

## APPENDIX A3

### POLITICAL PARTIES, ESS5 - 2010 ed. 4.1

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# Austria

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	German
Year of last election:	2008
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs (SPÖ) - Social Democratic Party of Austria - 29.26 %</li> <li>2. Österreichische Volkspartei (ÖVP) - Austrian People's Party - 25.98 %</li> <li>3. Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs (FPÖ) - Freedom Party of Austria - 17.54 %</li> <li>4. Bündnis Zukunft Österreich (BZÖ) - Alliance of the Future of Austria - 10.70 %</li> <li>5. Die Grünen - Die Grüne Alternative - The Green Alternative - 10.43 %</li> <li>6. Liberales Forum (LIF) - Liberal Forum - 2.09 %</li> <li>7. Kommunistische Partei Österreichs (KPÖ) - Communist Party of Austria - 0.76 %</li> <li>8. Team Stronach - Team Stronach</li> <li>9. Piratenpartei Österreichs - Pirate Party of Austria</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. SPÖ - The Social Democratic Party (centre-left, socialistic) - Founded in 1945. It is a successor of the original Social Democratic Party (founded in 1889), which was a driving force in the establishment of the First Austrian Republic in 1918. SPÖ has played a decisive role in Austrian politics in the post World War II era and except from the years between 1966-1970 and 2000-2007, the SPÖ held government responsibility alone or as part of a coalition. The recent party manifestos attempt to preserve a certain degree of ideological continuity (create a society free from classes), while taking into account new circumstances (e.g. the predominant position of the market economy, the individualization of society etc.). Since 2007 a grand coalition between the SPÖ and ÖVP is headed by a social democratic chancellor.</p> <p>2. ÖVP - The Austrian People's Party (centre-right, conservative) - The ÖVP is the successor of the Christian Social Party founded in 1893. When the ÖVP was founded in 1945 it sought to modernize and to loosen its ties to the Roman Catholic Church. The party represents a combination of conservative forces and various social and economic groups that form semi-independent federations within the overall party. The party advocates an ecologically orientated social market economy.</p> <p>3. The Freedom Party of Austria (centre-right, rightwing) was formed in 1955 as a successor to the League of Independents. It is sometimes referred to as the Liberal Party, and has its ideological roots in liberalism and nationalism. It is considered a populist right-wing party; progressive and anticollectivist in character. Party popularity grew rapidly under Jörg Haider's leadership (1986-2000) and again under Heinz-Christian Strache (since 2005). The party stands for moderate social reform and advocates the participation of workers in management, stricter immigration controls and deregulation in the business sector. The party criticizes and at least to a certain degree opposes Austria's membership of the EU. During its participation in government the party BZÖ seceded from the FPÖ.</p> <p>4. BZÖ - Alliance for the Future of Austria (centre-right, rightwing) was founded in 2005 by split from the FPÖ; proponent of social market economy, controlled immigration and protection of Austria's cultural identity. It entered the legislature in 2006.</p> <p>5. Grüne - Austrian Green Party (middle-left, ecological) was founded in 1986 and was the first party not to represent any of the traditional ideological camps. Campaigns for environmental protection, peace and social justice, the rights of minorities and socio-ecological tax reform.</p> <p>6. LIF - Liberal Forum (middle-right, liberal) emerged from the FPÖ in 1993 and had seats from 1993 to 1999 in the parliament. Since 1999 the LIF failed to gain seats at federal level. The LIF will contest the 2013 election in an electoral alliance with the new-formed liberal party NEOS.</p> <p>7. KPÖ - Communist Party of Austria (communist, left) was founded in 1945; despite a strong performance immediately after 1945, the KPÖ lost its influence and fell to a share well beyond the minimal share of 4% which is required for qualifying for a member of parties within the National Assembly.</p> <p>8. Team Stronach (middle-right, liberal) was founded in 2012 by the Austro-Canadian businessman Frank Stronach and will contest at the 2013 elections.</p> <p>9. The Pirate Party of Austria (left, liberal) was founded 2006 and is part of the global Pirate Party movement which fights for freedom of information and the protection of privacy.</p>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>All of the 183 members (until 1971 165 members) of the National Council ("Nationalrat") are elected by nation-wide popular vote for a term of five years (until 2008 for four years), i.e. general elections. The voting system aims at party-list proportional representation, uses partially open lists, and is relatively straightforward. In case of general elections, Austria is divided into nine regional electoral districts corresponding to the nine states of Austria. The nine regional electoral districts are subdivided into a total of 43 local electoral districts (since 2008 39 local electoral districts). Political parties submit separate ranked lists of candidates for each district, regional, local, or federal-level, in which they have chosen to run. An election threshold of 4% is in effect. Elections at the European, federal, states, and local levels are hardly staggered. As a result, electoral campaigns are always under way, and each election is viewed, at least to a certain degree by the press, as a test of the federal government's popularity and</p>

	the strength of the opposition. All elections are held on Sunday.
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# Belgium

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Dutch and French
Year of last election:	The national/federal elections for the 'Kamer/Chambre' held on June 13th, 2010
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Groen! - Green! (flemish) - 4.38%</li> <li>2. CD&amp;V (Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams) - Flemish Christian Democrats (flemish) - 10.85%</li> <li>3. N-VA (Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie) - New-Flemish Alliance (flemish) - 17.40%</li> <li>4. Lijst Dedecker - List Dedecker (flemish) - 2.31%</li> <li>5. SP.A (Socialistische Partij Anders) - Socialist Party (flemish) - 9.24%</li> <li>6. PVDA+ (Partij van de Arbeid) - Labour Party (flemish) - 0.81%</li> <li>7. Vlaams Belang - Flemish Interest (flemish) - 7.76%</li> <li>8. Open VLD (Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten) - Open Flemish Liberals and Democrats (flemish) - 8.64%</li> <li>9. CDH (Centre Démocrate Humaniste) - Humanistic and Democratic centre (french) - 5.52</li> <li>10. Ecolo - Ecologists (french) - 4.80%</li> <li>11. Front National - National Front (french) - 0.51%</li> <li>12. MR (Mouvement Réformateur) - Reformist Movement (liberal french) - 9.28%</li> <li>13. PS (Parti Socialiste) - Socialist Party (french) - 13.70%</li> <li>14. PTB (Parti du Travail de Belgique) - Labour Party (french) - 0.60%</li> <li>15. Parti Populaire - People's Party - 1.29%</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. Groen! (left): Flemish progressive and ecologist party. Changed its name to Groen! in 2003 (before the party was called Agalev). The party was established in 1981 and grew little over the following years. Groen! first joined a Liberal-Socialist government coalition from 1999 until 2004. It works closely together with its Francophone counterpart Ecolo. During the fieldwork period the party is participating in the government negotiations and on state reform.</p> <p>2. CD&amp;V (center) Flemish Christian democratic party that changed its name to CD&amp;V in 2001 (before the party was called CVP). One of the three traditional political movements in Belgium (liberals, socialists and Christian democrats) and had a huge influence on politics after the Second World War (the party was almost always part of the government coalition). This electoral stability lasted until 1999 when CVP lost the elections and the liberals, socialists and greens forged a new government. The party wanted to rejuvenate and in 2004 they went to the regional elections in a cartel with the much smaller but very Flemish nationalistic party N-VA. They won and formed a Flemish government. In 2007 CD&amp;V-N-VA also won the federal elections in which the Flemish-French relations and state reform stood central. Leader Yves Leterme got almost 800.000 preference votes, a record. After three attempts and lengthy negotiations, Leterme I finally started but on September 23, 2008 the cartel with N-VA ceased to exist. For the Flemish nationalists, the cartel did not succeed in its election promises which included state reform. This has led to disagreement between the former cartel partners. At the federal elections of 2010 CD&amp;V has got the lowest score ever, while the former cartel partner N-VA became the biggest party in Belgium. During the fieldwork period the party is participating in the government negotiations and on state reform.</p> <p>3. N-VA (right) Flemish-nationalistic, conservative, republican: the Flemish-nationalistic political party arose in 2001 from the disagreements within the Volksunie (also Flemish nationalists) on further constitutional reforms. In the 2003 federal elections the party flirted with the electoral threshold of 5%. In 2004 the party formed a cartel with CD&amp;V and together they won the regional elections in 2004 and federal elections in 2007. On September 23, 2008 the cartel with CD&amp;V ceased to exist. The Flemish nationalists were not happy about the slow way it was going with an agreement on state reform. At the federal elections of 2010 - where the communautarian relations stood central - N-VA became the biggest Flemish party. During the fieldwork period the party is participating in the government negotiations and on state reform.</p> <p>4. Lijst Dedecker (right) Flemish right-liberal, republican, neoliberal, libertarian political party founded in 2007 by former Open VLD senator Jean-Marie Dedecker. At the federal elections in the same year they achieved a score of 6,5% (5 seats in parliament). But there was disagreement within the party and at the federal elections of 2010 the party lost heavily. Jean-Marie Dedecker offered his resignation as chairman and the name was changed to LDD. Does not participate in the government negotiations and on state reform.</p> <p>5. SP.A (left) Flemish social democratic party and one of three traditional movements in Belgium. 1885-1940: Belgian workers party &gt; 1940-1978: Belgian socialistic party &gt; 1978-2001: like all other traditional parties in the 70s, in 1978 the BSP split up into two independent parties: the French wing (PS Parti Socialiste) and the Flemish wing (SP Socialistische Partij). After some scandals in the '90s - which led to an electoral downfall - it was time for renewal and a generational change. Under the presidency of Patrick Janssens the party changed its name to the current SP.a (Socialistische Partij Anders). His successor Steve Stevaert continued this renovation and expansion. The presidency of Stevaert was distinguished by very strong electoral scores in the federal elections of 2003 and regional elections of 2004 with the cartel SP.a - Spirit. The party was part of the governing coalition. In 2005 Stevaert became provincial governor of Limburg and was succeeded by Johan Vande Lanotte but at the federal elections of 2007 the party lost 9 seats in the Chamber. Vande Lanotte resigned, Caroline Genez became the new president of the party and SP.a went into opposition. At the regional elections in 2009 SP.a became the third largest party and got 19 seats in the Flemish parliament. Kris Peeters (CD&amp;V) formed a coalition government with CD&amp;V, NV-A and SP.a in July 2009. At the federal elections of 2010 SP.a became again the third party in Flanders and together with the French PS they form the biggest political family in parliament. During the fieldwork period the party is participating in the government negotiations and on state reform.</p> <p>6. PVDA+ (extreme left) marxist-leninst, unitarian political party that was formed in 1979. Together with Francophone PTB it's the one of the two national organized bilingual parties. From 1979 onwards, they never won any seats in the federal parliament. Their highest electoral score for the Chamber was 0,82% (in 2010). In some municipalities - especially in cities like Antwerp, Liège, Seraing - PVDA+/PTB traditionally achieve some good scores. Does not participate in the government negotiations and on state reform.</p>

7. Vlaams Belang (extreme right) Flemish nationalistic, rightwing conservative political party and is known for their pursuit for an independent Flanders, its opposition to immigrants who - according to VB - are reluctant against integration or assimilation to Western standards, the defense of traditional values and opposition to the alleged advance of political Islam and Islamic fundamentalism in Europe. Many consider the party as far/extreme right. Vlaams Belang is the successor of Vlaams Blok (it had to change its name in 2004 after it was accused of racism in its publications). In 1978 Vlaams Blok went to the elections for the first time. The other Flemish nationalistic party Volksunie was considered as not radical enough. In the '80s the party had a slight rise in the successive elections. In 1989 all other political parties came to an agreement under which any rapprochement with Vlaams Blok is undesirable at every political level. This so called 'cordon sanitaire' is an action that should prevent the party to acquire a policy function in one way or another. The cordon could not stop the rise of the party and Vlaams Blok grew steadily in the '90s. At the elections of 24 November 1991 the party achieved a tremendous progress. VB tripled its number of votes compared to 1987 and got 12 seats in the Chamber. All other parties lost the election. This was called 'Black Sunday'. At the Flemish elections of 2004 VB peaked and got 24% of the votes. It became the largest political party in Flanders. At the federal election of 2007 the party stagnated but at the regional elections of 2009 they lost one third of all votes. This was the first major electoral defeat in its history. A second electoral defeat at the federal elections of 2010 confirmed the general decline of the party. During the fieldwork period the party is participating in the government negotiations and on state reform.

8. Open VLD (center right) Flemish, progressive liberal political party and is a descendant of the first political party family in Belgium, the Liberal Party (1846). In 1972 the unitary party split up into a separate Flemish and French wing. The Flemish wing was called PVV. Between 1986 and 1988 they joined the governing coalition. Driven by Guy Verhofstadt the name of the party was changed to VLD in 1992 so they hoped to get rid of the anti-Flemish image of the party. After the Dioxin crisis in 1999, the VLD achieved a good score and became the biggest party in Flanders. Guy Verhofstadt became prime minister of the federal government, Patrick Dewael from the Flemish government (both in purple-green coalitions). After the federal elections of 2003 VLD won again and Verhofstadt formed another government (but this time without the green parties). Leading up to the regional elections of 2004, the VLD was characterized by heavy clashes between figures at the top of the party. In 2003 the party also abstained to vote on a bill granting foreigners to vote, although it was always said that the party opposed it. All this resulted in a very bad result in the Flemish elections in 2004. Also at the municipal and provincial elections of 2006 the party lost heavily. For the federal elections of 2007 the party changed his name to Open VLD but they lost and the initiative to form a government went to the Christian-democrats again. The regional elections of 2009 brought about a major defeat for the Open VLD. The party achieved a score of 14.6%, a decrease of 5.2% in comparison to 2004. Chairman Bart Somers resigned. On April 26, 2010 Open VLD left the federal governing coalition of Leterme II because the party saw no way out of the negotiations on the split of BHV and the reform of the state. New federal elections were necessary and on June 13, 2010 the party lost five seats in the Chamber to 13. Initially the party was not participating in the government negotiations and on state reform. On the 3rd of February the party joined the talks.

9. CDH (center left) is a French Christian-democratic and humanistic party and was given its name in 2002 (before PSC - Parti social chrétien) and has the same political roots as its Flemish counterpart CD&V (split in 1972). The party faced a crisis at the elections in 1999 due to two external events: the Dutroux affair and the dioxin crisis. PSC went into opposition at all levels of government and Joëlle Milquet became the new president of the party. Under her presidency PSC changed to CDH. At the federal elections of 2003 the party does not progress and remains in the opposition. But at the regional elections of 2004 CDH wins which enabled it to return to power in the Walloon Region, French Community and the Brussels-Capital, in coalition with the PS and Ecolo in Brussels-Capital. In 2007 the party won 5 seats in the Federal Parliament and CDH participated to the government of Leterme I after a long negotiation process. During the fieldwork period the party is participating in the government negotiations and on state reform.

10. Ecolo (left) - Ecologistes Confédérés pour l'Organisation de Luttes Originales - is a French ecologist party, a sister of the Flemish Groen! and has been a small and insignificant party until the elections of 1999. It achieved a score of 18% of the votes in Wallonia and 14% in Brussels-Capital and joined the federal government coalition under Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt. In the following years Ecolo had conflict with other government parties, including the norms on the amount of noise of nocturnal flights from Zaventem Airport over the city of Brussels. Ecolo lost the elections in 2004 and fell below 10% and went into opposition during Verhofstadt's second term from 2003 to 2007. At the federal elections in 2007 Ecolo won again and doubled its representation in parliament but didn't join the government coalition because their Flemish sister party was still too weak. Groen! and Ecolo formed a common parliamentary fraction. Ecolo again made a great leap forward in the regional elections in 2009. In the Walloon Regional Parliament it jumped from 3 to 14 seats. In Brussels from 7 to 16 seats. In Brussels, the Walloon Region and the French Community Ecolo joined the government coalition together with PS and CDH. In 2010 Ecolo could consolidate its 2007 federal result. During the fieldwork period the party is participating in the government negotiations and on state reform.

11. Front National (extreme right) is a French far-right political party and is an advocate for a unitary Belgian nationalism and is strongly against immigration. Founded in 1985 by Daniel Féret. In comparison to the Flemish far right party Vlaams Belang, FN always remained a fairly insignificant party except for some municipalities. In 1991 the party got his first seat in the Chamber. Two seats in 1995. At the regional elections in 1995 FN also won 2 seats in the Walloon parliament and 6 in the Brussels-Capital parliament. There was a general decline at the federal and regional elections in 1999. In 2003 (federal) and 2004 (regional) the voting rate for the party rises again but not significantly. From then onwards it goes up and down again. The party is known for its internal problems and racist scandals. Does not participate in the government negotiations and on state reform.

12. MR (right, center right) is a French liberal party and was formed in 2002 by the merging of four existing parties. PRL (Parti Réformateur Libéral), the Francophone liberals and counterpart of the Flemish VLD. FDF (Front Démocratique des Francophones) a party which strongly defends the Francophone interests in the Brussels region. MCC (Mouvement des Citoyens pour le Changement) a movement torn from the PSC (now CDH) and PFF (Partei für Freiheit und Fortschritt), the sister party of PRL in the Germanophone region. At the federal elections of 2003 MR won 24 seats in the Chamber and went to join the government coalition under Prime

	<p>Minister Guy Verhofstadt. After a tax scandal by Brussels Minister-President Ducarme MR experienced a loss at the regional elections in 2004 and was rejected into opposition at the coalitions for the Walloon region, the French community and the Brussels-capital region. But MR continues to participate in the federal government. There is a rivalry between MR and PS to be the biggest party in the french regions. Initially the party was not participating in the government negotiations and on state reform. On the 3rd of February the party joined the talks.</p> <p>13. PS (left) is a French social-democratic political party. It's Flemish counterpart is SP.a. Since the 2010 elections it is the second largest party in the Chamber and the largest Francophone party. The PS is very commonly part of governing coalitions especially in the Francophone areas. Since 1999 the party was always part of the government coalition in the French Community, the Walloon Government, Brussels-Capital region and the German-speaking Community. The party, or its members, have from time to time been brought into connection with criminal activities and political scandals. During the fieldwork period the party is participating in the government negotiations and on state reform.</p> <p>14. PTB (extreme left) is the Francophone wing of PDVA+ (see above)</p> <p>15. Parti Populaire (right) is a right wing liberal political party with a bilingual/federal structure (in Dutch 'Personenpartij') - but in fact primarily a Francophone party - which was formed in November 2009. The party manifesto emphasizes efficiency and disinterestedness in governance, plain speaking and individual autonomy. PP wants to reform the justice system and strengthen the Belgian federal government relative to the regions and communities. At the federal elections in 2010 PP received 1.29% of the total votes and has one representative in the Chamber. Does not participate in the government negotiations and on state reform</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	The primary legislative assembly at the national level is the Chamber (English) / Kamer (Dutch) / Chambre (French) of Representatives and is the most important 'house' of the Federal Parliament next to the Senate. The elections for this assembly are based on a system of open list proportional representation. Elections for the Chamber are held every 4 years. To obtain a representative distribution, the Chamber is composed of candidates from 11 constituencies. Besides Flemish-Brabant the boundaries for the constituencies are similar to those of the provinces. Only Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde and Leuven are separate constituencies. Citizens have to be 18 years old to vote. Belgium is one of the few countries where voting is compulsory.

