respondent profiles. However, the accumulation of coverage and non-response errors have resulted in right-wing parties being underestimated in the survey sample. Close supervision of fieldwork, week by week and looking into response patterns by interviewee profiles will be required in order to ascertain if this bias is specific of the Spanish context or else will affect other countries. If this is the case, an additional reminder by email or direct or indirect telephone contact may be required to improve response rates in those groups. Post-stratification and weighting may be used to balance the sample if preventative measures fail.

Survey invitations to collective email addresses such as those from the political groups have been quite unsuccessful (4 complete questionnaires out of 340 have been obtained by this mean). An important effort must be done when constructing the sampling frames so that most individual email contacts are retrieved, either by web scrapping or directly contacting the institutions.

Reducing the dropout rate is also particularly important to increase response rates. 6% of respondents that initiated the questionnaire did not complete it. Decreasing the length of the questionnaire and making it simpler and more user-friendly (particularly for smartphone respondents) may contribute to avoid excessive break-off.

4.3. Proposals regarding fieldwork procedures

The timing of fieldwork will surely be improved in the final implementation of the elite survey as compared to the pilot survey in Spain. The campaign started less than 10 days before Christmas and the impact of this long holiday period on the survey collection has been quite important. Just 17 interviews were completed from December 24th to January, 10th. We should aim for a fieldwork period of one and a half to 2 months without long interruptions for the final implementation of this survey in the five countries included in the sample.
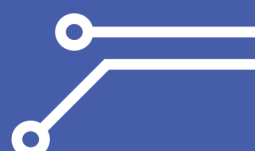
The strategy for contacting and obtaining the answers of this population have worked reasonably well, with a complete response rate of 14% (AAPOR RR1) and total response rate, including partial interviews, reaching 20% overall. For the definitive fieldwork we propose following this same strategy that entail the following operations:

1. Sending pre-notification postal letters to the main authority of the chamber and presidencies / spokespersons of political groups (10 days before email invitations)
2. Sending custom email invitation to take part in the survey
3. Sending 3 to 4 email reminders at one-week intervals using different days (from Monday to Thursday) and in different moments of the day, in order to cover different profiles of time availability. If this is not possible, invitation and reminders will be sent early in the morning so that the message will be situated at the top when respondent open their inboxes.
4. The last reminder must include the word DEADLINE or something similar to mark that this will be the last opportunity to participate in the survey. It is known that this procedure bolster response rates as we have experienced in the pilot survey.
5. A last round of email and/or phone reminders might be used for those profiles that are underestimated in the final sample.

In order to avoid concerns regarding data protection and cybersecurity, we should use domain masks and/or shortened URLs that are not too long or from a domain that may arouse suspicion.

Close supervision of fieldwork and partial datasets should be done week by week and looking into the data by chamber and respondents' profiles so that low response rates can be detected and ad-hoc response enhancing measures can be applied during fieldwork.
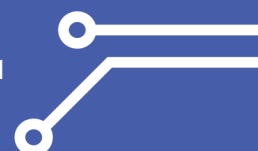
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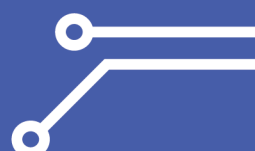
Annex I – EuComMeet Elite Survey Questionnaire

Note to programmer: *Web survey design mode: mobile first. Design questionnaire as if most respondents will answer on a smartphone. Avoid scrolling as much as possible. One question per screen. For grid questions, one screen per item. Show progress bar and Next button. Disable the possibility of going backwards in the questionnaire. DK/NA options will only be prompted if respondent tries to advance without a valid answer. Regarding language selection, the best option is that all respondents are offered with the possibility of choosing their preferred language. Example:*
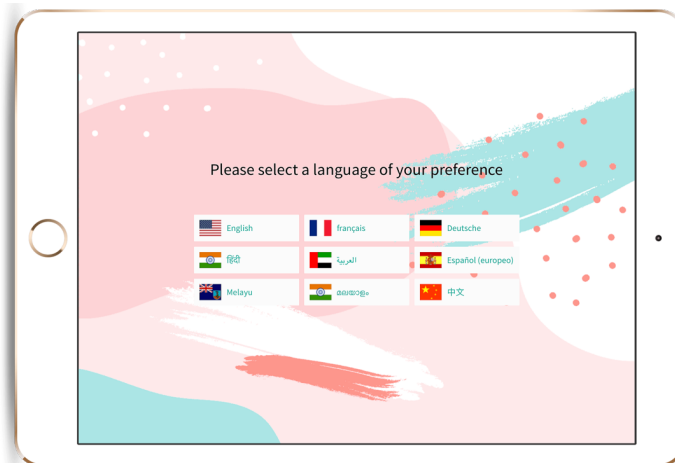
Q1.- On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in [country]?

Extremely dissatisfied								Extremely satisfied			DK	NA
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99

Q2.- And, how satisfied are you with the functioning of each of the following institutions? Please indicate your view on a scale from 0-10, where 0 means "Extremely dissatisfied" and 10 means "Extremely satisfied".

	Extremely dissatisfied								Extremely satisfied			DK	NA
1) European Union	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99
2) National Parliament	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99
3) Local Council	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99
4) [COUNTRY] political parties' ..	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99

Q3.- We want to know your opinion on how political decisions should be made in (COUNTRY). On a scale of 0-10 where "0" means citizens making all decisions on their own, and "10" means politicians making all decisions on their own, where would you place yourself?

Citizens making all decisions								Politicians making all decisions			DK/NA
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88/99

Q4.- Using the same 0-10 scale, how do you think decisions are currently taken in (COUNTRY)?

Citizens make all decisions								Politicians make all decisions			DK/NA
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88/99
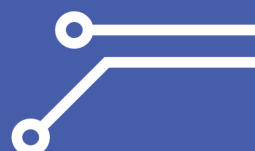
Q5.- Certain qualities are perceived as important when evaluating political decision-makers. Please rank the following characteristics from most to least important. *Note to programmer: Drag and drop ranking format*

	1st	2nd	3rd
- Competent and informed	1	1	1
- Honest	2	2	2
- Able to understand citizen's needs.....................	3	3	3
- DK/NA	9		

Q6.- We are now going to ask you a series of questions on the way in which you evaluate people involved in political decision-making. Please place yourself on a scale from 0-10, where 0 means "Totally disagree" and 10 means "Totally agree".

	Value 0 to 10	DK/NA
Most citizens have all the competences required to make political decisions		88/99
Most citizens are honest...		88/99
Most citizens are capable of understanding the needs of the public		88/99
		88/99
Most experts have all the competences required to make political decisions		88/99
Most experts are honest		88/99
Most experts are capable of understanding the needs of the public		88/99
		88/99
Most politicians have all the competences required to make political decisions		88/99
Most politicians are honest		88/99
Most politicians are capable of understanding the needs of the public		88/99

Q7.- Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	DK/NA
Most politicians are out of touch with people's concerns...	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
Political representatives should make what they think are the right decisions, regardless of the public opinion	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
Political parties are the most suitable arena for citizens' participation	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
The results of elections should be the most important factor in determining municipal policies	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
Governments should be more receptive to the political initiatives organized by civil society and social movements	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
Political decisions should reflect the opinion of the majority	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
Residents should participate actively and directly in making important decisions	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
I know what is best for the public, based on my professional expertise.........................	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
I like to try different ways to solve community problems	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
The political power of unelected experts should be increased	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
The political power of businesspeople should be increased..	5	4	3	2	1	88/99

Q8.- Cities, regions and countries in Europe are using different types of methods to involve citizens in political decisions. Do you know or can you name any of them? Please, write down the names of a maximum of two of these methods or describe them briefly. *Note to programmer: Allow a minimum of 250 characters per field*

    Q8_1.-_____

    Q8_2.-_____

     –   DK.. 88

Q9.- Have your heard of…?

Q10.- *(Just for those who have heard of each participatory institution, code 1 in Q9)* And, have you ever participated in…?