# Bulgaria

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Bulgarian
Year of last election:	2009
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Balgarska Socialisticheska Partija (BSP) - Bulgarian Socialist Party</li> <li>2. Grazhdani za Evropeysko Razvitiye na Balgariya (GERB) - Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (CEDB)</li> <li>3. Partija Ataka - Party "Attack"</li> <li>4. Natsionalno Dvizhenie za Stabilnost i Vazhod (NDSV) - National Movement for Stability and Progress (NMSS)</li> <li>5. Dvizhenie za Prava i Svobodi (DPS) - Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF)</li> <li>6. Demokrati za Silna Balgariya (DSB) - Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria (DSB)</li> <li>7. Grajdansko dvejenie ABV - Civil Movement Alternative for Bulgarian renaissance (ABR)</li> <li>8. Sayuz na Demokratichnite Sili (SDS) - Union of Democratic Forces (UDF)</li> <li>9. Sayuz na Svobodnite Demokrati (SSD) - Union of Free Democrats (UFD)</li> <li>10. Vatreshna Makedonska Revolyucionna Organizatsiya VMRO - Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation</li> <li>11. Red, Zakonnost, Spravedlivost . RZS - Order, Law and Justice</li> <li>12. Politichesko dvijenieg Evroroma - Political movement Euroroma</li> <li>13. Partia Roma - Roma Party</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. Bulgarian Socialist Party (left) is the successor to the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party (BSP) that governed Bulgaria in the totalitarian period (1944 – 1989 r.). It is one of the parties in the Triple coalition (BSP, MRF and NMSS) that governed Bulgaria June 2005 – June 2009. In the Bulgarian parliamentary election (05.07.2009) as part of "Coalition for Bulgaria", the coalition won 17.7 % of the popular vote. BSP is a member of PES.</p> <p>2. Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (GERB/CEDB) is a Bulgarian centre-right political party established in 2006-12-03. GERB is formally headed by Tsvetan Tsvetanov, former deputy mayor of Sofia, but the party's actual leader is the mayor of Sofia, Boyko Borisov. It is a Christian democratic-centre party. It joined the EPP on 7 February 2008. In the Bulgarian parliamentary election (05.07.2009) it is a first political party with 39,7 % of the popular vote.</p> <p>3. Party "Attack" - Volen Siderov determines its own status as patriotic and nationalist political party. It is registered in 2005. Some people define it as antipode of MRF. "Attack" has two European Parliament seats. In the Bulgarian parliamentary election (05.07.2009), party "Attack" won 9.36% of the popular vote and is forth political party in Bulgarian Parliament.</p> <p>4. National Movement for Stability and Progress is a political party in Bulgaria, the vehicle of Simeon Borisov Saksoburggotski, the deposed Tsar of Bulgaria and former Prime Minister. It was founded in 2000 by Stoyan Ganev, former president of The Forty-Seventh Session Of The General Assembly in The United Nations. The movement won 42.7% of the popular vote and 120 out of 240 seats in the 2001 elections. It formed a coalition government with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms. It has developed into a liberal party which became a full member of the Liberal International at its Sofia Congress in May 2005. At the legislative elections on June 25, 2005, it received 21.83% of the popular vote and 53 out of 240 seats, a significant decrease. NMSS is a liberal conservative political party established by ex-monarch of Bulgaria - Simeon II in 2001 as a party called "National Movement Simeon II". It governed Bulgaria in coalition with MRF in the period 2001-2005 and with MRF and BSP in the period 2005-2009. It is a member of Liberal International (LI). In the Bulgarian parliamentary election (05.07.2009), the popular vote for NMSS was less than 4 % and the party remained out of Bulgarian Parliament.</p> <p>5. The Movement for Rights and Freedoms is a centrist political party in Bulgaria, based mainly but not only on Turkish minority. The MRF is a member of the Liberal International and considers itself a liberal party, probably like the Swedish People's Party, the party of the Swedish-speaking minority of Finland. Started out as an underground organization in the 1980s as a response to Todor Zhivkov's policy of Bulgarization of the Turkish minority in the country. Since 1990, an officially recognized political party. It has been chaired by Ahmed Doğan since its official establishment in 1990. In had been a part of the running coalitions for 8 years (2001 to 2009). It is member of European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party. According to the vote (14,5 %) that MFF won in Bulgarian parliamentary election (05.07.2009) it is the third party.</p> <p>6. The Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria is a right political party in Bulgaria established by former Bulgarian Prime Minister Ivan Kostov (1997-2001). The motto of the party is "For a Strong Bulgaria in Unified Europe". The DSB define themselves as a moderately conservative party. They regard themselves as successors of the ruling mandate of the United Democratic Forces (1997-2001) and promise to stand up for its achievements and build on them. The party stands for a new structure, composition and organization of the constitutional powers in Bulgaria through the adoption of a new Constitution. Kostov and the DSB are outspoken opponents of the Bulgarian Socialist Party whom they regard as the heir to the totalitarian Bulgarian Communist Party and define them as their main political enemy. They have also often criticized ex-Prime Minister Simeon Saksoburggotski (2001 – 2005) for allying himself with the socialists and who is accused, very much like Kostov was, of corruption. Right conservative party, established on 2004 of group that separated from The Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) led by the ex-Prime Minister of Bulgaria - Ivan Kostov. DSB is a member of the European People's Party (EPP).</p> <p>7. The Civil Movement Alternative for Bulgarian renaissance (ABR is a civil organization, initiated by the President of the country George Parvanov at 11.11.2010 r. Its idea is to involve people from all social groups in order to contribute coping with economic and social issues of the Bulgarian society.</p>

	<p>8. The Union of Democratic Forces is a right political party in Bulgaria, founded in December 1989, as a union of eleven political organizations in opposition to the Communist government. The following year, six more parties were incorporated. In February 1997, the Union was transformed into a single unified party, the United Democratic Forces, by then-chairman and Prime Minister-to-be Ivan Kostov. The UDF is a member of the European People's Party. The UDF is currently chaired by Petar Stoyanov, former president of the country. Meanwhile, Kostov, the former Prime Minister and UDF party leader went on to form his own party - Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria. At the last legislative elections, 25 June 2005, the United Democratic Forces won 8.4% of the popular vote and 20 out of 240 seats. UNF is a member of the National party of Europe (NPE). In the Bulgarian parliamentary election (05.07.2009) UDF won 6.76 % of the popular vote as a part of "The Blue coalition" together with DSB and BAPU-PU (Anastasya Mozer). The coalition is the fifth party in Bulgarian Parliament.</p> <p>9. The Union of Free Democrats is a right conservative political party in Bulgaria, led by Stefan Sofiyanski- the ex-mayor of Sofia City. It contested the 2001 elections as part of the United Democratic Forces electoral alliance, which picked up 51 of 240 seats. It is nowadays part of the Bulgarian People's Union, that at the last legislative elections, 25 June 2005, 5.7 % of the popular vote and 13 out of 240 seats. UFD participated in the last Bulgarian parliamentary election (05.07.2009) in coalition with Order, law and Justice – Yani Yanev.</p> <p>10. IMRO – Bulgarian National Movement is a nationalist party that is a successor of a party with the same name, established in 1893. IMRO confesses the ideas of the national democracy. In the Bulgarian parliamentary election (05.07.2009), it is out of Bulgarian Parliament.</p> <p>11. Order, Law and Justice is a conservative political party in Bulgaria. The party was founded in the end of 2005 and states its main goal is fighting corruption. It is led by Yane Yanev. It won 4.13 % of the popular vote in the last Bulgarian parliamentary election (05.07.2009) and is the sixth party in the Bulgarian Parliament.</p> <p>12. Euroroma is the biggest political party engaged with the problems of the Romain Bulgaria. Established on 12 December 1998, Euroroma is not strictly an ethnic party, as it is open for everybody who shares its ideas and goals. In accord with the stability pact, over 30% of the leadership of the political party are ethnic Bulgarians. Similarly, members of Euroroma 's municipal and regional structures are not only people with Roma, but also Bulgarians and Turks.</p> <p>13. Roma Party – Its first registration made at 20.04.2001, was Civil Alliance Roma. In the same 2001 the Party took part in the general elections as a member of the left wing "Coalition for Bulgaria". Latter on it was renamed to Political party for European security and integrationq and now – to Roma Party.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No

# Croatia

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Croatian
Year of last election:	2007 (2011 national election was after the fieldwork)
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hrvatska demokratska zajednica (HDZ) - Croatian Democratic Union - 37 %</li> <li>2. Socijaldemokratska partija Hrvatske (SDP) - Social Democratic Party of Croatsians - 31 %</li> <li>3. Hrvatska narodna stranka - Liberalni demokrati (HNS) - Croatian People's Party - Liberal Democrats - 7%</li> <li>4. Hrvatska seljačka stranka (HSS) - Croatian Peasant Party - 4 %</li> <li>5. Hrvatsko socijalno-liberalna stranka (HSLs) - Croatian Social Liberal Party - 2 %</li> <li>6. Istarski demokratski sabor (IDS) - The Istrian Democratic Assembly 1 %</li> <li>7. Hrvatski demokratski savez Slavonije i Baranje (HDSSB) - Croatian Democratic Assembly of Slavonija i Baranja - 2 %</li> <li>8. Samostalna demokratska Srpska stranka (SDSS) - The Independent Democratic Serbian Party - 1 %</li> <li>9. Hrvatska stranka prava (HSP) - The Croatian Party of Right - 4 %</li> <li>10. Hrvatska stranka umirovljenika (HSU) - The Croatian Party of Pensioners - 4 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Croatian Democratic Union is the main center-right political party in Croatia. It is currently the second-largest party in the Croatian Parliament with 44 seats. Votes in the last national election (December 2011)= 23.5%. The Christian democratic HDZ governed Croatia from 1990 to 2000 and, in coalition, from 2003 to 2011. The party is an associate member of the European People's Party (EPP). 23.5).</li> <li>2. Social Democratic Party of Croatia is the largest centre-left political party in Croatia. It is the senior partner in the Kukuriku coalition. In the most recent 2011 election SDP won 61 (one of them was elected as an independent, but sits in the SDP parliamentary club) out of 151 seats in the Parliament of Croatia which makes it the biggest party in the parliament.</li> <li>3. The Croatian People's Party – Liberal Democrats is a center-left liberal party in Croatia. HNS currently forms a parliamentary club with 15[1] members in Croatian Parliament, 14 elected in regular districts and one representative elected on a national minority list, therefore are the third largest political party in Croatia. The party is an observing member of the Liberal International and a full member of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party.</li> <li>4. The Croatian Peasant Party (Croatian: Hrvatska seljačka stranka, HSS) is a center and socially conservative political party in Croatia.</li> <li>5. Croatian Social Liberal Party is a conservative liberal political party in Croatia. The party is a member of Liberal International and the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party.</li> <li>6. Istrian Democratic Assembly is a regional left-wing political party in Istria County of Croatia, it is a member of Kukuriku coalition.</li> <li>7. Croatian Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja is a regionalist and right wing populist political party in Croatian region of Slavonia.</li> <li>8. The SDSS is a democratic party of liberal and social democratic orientation of Serbs national minority.</li> <li>9. The Croatian Party of Right is a right-wing political party in Croatia, currently is a extra-parliamentary party.</li> <li>10. The Croatian Party of Pensioners is a single-issue Croatian political party (pensioner's rights). Currently is member of ruling Kukuricu coalition (3 seats).</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Population: 4,493,312 (July 2007 )</li> <li>•Registered Voters: 3,824,731 (November 2007 )</li> <li>•In the Croatian Parliament (Hrvatski Sabor) 152 members are elected by party-list system with proportional distribution of seats to serve 4-year terms. The Assembly is composed of 100-160 members, with 8 seats reserved for minorities and 5 seats reserved for expatriates. Party lists are closed and parties must meet a 5% threshold to win a seat.</li> <li>Voter requirements: age 18 years, Croatian citizenship.</li> <li>Ten constituencies are defined on the basis of existing county borders, with necessary amendments to achieve a uniform number of eligible voters in each constituency (within five percent). The eleventh constituency is for citizens of Croatia living abroad; the number of seats held by this constituency at 2007 national election was calculated based on the ratio between the number of votes cast in the ten Croatian constituencies and the number of votes cast in the 11th constituency.</li> <li>An additional members of the parliament are elected by voters belonging to 22 recognized minorities in Croatia.</li> <li>The standard d'Hondt formula is applied to the vote.</li> </ul>

# Cyprus

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	1. AKEL Progressive Party of Working People - 32,67 % 2. DIKO Democratic Party - 15,76 % 3. DISY Democratic Rally - 34,28 % 4. EVROKO European Party - 3,88 % 5. INHMA PERIVALLONTISTON Green Party - 2,21 % 6. ENOMENOI DHMOKRATES United Democrats - 0 % 7. KS EDEK Socialist Party - 8,93 %
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. AKEL was founded in 1926 with the name Communist Party of Cyprus (CPC). The party became illegal in 1931 when the British colonial government imposed restrictions on civil rights following a nationalist riot. In 1941, leading members of the underground communist party and others founded AKEL. At the legislative elections on 27 May 2001, the party won 34.7% of the popular vote and 20 out of 56 seats. After this election, AKEL's General Secretary, was elected as President of the House of Representatives and until 2006, for first time in the History of Republic of Cyprus. It is a member of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left in the European Parliament and it is considered as moderately eurosceptic. In the 2004 European election, AKEL elected 2 members. AKEL remained the largest political party on the island in the 2006 Cypriot legislative elections, however the party lost two seats in the parliament winning 18 seats with 31.31% of the votes. In the second round presidential election held on 24 February 2008, General Secretary of AKEL was elected President of the Republic of Cyprus. On 22 May 2011, the Cypriot legislative election took place. AKEL gained 32.67% of the votes and elected 19 out of the 56 members of parliament.</p> <p>2. The Democratic Party is a centrist political party in Cyprus, founded in 1976 by Spyros Kyprianou. As it is reported in its founding statement (manifesto), the Democratic Party proposes to the Cypriot society the political philosophy of "social centrism", which constitutes "a total of attributes and values that offer in the state social cohesion, political prospect, improvement of terms of life and development of human culture, that should be shared between the entire population and not only between the privileged teams of the population". From 2000 until 2006, the party was led by Tassos Papadopoulos, who was President of Cyprus. It was the third-largest party in Parliament, with 9 of 56 seats. In the elections of 21 May 2006, the party won 17.9% and 11 out of 56 seats. Papadopoulos was defeated in his bid for re-election in the February 2008 presidential election, placing third in the first round. It is a member of the European Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats.</p> <p>3. DHSY is a liberal conservative party. The party was founded on 4 July 1976 by veteran politician Glafkos Klerides. Clerides served as Cyprus president from 1993 until 2003. DISY is a member of the European People's Party (EPP). In the 2004 European Parliamentary Election it gained the 28.2% of the vote, and elected 2 MEPs who joined the EPP-ED Group. In the elections of 21 May 2006, the party won 30.52% and 18 out of 56 seats. In the elections of 22 May 2011, the party won 34.27% and 20 out of 56 seats.</p> <p>4. EVROKO is a right populist party which adopts conservative policies. The European Party was founded in 2005, largely out of the parties New Horizons and European Democracy. It is a member of the European Democratic Party. In the elections of 21 May 2006, the party won 5.8 % and 3 out of 56 seats. In the elections of 22 May 2011, the party won 3.88% and 2 out of 56 seats.</p> <p>5. The Ecological and Environmental Movement also rendered as Cyprus Green Party, is a green political party in Cyprus. It is affiliated with the European Green party. At the legislative elections, 27 May 2001, the party won 2.0% of the popular vote and 1 out of 56 seats. In the elections of 21 May 2006, the party won 2.0% and 1 out of 56 seats. In the elections of 22 May 2011, the party won 2.21% and 1 out of 56 seats.</p> <p>6. The United Democrats is a liberal political party in Cyprus. The party was founded by former President of Cyprus George Vasiliou in 1993 as "Kinima Eleftheron Dimokraton" (Movement of free democrats). The party later merged with ADISOK (a group of ex- AKEL members) to form United Democrats. The party is a member of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party. In the 2011 Legislative Elections, the United Democrats decided to support the governing party, AKEL. In August 2011, President Christofias has appointed United Democrats party leader as Minister for the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus.</p> <p>7. The Movement for Social Democracy EDEK is a Social Democratic party in Cyprus. It was originally founded by Dr Vasos Lyssaridis in 1969 as the United Democratic Union of Centre, EDEK and it was a socialist party. It has gradually evolved into a social-democratic political party. In the 2001 general elections it won 6.5% of the votes and 4 of the 56 seats in the House of Representatives of Cyprus. In the elections of 21 May 2006, the party won 8.9 % and 5 out of 56 seats. It is a member of the Party of European Socialists. Several members of the party's youth section (EDEN) with Trotskyist tendencies were expelled between 1979 and 1984 and formed Aristeri Pteryga (Left Wing). EDEK backed Dimitris Christofias of AKEL in the second round of the February 2008 presidential election. In February 2010 EDEK quit from the government coalition due to its dispute concerning the Cyprus Problem.</p>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes

Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>Cyprus is a Presidential republic. The head of state and of the government is elected by a process of Universal suffrage for a five-year term. Executive power is exercised by the government with legislative power vested in the House of Representatives. The 1960 Constitution provided for a presidential system of government with independent executive, legislative and judicial branches. The House of Representatives currently has 56 members elected for a five year term, 56 members by proportional representation from six districts: Nicosia, Famagusta, Kyrenia, Larnaca, Limassol and Paphos. The current parliament was elected in May 2011 for a five year term.</p>

# Czechia

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Czech
Year of last election:	2010
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Česká strana sociálně demokratická (CSSD) - Czech Social Democratic Party - 22,1 %</li> <li>2. Občanská demokratická strana (ODS) - Civic Democratic Party - 20,2 %</li> <li>3. TOP 09 (Tradice Odpovednost Prosperita 09) - TOP 09 (Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09) - 16,7 %</li> <li>4. Komunistická strana Čech a Moravy (KSČM) - Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia - 11,3 %</li> <li>5. Veci veřejné (VV) - Public Affairs - 10,9 %</li> <li>6. Křesťanská a demokratická unie-Ceskoslovenská strana lidová (KDU-ČSL) - Christian and Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party - 4,4 %</li> <li>7. Strana zelených - Green party - 2,5 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD) is a major center-left party. Political ideology: social democracy, democratic socialism, economy: Keynesianism. European Parliament political group: Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament. Founded in 1993 by Miloš Zeman as a part of Czechoslovak Social Democracy party, which took its place in the Czechoslovakia before its split. After the 2010 parliamentary elections ČSSD obtained 22.1 % of the votes and 56 of 200 seats. Jiří Paroubek resigned his position as party leader. The current chairman of the party is Bohuslav Sobotka.</li> <li>2. The Civic Democratic Party (ODS) is the largest right-wing political party in the Czech Republic. Its ideology is mainly neoconservative, neoliberal and eurosceptic. European Parliament political group: European Conservative and Reformist Group. The party was founded in 1991, after the Civic Forum split, by Václav Klaus (today's President), who led the party till 2002. In the 2010 elections to the Chamber of Deputies ODS received 20.2 % of the vote and 53 of 200 seats and formed new government together with TOP 09 and Public Affairs. Petr Nečas, the chairman of ODS, became the prime minister.</li> <li>3. TOP 09 (Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09) is a centre - right party. Its ideology is conservative, neoliberal and rather eurooptimist. European Parliament political group: European People's Party. The party was established shortly before the 2010 parliamentary elections, in 2009, by Miroslav Kalousek, Minister of Finance in the Topolánek government, who left the KDU-ČSL. The party leader became the popular political figure Karel Schwarzenberg, Topolánek's Foreign Minister. The party quickly became a viable contender in the polls. In the elections to the Chamber of Deputies in 2010 the party won 16.7% of the total vote share and thus 41 of 200 seats and formed a new government together with ODS and Public Affairs.</li> <li>4. The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM) is extreme-left party. Party ideology: Communism. It's sometimes considered as an anti-system party. It has so far never been part of any government coalition since the advent of democracy to the Czech Republic. European Parliament political group: Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left. It was formed in 1989 by the Congress of the past Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. In the 2010 Chamber of Deputies elections KSČM received 11.27 % of votes and 26 seats. Party chairman is Vojtěch Filip.</li> <li>5. Public Affairs is a centre, slightly populist party. Its ideology is mainly direct democracy. The party was established in 2001 as a Prague municipal party fighting to address issues concerning the capital's residents. The party expanded to local politics across the country and by 2006 it had become the second strongest party in municipal-level government. The selection of Radek John, former journalist for TV NOVA, as the party's leader in June 2009, marked the beginning of the change from a local to national party. In the run-up to the expected October 2009 elections, the party was polling only around 1% support and it wasn't until February 2010, according to opinion polls, that support crossed the 5% threshold. Public Affairs won 10.9 % of the votes on its anti-corruption campaign, and thus 24 of 200 seats in parliament. Public Affairs is a member of government coalition.</li> <li>6. The Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-ČSL) is a medium sized centre-right wing party. Party ideology: social conservatism, christian democratism, regionalism. European Parliament political group: European People's Party. Czechoslovak People's Party (ČSL) was originally created in January 1919, reuniting other Catholic parties. After the Velvet Revolution in 1989 ČSL attempted to shed its compromised figures and policies of the past: this included a change of name in 1992 after the merger with the Christian Democratic Union movement. KDU-ČSL has relatively low but stable support of voters (6-10%). It is strongest in the traditionally Catholic rural areas in Moravia. In the 2010 Chamber of Deputies elections KDU-ČSL got only 4.4 % of votes and thus narrowly missed securing parliamentary seats. This downfall can be attributed to internal party conflicts, which led the former party leader Kalousek and some of his colleagues to break away and establish the TOP 09. Chairman of the party: Jiří Bělobrádek.</li> <li>7. The Green Party (SZ) is a centre – right wing party, which focuses mainly on environmental topics. Political ideology: centrism, social liberalism, environmentalism. It's sometimes seen as new „fresh air“ party in Czech Republic. Its support is concentrated mostly among young people in large cities. European affiliation: European Green Party. The Green Party was founded in February 1990 but for a long time it struggled to obtain significant influence in Czech politics. The 2006 election to the Chamber of Deputies was the first in which a Green party in post-communist Europe won seats in the Parliament receiving 6.3 % of vote and thus six seats in the Chamber of Deputies. The Green Party was part of the governing coalition, together with the Civic Democrats (ODS) and the Christian Democrats (KDU-ČSL) from January 2007 to March 2009. The 2010 parliamentary elections meant a loss for the Green party, which received only 2.5 of the vote and thus lost all its seats in parliament. This defeat was a result of in-fighting and defections in the party, including departure of its important figure Karel Schwarzenberg for the post of leader of new party TOP 09 in the summer of 2009.</li> </ol>

## 2. Electoral system

### Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:

Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	The Chamber of Deputies has 200 members, elected for a four year term by electoral system of proportional representation. All citizens of the Czech Republic who have reached 18 years of age are eligible to vote. Voting for the Chamber of Deputies is based on party candidate lists, and each voter can use up to four preferential votes to change the order of candidates. The Czech Republic is divided into 14 electoral districts, which correspond to the 14 administrative regions. The regions differ greatly in population, so the number of representatives elected from each region varies. In order to enter the Chamber of Deputies, a party must win at least 5 % of votes. A recalculation of votes into mandates is realized on a regional level in two rounds. Votes are translated into seats using the d'Hondt formula.

# Denmark

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Danish
Year of last election:	2007
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Socialdemokraterne - The Social Democrats - 25,5 %</li> <li>2. Det Radikale Venstre - The Radical Liberal Party - 5,1 %</li> <li>3. Det Konservative Folkeparti - Conservative People's Party - 10,4 %</li> <li>4. SF- Socialistisk Folkeparti - Socialist People's Party - 13,0 %</li> <li>5. Dansk Folkeparti - Danish Peoples Party - 13,9 %</li> <li>6. Kristendemokraterne - Christian Democrats - 0,9 %</li> <li>7. Venstre, Danmarks Liberale Parti - The Liberal Party - 26,2 %</li> <li>8. Ny Alliance - New Alliance - 2,8 %</li> <li>9. Enhedslisten, De Rød-Grønne - Unity List - The Red-Green Alliance - 2,2 %</li> <li>10. Andet - Other</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Social Democrats - Established in 1871. For many years the strongest party in Danish politics. Labour party advocating democratic socialism.</li> <li>2. The Radical Liberal Party ("The Radical Left") - Established 1905 as a splinter party from the Left Reform Party (not a socialist party but the present Liberal Party). The party is traditionally a centre party.</li> <li>3. Conservative Party - Established in 1915 based the former "the Right". A traditional conservative party.</li> <li>4. Socialist People's Party - Established 1959 by people expelled or having left the Communist Party. The party has a popular socialist profile and a (slowly softening) opposition to Denmark's EU membership</li> <li>5. Danish Peoples Party - Established in 1995 as a splinter party of the protest party The Progress Party. Populist right-wing party opposing immigration and Denmark's EU membership.</li> <li>6. The Christian Democrats - Established 1970 as a christian party as they are known in the other Nordic countries. Are not represented in the Parliament since 2005.</li> <li>7. The Liberal Party ("Venstre" directly translated "Left") - established in 1870 as the United Left. Known as Left Reform Party 1895-1910. The party was traditionally representing the rural population but has since 1960's evolved towards a classical liberal party.</li> <li>8. New Alliance - established 2007 by former members of the Radical Liberal Party and the Conservative Party. Initially presenting itself as centre party. In 2008 the Party changed its name to the Liberal Alliance.</li> <li>9. The Unity List - Red green Alliance - Established 1989 as an electoral alliance of the Left Socialists, The Communist Part and Socialist Workers Party and developed into an independent party. It is the left-most party in Parliament emphasising ecology, socialism and opposition to EU membership.</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The Unicameral Parliament in Denmark is composed of 179 seats, whereof two are reserved for the Faroe Islands and two for Greenland. General elections are to be held at least every four years, but the Prime Minister may call a general election at any time with only three weeks notice. 135 members are elected by proportional majority in constituencies while the remaining 40 seats are allotted in proportion to the total number of votes a party or list receives. All parties and lists receiving more than 2% of the total vote are guaranteed parliamentary representation.</p> <p>Electorate: The Constitution states the franchise requirements as: (1) Danish citizenship, (2) permanent residence in the realm, and (3) the voting age prescribed by law (18, since 1978).</p>

# Estonia

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Estonian
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eesti Reformierakond - Eesti Reformierakond - 28,6 %</li> <li>2. Eesti Keskerakond - Estonian Centre Party - 23,3 %</li> <li>3. Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit - Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica - 20,5 %</li> <li>4. Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond - Social Democratic Party - 17,1 %</li> <li>5. Erakond Eesti Kristlikud Demokraadid - Estonian Christian Democrats - 0,5 %</li> <li>6. Erakond Eestimaa Rohelised - Estonian Greens - 3,8 %</li> <li>7. Eestimaa Rahvaliid - People's Union of Estonia - 2,1 %</li> <li>8. Eestimaa Ühendatud Vasakpartei - Estonian United Left Party - 0,9 %</li> <li>9. Eesti Iseseisvuspartei - Estonian Independence Party - 0,4 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. The Estonian Reform Party (Estonian: Eesti Reformierakond) is a centre-right, free market liberal party in Estonia. It is led by Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip, and has 33 members in the 101-member Riigikogu, making it the largest party in the legislature. It has been in government for all but three years since its foundation in 1994. The party was founded by then-President of the Bank of Estonia Siim Kallas as a split from Pro Patria. At the 1995 election, it won 19 seats in the Riigikogu, making it the second-largest party. The Reform Party replaced the Estonian Centre Party in government in autumn 1995, and remained there until 1996. In 1999, the party lost a seat, but returned to the cabinet in coalition with the Pro Patria Union and the People's Party Moderates. The party has remained in various coalitions since then, with Andrus Ansip as Prime Minister since 1995. At the 2007 election, the party won 31 seats, becoming the largest party for the first time, and increased its seat tally again in 2011, with 33 seats. As the Reform Party has participated in most of the government coalitions in Estonia since the mid-1990s, its influence has been great, especially regarding Estonia's free market and low taxes policies. The party has been a full member of Liberal International since 1996, having been an observer member between 1994–1996, and a full member of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party. The founder and the first chairman of the Reform Party, Siim Kallas, has been since 2004 a Commissioner of the European Commission. He is also one of the five Vice-Presidents of the Barroso Commission.</p> <p>2. The Estonian Reform Party (Estonian: Eesti Reformierakond) is a centre-right, free market liberal party in Estonia. The party has been a full member of Liberal International since 1996, having been an observer member between 1994–1996, and a full member of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party. It is led by Andrus Ansip, and after the 2007 parliamentary election holds 31 out of 101 seats in the Riigikogu, after receiving 153,040 votes (27.8% of the total), an increase of +10.1%, resulting in a net gain of 12 seats. Ansip has been prime minister of Estonia since April, 2005, and several other cabinet members, including Urmas Paet, are members of the party. Since the mid-1990s, the Reform Party has participated in most of the government coalitions in Estonia, so its influence in politics has been great, especially regarding Estonia's Free market and low taxes policies (viz. direct taxation). As of 5 June 2009 the Reform Party has 7000 members.</p> <p>3. Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica (Estonian: Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit, IRL) is an Estonian political party. It was founded on 4 June 2006 when two conservative parties, Pro Patria Union and Res Publica merged. Up to the 2007 parliamentary elections, the party held 32 seats out of 101 in the Riigikogu (the Estonian parliament) and one of Estonia's six seats in the European Parliament. The party is a member of the European People's Party (EPP). It has about 8,500 members. The merged party consisted of two separate boards and two party leaders, which was replaced by a unified board and leader in May 2007. The party's prime minister candidate was Mart Laar, who became a chairman of the party.</p> <p>4. The Social Democratic Party (Estonian: Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond or SDE) is a social democratic party in Estonia, led by Sven Mikser. It has been a member of the Party of European Socialists since 16 May 2003 and a member of the Socialist International since November 1990. It was formerly known as the Moderate People's Party (Rahvaerakond Mõõdukad), and as such secured 6 seats with 7.0% share of vote in the Riigikogu (the parliament of Estonia) in 2003. It was the most successful party in the 2004 European Parliamentary Election, obtaining 36.8% of the national vote and returning 3 MEPs.</p> <p>5. The Party of Estonian Christian Democrats (Erakond Eesti Kristlikud Demokraadid), formerly known as the Estonian Christian People's Union (Eesti Kristlik Rahvapartei) is a political party in Estonia, which is not represented in the Riigikogu (parliament). The party has 2,167 members. Its chairman is businessman Aldo Vinkel. It is a Christian-conservative party which is opposed to the European Constitution and campaigned against Estonia joining the EU. The party is a member of the European Christian Political Movement (EPCM).</p> <p>6. Estonian Greens (Erakond Eestimaa Rohelised) is an Estonian green political party. Valdur Lahtvee, an organizer, reported that on 2006-11-01, more than 1000 members had been recruited for the Green Party Initiative Group to register as a political party under Estonian law, opening doors for running at the coming parliament elections in March 2007.</p> <p>7. The People's Union of Estonia (Estonian: Eestimaa Rahvaliid) is a political party in Estonia, currently led by Juhan Aare. In the 2003 parliamentary election, the party collected 64,463 votes, which made 13.0% share of all votes and 13 mandates out of 101. In 2007's election, this dropped to 39,211 votes (7.1% of the total, a drop of 5.9%), and six seats in the Riigikogu, a loss of 7. It has dropped from fourth to sixth place among parties, having been bested by the Social Democratic Party and (narrowly) by the Greens. The party was founded on 29 September 1994 in Tallinn under the name of Estonian Country People's Party (Eesti Maarhva Erakond, EME). On 18 October 1999 the party was renamed to</p>

People's Union of Estonia. On 10 June 2000 the People's Union merged with the Estonian Country Union (Eesti Maaliit, EML) and with the Estonian Party of Pensioners and Families (Eesti Pensionäride ja Perede Erakond, EPPE), becoming the largest political party in Estonia. Another merger with the New Estonia Party (Erakond Uus Eesti) in 2003 resulted in further growth of membership. Currently there are more than 9,000 official members in the People's Union of Estonia.

The People's Union of Estonia is an agrarian party with populist, social democratic influences. Consequently, the party has experienced difficulties in gaining wider support in cities and big towns. The last couple of years have brought along some changes. The representation of the People's Union in towns (including the capital Tallinn) has grown and they have started to work on involving Russian-speaking minority in political activities. Russian Association of the People's Union was founded in 2005. The People's Union has a youth organisation called the Youth of the People's Union (Rahvaliidu Noored), which has approximately 3000 members. On the European level the People's Union is a member of the Alliance for Europe of the Nations, but does not have any representatives in the European Parliament. The official organ of the Union is called The Caring Estonia (Hooliv Eesti).

The first Chairman of the party was the previous President of the Republic of Estonia, Arnold Rüütel. On 10 June 2000 Villu Reiljan became the new Chairman of the People's Union. He served also as the Minister of Environment when the People's Party participated in the Reform Party's coalition government.

The Union has been a member of Estonian government coalitions from 1995 to 1999 and from 2003 to 2007. From 2003 to 2005 they were in government together with the Estonian Reform Party and the Union for the Republic - Res Publica. Following a vote of no confidence against the government of Prime Minister Juhan Parts and Parts' subsequent resignation from the post of Prime Minister, they took part in formation of the new coalition where Res Publica was replaced with the Estonian Centre Party (see Andrus Ansip's cabinet).

In Estonian parliamentary election, 2003 the party collected 64,463 votes, which made 13% share of all votes and 13 mandates out of 101. In comparison with previous election in 1999 they gained 6 additional seats in the Estonian Parliament. The representation of the party grew to 16 seats in 2005 when Toomas Alatalu, Robert Lepikson and Jaanus Marrandi, former members of the Estonian Centre Party decided to join the People's Union. After Robert Lepikson's death on 1 July 2005 the People's Party lost a seat, because he was elected in Centre Party list, and his replacement came therefore from the CPE list.

In local elections on 16 October 2005 the People's Union was also rather successful, winning 4 seats in Tallinn City Council and becoming part of coalitions in Tartu, Pärnu and Viljandi. In Tallinn the candidates of the People's Union ran in the list of the Social Democratic Party which has fueled speculations about the possible merger of the two parties. Chairmen of both parties have declared those speculations groundless.

Following the People's Party's poor performance in the March 2007 parliamentary elections, it was not reappointed to the coalition government, which continued to be led by the Reform Party. The Center Party and the People's Party were replaced by the Social Democrats and Pro Patria/Res Publica.

After continued worsening of election results, ERL started to look for a possible merging partner; in 2010, talks with the Social Democratic Party were successfully concluded, and a special congress on merging ERL into the SDE will be held on 23 May 2010.[1] However, at the party congress, only 172 delegates out of 412 supported the deal; it was considered likely that the ERL would merge with the Centre Party instead.[2] Following the failed merger attempt, leading ERL members left the party and joined the SDE.[3] Since defections (three MPs joined the SDE, one the Reform Party and one Center Party) the ERL has only 1 MPs, which means that currently it does not have a faction status.

8. In June 1988 Communist Party of Estonia (EKP), i.e. the Estonian branch of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, chief Karl Vaino was replaced by the reform-minded Soviet Ambassador to Nicaragua Vaino Väljas, the former ideological secretary of the EKP. Some of the Estonian members declared that they were fighting for Estonian national interests and tried to contribute to the solving of Estonian problems.

- 1990 was registered the independent Estonian Communist Party (EKP)
- 1992 the congress of EKP renamed party to the Estonian Democratic Labour Party (EDTP).
- July 1995 EDLP joined with New European Left Forum
- 1997 the party was renamed the Estonian Social Democratic Labour Party (ESDTP).
- 2004 ESDTP is a founding member of European Left party.
- December 2004 Estonian Social Democratic Labour Party changed the name to Estonian Left Party (EVP).

According to the statutes of party the party congress elects the Party Chairman and Executive board as well as nominates a consultative Central Council representing all regional organizations. Local policies are developed by local organizations, while central bodies formulate national policies.

EVP lost representatives in parliament on the 2003 elections when they got 2,059 votes (0,4%). In 2007 election, it fell further to 0,1% and again got no seats.

On 28 June 2008, Estonian Left Party (a left-socialist party) and the Constitution Party (one of two parties representing the Russian minority in Estonia) merged to form the Estonian United Left Party (Eestimaa Ühendatud Vasakpartei).[1]

It has left-socialist characteristics, and also seeks to represent the Russian minority in Estonia. It is a member of the European Left.

9. The Estonian Independence Party (Estonian: Eesti Iseseisvuspartei, EIP) is a nationalist political party in Estonia. The party, founded in 1999, is a successor to the Estonian Future Party. One of the principal aims of the party is the withdrawal of Estonia from the European Union. The party is currently without parliamentary representation. It had 1,242 members on 15 July 2009.[citation n

## 2. Electoral system

### Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:

Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No

Description of the electoral system for	Nature of the electoral system and basic trends in voter participation
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this assembly:

The proportional representation system applies in Estonia in both Riigikogu and local council elections, which is also the dominant system elsewhere in Europe. The proportional representation system may be seen as the right choice for Estonian society, where the spectrum of political sentiment and orientation is varied and the democratic mechanisms for defending interests have not yet had time to crystallise. The proportional representation system gives rise to a situation where one party is unable to achieve an absolute majority of votes and where on average 4-6 political forces are elected a representative body. However, this system does have its drawbacks. For example, political commentators (such as Rein Taagepera) have repeatedly criticised the Estonian election system for its excessive complexity, which makes the procedure of the distribution of mandates difficult for the voter to understand and thus discourages them from taking part in the vote. For elections to the Riigikogu there is a three-phase cycle of distributing mandates (personal mandate, electoral list mandate, compensation mandate), which implies the transfer of votes between candidates on the same list. As a result of such procedures, candidates for whom a voter has not voted may find themselves elected. Undoubtedly this principle decreases the legitimacy of the deputy and his or her involvement with the electorate in the people's eyes.

The majority of systems of proportional representation also make use of an electoral threshold, with the aim of avoiding excessive fragmentation in the elected bodies. In Estonia the 5% threshold of votes across the country for Riigikogu elections is quite high, and as a result the smaller parties do not get into parliament. In the 1999 elections to the Riigikogu, 12 parties took part, of whom 7 had seats allocated to them; in 2003, 11 parties took part, and seats were distributed among 6 of them.

Although there is great variation in their share in local elections, here too, each of the 6 parties gained over 5% of all the votes, whereas the support for the 5 smaller parties remained under 1% for each of them.

The principles of the electoral system have a direct effect on the number of parties and pacts between parties. The four elections that took place for the Riigikogu between 1992 and 2002 have indicated clearly that the opportunities for small parties to get into parliament are negligible. As a result of losing an election the small parties either disband or merge with some larger party. In the 1992 Riigikogu election, 38 parties took part; by 2003 the number had been reduced to 11. It is not likely that there will be any further significant reduction.

Voter activity in Estonia follows the trend characteristic of all of the post-Communist region. The first free elections brought 80-90% of voters to the polls, but year by year the percentages have steadily dropped. Among the countries of eastern and central Europe, Estonia, Poland and the Czech Republic have the lowest level of participation. In general the average participation in Estonia (about 60% is one of the lowest in Europe, about 30% less than in the Scandinavian countries as a whole.

In the second half of the nineteen-nineties the percentages of activity in Riigikogu and local council elections more or less converged, but in the local elections in 2005 it dropped below 50% for the first time. Particularly low was the turn-out for the European Parliament elections, in which Estonia took part for the first time in 2004. Only 27% of voters went to the polls.

Only citizens of the Republic of Estonia have the right to vote in Riigikogu elections. In local elections this right is also held by locally resident citizens and non-citizens of the European Union (holders of the so-called grey passports).

In the 2005 elections, voting through the Internet was tried for the first time in Estonia. In addition to Internet voting (the term e-voting is generally used) all the former possibilities for voting were retained, including advance voting. Unfortunately the technological innovation was unable to break the declining trend in voter participation – only 1.8% of all participants voted through the Internet, and general participation dropped by 6% compared with 2002.