	Q9.- Knowledge			Q10.- Participation		
	Yes	No	DK/NA	Yes	No	DK/NA
1) Advisory councils	1	2	9	1	2	9
2) Minipublics (juries, citizen assemblies,…)	1	2	9	1	2	9
3) Participatory budgeting	1	2	9	1	2	9
4) Citizen initiated referenda	1	2	9	1	2	9
5) Opinion surveys	1	2	9	1	2	9
6) Primaries in political parties	1	2	9	1	2	9

Q11.- *(For known participatory institutions, code 1 in Q9)* Using a 10-point scale where 10 means that the initiative is really effective to try to solve existing problems and 0 means that it is not effective at all, please indicate how do you evaluate…?

Q11.- Effectiveness Assessment

	Not effective								Very effective			DK	NA
1) Advisory councils	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99
2) Minipublics (juries, citizen assemblies,…)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99
3) Participatory budgeting	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99
4) Citizen initiated referenda	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99
5) Opinion surveys	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99
6) Primaries in political parties	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99

Q12.- What do you think should be the main objective of a participatory process? Please, rank your top three of the following objectives according to how important they are to you. *Note to programmer: Drag and drop ranking format*

	1st	2nd	3rd
1) Achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in policy decisions	1	1	1
2) Increase the transparency of policy decisions	2	2	2
3) Reduce social injustices	3	3	3
4) Inform elites about citizens' preferences to make better decisions	4	4	4
5) Empower citizens and create a critical spirit	5	5	5
6) Reduce political disaffection by bringing citizens and representatives closer together	6	6	6
DK/NA	9		

CONJOINT EXPERIMENT.

[Intro]

Now we would like to hear your opinion on various examples of deliberative events. To do this, imagine that you are a councillor for a **local government**. You have two proposals of deliberative events developed by your council team and you must choose which of the two are you putting into place.

*Note to programmer: Each respondent will see 4 different screens with a conjoint table and will answer Q13 and Q14 for each of them. The conjoint experiment will follow a full randomization design of attribute levels with equal probabilities and randomization of attribute ordering at the respondent level (i.e., for a given respondent, randomly order attributes in the first table, and fix the order throughout the rest of the experiment). The complete list of attributes and levels can be found in the Annex below.***[Conjoint table example]**

	Deliberative event A	**Deliberative event B**
Platform	Online	Mixed (online/in-person)
Issue definition	Participants would receive a very clearly specified topic	The topic would be established by the participants
Number of participants	A small number of participants	As many participants as possible
Presence of politicians	With politicians	Without politicians
Recommendations	Mandatory	Non-mandatory
Subject centrality	Issue not central to my political program	Issue central to my political program
Outcome predictability	Predictable outcome	Unpredictable outcome
Representation	Participants that represent the population as a whole	Highly educated participants
Participants' profile	Only individual citizens: one person, one vote	Individual citizens and organized stakeholders

Q13.- On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 indicates that "you definitely would not develop this type of deliberative event" and 7 indicates that "you definitively would develop this type of deliberative event", how would you rate each of the proposals presented above?

	Definitely would not develop					Definitely would develop	DK/NA
1) Deliberative event A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8/9
2) Deliberative event B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8/9

Q14_1.- From the above proposals, which deliberative event would you prefer to develop **in your municipality**?

	Deliberative event A	Deliberative event B	DK/NA
Preferred proposal	1	2	8/9

Q14_2.- And, which deliberative event would you prefer to develop if you had to put it into place **at the EU level**?

|	Deliberative event A	Deliberative event B	DK/NA
Preferred proposal	1	2	8/9

Q15.- Regarding the organization of deliberative events with randomly selected citizens, please, indicate your views on these sentences using a scale from 0-10, where 0 means "Totally disagree" and 10 means "Totally agree".

	Value 0 to 10	DK/NA
The more participants any of these events has, the better		88/99
I would prefer an online event since it facilitates participation		88/99
The composition of any of these events should fully guarantee the presence of minorities and less well-off citizens		88/99
The group of participants should only include randomly selected citizens, not politicians		88/99
The most important characteristic for me is for the event to guarantee careful deliberation, even at the cost of having less participants or less impact		88/99
The framing of the event should facilitate consensus and depolarise opinions		88/99
All opinions are important and should be adequately represented at the table		88/99
The outputs of any of these events should have a mandatory character for political institutions		88/99
It is reasonable that if a list of recommendations is provided, politicians can adopt only those that are more feasible or coherent with other policy programs		88/99
These events should mostly be organized for salient issues		88/99
The most important role of any of these events is to know the most salient concerns of citizens, not to provide detailed proposals		88/99

Q16.- How important to you are each of these potential problems of involving citizens in policy-making?

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not so important	Not important at all	DK/NA
1) Most people don't want to be involved, they simply want public services to work properly	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
2) People are ill informed to participate in difficult decisions	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
3) If I spend a lot of time in discussions with citizens, effectiveness of government tends to decline	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
4) Participation often leads to more conflict and criticisms	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
5) It takes a lot of time and effort to effectively involve citizens in municipal decision-making	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
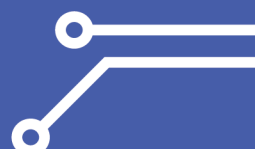
Classification variables
Variables Recorded from Sampling Frame

[Not included in questionnaire]

COUNTRY ID
REGION ID
MUNICIPALITY ID
TSCOPE.- Territorial Level
CHAMBER.- Chamber (National / Regional parliament, Senate, City council)
Respondent profile (Politicians with a personal email contact)

[Included in questionnaire]

C1.- Sex (Male, Female, Other)

C2.- Age at your last birthday

C3.- Education level

C4.- In politics people sometimes talk of 'left' and 'right'. Using this scale, where 0 means the left and 10 means the right, where would you place yourself?

Left										Right	DK/NA
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88/99

C5.- Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Please tell me on a score of 0 to 10, where 0 means you can't be too careful and 10 means that most people can be trusted.

You can't be too careful										Most people can be trusted	DK/NA
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88/99

C6.- To what extent do you personally feel you are...

	To a great extent	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	DK/NA
European.................	4	3	2	1	88/99
(NATIONALITY).......	4	3	2	1	88/99

C7.- What do you think are the three most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) in the moment?

1) Crime
2) Economic Situation
3) Taxation
4) Unemployment
5) Terrorism
6) Defence / foreign affairs
7) Housing
8) Immigration
9) Health care system
10) The educational system
11) Pensions
12) The environment, climate and energy issues
13) Others
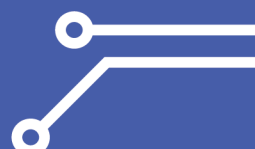
C8.- To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	DK/NA
The government should redistribute income from the better-off to those who are less well off	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
Public services should be cut in order to reduce taxes	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
Economic growth must be a priority even if it affects the environment......................	5	4	3	2	1	88/99
The costs of the damages due to climate change are much higher than the costs of the investments needed for a green transition	5	4	3	2	1	88/99

C9.- *(For politicians)* Now we would like to ask you if you already had any political positions before your first parliamentary election.

		Yes	No
-	City or town councillor	1	2
-	Mayor or city executive	1	2
-	Provincial/regional member of assembly	1	2
-	Provincial/regional executive	1	2
-	Top governmental position	1	2

C10.- *(For politicians)* And did you have any party position before first parliamentary election?

		Yes	No
-	Nothing	1	2
-	Local	1	2
-	Regional	1	2
-	National	1	2

C11.- *(For politicians)* What kind of job did you have when you were elected to the parliament for the first time?

-	Civil Servant	1
-	Politician	2
-	Managin position in firm/bank	3
-	Professional	4
-	Entrepreneur, self-employed	5
-	White collar	6
-	Employed service job	7
-	Manual worker	8
-	Non-active	9
-	DK/NA	98

C12.- *(For politicians)* And, in what year did you first take office (elected)?

Thank you for collaborating with us.
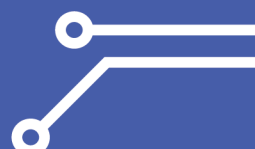
Annex II – EuComMeet Elite Survey Pre-notification and invitation letters

Pre-notification letter to presidencies of the chambers

Spanish

Don/Doña Nombre Apellido1 Apellido2
Nombre de la cámara
Dirección de la cámara
CP – Municipio

Excelentísimo/a Sr/a. Apellido1 Apellido2,

El Instituto de Estudios Sociales Avanzados, centro público de investigación que forma parte del Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (IESA-CSIC), participa en el proyecto europeo EUComMeet cuyo objetivo consiste en examinar las condiciones bajo las cuales la deliberación y la participación ciudadana pueden ser (o no) una respuesta eficaz a los desafíos a los que se enfrentan las democracias representativas liberales. Se trata de un proyecto financiado con 3M de euros procedentes de fondos europeos y en el que participan 9 instituciones de investigación de 8 países distintos.