Source:

[http://www.estonica.org/en/Society/Development\\_of\\_the\\_Estonian\\_political\\_landscape\\_until\\_2006/Nature\\_of\\_the\\_electoral\\_system\\_and\\_basic\\_trends\\_in\\_voter\\_participation/](http://www.estonica.org/en/Society/Development_of_the_Estonian_political_landscape_until_2006/Nature_of_the_electoral_system_and_basic_trends_in_voter_participation/)

More information:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_political\\_parties\\_in\\_Estonia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_Estonia)

[http://www.ipu.org/parline/reports/2105\\_B.htm](http://www.ipu.org/parline/reports/2105_B.htm)

# Finland

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2007
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kansallinen Kokoomus - National Coalition Party, 22,3%</li> <li>2. Ruotsalainen Kansanpuolue - Swedish People's Party, 4,6%</li> <li>3. Liberaalit - Liberals, 0,1%</li> <li>4. Suomen Keskusta - Centre Party, 23,1%</li> <li>5. Perussuomalaiset - True Finns, 4,1%</li> <li>6. Suomen Kristillisdemokraatit - Christian Democrats, 4,9%</li> <li>7. Suomen Isänmaallinen Kansanliike - Patriotic People's Movement, 0,0%</li> <li>8. Suomen Kansan Sinivalkoiset - Finnish People's Blue-whites, 0,1%</li> <li>9. Suomen Senioripuolue - Senior Citizens' Party, 0,6%</li> <li>10. Yhteisvastuu Puolue - Joint Responsibility Party, 0,0%</li> <li>11. Itsenäisyyspuolue - Independence Party, 0,2%</li> <li>12. Köyhien Asialla - For the Poor, 0,1%</li> <li>13. Vihreä liitto - Green League, 8,5%</li> <li>14. Suomen Sosialidemokraattinen Puolue - Social Democratic Party, 21,4%</li> <li>15. Vasemmistoliitto - Left Alliance, 8,8%</li> <li>16. Suomen Kommunistinen Puolue - Communist Party, 0,7%</li> <li>17. Kommunistinen Työväenpuolue - Communist Workers' Party, 0,1%</li> <li>18. Suomen Työväen Puolue - Workers Party, 0,1%</li> <li>19. Jokin muu - Other, 0,5%</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kansallinen Kokoomus - Conservative Party; the main Rightist party.</li> <li>2. Ruotsalainen Kansanpuolue (Svenska folkpartiet) - Swedish People's Party; the main political movement of the Swedish speaking population in Finland. Calls itself a "moderate liberal party".</li> <li>3. Liberaalit r.p. - Liberal Party; a small neo-liberal party.</li> <li>4. Suomen Keskusta - Center Party; the former Agrarian Union, clearly a right wing party.</li> <li>5. Perussuomalainen Puolue- A small, but recently growing (according to polls) Center-Rightist populist party, with strong emphasis on work values, religion, Finnish traditions. Wants to limit immigration; The main go-home party .</li> <li>6. Suomen Kristillisdemokraattinen Puolue - Christian Democratic Party; A small party strongly emphasising christian values.</li> <li>7. Suomen Isänmaallinen Kansanliike - Patriotic People's Movement. A very small party on the extreme right. Borrows its name from a nazi movement of the 1930s</li> <li>8. Suomen Kansan Sinivalkoiset - Finnish People's Blue-whites. Another very small party on the extreme right.</li> <li>9. Suomen Senioripuolue - Senior Citizens' Party. A very small centre-right party which aims to advance pensioners' interests.</li> <li>10. Yhteisvastuu Puolue - Joint Responsibility Party. A very small centre party.</li> <li>11. Itsenäisyyspuolue - Independence party. A small rightist party, wants the country to resign from EU.</li> <li>12. Köyhien Asialla - For the Poor. A very small party with no clear political profile.</li> <li>13. Vihreä liitto - Green League. The Green party: emphasises environmental issues, currently in government coalition with the major rightist parties, Centre and Coalition party.</li> <li>14. Suomen Sosialidemokraattinen Puolue - Social Democratic Party - The main leftist party.</li> <li>15. Vasemmistoliitto - The Left Alliance; A party consisting of former members of the suppressed Communist Party and left-wing socialists. The second important leftist party.</li> <li>16. Suomen Kommunistinen Puolue - Communist Party; A very small party continuing the political traditions of the original Communist Party after its suppression.</li> <li>17. Kommunistinen Työväenpuolue - Communist Workers' Party; Another very small, party continuing the political traditions of the original Communist Party after its suppression.</li> <li>18. Suomen Työväen Puolue - One more very small party on the extreme left.</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The term is 4 years. Government formation follows parliamentarisms, which means that often (although not always) the leader of the largest party in Parliamentary election becomes the new PM. All Finns over the age of eighteen by the year of an election are eligible to vote. Voting is not compulsory. The country was divided for national elections into fifteen electoral constituencies. Candidates for the Eduskunta are almost invariably nominated by a political party. Finland uses the d'Hondt constituency list system with only slight modifications. Under this system, elections are based on proportionality rather than on plurality, and seats are allotted to parties commensurately with the number of votes polled. Votes go to individual candidates, however, and voters indicate their preferred politician by circling the number assigned to him or to her on their ballots. There is no electoral threshold.</p>

# France

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	French
Year of last election:	2007
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	CPNT (Chasse, Pêche, Nature et Traditions) - Hunting, Fishing, Nature, and Traditions - 0.82 FN (Front National) - National Front - 4.21 LCR (Ligue communiste révolutionnaire) - Revolutionary communist league - 2.05 LO (Lutte Ouvrière) - Workers' Fight - 0.84 MPF (Mouvement pour la France) - Movement for France - 1.37 PC (Parti communiste) - New Centre - PC (Parti communiste) - Communist party - 4.45 PS (Parti socialiste) - Socialist party - 24.7 PRG (Parti radical de gauche) - Left-wing radical party - 1.4 UDF-MoDem (UDF Mouvement démocrate) - Union for the presidential majority - 39.5 Les Verts - Europe Ecology - The Greens - Europe Ecology - 3.3 Autres mouvements écologistes - Other green movements - 0.96 Divers gauche - Various left - 2.9 Divers droite - Various right - 5.8 NPA (Nouveau parti anticapitaliste) - New anticapitalist party -
Description of political parties listed above	1: CPNT: party from agrarian tradition, gathering members of hunters associations. 2: FN: Extreme right party. 3: LCR: Trotskyst party. 4: LO: Trotskyst party. 5: MPF: Right wing euroskeptical party. 6: New center: center party, allied with UMP. 7: PC: Communist party. 8: PS: Socialist party. 9: PRG: moderate left party, allied with PS. 10: UDF MoDem: centre party. 11: UMP. Main right-wing party. 12: Les Verts: green party. 13: Autres mouvements écologistes: various minor green parties 14: Divers gauche: left-wing candidates without specific party affiliation. 15: Divers droite: right-wing candidates without specific party affiliation

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	Maximal length of term: 5 years. 577 constituencies (magnitude =1). Voting system: Run-off electoral system. 12.5% of registered voters is necessary to move to the second round, except for the two leading candidates in the first round. Election is decided on the first round if a candidate gathers more than 50 per cent of the votes.

# Germany

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	German
Year of last election:	2009
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<p>Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands - Social Democratic Party (23,0%)            Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands / Christliche-Soziale Union in Bayern - Christian Democratic Union (33,8%)            Bündnis 90/die Grünen - Green Party (10,7%)            Freie Demokratische Partei - Liberal Democratic Party (14,6%)            Die Linke - The Left Party of Democratic Socialism (11,9%)            Die Republikaner - Republican Party (0,4%)            Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands - National Democratic Party / German People's Union (1,5%)</p>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1: SPD: Social Democratic Party. The SPD is the second main national party. It was considered the working class party for a long time, today it calls itself a mainstream party striving for social justice.</p> <p>2: CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union. The CSU is the Bavaria-based sister party of the CDU. The CDU is one of the main national parties, based on Christian values. The social market economy is the basic topic of CDU policy.</p> <p>3: Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (the Green party). The Greens are a grassroots democratic party committed to promoting environmental issues, pacifism and equal rights for men/women, natives/immigrants etc.</p> <p>4: FDP: Free Democratic Party. The FDP upholds the tradition of liberalism, believing in increasing citizens' responsibility and reducing the role of government. It has been part of the national government for most of West Germany's post war history.</p> <p>5: Die Linke (the Left Party) is a cooperation between the PDS (Party of Democratic Socialism, former SED) and the WASG (Labour and Social Justice – The Electoral Alternative), which was founded in 2004 by former SPD-members and trade unionists and became a political party in 2005. In June 2007, the two parties merged into Die Linkspartei or Die Linke (The Left). Therefore, the federal election of 2009 has been the first national electoral contest for this party.</p> <p>6: REPUBLIKANER: Republican Party. The party covers nationalistic issues like fighting against "foreignization" and the process of European Unification.</p> <p>7: NPD: National Democratic Party. The right-wing extremist party covers nationalistic issues like the REPUBLIKANER party, but is even more extreme and is closer to the Neo-Nazi milieu.</p>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The Basic Law guarantees the right to vote by secret ballot in direct and free elections to every German citizen eighteen years of age or older. To be eligible to vote, an individual must have resided in a constituency district for at least three months prior to an election. Officials who are popularly elected include Bundestag deputies at the federal level, Landtag representatives or senate members at the Land level, and council members at the district and local levels. Executive officials typically are not chosen in popular, direct elections; however, in a minority of municipalities the mayor is elected by popular vote. Elections usually are held every four years at the federal levels, and every five years in 16 out of 18 'Bundesländer' (federal states). Elections at the federal, Land, and local levels are not held simultaneously, as in the United States, but rather are staggered. As a result, electoral campaigns are almost always under way, and each election is viewed as a test of the federal government's popularity and the strength of the opposition. All elections are held on Sunday.</p> <p>Under the German electoral system, each voter casts two ballots in a Bundestag election. The elector's first vote is cast for a candidate running to represent a particular district. The candidate who receives a plurality of votes becomes the district representative. Germany is divided into 299 electoral districts with roughly 208,000 voters in each district. Half of the Bundestag members are directly elected from these districts. The second ballot is cast for a particular political party. These second votes determine each party's share of the popular vote.</p>

# Greece

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Greek (with latin alphabet)
Year of last election:	2009
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<p>01 Panellinio Sosialistiko Kinima (PASOK) - 43,92 %</p> <p>02 Nea Dimokratia (ND) - 33,48 %</p> <p>03 Kommounistiko Kmoma Ellados (KKE) - 7,54 %</p> <p>04 Laikos Orthodoxos Synagermos (LAOS) - 5,63 %</p> <p>05 Synaspismos Rizospastikis Aristeras (SYRIZA) - 4,60 %</p> <p>06 Oikologoi Prasinoi (Ecologists Greens) - 2,53 %</p> <p>07 Demokratiki Symmahia (Democratic Alliance) - n.a.</p> <p>08 Demokratiki Aristera (Democratic Left) - n.a.</p> <p>09 Xrusi Augi (Golden Dawn) - 0,29 %</p> <p>10 Fileleytheri Symmaxia (Liberal Alliance) - n.a.</p> <p>11 Antarsya (AN.TAR.SYA) - 0,36 %</p> <p>12 Kotes (K.O.T.E.S.) - 0,02 %</p> <p>13 Kinisi Anexartiton Politon (Independent Citizens' Movement) - n.a.</p>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>01 The Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), is a Greek centre-left political party and the current majority party in the Greek Parliament. In 1981 PASOK formed the first social democrat government in Greece's history, and subsequently governed the country for most of the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s. PASOK served as the main opposition party between 2004 and 2009. It is a member of the Party of European Socialists and the Socialist International. PASOK was founded in 1974 after the fall of the dictatorship, by Andreas Papandreou, son of the late former PM of the Centre Yiorgios Papandreou. In January 1996 Papandreou retired after a protracted three-month long hospitalization, during which he retained the role of prime minister; he died six months later. He was succeeded by Costas Simitis, the candidate of the modernising, pro-European wing of PASOK (the so-called "modernizers"). In January 2004, Simitis announced his resignation as leader of PASOK. He was succeeded by George Papandreou, son of Andreas Papandreou. Papandreou was unable to reverse the view of a majority of Greek voters that PASOK had been in power too long and had grown lazy and corrupt. ND had a comfortable win at the 7 March 2004 elections, placing PASOK in opposition after eleven years in office. In June 2009, PASOK won the 2009 European Parliament election in Greece. Four months later, the party enjoyed a resounding victory in the October 2009 general elections with 43.92 % of the popular vote to ND's 33.48 %.</p> <p>02 New Democracy (Nea Dimokratia, also known by its acronym ND) is the main centre-right political party and one of the two major parties in Greece. It was founded in 1974 by Konstantinos Karamanlis and formed the first cabinet of the Third Hellenic Republic. Karamanlis claimed that he intended New Democracy to be a more modern and progressive right-wing party than those that ruled Greece before the 1967 military coup, including his own ERE. The party's ideology was defined as "radical liberalism," a term defined by ND as "the prevalence of free market rules with the decisive intervention of the state in favour of social justice." In 1977, ND again won national elections, albeit with a largely reduced majority (41.88%). ND returned to power in a coalition government (prime minister: Tzannis Tzannetakis) with the traditional Left Party (Coalition of the Left and Progress, which at the time included the Communist Party of Greece) in 1989, subsequently participated in the grand coalition government of Xenophon Zolotas from November 1989 to April 1990 and, eventually, formed a majority government under Constantine Mitsotakis after new elections were held on 10 April 1990. The party then suffered a period of successive losses. It was defeated by a landslide in 1993 under Mitsotakis, in 1996 under Miltiadis Evert, and in 2000 under Kostas Karamanlis, nephew of the party's founder. In 2000 ND lost by 1,06% of the popular vote, the smallest margin in modern Greek history. Karamanlis had a victory in the 2004 elections and became Greece's first center-right Prime Minister after eleven years. New Democracy is now the main opposition party in the Hellenic Parliament after its defeat in the 2009 Greek elections in which they recorded their historical lowest percentage of votes. After the defeat, former president Kostas Karamanlis, nephew of the party's founder, resigned and Antonis Samaras was elected the new president of the party through a leadership election in November 2009. New Democracy is a member of the European People's Party and currently has 7 out of 22 Greek MEPs in the European Parliament.</p> <p>03 The Communist Party of Greece (KKE) was founded in November 1918, as working class consciousness grew and the revolutionary theory of Marxism- Leninism spread in the country, With only short periods of legal operation, KKE was from that time on until September 1974 banned and forced to work under conditions of clandestinity. KKE was legalized after the restoration of democracy in 1974. In 1988, KKE and Greek Left (EAR; the former KKE Interior), along with other left and center parties and organisations, formed the Coalition of the Left and Progress (Synaspismos). In the June 1989 elections Synaspismos gained 13.1 per cent of votes and joined a coalition with New Democracy to form a short-lived government amidst a political spectrum shaken by accusations of economic scandals against the previous administration of Andreas Papandreou's PASOK. In November of the same year Synaspismos participated in the "Ecumenical Government" with New Democracy and Panhellenic Socialist Movement which appointed economist Xenophon Zolotas as Prime Minister for 3 months. In 1991, KKE withdrew from Synaspismos. Some of its members left the party and remained in Synaspismos, which evolved into a separate left-wing party that is now an alliance of Synaspismos with other leftist groups called the Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA).</p> <p>04 LAOS: The Popular Orthodox Rally, abbreviated to LA.O.S. as a pun on the Greek word for people, is a Greek nationalist/radical right-wing populist political party, founded and led by journalist Georgios Karatzaferis. Karatzaferis formed LAOS in 2000, after he was expelled from New Democracy (ND). According to the Popular Orthodox Rally, "the demarcation of the political world in the Right Wing and the Left Wing is not relevant anymore after the end of the Cold War. Nowadays, everyone in every aspect of his or her everyday life is either in favour or against Globalization". The party claims to consist of radically diverse groups that span the entire Left-Right political spectrum. The party received 3.8% of the vote in the 2007 elections, electing 10 members of parliament. Previously, the party failed to reach the 3% threshold of the</p>

popular vote in the 2004 elections, with 2.2%; three months later it gained 4.12% of the vote and one seat in the 2004 European Parliamentary Elections. The Popular Orthodox Rally claims to defy traditional ideological characterizations. Throughout its existence the party has been characterized by the press and media as "far-right", "populist", "right-wing" and "nationalist".

05 The Coalition of the Radical Left (Synaspismós Rizospastikís Aristerás), commonly known by its Greek abbreviation (SYRIZA), is a coalition of left political parties in Greece. In 2007–2009 its parliamentary leader was Alekos Alavanos, former president of Synaspismos, the largest party to be a member of the coalition. Although SYRIZA is typically regarded to have been launched before the legislative election of 2004, the process that ended up in its formation can be traced back to the Space for Dialogue for the Unity and Common Action of the Left in 2001. The "Space" was composed of various organizations of the Greek Left that, despite different ideological and historical backgrounds, shared common political action in several important issues that had risen in Greece at the end of the 1990s.

06 OIKOLOGOI PRASINOI: The Ecologist Greens are a Greek Green ecologist political party. It has existed since 2002, yet the ecologist movement in Greece dates many years and was characterised by a reluctance to actively become involved in the political scene. They are a member of the European Green party. The Ecologist Greens managed to elect an MEP in the European Elections of June 2009, but they narrowly failed to gain representation in the national elections that followed in October 2009. Nevertheless, their share of the vote increased to 2.53% gaining approximately 100,000 more votes than in the 2007 Greek legislative election.

07 Democratic Alliance ( Dimokratiki Symmachia) is a centrist-liberal political party in Greece. It was founded on the 21st of November 2010 by Dora Bakoyannis, former Minister of Exterior in the previous ND government and contestant for the party's leadership in the 2009 leadership battle. Bakoyannis founded the party a few months after she was expelled from the centre-right party New Democracy for voting in support of an EU-IMF backed financial stability loan. The party's founding congress took place on 27 May 2011.

08 Democratic Left (Dimokratiki Aristera - DIMAR) is a Greek democratic socialist political party. It emerged, in June 2010, when the members of the moderate Renewal Wing platform left the Coalition of the Left of Movements and Ecology, or Synaspismos, at its 6th congress. Among them were 4 MP's that had been elected under the flag of SYRIZA in the last elections, but they declared themselves independent.

09 Golden Dawn (Greek: Chrysi Avyi) is a Greek Nationalist political organization led by Nikolaos Michaloliakos in Greece. Golden Dawn opposes democracy, immigration, multiculturalism, Marxism, globalization, liberalism, anti-militarism and anarchism. It is also in favor of mass deportations of all illegal immigrants who reside in the country. Members of the party have been many times accused for carrying out racist attacks. Golden Dawn ceased political operations in 2005, and it was absorbed by the Patriotic Alliance, which ceased operations after Michaloliakos withdrew support. In March 2007, Golden Dawn held its sixth congress, where Party officials announced the resumption of their political activism. At local elections on November 7, 2010 Golden Dawn got 5.3% of the vote in the municipality of Athens, winning a seat at the City Council. In some neighbourhoods with big immigrant communities it even reached 20%.

10 The Liberal Alliance (Greek: Fileleftheri Simmakhia ) is a liberal political party in Greece founded in February 2007. Its stated purpose is to cover the political ground between what it considers to constitute a conservative New Democracy and the socialist PASOK. The party participated in the 2007 general elections in Greece, where it won 0.1% of the vote. It also participated in the 2008 European Parliament Greek elections, with an even lower tally of 0.08% of the popular vote, ranking 24th among 27 candidate parties. The results of the 2009 euroelections, considered as catastrophic, led the party to not participate in the 2009 general elections in Greece, held three months later. In the 2010 local elections Liberal Alliance participated through the 'Portokali' movement in the coalition 'Dikaioma stin poli' of Giorgos Kaminis that won the mayorship of Athens.

11 The Anticapitalist Left Cooperation for the Overthrow (In Greek Antikapitalistiki Aristeri Synergasia gia tin Anatropi, Ant.Ar.Sy.A) is a coalition of radical left political organisations in Greece. The Greek word antarsia (which is pronounced the same as the acronym Antarsya) means "mutiny". ANTARSYA describes itself as "Front of the anticapitalist, revolutionary, communist left and radical ecology". ANTARSYA was founded on 22 March 2009 in Athens by 10 organisations and independent militants involved in the Radical Left Front (MERA) and United Anti-Capitalist Left (ENANTIA) with the exception of the Workers Revolutionary Party. These organisations come from different left wing currents ranging from ex- KKE and KKE Interior members, to Maoism and Trotskyism. ANTARSYA participated for the first time in elections in the European Parliament elections in June 2009. It took 21,951 votes or 0.43% of the votes, which was the best result ever for an anti-capitalist left list in European elections in Greece. ANTARSYA also participated in the October 4th, 2009 general elections presenting lists in every constituency and took 24,737 votes (0.36%). In the local elections held in November 7th, 2010 the platforms supported by ANTARSYA took more than 98,000 votes or 1.75% of the votes.

12 Smokers' Groups for Art and Visual Formation (in Greek Kapnistikies Omades gia tin Texni kai tin Eikastiki Sygkrotisi, abbreviated to K.O.T.E.S. as a pun for the Greek word for hens.) was founded in 2009 and began its operation a day before a smoking ban was imposed in Greece. Basic principle of the party is to respect the right of people to smoke whenever and wherever they wish. Their offices are housed at the night club of its leader N. Louvros, which, as he says is an asylum protected by law where patrons can smoke freely and happily. K.O.T.E.S. participated in the 2009 national elections in the Athens area, taking 1.353 votes, or a 0.44% share in Athens and 0.02% in the whole country.

13 SPITHA (Independent Citizens' Movement) was founded in December 2010 by Mikis Theodorakis a prominent composer and leading figure of the Left during the last 50 years.