Entre las actividades de investigación incluidas en el proyecto está la realización de una encuesta dirigida a las élites políticas en España, Alemania, Francia, Irlanda, Italia y Polonia. Actualmente estamos preparando la encuesta la encuesta dirigida a las cámaras nacionales y autonómicas y plenos municipales en España, que comenzará en el mes de diciembre.
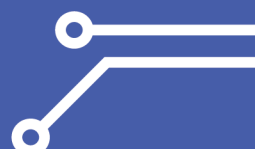
Hemos creído conveniente dirigirnos a usted en calidad de presidente/a del/ de la [Nombre de la Cámara] para informarle previamente sobre este proyecto que conlleva la distribución por correo electrónico de un cuestionario de cumplimentación voluntaria entre todos los diputados y diputadas que forman parte de esta Cámara. Le adelantamos que la información que nos faciliten será objeto de un tratamiento estrictamente confidencial y no será empleada para ningún otro fin que el de esta investigación. Asimismo, la información que recojamos a través de los cuestionarios está protegida por la Ley 12/89 que regula el secreto estadístico para las administraciones públicas, no pudiéndose tratar ni difundir más que de forma numérica y agregada, garantizando, por tanto, el completo anonimato de las personas entrevistadas.

Si necesita información adicional o consulta sobre el proyecto puede dirigirse a la investigadora Belén Llorente [bllorente@iesa.csic.es, Tlf. 957438948].

Quedamos a su disposición para cualquier tipo de aclaración que necesite. Reciba un cordial saludo y nuestro agradecimiento por anticipado.

Joan Font Fábregas
Director del Proyecto

Catalan

Sr/a. nom/cognoms
Institució
Adreça postal (CP) MUNICIPI

Excel·lentíssim/a Sr/a. [nom i cognoms complets]

L'Institut d'Estudis Socials Avançats, centre públic d'investigació que forma part del Consell Superior d'Investigacions Científiques (IESA-CSIC), participa en el projecte europeu [EUComMeet](), que té com a objectiu examinar les condicions sota les quals la deliberació i la participació ciutadana poden ser (o no) una resposta eficaç als reptes a què s'enfronten les democràcies representatives liberals. Es tracta d'un projecte finançat amb 3 M€ procedents de fons europeus i en què participen 9 institucions de recerca de 8 països diferents.

Entre les activitats de recerca incloses al projecte, hi ha la realització d'una enquesta adreçada a les elits polítiques a Espanya, Alemanya, França, Irlanda, Itàlia i Polònia. Actualment, estem preparant l'enquesta adreçada a les cambres nacionals i autonòmiques i plens municipals a Espanya, que començarà el mes de novembre.

Hem cregut convenient adreçar-nos a vós en qualitat de president(a) del/de la/dels/de les [nom de la cambra] per informar-vos prèviament sobre aquest projecte que comporta la distribució per correu electrònic d'un qüestionari d'emplenament voluntari entre tots els diputats i les diputades que formen part d'aquesta Cambra. Us avancem que la informació que ens faciliteu serà objecte d'un tractament estrictament confidencial i no s'utilitzarà per a cap altre fi diferent al d'aquesta investigació. Així mateix, la informació que recollim a través dels qüestionaris està protegida per la Llei 12/89, que regula el secret estadístic per a les administracions públiques, de manera que no pot tractar-se ni difondre's si no és de forma numèrica i agregada, per la qual cosa es garanteix totalment l'anonimat de les persones entrevistades.

Si necessiteu informació addicional o teniu alguna consulta sobre el projecte, podeu adreçar-vos a la investigadora Belén Llorente [bllorente@iesa.csic.es, tel. 957438948].

Restem a la vostra disposició per a qualsevol tipus d'aclariment que necessiteu. Rebeu una salutació cordial i el nostre agraïment per endavant.

Joan Font Fábregas
Director del projecte

Galego

<div align="right">
Don/Dona Nome/Apelidos
Institución
Enderezo postal (C. P.) MUNICIPIO
</div>

Excelentísimo/a Sr./Sra. [nome e apelidos completos]

O Instituto de Estudos Sociais Avanzados, centro público de investigación que forma parte do Consello Superior de Investigacións Científicas (IESA-CSIC), participa no proxecto europeo EUComMeet cuxo obxectivo consiste en examinar as condicións baixo as cales a deliberación e a participación cidadá poden ser (ou non) unha resposta eficaz aos desafíos aos que se enfrontan as democracias representativas liberais. Trátase dun proxecto financiado con 3 millóns de euros procedentes de fondos europeos e no que participan 9 institucións de investigación de 8 países distintos.

Entre as actividades de investigación incluídas no proxecto está a realización dunha enquisa dirixida ás elites políticas en España, Alemaña, Francia, Irlanda, Italia e Polonia. Actualmente estamos preparando a enquisa dirixida ás cámaras nacionais e autonómicas e plenos municipais en España, que comezará no mes de decembro.
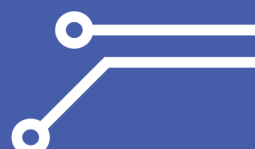
Cremos conveniente dirixírmonos a vostede en calidade de Presidenta/e do grupo [nome do grupo] no/na/s [nome da cámara] para informarlle previamente sobre este proxecto que supón a distribución por correo electrónico dun cuestionario para cubrir de xeito voluntario entre todos os deputados e deputadas que forman parte desta cámara. Adiantámoslle que a información que nos faciliten será obxecto dun tratamento estritamente confidencial e non será empregada para ningún outro fin que o desta investigación. Así mesmo, a información que recollamos a través dos cuestionarios está protexida pola Lei 12/89 que regula o segredo estatístico para as administracións públicas, non podéndose tratar nin difundir máis que de forma numérica e agregada, garantindo, polo tanto, o completo anonimato das persoas entrevistadas.

Se precisa información adicional ou consulta sobre o proxecto, pode dirixirse á investigadora Belén Llorente [bllorente@iesa.csic.es, Tlf. 957438948].

Quedamos ao seu dispor para calquera tipo de aclaración que necesite. Reciba un cordial saúdo e o noso agradecemento por anticipado.

Joan Font Fábregas
Director do proxecto

Euskera

Izen/Abizenak Jaun/Andrea
Erakundea
Helbidea (PK) UDALERRIA

Jaun/Andre agurgarria [Izen abizenak osorik]

Azterketa Sozial Aurreratuen Institutua ikerketa zentro publiko bat da, Zientzia Ikerketa Kontseilu Gorenaren parte dena (IESA-CSIC). Institutu horrek Europako EUComMeet proiektuan parte hartzen du. Proiektu horren helburu nagusia ordezkaritzako demokrazia liberalen erronkei erantzun eraginkorra (edo ez) emateko biztanleriaren partaidetza eta eztabaida abiarazteko baldintzak aztertzea da. Proiektu hori Europako funtsen 3M-rekin finantzatu da eta 8 herrialdetako 9 ikerketa erakundek parte hartzen dute.

Proiektuko ikerketa jarduteen artean Espainiako, Alemaniako, Frantziako, Irlandako, Italiako eta Poloniako eliteko politikariei zuzendutako inkesta bat egitea dago. Gaur egun, Espainiako ganbera nazional eta autonomikoei eta udaleko osoko bilkurei zuzendutako inkesta bat prestatzen ari gara. Abenduan hasiko da.

Zurekin harremanetan jarri gara, [Ganberaren izena]-ren Burua zarelako. Aldez aurretik proiektu honen berri eman nahi dizugu, proiektu honetan Ganbera osatzen duten diputatuei mezu elektroniko bidez modu boluntarioan bete dezaketen inkesta bat bidaliko diegulako. Bildutako informazioa isilpean gordeko da eta soilik ikerketa honetarako erabiliko dela bermatzen dizugu. Era berean, informazioa 12/89 legeak babesten du. Lege horrek administrazio publikoen sekretu estatistikoa arautzen du, eta, ondorioz, informazioa soilik zenbaki eta gehigarri gisa zabal daiteke, elkarrizketatutako pertsonen anonimatua babestuz.