## 2. Electoral system

Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:

Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The electoral system for legislative elections to the Greek Parliament is a 4-year term with a 3% threshold, with a party-list proportional representation system plus a majority bonus (260/40)</p> <p>Of the 300 members of parliament, 248 are elected in 56 constituencies comprised of 48 multi- and 8 single-seat constituencies, 20 and 12 parliamentarians (called "state deputies") are elected from closed party lists on a top-down basis, proportionally to the number of votes each party receives nationwide. The remaining 40 seats are awarded to the winning party as a 'premium'. The 40 'bonus' seats are intended to enhance the stability of government through the formation of a single party majority government.</p> <p>In 2008, the parliament adopted an amendment to the election law to increase the number of bonus seats attributed to the winning party to 50. This provision will be in force for the next election, since it did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority vote in order to be applicable for the 4 October 2009 parliamentary election. Each prefecture of the country forms a constituency, except for the Athens-area prefecture of Attica, which is divided into five constituencies, and the northern prefecture of Thessaloniki, which is divided into two constituencies. The number of parliamentary seats allocated to each constituency is determined by its population size, as indicated by the latest census (2001).</p> <p>In order to participate in the allocation of seats, a political party, coalition or independent candidate must receive at least three per cent of the valid votes cast nationwide. Although independent candidates may mathematically have enough votes to obtain seats in specific electoral districts, the need to collect at least three per cent of the valid votes nationwide represents a significant barrier to their election.</p>

# Hungary

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Hungarian
Year of last election:	2010
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fidesz - KDNP (Fidesz – Magyar Polgári Szövetség, Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt) - FIDESZ – Hungarian Civic Union , KDNP – Christian Democratic People's Party - 60 %</li> <li>2. MDF (Magyar Demokrata Fórum) - The Hungarian Democratic Forum - 2 %</li> <li>3. MIÉP - Hungarian Justice and Life Party - 1 %</li> <li>4. MSZP (Magyar Szocialista Párt) - Hungarian Socialist Party - 15 %</li> <li>5. Munkáspárt (Magyar Kommunista Munkáspárt) - Hungarian Communist Workers' Party - 0,5 %</li> <li>6. SZDSZ (Szabad Demokraták Szövetsége - A Magyar Liberális Párt) - The Alliance of Free Democrats – The Hungarian Liberal Party - 2 %</li> <li>7. Centrum Párt (Centrum Összefogás Magyarorszáért) - Centre Party - Centre Alliance for Hungary - 0,5 %</li> <li>8. Kereszténydemokrata Párt - Keresztény Centrum Összefogás - Christian Democratic Party – Christian Centre Alliance for Hungary - 1 %</li> <li>9. Magyar Vidék és Polgári Párt - Hungarian Rural and Civic Party - 1 %</li> <li>10. MCF Roma Összefogás Párt - Forum for Hungarian Gypsy Organisations – Party of Gypsy Alliance - 1 %</li> <li>11. Jobbik - The Movement for a Better Hungary - 10 %</li> <li>12. Lehet Más a Politika (LMP) - Politics Can Be Different - 5%</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fidesz - KDNP (Fidesz – Magyar Polgári Szövetség, Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt) Hungary's center-right Fidesz party, led by Viktor Orban, won a two-thirds parliamentary majority in 2010.</li> <li>2. The Hungarian Democratic Forum (Hungarian: Magyar Demokrata Fórum), abbreviated to MDF, is a centre-right political party in Hungary. It has a liberal conservative and Christian democratic ideology. Led by Ibolya Dávid, the party was represented continuously in the National Assembly from the restoration of democracy in 1990 until 2010.</li> <li>3. The Hungarian Justice and Life Party (Magyar Igazság és Élet Pártja, in short: MIÉP) is a right wing [1] political party in Hungary led by István Csurka. It was founded in 1993. At the legislative elections in 1998 the party won 5.5% of the votes and gained parliamentary representation, with 14 seats.</li> <li>4. The Hungarian Socialist Party (Hungarian: Magyar Szocialista Párt, MSZP) describes itself as a Social Democratic party in Hungary. It is the partial successor of the communist Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (or MSZMP), which ruled Hungary between 1956 and 1989. The decision to declare the party a successor of the MSZMP was controversial, and still carries repercussions for both the MSZP and Hungary. Another source of controversy is that some members of the former communist elite maintained political influence in the MSZP, a factor which is still true today. Indeed, many key MSZP politicians were active members or held leadership positions within the MSZMP. The party is not to be confused with the Workers' Party, a marginal party of hardline communists and another successor to the MSZMP. In political terms, the MSZP differentiates itself from its conservative opponents mainly in its rejection of nationalism. The party, along with its minority liberal partner in the governing coalition, campaigned against extending Hungarian citizenship to ethnic Hungarians living in neighboring countries in a December 5, 2004 referendum. The referendum failed due to insufficient voter turnout, but tensions remain over the fate of Hungarian minorities abroad, which in some countries have faced hostility or even a degree of persecution at the hands of majority cultures, particularly when nationalist or populist governments have been in power in those countries.[citation needed] At the 2006 elections, MSZP won with 43.2% of party list votes, which gave it 190 representatives out of 386 in the Parliament. The MSZP was therefore able to retain its coalition government from the previous term. In earlier elections, the MSZP polled 10.89% (1990), 32.98% (1994), 32.92% (1998) and 42.05% (2002). The current surveys show, that the MSZP has 20%. MSZP formed the first minority government of Hungary, following the SZDSZ's backing out of the coalition with a deadline of May 1, 2008. MSZP lost the 2010 elections (won by Fidesz with a 2/3 majority), gaining only 19,3% of the votes, and 58 seats in the parliament. Currently, they are the biggest opposition party in Hungary</li> <li>5. The Hungarian Communist Workers' Party in Hungary (Magyar Kommunista Munkáspárt in Hungarian) was created on December 17 1989, as a successor party of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZMP). Its chairman is Gyula Thürmer. It has always opposed capitalism, and has never been represented in the Parliament since the 1989 change of regime. The Left Front is the youth organisation of the HWP. They take an active part in the anti-imperialist movement.</li> <li>6. The Alliance of Free Democrats – Hungarian Liberal Party (Hungarian: Szabad Demokraták Szövetsége – a Magyar Liberális Párt, abbreviation SZDSZ) is a liberal party in Hungary, led since July 2009 by Áttila Retkes (and previously by Gábor Fodor). The SZDSZ is a member of the ELDR and of Liberal International. It draws its support predominantly from Budapest among the middle classes, liberal intellectuals and entrepreneurs.</li> <li>7. The Centre Party (Centrumpárt) is a centrist political party in Hungary. At the last legislative elections, on 9 and 23 April 2006, the party won 0.32% of the popular vote and no seats. The Centre Party came into being in 2001, with the cooperation of the Christian Democratic People's Party (Keresztény Demokrata Néppárt - KDNP) the Hungarian Democratic People's Party (Magyar Demokrata Néppárt - MDNP) and the Greens. The unusual alliance of centre-right and centre-left groups hindered the Centre Party's effectiveness and, eventually, two of the founding political formations quit the party.</li> </ol>

	<p>8. Christian Democratic Party – Christian Centre Alliance for Hungary: Establishment: 2005, led by dr. Bartók Tivadar . Conservative party and has conservative policy. Their aim is an independent Christian politics. Their “poverty eradication” program covers the party’s proposals for the renewal of the economy, education, culture, health, environment and nature protection, but it deals with the institution of full-time motherhood as well</p> <p>9. The Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Union (Hungarian pronunciation: [fidsz]; in full, Hungarian: Fidesz – Magyar Polgári Szövetség) is a major national conservative[2] political party in Hungary. At the 2010 election in Hungary, Fidesz-KDNP[3] won a two-thirds majority, with Fidesz winning 227 seats and KDNP winning 36. Fidesz is a member of the European People’s Party (EPP)</p> <p>10. Forum for Hungarian Gypsy Organisations – Party of Gypsy Alliance. Establishment in 2005, president : Kolompár Orbán, Ideological classification: Roma advocacy, protection of minorities. Its EP-fraction in the current / potential classification: centrist, a moderate center-left</p> <p>11. Jobbik, The Movement for a Better Hungary (Hungarian: Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom) commonly known as Jobbik, is a Hungarian radical right political party. Jobbik has been accused by its political opponents and some Western press outlets of being fascist, anti-Semitic, anti-Roma and homophobic. The party has strenuously denied these allegations as being either politically motivated or simply false. The party describes itself as a principled, conservative and radically patriotic Christian party, whose fundamental purpose is the protection of Hungarian values and interests. As a result, Jobbik is the only major Hungarian party dedicated to supporting the cause of the significant (a quarter of Hungarians live outside Hungary. Hungarian minorities that exist external to the nation’s territory in countries bordering Hungary in their campaigns to achieve self-determination and autonomy. At the 2009 European Parliamentary elections, Jobbik won 3 seats and in doing so came close to beating the ruling Hungarian Socialists (the successor organization to the MSZMP) into third place. Hungary’s 2010 parliamentary elections saw Jobbik cement its position as the nation’s 3rd largest party, doubling the vote it had received in the previous year and getting just 3 seats short of the previous ruling party.</p> <p>12. Politics Can Be Different (Hungarian: Lehet Más a Politika), abbreviated to LMP, is a Hungarian green liberal political party. Founded in 2009, it was one of four parties to win seats in the National Assembly in the 2010 parliamentary election.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>General elections: two round, single-vote system (Hazel-Bishop) to elect the 386 MPs. 176 members are elected in single-seat constituencies, 152 by proportional representation in multi-seat constituencies and there are 58 so-called compensation seats. For the latter two, an election threshold of 5% is in effect. In the first round people can vote for nation party. The Hungarian election system calls for two votes: voters cast one vote on a candidate of the individual constituency and may choose from the regional party lists by the other vote. In individual constituencies the recommendation of at least 750 voters is required for candidacy. A political party may set up a regional list if it has candidates in one-quarter of the individual constituencies but in at least two constituency. At least seven regional lists are required for a national list.</p> <p>5 percent of the total valid votes cast nationwide on the party lists is required for a party to get into the National Assembly.</p>

# Ireland

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fianna Fáil - Soldiers of Destiny - 17.4%</li> <li>2. Fine Gael - Family/Tribe of the Irish - 36.1%</li> <li>3. Green Party - Green Party - 1.8%</li> <li>4. Independent - Independent - 12.6%</li> <li>5. Labour - Labour - 19.4%</li> <li>6. People Before Profit - People Before Profit - 1.0%</li> <li>7. Sinn Féin - We Ourselves - 9.9%</li> <li>8. Socialist Party - Socialist Party - 1.2%</li> <li>9. United Left Alliance - United Left Alliance - 2.7%</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. Fianna Fáil is a party of the centre to centre-right, defining itself as representing the mainstream of Irish life. It is generally described as a populist and pragmatic party that is moderately nationalist. Since 2009, Fianna Fáil has been part of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR) in the European Parliament. Fianna Fáil was founded by Eamonn de Valera in 1926, evolving out of the War of Independence and the anti-treaty side in the Civil War of the 1920s. It first came to power in 1932 and is the party that has held the longest period of office in Ireland. However, following the 2008 economic crash and crisis in the public finances that led to the EU-IMF bailout, as well as several political scandals, Fianna Fáil suffered significant electoral losses in the 2011 election. It moved from being the largest party to the third largest party in the State. Fianna Fáil has formed several coalition governments: In 1989, it entered its first coalition government with the Progressive Democrats (a right-wing party that disbanded in 2008), from 1993-94 it formed a coalition government with the Labour Party, from 1997-2007 with the Progressive Democrats, from 2007-08 with the Progressive Democrats and the Green Party, and from 2008-11 with the Green Party.</p> <p>2. Fine Gael is a party of the centre-right, defining itself as a party of the progressive centre. Since the 2011 election, it is the largest party in the State and the senior partner governing in a coalition with the Labour Party. It is a member of the Christian democratic European People's Party in the European Parliament. Fine Gael was formed in 1933, with the merger of the pro-treaty Cumann na nGaedheal, the Centre Party and the National Guard. It has served in several coalition governments, mainly with the Labour Party: from 1948-51 it formed the First Inter-Party Government with the Labour Party, Clann na Poblachta, Clann na Talmhan and National Labour, from 1954-57 with Labour and Clann na Talmhan, and with Labour from 1973-77, 1981-87, 1994-97 (this government also included Democratic Left) and since 2011</p> <p>3. The Green Party is a centre-left party, founded on the principles that economic and social progress should not negatively impinge on the environment. It is a member of the European Green Party in the European Parliament. The Green Party originally formed in 1981 as the Ecology Party of Ireland, becoming the Green Alliance/Comhaontas Glas in 1983, and renaming itself the Green Party/Comhaontas Glas in 1986. The Green Party served in a coalition government with Fianna Fáil from 2007 to 2011 with 6 TDs, all of whom lost their seats in the 2011 general election</p> <p>4. Independents comprise non-party candidates and are a diverse group. The Independents from rural areas are generally conservative and many have political roots in Fianna Fáil, and are expected to follow the largest party's lead on most issues. Other independents have populist left-wing agendas</p> <p>5. Labour is a party of the centre-left and ascribes to social democratic principles. Since 2011, it is the second-largest party in the state, forming a coalition government with Fine Gael. Labour is a member of the Party of European Socialists in the European Parliament. The Labour Party was founded in 1912 by James Connolly, James Larkin and William O'Brien as the political wing of the Irish Trade Union Congress. It is the oldest political party in Ireland. In 1999, it agreed a merger with Democratic Left, a left-wing party with whom the party had previously served in Government. Labour has served in several coalition governments, primarily with Fine Gael: from 1948-51 it formed the First Inter-Party Government with Fine Gael, Clann na Poblachta, Clann na Talmhan and National Labour, from 1954-57 with Fine Gael and Clann na Talmhan, from 1973-77 and 1981-87 with Fine Gael, from 1992-94 with Fianna Fáil, from 1994-97 with Fine Gael and Democratic Left, and since 2011 it is in coalition with Fine Gael</p> <p>6. People before Profit is a broad left-wing alliance that opposes neo-liberalism. The People Before Profit Alliance was formed in 2005 by the Socialist Workers Party and joined by the Community and Workers Action Group in 2007. It formed the United Left Alliance with a</p>

	<p>number of other left-wing groups to contest the 2011 general election.</p> <p>7. Sinn Féin is an Irish republican (nationalist) and left-wing all-Ireland party, focused on the reunification of Ireland and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic. Sinn Féin traces its origins to the 1905 party founded by Arthur Griffith and Bulmer Hobson. It came to power in the first Dáil of 1919, led by Eamonn de Valera, but split after the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921. Due to its refusal to recognise the Republic of Ireland, its abstentionist policy regarding taking seats in the Dáil, and its association with the IRA, it had little support in the South of Ireland. It has increased its support since the 1980s and the peace process, emerging as the second largest party in the Northern Ireland Assembly and the fourth largest party in the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>8. The Socialist Party is a left-wing, anti-capitalist all-Ireland party. Previously called Militant and Militant Labour, it became the Socialist Party in 1997. The Socialist Party is affiliated to the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI) which brings together socialists in over 40 countries. It formed the United Left Alliance with a number of other left-wing groups to contest the 2011 general election</p> <p>9. The United Left Alliance comprises the Socialist Party, the People Before Profit Alliance, the Workers and Unemployed Action Group and an independent candidate. The United Left Alliance formed in 2010 as a left-wing group in order to contest the 2011 general election. It is opposed to the bailouts and the cutting of public expenditure</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>There are two Houses of the Oireachtas or Irish parliament, the Dáil and the Seanad (Senate). Dáil Éireann, located in Dublin, is the primary legislative assembly of the nation. It appoints the Taoiseach (Head of government/Prime Minister), who then appoints the executive or cabinet from the Dáil's members (there is provision for up to 2 members of government to be appointed from the Seanad).</p> <p>The Dáil consists of members called TDs (Teachta Dála), elected directly to the Dáil by the people of Ireland in a general election. The country is divided into 43 constituencies and every constituency elects at least 3 members to the Dáil. There are currently 166 TDs in the Dáil. The maximum length of term of the Dáil is 5 years, although at any time the Taoiseach may advise the President (who is Head of State in a mainly ceremonial role) to dissolve the Dáil.</p> <p>The system of voting in Dáil elections is proportional representation, involving a single transferable vote in multi-seat constituencies (3-, 4- and 5-seat constituencies at elections). Proportional representation means that the voter can indicate his/her first and subsequent choices for the candidates on the ballot paper, with votes transferred to the second choice candidate if the first choice is either elected with a surplus of votes over the quota or is eliminated. If the second choice is elected or eliminated, votes may be transferred to the third choice and so on.</p> <p>The quota for each district is calculated by dividing the Total Valid Poll by one more than the number of seats to be filled, ignoring any remainder and then adding 1 vote. For example, in a Dáil election in a 4-seat constituency with 50,000 votes cast, 50,000 divided by 4 plus 1 (i.e., 5) = 10,000 and plus 1 the Total Valid Poll is 10,001. This is the quota of votes to be reached by the candidates and it means that only 4 persons can be elected. If a candidate receives more than the quota on any count, the surplus votes are transferred to the remaining candidates in proportion to the next available preferences indicated by voters.</p>

# Israel

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Hebrew, Arabic, Russian (in the questionnaires)
Year of last election:	2009
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mifleget Ha' Avoda - the Israeli Labor Party - 9,93%</li> <li>2. Ha' Likud - 21.61%</li> <li>3. Kadima - 22,47%</li> <li>4. Shas - 8,49%</li> <li>5. The new movement - Meretz - 2.95%</li> <li>6. The Jewish House - 2.87%</li> <li>7. Ya'Hadut Ha'Tora - United Torah Judaism - 4.39%</li> <li>8. Gil- Gimlaey Israeli la' Knesset - Pensioners of Israel to the Knesset - 0.52%</li> <li>9. Israel Beiteinu - Israel is Our Home - 11.7%</li> <li>10. Halhud HaLeumi - The National Union - 3.34%</li> <li>11. Ha'Tnu'a HaYeruqa (The Green Movement) - 0.82%</li> <li>12. Ale Yarok (Green Leaf) - 0.39%</li> <li>13. HaYerukim (The Greens) - 0.37%</li> <li>14. Hadash (New) - 3.32%</li> <li>15. Balad - National Democratic Assembly) - 2.48%</li> <li>16. Ra'am- Ta'al - 3.38%</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1: Mifleget Ha' Avoda. Generally known in Israel as Avoda is a center-left political party in Israel. It is a social democratic and Zionist party, a member of the Socialist International and an observer member of the Party of European Socialists. From 1999 until 2008, the party was allied to the small left-wing, religious Zionist party Meimad, in an electoral agreement whereby Meimad received the tenth seat on Labor's list.</p> <p>2: Likud. The reigning right-wing party, Likud has made tentative moves toward the center of late. It is led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. After a convincing win in the 2003 elections, Likud saw a major split in 2005, when Likud leader Ariel Sharon left the party to form the new Kadima party. This resulted in Likud slumping to fourth place in 2006 elections. Following the 2009 elections, the party appears to have mostly recovered from its loss, and now leads the Israeli government under Prime Minister Netanyahu.</p> <p>3: Kadima. Kadima is a centrist political party in Israel founded by like-minded Likud and Labor politicians. It became the largest party in the Knesset after the 2006 elections, winning 29 of the 120 seats. The party is currently headed by Tzipi Livni, and its members include moderates of the political center and center-left who support her diplomatic steps to peace with the Palestinians.</p> <p>4: Shas. Shas is an ultra-Orthodox Sephardic party that draws its primary support from the lower socio-economic level and projects an underdog image. It has a core following of several hundred thousand supporters, but can attract hundreds of thousands more when tensions between Ashkenazi (Jews of European origin) and Sephardi (Jews of Middle Eastern and North African origin) heighten. Following the 2009 elections in which Shas won 11 seats, it joined Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government and holds four cabinet posts. Its current leader, Eli Yishai, is one of four Deputy Prime Ministers, and Minister of Internal Affairs.</p> <p>5: The new movement - Meretz. The New Movement-Meretz, previously known as Meretz, then Yachad, and then Meretz-Yachad is a left-wing, Zionist, social democratic political party in Israel, which emphasizes the strive for peace, human rights, religious freedom and green politics. On December 22, 2008, Meretz finalized its merger with Hatnua HaHadasha ("The New Movement") for the 2009 Israeli elections. The alliance failed miserably, winning just three seats, with the left-wing bloc in general suffering a harsh blow in Israeli legislative elections in 2009.</p> <p>6: The Jewish House. Commonly known in Israel by its Hebrew acronym Mafdal. was a political party in Israel representing the religious Zionist movement. A moderate Jewish religious party which recognizes the government as a secular authority and whose members serve in the military. It traces its roots to the early days of Zionism and has been a member of nearly every Israeli government, including the current one. It moved to the far right following the Yom Kippur War, but in recent years has moved nearer the center. In November 2008 party members voted to disband the party in order to join the new Jewish Home party created by a merger of the NRP and most of the National Union factions. However, most of the National Union left the merger shortly after its implementation.</p> <p>7: Ya'Hadut Ha'Tora. An Ultra-Orthodox list, an alliance of Degel HaTorah and Agudat Israel, two small Israeli Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox) political parties in the Knesset. It was first formed in 1992. It advocates a Jewish state run by religious rather than civil law, and seeks to improve the living standards of its followers. The two factions again united for the 18th Knesset elections in 2009. The bloc won five mandates, a loss of one seat.</p> <p>8: Gil- Gimlaey Israeli la' Knesset. Pensioners of Israel to the Knesset. The party has been in existence in some form since the 1990s. the party was the surprise package of 2006 elections, and party leader Rafi Eitan became Minister of Pensioners Affairs. In the 2009 elections, Gil did not receive sufficient votes for representation in the Knesset.</p> <p>9: Israel Beiteinu. Israel Beiteinu, which means "Israel Our Home". The party describes itself as "a national movement with the clear vision to follow in the brave path of Zev Jabotinsky", the founder of Revisionist Zionism. It takes a hard line towards Ultra Orthodox, Israeli Arabs and Palestinians, characterized by its 2009 election slogan "No loyalty, no citizenship". Its main platform involves the creation of a Palestinian state that would include the exchange of largely Arab-inhabited parts of Israel for largely Jewish-inhabited parts of the West Bank. The party maintains an anti-clerical mantle and encourages socio-economic opportunities for new immigrants, in conjunction with efforts to increase Jewish immigration. In the elections the party won 15 seats, its most to date, making it the third largest party in the Knesset [the Israeli</p>