Proiektuari buruzko informazio gehiago behar izanez gero edo zalantzaren bat baduzu, Belén Llorente ikerlariarekin harremanetan jar zaitezke [bllorente@iesa.csic.es, Tel. 957438948].

Gurekin harremanetan jar zaitezke azalpenik behar izanez gero. Agur bero bat eta eskerrik asko aldez aurretik.

Joan Font Fábregas
Proiektuaren zuzendaria
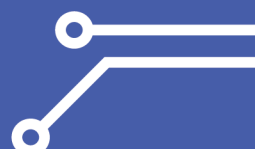
Pre-notification letter to the spokesperson of the political group

Spanish

Don/Doña Nombre Apellido1 Apellido2
Nombre de la cámara
Dirección de la cámara
CP - Municipio

Excelentísimo/a Sr/a. Apellido1 Apellido2,

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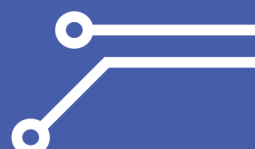
Entre las actividades de investigación incluidas en el proyecto está la realización de una encuesta dirigida a las élites políticas en España, Alemania, Francia, Irlanda, Italia y Polonia. Actualmente estamos preparando la encuesta dirigida a las cámaras nacionales y autonómicas y plenos municipales en España, que comenzará en el mes de diciembre. Hemos creído conveniente dirigirnos a usted en cuanto persona al frente de la Portavocía/Presidencia del grupo [Nombre del grupo] en [Nombre de la cámara] para informarle previamente sobre este proyecto que conlleva la distribución por correo electrónico de un cuestionario de cumplimentación voluntaria entre todos los diputados y diputadas que forman parte de esta Cámara.

Asimismo, nos gustaría pedirle su colaboración animando a los miembros de su grupo parlamentario a que respondan la encuesta. Estamos convencidos de que los resultados del proyecto contribuirán a mejorar el funcionamiento de la democracia en Europa. Le adelantamos que la información que nos faciliten será objeto de un tratamiento estrictamente confidencial y no será empleada para ningún otro fin que el de esta investigación. Asimismo, la información que recojamos a través de los cuestionarios está protegida por la Ley 12/89 que regula el secreto estadístico para las administraciones públicas, no pudiéndose tratar ni difundir más que de forma numérica y agregada, garantizando, por tanto, el completo anonimato de las personas entrevistadas.

Si necesita información adicional o consulta sobre el proyecto puede dirigirse a la investigadora Belén Llorente [bllorente@iesa.csic.es, Tlf. 957438948].

Quedamos a su disposición para cualquier tipo de aclaración que necesite. Reciba un cordial saludo y nuestro agradecimiento por anticipado.

Joan Font Fábregas
Director del Proyecto

Catalan

Sr/a. nom/cognoms
Institució
Adreça postal (CP) MUNICIPI

Excel·lentíssim/a Sr/a. [nom i cognoms complets]

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Entre les activitats de recerca incloses al projecte, hi ha la realització d'una enquesta adreçada a les elits polítiques a Espanya, Alemanya, França, Irlanda, Itàlia i Polònia. Actualment, estem preparant l'enquesta adreçada a les cambres nacionals i autonòmiques i plens municipals a Espanya, que començarà el mes de desembre. Hem cregut convenient adreçar-nos a vós en qualitat de president(a) del grup [nom del grup] al/la/els/les [nom de la cambra] per informar-vos prèviament sobre aquest projecte, que comporta la distribució per correu electrònic d'un qüestionari d'emplenament voluntari entre tots els diputats i les diputades que formen part d'aquesta Cambra.

Així mateix, ens agradaria demanar-vos la vostra col·laboració per animar els membres del vostre grup parlamentari a respondre l'enquesta. Estem convençuts que els resultats del projecte contribuiran a millorar el funcionament de la democràcia a Europa. Us avancem que la informació que ens faciliteu serà objecte d'un tractament estrictament confidencial i no s'utilitzarà per a cap altre fi diferent al d'aquesta investigació. Així mateix, la informació que recollim a través dels qüestionaris està protegida per la Llei 12/89, que regula el secret estadístic per a les administracions públiques, de manera que no pot tractar-se ni difondre's si no és de forma numèrica i agregada, per la qual cosa es garanteix totalment l'anonimat de les persones entrevistades.

Si necessiteu informació addicional o teniu alguna consulta sobre el projecte, podeu adreçar-vos a la investigadora Belén Llorente [bllorente@iesa.csic.es, tel. 957438948].

Restem a la vostra disposició per a qualsevol tipus d'aclariment que necessiteu. Rebeu una salutació cordial i el nostre agraïment per endavant.

Joan Font Fábregas
Director del projecte

Galego

Don/Dona Nome/Apelidos
Institución
Enderezo postal (C. P.) MUNICIPIO

Excelentísimo/a Sr./Sra. [nome e apelidos completos]

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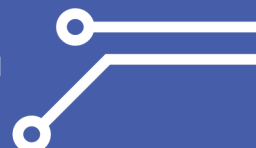
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Así mesmo, gustaríanos pedirlle a súa colaboración animando os membros do seu grupo parlamentario a que respondan a enquisa. Estamos convencidos de que os resultados do proxecto contribuirán a mellorar o funcionamento da democracia en Europa. Adiantámoslle que a información que nos faciliten será obxecto dun tratamento estritamente confidencial e non será empregada para ningún outro fin que o desta investigación. Do mesmo xeito, a información que recollamos a través dos cuestionarios está protexida pola Lei 12/89 que regula o segredo estatístico para as administracións públicas, non podéndose tratar nin difundir máis que de forma numérica e agregada, garantindo, polo tanto, o completo anonimato das persoas entrevistadas.

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Joan Font Fábregas
Director do proxecto

Euskera

Izen/Abizenak Jaun/Andrea
Erakundea
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Azterketa Sozial Aurreratuen Institutua ikerketa zentro publiko bat da, Zientzia Ikerketa Kontseilu Gorenaren parte dena (IESA-CSIC). Institutu horrek Europako [EUComMeet](#) proiektuan parte hartzen du. Proiektu horren helburu nagusia ordezkaritzako demokrazia liberalen erronkei erantzun eraginkorra (edo ez) emateko biztanleriaren partaidetza eta eztabaida abiarazteko baldintzak aztertzea da. Proiektu hori Europako funtsen 3M-rekin finantzatu da eta 8 herrialdetako 9 ikerketa erakundek parte hartzen dute.

Proiektuko ikerketa jardueren artean Espainiako, Alemaniako, Frantziako, Irlandako, Italiako eta Poloniako eliteko politikariei zuzendutako inkesta bat egitea dago. Gaur egun, Espainiako ganbera nazional eta autonomikoei eta udaleko osoko bilkurei zuzendutako inkesta bat prestatzen ari gara. Abenduan hasiko da. Zurekin harremanetan jarri gara, [Ganberaren izena]-ren Burua zarelako. Aldez aurretik proiektu honen berri eman nahi dizugu, proiektu honetan Ganbera osatzen duten diputatuei mezu elektroniko bidez modu boluntarioan bete dezaketen inkesta bat bidaliko diegulako.

Era berean, zuk parte hartzea nahiko genuke eta baita zure legebiltzarreko kideak inkesta erantzutera bultzatzea. Proiektuaren emaitzek Europako demokraziaren funtzionamendua hobetzen lagunduko dutela pentsatzen dugu. Bildutako informazioa isilpean gordeko da eta soilik ikerketa honetarako erabiliko da. Era berean, informazioa 12/89 legeak babesten du. Lege horrek administrazio publikoen sekretu estatistikoa arautzen du, eta, ondorioz, informazioa soilik zenbaki eta gehigarri gisa zabal daiteke, elkarrizketatutako pertsonen anonimatua babestuz.

Proiektuari buruzko informazio gehiago behar izanez gero edo zalantzaren bat baduzu, Belén Llorente ikerlariarekin harremanetan jar zaitezke [bllorente@iesa.csic.es, Tel. 957438948].

Gurekin harremanetan jar zaitezke beste azalpenik behar izanez gero. Agur bero bat eta eskerrik asko aldez aurretik.

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Proiektuaren zuzendaria