	<p>Parlament]</p> <p>10: Halhud HaLeumi. The National Union (Hebrew: Halhud HaLeumi) is an alliance of nationalist political parties in Israel. In the 2009 elections the National Union consisted of four parties: Moledet, Hatikva, Eretz Yisrael Shelanu, and Tkuma. It is generally considered to be the most right-wing party represented in the Knesset.</p> <p>11: The Green Movement. The Green Movement , is a social-environmental political party in Israel. The Green Movement brings together activists, organizers, city council members, academics, thinkers, and scientists who share awareness that the social-environmental agenda must be central to Israel's political discourse.</p> <p>12: Ale Yarok (Green Leaf). Ale Yarok, Green Leaf in Hebrew is a minor liberal political party in Israel best known for its ideology of decriminalizing cannabis. To date it has had no representation in the Knesset</p> <p>13: HaYerukim (The Greens). The Greens, HaYerukim, is a minor political party in Israel currently headed by Pe'er Visner. Although the party is currently not represented in the Knesset, it does hold seats in 22 municipalities across Israel</p> <p>14: Hadash (New). A socialist party also known as the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, Hadash is primarily an Arab party, although it has a Jewish men, Dov Khenin, among its candidates. Historically, Hadash has favored peace among Jews and Arabs, the withdrawal of Israel from Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. It currently has four members in the 120-seat Knesset.</p> <p>15: Balad (National Democratic Assembly). Balad is an Israeli Arab political party in Israel led by Jamal Zahalka. It is sometimes called the "National Democratic Alliance". Balad wants Israel to become a democratic, secular country rather than a Jewish state.</p> <p>16: Ra'am- Ta'al. An alliance of The United Arab List (Ra'am), [political party representing and supported by Israeli Arabs] and The Arab Movement for Renewal (Ta'al) [a two-man Israeli Arab political party in Israel led by Ahmad Tibi and Mahmud Asad]. Running together, the alliance won four seats, three of which were taken by the United Arab List. The partys' alliance was maintained for the 2009 elections, which initially saw the Israeli Central Elections Committee ban the party from participating, but this was overturned by the Supreme Court of Israel. In the elections, the alliance again won four seats.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>Elections to the Knesset allocate 120 seats by party-list proportional representation, using the D'Hondt method. The election threshold for the 2006 election was set at 2% (up from 1.5% in previous elections), which is a little over two seats. After official results are published, the President delegates the task of forming a government to the member of Knesset with the best chance of assembling a majority coalition (usually the leader of the largest party, but not required). That member has up to 42 days to negotiate with the different parties, and then present his or her government to the Knesset for a vote of confidence. Once the government is approved (by a vote of at least 61 members), he or she becomes Prime Minister.</p>

# Lithuania

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas University of Applied Sciences
Year of last election:	2008
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lietuvos socialdemokratu partija - Lithuanian Social Democratic Party (LSDP) - 11.72 %</li> <li>2. Lietuvos rusu sajunga - Union of Russians of Lithuania (LRS) - 0.92 %</li> <li>3. Fronto partija - Party Front (Frontas) - 3.24 %</li> <li>4. Lietuvos centro partija - Lithuanian Centre Party (LCP) - 0.7 %</li> <li>5. Tevynes sajunga – Lietuvos krikcionys demokratai - Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) - 19.72 %</li> <li>6. Naujoji sajunga (socialliberalai) - New Union (Social Liberals) (NS) - 3.64 %</li> <li>7. Pilietines demokratijos partija - Party of Civic Democracy (PDP) - 1.11 %</li> <li>8. Lietuvos lenku rinkimu akcija - Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania (LLRA) - 4.79 %</li> <li>9. Tautos prisikelimo partija - National Resurrection Party (TPP) - 15.09 %</li> <li>10. Koalicija Darbo partija + jaunimas - The Coalition Labour Party + Youth - 8.99 %</li> <li>11. Lietuvos Respublikos liberalu sajudis - Liberals' Movement of the Republic of Lithuania (LRLS) - 5.73 %</li> <li>12. Lietuvos valstieciu liaudininku sajunga - Lithuanian Peasant Popular Union (LVLS) - 3.73 %</li> <li>13. Partija Tvarka ir teisingumas - Party Order and Justice (TT) - 12.68 %</li> <li>14. Liberalu ir centro sajunga - Liberal and Centre Union (LiCS) - 5.34 %</li> <li>15. Partija Jaunoji Lietuva - Party Young Lithuania (JL) - 1.75 %</li> <li>16. Lietuvos socialdemokratu sajunga - Lithuanian Social Democratic Union (LSDS) - 0.86</li> <li>17. Lietuvos laisves sajunga - Lithuanian Freedom Union (LLS) - DNP</li> <li>18. Lietuvos liaudies sajunga Uz teisinga Lietuva - Lithuanian People's Union 'For the Fair Lithuania' (UTL) - DNP</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LSDP is a major leftist (social democratic) party in Lithuania. It is one of the major parties in Lithuania, lead the government coalitions form 2001 to 2008, now in opposition. It was formed in 2001 when former LSDP merged with ex-communist party (Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party).</li> <li>2. LRS is a minor leftist (ethnic minority) party, though having several MPs and a frequent partner of LSDP. Established in 1995.</li> <li>3. Frontas is a radical leftist (pro-Russian) party, splinter (in 2008) from LSDP, led by a radical A. Paleckis. Currently, merged with Lithuanian Socialist Party forming the Socialist Peoples' Front.</li> <li>4. LCP is a rightist (nationalist/conservative) party. It is now a minor party formed in 1993 as Lithuanian Centre Union. It used to be an important party having about 20 seats in the Seimas and supporting the government in 1996-2000. However, after the electoral defeat in 2000 and eventual merger with the Lithuanian Liberal Union in 2003, some members formed a splinter party National Centre Party, which was renamed into Lithuanian Centre Party in 2005.</li> <li>5. TS-LKD is a major rightist (conservative/Christian democratic) party in Lithuania. It is a successor party of the Independence Movement Sajudis and was formed in 1993. It has merged with different rightist parties (most notably, with the Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees in 2004 and with the Lithuanian Nationalist Union and Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party in 2008). However, different factions splintered from it, too (among them, Nationalist Faction in 2011). It lead the government (together with the Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party) in 1996-2000. After winning national elections in 2008 it has formed a coalition government with LRLS, TPP and LiCS (the latter two merged in 2011).</li> <li>6. Formed in 1998 by a prominent figure Arturas Paulauskas (former Prosecutor General of Lithuania), NS used to be a major centrist (left liberal) party. It has been participating in government coalitions with Lithuanian Liberal Union and LSDP (2000-2008). However, in the 2008 Seimas election it has suffered a major defeat and eventually merged with the Labor Party in 2011.</li> <li>7. PDP is a splinter party of DP. It was formed by the Speaker of the Seimas Viktoras Muntianas in 2006 and participated in the governing coalition till 2008. However, in the 2008 Seimas elections it did not receive enough votes to get seats in the Parliament and currently has almost extinguished. Its political views are centrist (left liberal).</li> <li>8. LLRA is an ethnic minority (rightist/conservative) party. It is a minor (regional) party, though having several MPs and MEPs. Its leader Waldemar Tomaszewski is very active in the political arena and fights for the rights of Poles in Lithuania.</li> <li>9. TPP used to be a newly formed party (lead by controversial show business star Arunas Valinskas) before the Seimas election in 2008. It has won a considerable share of votes and participated in the government led by TS-LKD. However, a considerable part of its members in the Seimas splintered off to form an opposition party - Lithuanian Christian Party - in 2009/2010. In 2011 it has merged with the LiCS. Its political views were centrist (right liberal).</li> <li>10. The Coalition Labour Party + Youth is an electoral coalition of the Labour Party (Darbo partija (DP)) and Labourist Party (Leiboristu partija (LP)). DP is one of the major centrist (liberal) Lithuanian parties founded in 2003 by the Russian-born millionaire Viktor Uspaskich. It has participated in government coalitions with LSDP in 2004-2008 and after the 2008 Seimas elections it has moved into the opposition. LP is a youth political organisation of DP, though formally a separate party.</li> <li>11. LRLS is a major centrist (liberal) party, founded as a splinter from LiCS in 2006. After the 2008 Seimas elections it has formed the government coalition with TS-LKD, TPP and LiCS.</li> <li>12. LVLS used to be an agrarian (leftist/green) party, having its origins in the interwar period. It was reestablished in 2005 when the former merger (founded in 2001) of Lithuanian Peasants Party and New Democracy Party decided to change its name into the historic one. Lead by a prominent politician Kazimira Danute Prinskiene, it has been participating in government coalitions with LSDP in 2004-2008. However, in the 2008 Seimas elections it has suffered a major defeat and got only 3 seats. Eventually, after Prunskiene left the party in 2009 it has been renamed into the Lithuanian Peasant and Greens Union.</li> <li>13. TT is a major rightist (nationalist/conservative) Lithuanian party. It was founded in 2002 by now controversial former President Rolandas Paksas (removed from office after the impeachment in 2004) as a splinter from the Lithuanian Liberal Union. At first, it was named Liberal Democratic Party and in 2006 the name was changed into the current one. It is constantly in the opposition to both LSDP and TS-LKD, the two major parties of the left and the</li> </ol>

	<p>right wing of the Lithuanian political spectrum.</p> <p>14. LiCS is one of the major centrist (liberal) parties in Lithuania. It was founded as a merger between the Lithuanian Liberal Union, Lithuanian Centre Union and Modern Christian Democratic Union (splinter from TS-LKD) in 2003. Ever since the 2004 Seimas elections it is a member of government coalitions with both LSDP and TS-LKD. In 2011 it merged with TPP.</p> <p>15. JL is a minor rightist (nationalist/conservative) party founded in 1994. It has been transforming and merging with different other nationalist/conservative parties till 2005 when the organizational structure has stabilized. It has some representation at the local level and its leader Stanislovas Buskevicius has been elected into the Seimas in 2000 and 2004.</p> <p>16. LSDS is a minor leftist (social democratic) party. It was founded in 1999 as a splinter from LSDP and named Lithuanian Party "Social Democracy 2000". In 2003 the name was changed into the current one. However, its electoral success was very limited with a couple of seats in some of the local governments.</p> <p>17. LLS used to be a minor rightist (nationalist/conservative) party. It was founded as a splinter from the Lithuanian Freedom League in 1992/1994. It was lead by the controversial politician (former mayor of Kaunas) Vytautas Sustauskas, who has been elected into the Parliament in 2000. In 2011 it was reorganized into the Union of Freedom Fighters and later the same year into the Union of Lithuanian President. From then on it is lead by the widow of the former President Algirdas Brazauskas - Kristina Brazauskiene.</p> <p>18. UTL is a minor leftist (socialist/populist) party. It was founded in 2000 and has since been lead by Julius Veselka, MP in 1992-1996 and 2000-2012.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	In the elections of the Seimas voters cast two votes in the 1st round of the elections: one in 71 single-member constituencies for a candidate (person) and one in a multi-member (70 seats) nationwide constituency for a candidate list (party or coalition). Voters are allowed to freely rank candidates in the list (cast 5 preferential votes), however, if the preference is not stated, the first five candidates on the list receive preferential votes. 2nd round is held in a single-member constituency if none of the candidates receives majority of votes (50%+1 of votes from total votes cast if turnout > 40% OR 20% of votes from the registered voters if turnout < 40%). Votes in a multi-member constituency are allocated on the basis of the simple quotient and greatest remainders rules. Voting is not compulsory. Voting age: 18 years.

# Netherlands

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2010
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie, VVD - Party for freedom and democracy - 20,5%</li> <li>2. Partij van de Arbeid, PvdA - Labour Party - 19,6%</li> <li>3. Partij voor de Vrijheid, PVV (List Wilders) - Party for Freedom - 15,5%</li> <li>4. Christen Democratisch Appel (CDA) - Christian Democratic Party - 13,6%</li> <li>5. Socialistische Partij, SP - Socialistic Party - 9,8%</li> <li>6. Democraten 66, D66 - Democrats `66 - 6,9%</li> <li>7. GroenLinks, GL - Green Left - 6,7%</li> <li>8. ChristenUnie, CU - Christian Union - 3,2%</li> <li>9. Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij, SGP - Social Reformed Party - 1,7%</li> <li>10. Partij voor de Dieren, PvdD - Party for the Animals - 1,3%</li> <li>11. Trots Op Nederland, Trots, TON (List Verdonk) - Proud of the Netherlands - 0,6%</li> </ol> <p>Not listed in variable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partij voor Mens en Spirit, MenS - Party for Human and Spirit - 0,3%</li> <li>- Piratenpartij - Pirate Party - 0,1%</li> </ul>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie, VVD: A rightist -liberal party with progressive standpoints (favouring entrepreneurship and economic values). VVD was founded in 1948 and since 31 May 2006 it has been led by Mr. Mark Rutte (currently the Prime Minister of the VVD/CDA cabinet) . Since the 2010 Dutch general elections, VVD forms a coalition cabinet with the CDA. The Rutte cabinet is a minority cabinet, but it is supported by the PVV.</li> <li>2. Partij van de Arbeid, PvdA: A leftist social democratic party, led by Mr. Job Cohen since 2010. it was founded in 1946 and currently leads the opposition together with SP, D66 and the Green-left.</li> <li>3. Partij voor de Vrijheid, PVV (List Wilders): PVV is a conservative-liberal party led by Mr. Geert Wilders (fomer of the VVD). PVV was found in 2006 and it has strong stances on islam and immigration. The party is considered being populist, conservative, liberal, and leftist at the same time. The party was the big winner of the 2010 general election, but failed to get in to the cabinet. it, however, signed a formal agreement to support the VVD-CDA cabinet.</li> <li>4. Christen Democratisch Appel (CDA): CDA is a christian democratic party at the centre of the Dutch political centrum Since 201,Mr. Maxime Verhagen is the political leader of the party, that forms now the minority cabinet with VVD. It was founded in 1980 after a fusion of several smaller christian parties..</li> <li>5. Socialistische Partij, SP: SP is a Leftist (socialist) party led by Mr. Emile Roemer since 2010. The party was founded in 1972.</li> <li>6. Democraten 66, D66: D66 Centre (social-liberal) party with many progressive standpoints.it is considered left wing on immigration, and right wing on economic issues. Since 2006 it has been led by Mr. Alexander Pechtold. in recent years, D66 often forms a coalition with Green-Left.</li> <li>7. GroenLinks, GL: Groen links is a Leftist party with green environmentalist ideals, led by Ms. Jolanda Sap since 2010. it was founded un 1990.</li> <li>8. ChristenUnie, CU: Christen Unie is a christian (Protestant) democratic party led by Mr Arie Slob from 2011. CU has conservative stances on aborton, eutanasia and gay marriage. For other issues, the party is considered centre-left.</li> <li>9. Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij, SGP: SGP is an orthodox Protestant party with conservative standpoints.The party was founded in 1918 and led by Mr. Kees van Staaij Only as of 2006, women has been allowed to become members of this party..</li> <li>10. Partij voor de Dieren, PvdD: Partij voor de Dieren is a single-issue animal rights party with natural affinity for environmental issues (center-left).</li> <li>11. Trots Op Nederland, Trots, TON (List Verdonk): Trots Ultra is rightist (populist) part led by Ms. Rita Verdonk.</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The Dutch Parliament (called the Staten-Generaal) consists of two houses: the indirectlyelected First Chamber, with 75 members who only have the power of veto in thelegislative process, and the directly elected Second Chamber, whose 150 memberscontrol the government and can propose legislation. Members of both houses serve afour-year term.</p> <p>Direct elections to the Second Chamber of parliament are held every four years. Asystem of proportional representation is used in all Dutch elections, national and regional.This means that a party that wins 10% of the vote also occupies 10% of the seats in arepresentative assembly. The country is divided into 19 electoral districts during theelections to the Second Chamber, allowing parties to put up candidates who are wellknown in particular parts of the country.</p>

	However, all the votes cast for each party in every district are counted together when the election results are tallied.
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# Norway

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2009
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rødt (R) - The Party Red - 1.3 %</li> <li>2. Sosialistisk Venstreparti (SV) - Socialist Left Party - 6.2 %</li> <li>3. Det norske Arbeiderparti (A) - Norwegian Labour Party - 35.4 %</li> <li>4. Venstre (V) - Liberal Party - 3.9 %</li> <li>5. Kristelig Folkeparti (KRF) - Christian Democratic Party - 5.5 %</li> <li>6. Senterpartiet (SP) - Centre Party - 6.2 %</li> <li>7. Høyre (H) - Conservative Party - 17.2 %</li> <li>8. Fremskrittspartiet (FRP) - Progress Party - 22.9 %</li> <li>9. Kystpartiet (KYST) - Coast Party - 0.2 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Red Party is a far-left political party and the leading party to the left of the Socialist Left and the Labour Party in Norway. Since 2007 the party has sought a seat in parliament. The party was founded in March, 2007 by a merger of the Workers' Communist Party and the Red Electoral Alliance. (1.3 % of votes in last national election.)</li> <li>2. Socialist Left Party: Formed in 1975 by merger of the Socialist People's Party, the Democratic Socialists and other socialist forces united previously in the Socialist Electoral League (established in 1973 largely as a result of the victory of the no-campaign for Norwegian EC membership). SV advocates non-alignment and socialism independent of international centres, based on workers' control, decentralized powers, gender equality and ecological principles. Following the 2005 election participating in the Red-Green Coalition with the Labour and the Centre Party. (6.2 % of votes in last national election.)</li> <li>3. Norwegian Labour Party is a social-democratic party with a hegemonic hold on government in post-war years. It is the senior partner in the current Norwegian government as part of the Red-Green Coalition, and its leader, Jens Stoltenberg, is the current Prime Minister of Norway. (35.4 % of votes in last national election.)</li> <li>4. The Liberal Party is a liberal political party and the the oldest in the country (formed in 1884). It has enacted reforms such as parliamentarism, freedom of religion, universal suffrage and free education. Having initially been a major party in Norway, it has in recent times become marginalized, and has struggled to get above the election threshold. (3.9 % of votes in last national election.)</li> <li>5. Christian Democratic Party was established in 1933 with the aim to uphold conservative moral and values. Centre-right party which has had a "king maker" position in Norwegian politics during the last decades. Due largely to their poor showing in the 2009 elections, the party has seen a conflict between its conservative and liberal wings over which direction their political ideology should shift in the future. (5.5 % of votes in last national election.)</li> <li>6. Centre Party: Agrarian party established in 1920. Have participated in centre-right coalitions in the post-war era and in centre-left coalitions in the 1930s. From its founding until 2000, the party had joined only non-socialist governments, but in 2005 changed allegiance and joined the Red-Green government. The party is firmly against Norwegian membership in the EU. (6.2 % of votes in last national election.)</li> <li>7. Conservative Party: Established in 1884 as the erstwhile bourgeois opposition party to Liberals. However, the party has historically included both conservatives and liberals. Until the 2005 elections the Conservatives were the main non-socialist opposition party. In 2005, the party achieved a very weak election result, but has seen a strong surge in polls since the 2009 election. (17.2 % of votes in last national election.)</li> <li>8. Progress Party: Originally formed as a one-man populist opposition party in 1973, largely as an anti-tax movement. Developed into a right-liberal party, but after a break-away and ideological schism in 1993, the party has consolidated itself as a right-populist party. Currently Norway's second largest party. (22.9 % of votes in last national election.)</li> <li>9. Coastal Party was established in 1999 and has attracted defectors primarily from Centre Party and Christian Democratic Party. Occupied one seat in parliament in two successive periods (1997-2001 and 2001-2005). The party has district, fishing and coastal issues among its primary policies and is a staunch opponent of Norwegian EU membership. (0.2 % of votes in last national election.)</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The primary legislative assembly at the national level in Norway is called the Storting. There are 169 seats or members of the Storting and general elections are held every four years for each of those seats. The Storting can not be dissolved and there is no opportunity to call for new elections outside the general election year.</p> <p>Every Norwegian citizen aged 18 or older by the end of the election year has the right to vote at the election. Norway practices universal suffrage. Everyone who is entitled to vote and who has lived in Norway for the last 10 years is eligible to be voted into the Storting with the exception of civil servants and people working in the Foreign Service.</p>

The Norwegian electoral system is based on the principle of direct election and proportional representation, and voting is by secret ballot. The ballot is a vote for a list of representatives from a political party and the names on the party list are candidates representing that particular party. These candidates have been chosen on the nomination conventions of each party, and the list is closed, i.e. voters are not permitted to rank candidates on the list. There are 19 counties in Norway which constitute the constituencies. These are divided into polling districts where the voters come to take ballot.

150 constituency representatives are elected to the legislative assembly - the Storting. Another 19 are distributed among the counties after the election. The allocation of seats is derived through a modified Sainte Laguë method.

# Poland

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English (original names in polish version of questionnaire)
Year of last election:	2007
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Platforma Obywatelska Rzeczypospolitej Polskie (PO)j - Civic Platform [Citizens' Platform] - 41,51 %</li> <li>2. Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (PiS)f - Law and Justice - 32,11 %</li> <li>3. Lewica i Demokraci (koalicja wyminionych poniżej ugrupowań SLD, UP, SDPL, PD; faktycznie w parlamencie znaleźli się prawie jedynie kandydaci SLD)i - Left and Democrats - 13,15 %</li> <li>4. Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej (SLD) - Democratic Left Alliance - 13,15 %</li> <li>5. Unia Pracy (UP) - Labour Union</li> <li>6. Socjaldemokracja Polska (SDPL) - Social Democracy of Poland</li> <li>7. Partia Demokratyczna – demokraci.pl (PD) - Democratic Party demokraci.pl</li> <li>8. Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (PSL) - Polish Peasants' Party - 8,91 %</li> <li>9. Samoobrona Rzeczypospolitej Polskie - Self-Defence - 1,53 %</li> <li>10. Liga Polskich Rodzin (LPR) - League of Polish Families - 1,30 %</li> <li>11. Polska Partia Pracy (PPR) - Polish Labour Party - 0,99 %</li> <li>12. Krajowa Partia Emerytów i Rencistów (KPEiR) - National Party of Retirees and Pensioners</li> <li>13. Unia Polityki Realnej (UPR)j - Real Politics Union</li> <li>14. Prawica Rzeczypospolitej - Right of the Republic</li> <li>15. Polska jest Najważniejsza (PJN) - Poland Comes First</li> <li>16. Ruch Poparcia - Support Movement</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. PO (Platforma Obywatelska) Civic Platform – Before the 2007 elections the Civic Platform was perceived as a centre-right political party with a programme founded on the principles of economic liberalism and Christian democracy. PO was founded in 2001, initially in opposition to the government formed by SLD (Democratic Left Alliance) and then to that headed by PiS (Law and Justice). It won the 2007 parliamentary elections and formed a government coalition with PSL (see below).</p> <p>Many political observers argue that PO owes its high popularity to open critique of PiS (see below) and to solutions that appeal to the broad public, in particular: cost cuts in public administration, reduction of taxes, further privatisation of state-owned enterprises, support for entrepreneurship, replacement of conscription with a professional army. In foreign policy, PO also emphasizes the necessity for further integration with the EU and is less keen (than its predecessors, notably PiS) on tightening the co-operation with the USA. The party also endeavours to improve Poland's relations with Russia (cf. event reports in ESS5 and reports between ESS rounds).</p> <p>PO's general worldview and ideology are moderately conservative: it opposes legalisation of euthanasia and soft drugs ('legal highs'), amendments to abortion regulations and reinstatement of death penalty.</p> <p>After winning the 2007 elections, prime minister and chairman of the Civic Platform Donald Tusk started making frequent suggestions about the need to depart from liberal economic ideas and take account of the social/welfare costs. As a result, the image of the PO government (in coalition with PSL) became much more blurred in key areas shaping the image of the party. The government postponed the previously announced reform of the social security system, which was supposed to involve elements such as extension of the retirement threshold, abolishment of costly retirement privileges for uniformed services and a change in the social insurance system financed from the public resources i.e. liquidation of preferential premium rates paid by farmers (KRUS reform, cf. event reports for ESS5). It also postponed the previously announced decision to reduce taxes.</p> <p>Contrary to those announcements, the government, in its attempts to find ways to reduce the growth of public debt, presented a controversial reform proposal for the retirement system. Under that proposal some of the retirement premiums paid by citizens would be spent on servicing the public debt. For the same reason, the government temporarily increased the VAT by 1 per cent starting from 2011. The government is also ambiguous about regulating the in vitro fertilisation (legal regulations on this matter are an essential precondition for ratifying the Council of Europe's convention on bioethics: Poland signed but did not ratify the convention for more than 10 years (see also events reports in ESS4 and ESS5 'bioethics law'). The Civic Platform presented two competitive drafts to the parliament: both allowed in vitro fertilisation but each suggested different terms (cf. events report in ESS5). While looking for a compromise on the matter, the Civic Platform exposed itself to criticism from church leaders and right-wing parties as well as left-wing groupings.</p> <p>One unquestionable success of the Civic Platform was that its candidate (previously the Speaker of Parliament) Bronisław Komorowski won the 2010 presidential elections. Likewise, the Civic Platform received the highest results in the 2010 local elections despite somewhat pessimistic pre-electoral predictions.</p> <p>At present, before the parliamentary elections (scheduled for autumn 2011) the government is criticised by the opposition and citizens who voted for the Civic Platform previously. Criticism focuses on unfulfilled promises made at the start of the term of office. (cf. events reports in ESS5).</p> <p>As a result, unfavourable opinions about the government's performance translate into poorer ratings for the party which has been losing popularity and is perceived as a grouping without a clear political vision.</p> <p>An important event for the Civic Platform was the departure of its prominent member, a controversial politician Janusz Palikot (very popular in the media). He left before the local elections, renouncing his membership, and established his own party under the name of Palikot's Support Movement 'Modern Poland'. His departure and a rift in Law and Justice got broad coverage in the media as a beginning of a reshuffling on the Polish political scene which, during the past four years, seemed stable, with four major parties in the parliament</p> <p>2. PiS (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość) Law and Justice –A party with a clearly right-wing profile in worldview, postulating a stricter penal system to fight social and political pathologies (notably corruption). In terms of customs and cultural background, the party emphasises attachment to the Roman Catholic faith. The conservative image of Law and Justice deepened after the</p>

presidential plane crash near Smolensk and the resulting events (cf. overview of events between ESS4 and ESS5, including the so-called 'Cross issue') . In comparison with other major parties, PiS advocates the most conservative solutions to issues such as abortion and in vitro fertilization.

It supports the idea of social security guaranteed by the state and the idea of a state based on the principle of solidarity.

As a remedy to the economic crisis, PiS proposes greater public spending in order to stimulate economic growth. PiS is sceptical about plans for Poland's rapid accession to the Eurozone. In foreign policy, PiS attaches greater importance to relations with the USA, accentuating the protection of Poland's interest within the EU. When the PiS government was in power (2005-2007), relations with Russia deteriorated.

PiS was founded in 2001. The party often stresses the importance of dealing with the communist past. While criticising the 1989-2005 governments, PiS holds them responsible for a number of pathologies of public life (notably corruption and unethical liaisons between business and politics). After winning the highest proportion of votes in the 2005 parliamentary elections, it formed a government coalition with LPR and Self-Defence.

After the 2007 elections PiS became the largest opposition party and the key rival to the ruling PO.

The PiS candidate in the 2010 presidential elections, Jarosław Kaczyński, lost to the Civic Platform candidate. His defeat triggered accountability issues and mutual accusations within the party.

Jarosław Kaczyński considered his result to be poor and started blaming politicians responsible for the campaign, who were associated with the liberal wing within PiS (and who had been connected with the late president Lech Kaczyński, Jarosław's brother, who perished in the presidential plane crash in April 2010). As a result, those politicians left PiS and formed a new grouping, called PJN (see below, see events reports and reports on events between rounds).

The Smolensk plane crash and the defeat in presidential elections radicalised the political programme of PiS, which drove the party's position down in rankings and undermined its results in the 2010 local elections.

PiS was critical about the government's performance in almost all spheres. However, it focused mostly on criticising the government for not spending enough time to clarify the causes of the Smolensk tragedy and for being too meek vis-à-vis the Russians. (see also the report on events between ESS4 and ESS5 'The Smolensk tragedy...' and events reports for ESS5)

3. LiD (Lewica i Demokraci) Left-Wingers and Democrats – a coalition of SLD, UP, SDPL and PD, all of which are described below; in fact, mostly SLD candidates made it to the parliament after the 2007 elections).

4. SLD (Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej) Democratic Left Alliance – A left-wing party which officially denies its communist roots (it propagates a programme of modern social democracy), yet a high proportion of its activists originate from SdRP (Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland, a party which existed until 1995), a descendant of the communist party (PZPR, disbanded in 1989).

In its programme, SLD supports the idea of the state keeping most social welfare roles, combining it with economic liberalism and a secular outlook on morals. It advocates strong integration with EU structures. The popularity of SLD peaked in 2001 when it won the elections to the lower (over 40% votes) and upper chamber of Poland's parliament. After four years of rule (2001-2005) it suffered a dramatic decline in social support (to 11%). This was related to scandals in the SLD circles (especially the Rywin scandal – cf. events) and an escalating conflict within the party. Since that time the party has struggled to regain popularity. In the 2007 parliamentary elections, when it joined forces with several minor political parties and formed a coalition named Lewica i Demokraci (Left and Democrats), SLD attracted ca. 13% votes. It has remained in opposition since 2005. The SLD candidate in the 2010 presidential elections, Grzegorz Napieralski (the chairman of SLD) unexpectedly obtained a fairly good result and the party's popularity has noticeably improved since (some surveys indicate public support levels approaching 20%). This can be explained, on the one hand, by SLD's stronger emphasis on worldview matters and its criticism of the role of the Roman Catholic church in public life. Discussion of those issues rolled out after the Smolensk tragedy (cf. overview of events between ESS4 and ESS5, including the so-called 'Cross issue'). On the other hand, an increasing support may be driven by the public's stronger criticism of the PO government and its performance.

SLD (Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej) Democratic Left Alliance – A left-wing party which officially denies its communist roots (it propagates a programme of modern social democracy), yet a high proportion of its activists originate from SdRP (Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland, a party which existed until 1995), a descendant of the communist party (PZPR, disbanded in 1989).

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5. Unia Pracy (UP) Labour Union – Party with a left-wing outlook both on social and economic issues, allied with SLD. It was founded in 1992, largely by people who used to be involved in anti-communist movement ('Solidarity') before 1989, which distinguished it from other left-wing groupings. At present, this party plays a marginal role in the country's politics.

6. Socjaldemokracja Polska (SDPL) Social Democracy of Poland – A left-wing party focusing on social issues and several elements of free market, supporting Poland's integration with the

EU.

SDPL was founded in April 2004 by some SLD activists dissatisfied with the situation within SLD and the policies of its then leaders.

SDPL has several MPs in the current parliament who were elected from the Left and Democrats list in the parliamentary elections (coalition with SLD, see above). At present, this party plays a marginal role in the country's politics.

7. Partia Demokratyczna demokraci.pl Democratic Party demokraci.pl – A party advocating an ideologically neutral state. Democrats have liberal views on the economy (such as preference for lower taxes) while emphasizing the necessity of certain welfare solutions. PD has several MPs in the current parliament who were elected from the Left and Democrats list in the parliamentary elections (coalition with SLD, see above). The party was founded in 2005 as a result of a transformation of the Freedom Union (Unia Wolności) which used to be a major party in 1990s, many of its members previously involved in anti-communist movement ('Solidarity'). At present, this party plays a marginal role in the country's politics.

8. PSL (Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe) Polish Peasants' Party – A centrist political party with a traditional outlook. PSL opposes potential reinstatement of death penalty, legalisation of euthanasia and abortion, registration of homosexual partnerships. It does not clearly emphasise the need for a separation of the state and the (Roman Catholic) church. The party supports state interventionism (particularly in agriculture) and as well as European integration. It is not without significance that PSL has been present in every single Polish parliament since 1989. In the last parliamentary elections in 2007 PSL won just under 9% of votes and is currently part of the government coalition with Civic Platform (PO).

9. Samoobrona Rzeczpospolitej Polskiej (Samoobrona) Self-Defence – A party with leftist economic views and rightist outlook on other affairs, described as a populist party by political observers. The party was founded in 1992 by a controversial politician Andrzej Lepper. He was one of the founders of a trade union with the same name which ran many controversial protests in 1990s. After the 2001 and 2005 parliamentary elections Self-Defence was represented in the parliament and was part of the governing coalition in 2005-2007 (with PiS and LPR). Its support in the 2007 parliamentary elections was very low, and the party lost in importance.

10. Liga Polskich Rodzin (LPR) League of Polish Families – A right-wing party, strongly emphasising its attachment to the Roman Catholic church and national tradition in the sphere of morals and culture. Notably, its economic programme is social welfare-oriented and focuses on protecting the Polish market. The party was founded in 2001 and was represented in the parliament after the 2001 and 2005 elections. It was part of the governing coalition in 2005-2007 (with PiS and Self-Defence). Its support in the 2007 parliamentary elections was very low, and the party lost in importance.

11. Polska Partia Pracy (PPR) Polish Labour Party – The party was founded in 2001 as a socialist grouping relying on the traditions of workers' movement. It postulates social security for citizens, free education and health care, and opposes privatisation. It favours a neutral (secular) state. This party plays a marginal role in politics.

12. Krajowa Partia Emerytów i Rencistów (KPEiR) The National Party of Retirees and Pensioners – This party was founded in 1997. It is a left-wing party which focuses on the protection of the elderly and citizens with disabilities. This party plays a marginal role in politics.

13. Unia Polityki Realnej (UPR) Real Politics Union – This party was founded in 1990, as a follow-up of an association with the same name (founded in 1987). This party favours extreme liberal policies in the economy, radical tax cuts, limited role of the state and public administration. This party has a eurosceptic profile with a conservative stance on morals and worldview. At present the party is undergoing a split into two separate groupings. This party plays a marginal role in politics.

14. Prawica Rzeczypospolitej Right of the Republic – This is a conservative party which stresses the role of the social teachings of the Roman Catholic church, strongly opposes legalisation of same-sex marriages, abortion and euthanasia. The party favours family-focused policies and solutions which support entrepreneurship. It stresses the need to defend Poland's sovereignty and criticises the EU policies from this perspective. The party was founded in 2007, mostly by former PiS politicians who left after a failed attempt to reinforce 'protection of life' in the country's constitution. This party plays a marginal role in politics.

15. Polska jest Najważniejsza (PJN) Poland Comes First – The first announcements came in early November 2010 when two PiS MPs, Joanna Kluzik-Rostkowska and Elżbieta Jakubiak, were excluded from PiS. Together with other PiS politicians, they founded a new parliamentary caucus (the official requirement for a new caucus is 15 members) and announced that a new political party will be established, with a Christian democratic profile but more centrist and less radical than PiS. As this grouping is still at an early stage of its history, its programme cannot be clearly identified and its current messages focus on specific solutions (e.g. equal retirement age for men and women in Poland) rather than a comprehensive vision of economic policy. The early days of the grouping got considerable media coverage (as a move which could potentially undermine the position of PiS) yet its future in the 2011 parliamentary elections is unclear. Given the moment of its founding, the party was not included in the ESS questionnaire, yet some respondents may have spontaneously mentioned it under 'Other'.

16. Ruch Poparcia Janusza Palikota Palikot's Support Movement – This party was founded in October 2010 by a controversial politician Janusz Palikot who left PO. The party focuses on liberal postulates in worldview and morals (discontinuation of religious education at schools, legalisation of homosexual partnerships, liberalisation of the anti-abortion law, legalisation of soft drugs). The early days of the party got considerable media coverage (as a move which could potentially undermine the position of PO) yet the surveys do not promise any fat chances in the coming elections. Given the moment of its founding, the party was not included in the ESS questionnaire, yet some respondents may have spontaneously mentioned it under 'Other'.

## 2. Electoral system

Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:

Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The Polish Parliament consists of two assemblies: Sejm (the lower chamber) and Senat (the higher chamber).</p> <p>The elections to each assembly usually take place once every four years (unless the parliament is dissolved early, was the case, e.g. in 2007 after the governing coalition fell apart).</p> <p>In the voting to the Sejm (the primary legislative assembly) only one vote per voter is recorded. Each voter (a Polish citizen who is 18 years or older on the election day) may select one candidate to the assembly. This vote is cast for a candidate and, at the same time, for the election committee (a party or a coalition) which has nominated this candidate. A total of 460 members of parliament are elected in the Sejm elections. The elections are organised in constituencies. In 2007 the number of constituencies was 41. The number of mandates allocated to each constituency is expressed by a single-digit number or a double digit number below 20. Parties which receive at least five per cent of votes (the so-called electoral threshold) and coalitions which receive at least 8 per cent of votes at the country level participate in the allocation of seats (this requirement does not apply to national minorities. The number of seats for parties and coalitions in each constituency is calculated according to the d'Hondt method. The groupings which have successfully placed their representatives in the Sejm (as well as those which failed to do so but have achieved at least 3 per cent of votes across Poland) receive funding from the central budget. The sums received depend on the performance at the elections, i.e. the highest funding goes to the groupings which have the largest numbers of MPs. This financial solution is often mentioned as a barrier for new groupings to play a considerable political role, for instance by getting elected to the parliament.</p> <p>In the voting to the Senat (the secondary legislative assembly) two, three or four votes are recorded, depending on the size of the constituency. Those votes are not ranked. For instance, in a constituency where four Senat members are to be elected, a voter may select any number of candidates but no more than four, etc. The successful candidates to the Senat are those which have obtained the greatest number of votes in their respective constituencies.</p>

# Portugal

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2009 (the last national election was in fact in 2011, but we referred to the fieldwork period)
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bloco de Esquerda (BE) - Left Block - 9,8 %</li> <li>2. Centro Democrático Social - Partido Popular - Social Democratic Centre - Popular Party - 10,4 %</li> <li>3. Coligação Democrática Unitária (CDU) - Unitarian Democratic Coalition - 7,9 %</li> <li>4. Partido Comunista dos Trabalhadores Portugueses/Movimento Reorganizativo do Partido do Proletariado (PCTP-MRPP) - Communist Party of the Portuguese Workers / Reorganizational Movement of the Portuguese Proletariat - 0,9 %</li> <li>5. Partido Humanista (PH) - Humanist Party</li> <li>6. Nova democracia (PND) - New Democracy - 0,4 %</li> <li>7. Partido Nacional Renovador (PNR) - National Renewal Party - 0,2 %</li> <li>8. Partido Operário de Unidade Socialista (POUS) - Workers Party of Socialist Unity - 0,1 %</li> <li>9. Partido Social Democrata (PSD) - Social Democratic Party - 29,1 %</li> <li>10. Partido Socialista (PS) - Socialist Party - 36,6 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Left Block is a left wing party established in 1999 through the fusion of the three other parties: União Democrática Popular (Popular Democratic Union), Partido Socialista Revolucionário (Revolutionary Socialist Party) and Política XXI (XXI Politics). Other small political groups and trends also join the party. It adopts a wide range of left wing policies.</li> <li>2. The Social Democratic Centre – Popular Party is a right wing conservative party that was founded in 1974. This Party has made alliances with the Social Democratic Party. In 1979 this alliance also included the Monarchic Party and was called the “Democratic Alliance”. In 2002, when the Social Democratic Party won the legislative elections and after 20 years, another alliance was made with this party, called the “Democratic Coalition”. In 2011, the CDS-PP was invited again to form a coalition government with the winning party, Social Democracy Party.</li> <li>3. Unitarian Democratic Coalition - It is a coalition of two portuguese parties - the Partido Comunista Português (Portuguese Communist Party) and the Ecological party. The portuguese communist party is a left wing party. It is Marxist -Leninist party and its organization is based on democratic centralism. The party was born in 1921 as the Portuguese section of the International Communist Party. By the end of this decade the party would become illegal by the dictatorship installed in Portugal which lasted for five decades. The Portuguese Communist Party would play an important role against the dictatorship. Since the Portuguese Revolution (April 25th 1974) against dictatorship, the Portuguese Communist Party has been an important political force, being very close to the working class. This party has made alliances at the local level with the Socialist Party. The Partido Ecologista – Os Verdes (The Ecological Party –The Greens) is a left wing ecological party born in 1982. The party's political concerns refer to promoting an active intervention regarding the environment.</li> <li>4. Communist Party of the Portuguese Workers / Reorganizational Movement of the Portuguese Proletariat (PCTP-MRPP) - It is generally the biggest of the small parties, although it seldom reaches 1% of the votes. It has no representation in the national parliament. It was founded in 1976 and it is a left wing party, with a maoist inspiration.</li> <li>5. The Humanist Party is a small party in Portugal, with no representatives in the parliament. It was founded in 1999 and is a member of Humanist International. It is a center left party.</li> <li>6. The New Democracy was founded in 2003, after the decision of his founder to live CDS-PP. It is a conservative right-wing party, with no representation in the national parliament. It is a member of EUDemocrats.</li> <li>7. The National Renewal Party is the more extrem right-wing party in Portugal. It is a nationalist party, defending policies against immigration and defending the values of the nation. It was found in 2000 and has no representation in the national parliament. It is a member of the European National Front.</li> <li>8. Workers Party of Socialist Unity - a small party, with no representation in the national parliament. It was founded in 1976. It is a left-wing, Trotskyist party. It was founded after a split from the Socialist Party.</li> <li>9. The Social Democratic Party is a right centre party, born in 1974, firstly under the name of Partido Popular Democrático (Popular Democratic Party). The party ideological principles are based on Social Democracy. The Social Democratic Party has been, together with the Socialist Party, one of the most important parties in Portugal, i.e., the ones that can get more electoral votes and that, therefore, have won more local and legislative elections. This party has made several alliances with other parties, namely, in 1979 with the Social Democratic Centre –Popular Party and the Monarchic Party, the “Democratic Alliance”. In 1985 this party won the legislative elections.</li> </ol>

	<p>Again in 1987 the party won the legislative elections and was the first party after the Portuguese Revolution (April 25th 1974) against dictatorship to get a full majority of the votes. The same would happen in 1991. After 1995 the party won the elections of 2002 with Durão Barroso, with an alliance with Social Democratic Centre – Popular Party. Durão Barroso would then leave to be the President of the European Commission, and due to instability and lack of leadership within the party, elections were called in 2005 and the Socialist party won. The Social Democratic Party has won election again in 2011, forming a government in coalition with the The Social Democratic Centre – Popular Party.</p> <p>10. The Socialist Party is a left centre party, born in 1973 by militants of the Portuguese Socialist Action. After the Portuguese Revolution (April 25th 1974) against dictatorship, the Socialist Party won the first elections (in 1975). Since then, the Socialist Party has been, together with Social Democratic Party, one of the most important parties in Portugal, i.e., the ones that can get more electoral votes and that, therefore, have won more local and legislative elections. In 1983 this party made an alliance with the Social Democratic Party known as Bloco Central (the Central Block), and together they prepared Portugal's entry to the EEC. In 1985 the alliance ended. The Socialist Party has also made alliances at the local level with the Portuguese Communist Party. In 1995 the party won the legislative elections with Prime-Minister António Guterres, who later on renounces his duty. In 2002 the Social Democratic Party won the elections. After a serious economic crisis in the country and due to problem of lack of leadership within the party the Socialist Party won the 2005 elections with the majority of the votes. In 2009 it won the elections again, and governed until 2011, when the prime-minister resigned. The Socialist Party is a member of the Internacional Socialista (International Socialist) and of the Partido Socialista Europeu (European Socialist Party).</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The Parliament of the Portuguese Republic consists of a single chamber, the Assembleia da República or Assembly of the Republic, composed of 230 members directly elected by universal adult suffrage for a maximum term of four years. Assembly members represent the entire country, rather than the constituencies in which they were elected. Governments require majority support in the Assembly in order to remain in office.</p> <p>Each one of Portugal's eighteen administrative districts, as well as each one of the country's two autonomous regions - the Açores (Azores) and Madeira - is an electoral constituency. Portuguese voters residing outside the national territory are grouped into two electoral constituencies - Europe and the rest of the world - each one of which elects two Assembly members. The remaining 226 seats are allocated among the national territory constituencies in proportion to their number of registered electors.</p> <p>Political parties and party coalitions may present lists of candidates. The lists are closed, so electors may not choose individual candidates in or alter the order of such lists. Electors cast a ballot for a single list. The seats in each constituency are apportioned according to the largest average method of proportional representation (PR), conceived by the Belgian mathematician Victor d'Hondt in 1899. There are no legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats.</p>

# Russian Federation

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Russian
Year of last election:	2007
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<p>01. Edinaya Rossiya - United Russia            02. KPRF (Kommunisticheskaya Partiya Rossiiskoi Federatsii) - CPRF (Communist Party of the Russian Federation)            03. LDPR (Liberalno-demokraticeskaya Partiya Rossii) - LDPR (Liberal Democratic Party of Russia)            05. Soyuz Pravyh Sil - Union of Right Forces            06. Yabloko - Russian Democratic Party "Yabloko"            07. Agrarnaya Partiya Rossii - Agrarian Party of Russia            11. Spravedlivaya Rossiya - Fair Russia            12. Pravoe Delo - Right Cause            13. Solidarnost - Solidarity            14. Koalitsiya za Rossiyu bez proizvola i korrupsii - Coalition For Russia without despotism and corruption            16. Patrioty Rossii - Patriots of Russia</p>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. Edinaya Rossiya - United Russia: Established in 1999. Current leader is Vladimir Putin. Pro-government center party established before elections 1999 under name "Edinstvo" (23,7% of votes). Participated in elections 2003 (38,2%) and became the largest party in the Parliament. In latest elections in December 2007 it won 64,1% of votes and got 315 out of 450 seats in State Duma. Support of strong state, all government decisions and policies, centrist in economic views, support government policy on creation of large state-run companies in all major industries. In 2008 Presidential elections supported Dmitry Medvedev for this post.</p> <p>2. KPRF (Kommunisticheskaya Partiya Rossiiskoi Federatsii) - CPRF (Communist Party of the Russian Federation): Established in 1993 (as a heritage of Communist Party of USSR). Current leader is Gennady Zyuganov. Leftist party (greater state control in economy, social provision, strong state). Participated in all Parliamentary elections, always elected and nominated candidate in all Presidential elections (V. Zhyuganov). In 1993 gained 12% of votes, 1995 – 22,7%, 1999-24,8, 2003 – 12,8%. In elections 2007 got 11,6% of votes (57 out of 450 seats in the Parliament). Currently the main competitor of pro-government party "United Russia".</p> <p>3. LDPR (Liberalno-demokraticeskaya Partiya Rossii) - LDPR (Liberal Democratic Party of Russia): Established in 1990. Current leader is Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Nationalist, populist party. Participated in all Parliamentary elections, always winning seats in State Duma. Nominated candidate in all Presidential elections (V.Zhirinovskiy). In 1993 gained 22,9% of votes, 1995 – 11,4%, 1999 - 6,1%, 2003 – 11,6%. In elections 2007 got 8,2% of votes (40 out of 450 seats in the Parliament).</p> <p>5. Soyuz Pravyh Sil - Union of Right Forces: Right party (pro-market reform, liberal democracy), liberal in politics, neoconservative in economy. Participated in three parliamentary elections 1999 – 8,65% of votes in single mandate district and 4,0 in 2003 (did not pass 5% threshold), lost elections in 2007 (0,96% votes, no seats). In late November 2009 the party was dissolved and new party "Pravoe delo" was established. Therefore this party was included only in pre-coded list for PRTVTBRU but not for PRTMBBRU and PRTCLBRU.</p> <p>6. Yabloko - Russian Democratic Party "Yabloko": Established in 1993. Current leader is Sergei Mitrochin. Right center, liberal democratic. Participated in all Parliamentary elections – 7,8% of votes in 1993, 7,0 in 1995, 6,0 in 1999, 4,0 in 2003 (did not pass 5% threshold). Party got only 1,59% of votes (no seats in the Parliament) in 2007. In June 2008 former leader and founder of the party Grigory Yavlinsky left the post of the head of the party.</p> <p>7. Agrarnaya Partiya Rossii - Agrarian Party of Russia: Established in 1993. Left, socialist. Participated in all Parliamentary elections but was elected only once (in 1993 - 7,9% of votes). In 1995 the party got 3,8%, in 1999 the party aligned with "Otechestvo", in 2003 it got 3,7% of votes. In 2007 elections party got 2,3% of votes (no seats). In November 2008 it was united with "United Russia" and stopped the activity as independent party (therefore not included in pre-coded list on PRTMBBRU and PRTCLBRU). Major issues for Agrarian Party of Russia were support and development of agriculture, social provision of rural residents.</p> <p>11. Spravedlivaya Rossiya - Fair Russia: Established 1998 – Party of Russian regions, since 2004 – Party "Rodina", from 2006 Party "Fair Russia: Rodina/ Pensioners/Life", from June 2009 – party "Fair Russia". Current leader is Sergei Mironov. Center left, social democratic party and member of Socintern. In elections of 2007 got 7,8% of votes, passed 7% threshold and got 38 seats in the Parliament. Major issues are social security issues, rights of people in need, interests of pensioners, socially-oriented state.</p> <p>12. Pravoe Delo - Right Cause: Established November 2008. Leaders - Before June 2011 - Gozman, Bovt, after June 2011 – Michail Prokhorov. Right party (pro-market reform, liberal democracy), liberal in politics, neoconservative in economy. Party was established after self-dissolution of party Union of the Right Forces. It did not participate in any parliamentary elections yet (therefore not included in the pre-coded list of parties on PRTVTBRU), but will participate in Parliamentary elections 2011 (therefore included in pre-coded list of questions on current party membership, PRTMBBRU, and party support, PRTCLBRU). Major issues are free market economy, human rights, democracy, civic society, closer cooperation with Western countries.</p> <p>13. Solidarnost - Solidarity: Established in end of 2008. Leaders are Garry Kasparov, Boris Nemtsov, Lev Ponomarev, Alexandr Ryklin. Extreme right-wing (support free market, competition, radical democratic reforms and civic freedoms, less involvement of state into economy), main opponents of current government. This movement was established after the defeat of all right-wing democratic parties on Parliamentary elections 2007. Some leaders of Union of the Right Forces joined this movement instead of party "Pravoe Delo". The movement</p>

	<p>initiated a lot of protest actions. It did not participate in any parliamentary elections yet (therefore not included in the pre-coded list of parties on question about voting in recent Parliamentary elections, PRTVTBRU, but included in pre-coded list of questions on current party membership, PRTMBBRU, and party support, PRTCLBRU). This movement is not officially registered by state authorities, although it joined the coalition Party of People's Freedom (registered only in May 2011) which probably will participate in Parliamentary election in December 2011.</p> <p>14. Koalitsiya za Rossiyu bez proizvola i korruptsii - Coalition For Russia without despotism and corruption: Established September 2010. Leaders are Kasyanov, Nemtsov, Ryzkov, Milov. Coalition of Russian "anti-system" political organizations who support liberal ideology. The coalition was created to organize the participation of democratic liberal anti-government forces in next Parliamentary elections in December 2011. Coalition was joined by Russian People's Democratic Union (M. Kasyanov), Republican Party of Russia (V. Ryzhkov), Solidarnost (B. Nemtsov) and the movement Democratic Choice (V. Milov). Major issues are the organization of opposition of current government, civic rights, radical democratic reforms, economic and political freedoms, rule of law for everybody, anti-bureaucracy and anti-corruption and against strong involvement of state into economy.</p> <p>16. Patrioty Rossii - Patriots of Russia: Established April 2002. Leader is Gennady Semigin. Left center, social-democratic, nationalist. Formally the party was formed by change of the name and the leadership of Russian Party of Labour. It included a lot of members of Russian Party of Labour, National Sovereignty Party of Russia, The Eurasia Party and, since 2008, Russian Revival Party. It was also united with Russian Party of Peace and Unity in 2008. Major issues are social provision, social-democratic principles, patriotic slogans "Patriotism is higher than politics".</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The major legislative body in the country is the State Duma – the lower chamber of the Parliament (higher chamber is not elected by direct popular vote). A total number of 450 deputies are elected for a four-year term. There were 5 parliamentary elections in Russia since the break down of the Soviet Union – elections of 1993, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007. The next parliamentary elections are planned to be held in December 2011. 4 parliamentary elections were conducted using mixed system – 50% of the Parliament was elected in 225 single mandate district according to plurality rule (the nomination of candidates were either through parties or independent candidates collecting the required number of voters' signatures), 50% - in single national district by proportionate party system with 5% threshold. A turnout of 50% of all voters was required to count the elections valid. Since 2005 new electoral rules were introduced and applied to 2007 elections. All 450 deputies were elected by proportional party system in single national district with 7% threshold and no minimum turnout requirement. The new law also exclude the option "against all" in the ballot, forbid electoral blocs (only individual parties) and forbid independent observers (only observers from political parties participating in the elections). Before elections of 2011 electoral law was changed again. New Parliament will be elected for 5 years instead of 4. The 7%-barrier will be kept as in previous elections but for the last time and the threshold will be lower in future elections (post-2011).</p>

# Slovakia

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Slovak
Year of last election:	2010
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Slovenska narodna strana (SNS), Slovak National Party (SNS) - 5,07 %</li> <li>2. Slovenska demokraticka a krestanska unia - Demokratiska strana, Slovak Democratic Christian Union (SDKU-DS) - 15,42 %</li> <li>3. SMER-socialna demokracia (SMER-SD), Direction-Social Democracy (SMER-SD) - 34,79 %</li> <li>4. Most-Hid, Most-Hid - 8,12 %</li> <li>5. Krestanskodemokraticke hnutie (KDH), Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) - 8,52 %</li> <li>6. Sloboda a solidarita (SaS), Freedom and Solidarity (SaS) - 12,14 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Slovak National Party (SNS) The party characterizes itself as a socialist, nationalist party based on what it calls the European Christian system of values . However it is sometimes described as ultra-nationalist , right-wing extremist ,and far-right, due to its statements ] about Hungarians , Roma , and homosexuals. The party's major concern after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia has been the alleged danger of " irredentism ." Any moves and changes toward broader rights for the national minorities living in Slovakia , especially the sizeable Hungarian minority living in southern Slovakia, was seen as a step toward territorial autonomy .</li> <li>2. Slovak Democratic Christian Union - Democratic party (SDKU-DS) SDKU-DS is a center-right party, member of government coalition. It is the second largest party in the National Council after its main rival, left wing Smer-SD . Their policy includes continuing in reforms that took place before 2006 — tax reform, welfare benefits cuts, pensions reform, healthcare reform etc. Main partners of SDKU-DS are politically similar parties: Christian Democratic Movement , Freedom and Solidarity , Most-Hid . These parties are currently in a coalition government with SDKU-DS.</li> <li>3. SMER-Social Democracy (SMER-SD) The party Direction – Social Democracy , often abbreviated to Smer , is a centre-left political party in Slovakia . It is led by Robert Fico , who has been Prime Minister from 2006 to 2010. It is the largest party in the National Council , with 62 seats. The party arose as a breakaway from the Party of the Democratic Left (SDL' in 1999 (Robert Fico being the most popular SDL' member at that time) and quickly became one of the most popular parties in Slovakia.</li> <li>4. Most-Hid The party was formed in June 2009 by defectors from the Party of the Hungarian Coalition (SMK), which the defectors accused of being too nationalistic . Led by Béla Bugár , the party claims to have a membership that's two-thirds ethnic Hungarian and one-third ethnic Slovak. In the 2010 election , the party won ten seats in the National Council – the Civic Conservative Party won a further four seats on the Most-Hid list – whereas the SMK fell short of the 5% threshold .</li> <li>5. Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) The Christian Democratic Movement is represented in the parliament, member of government coalition. The party was established in 1990. In the 1990s it was led by Ján Čarnogurský and then since 2000 by Pavol Hrušovský . Currently, it is led by Ján Figel' .</li> <li>6. Freedom and Solidarity (SaS) Freedom and Solidarity is a centre-right classical liberal political party in Slovakia . The party was established in 2009 and is led by its founder, the economist Richard Sulík , who designed Slovakia's flat tax system. Besides advocating fiscal conservatism , the party is civil libertarian , including advocating liberalisation of drug laws and same-sex marriage .</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	The National Council is a unicameral parliament consisting of 150 members who are elected for a four-year term. The head of state is the president, elected for five years. The president appoints a prime minister responsible for forming a government. Most executive power lies with the prime minister, who is usually the leader of the winning political party or coalition. The parliament is elected under a proportional system in a single nationwide constituency. Voters choose a party or coalition's list of candidates. They may additionally express preferential vote for not more than four candidates on the chosen list. Parties receiving more than five per cent of valid votes participate in the National Council.

# Slovenia

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2008
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demokratska stranka upokojencev (DeSUS) - Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia-DESUS, 7,5%</li> <li>2. Liberalna demokracija Slovenije (LDS) - Liberal Democracy of Slovenia-LDS, 5,2%</li> <li>3. LIPA - LIPA-Party, 1,8%</li> <li>4. Nova Slovenija - Krščansko Ljudska stranka (NSi) - New Slovenia - Christian Peoples Party-NSi, 3,4%</li> <li>5. Slovenska Demokratska Stranka (SDS) - Slovenian Democratic Party-SDS, 29,3%</li> <li>6. Slovenska Ljudska stranka (SLS) - Slovene Peoples Party-SLS, 5,2%</li> <li>7. Slovenska Nacionalna Stranka (SNS) - Slovene National Party-SNS, 5,4%</li> <li>8. Socialni Demokrati (SD) - Social Democrats-SD, 30,5%</li> <li>9. Zares (ZARES) - ZARES-New Politics, 9,4%</li> <li>10. Other - Other, 2,4%</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demokratska stranka upokojencev (DeSUS); Left, Party of Pensioners, unstable part of the coalition</li> <li>2. Liberalna demokracija Slovenije (LDS); Left, coalition</li> <li>3. LIPA; A small nationalist party formed in 2008 by former members of the Slovene National Party (SNS)</li> <li>4. Nova Slovenija - Krščansko Ljudska stranka (NSi); Right, Christian, Fell out of Parliament</li> <li>5. Slovenska Demokratska Stranka (SDS); Right, largest opposition party, opposition</li> <li>6. Slovenska Ljudska stranka (SLS); Right center, opposition</li> <li>7. Slovenska Nacionalna Stranka (SNS); Far Right, Nationalists, opposition</li> <li>8. Socialni Demokrati (SD); Left, largest government party, coalition</li> <li>9. Zares (ZARES); Left, coalition</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>Mode of designation Directly elected 90</p> <p>Constituencies - 8 electoral units each divided into 11 single-seat constituencies (88 seats in all) - special constituencies for two members, respectively representing the Hungarian and Italian minorities</p> <p>Voting system: Proportional: Proportional representation using the simple quotient and the preferential system with a threshold of a 4 per cent for 88 members (simple majority preferential vote for the two Deputies representing the Italian and Hungarian communities). Regarding party lists, each sex must be represented by at least 35 per cent of the total number of candidates on the list (a temporary provision set a 25-per-cent quota applicable to both male and female candidates for the first elections held in 2008). Lists containing only three candidates must have at least one male and one female candidate. Each voter votes for a party-list or an individual candidate with indication of his/her choice among the candidates. Seats are distributed on a proportional basis. Remaining seats are distributed at the national level using the d'Hondt method, with Deputies being selected from those lists which have the highest remainders. Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the candidate who would have been elected by the same party had not the original candidate won. If no candidate can be identified in this manner or if a vacancy occurs within six months after the beginning of the term, a by-election is held. No by-election is held if the vacancy arises less than six months before the expiry of the term. Voting is not compulsory.</p> <p>Voter requirements - age: 18 years - Slovene citizenship - disqualifications: mental disorder</p>

# Spain

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Spanish
Year of last election:	2008
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partido Popular (PP) - Popular Party - 39,94 %</li> <li>2. Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) - Spanish Workers Socialist Party - 43,87 %</li> <li>3. Izquierda Unida (IU) - United Left - 3,77 %</li> <li>4. Convergència i Unió (CiU) - Convergence and Union - 3,03 %</li> <li>5. Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC) - Republican Left of Catalonia - 1,16 %</li> <li>6. Partido Nacionalista Vasco (PNV) - Nationalist Basque Party - 1,19 %</li> <li>7. Bloque Nacionalista Galego (BNG) - Galician Nationalist Bloc - 0,83 %</li> <li>8. Coalición Canaria-Partido Nacionalista Canario (CC-PNC) - Canary Islands Coalition-Canary Islands Nationalist Party - 0,68 %</li> <li>9. Nafarroa Bai (Na-Bai) - Yes to Navarra - 0,24 %</li> <li>10. Unión, Progreso y Democracia (UPyD) - Union, Progress and Democracy - 1,19 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partido Popular (PP) is the largest Spanish conservative party. It's affiliated to the European People's Party. It led Spanish government from 1996 to 2004, and is currently the main opposition party in Congress and Senate.</li> <li>2. Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) is a social-democratic party, and part of the Socialist International. After the end of the dictatorship in 1975, the PSOE has been the ruling party from 1982 to 1996, and from 2004 to present.</li> <li>3. Izquierda Unida (IU, United Left) is a coalition of left-wing parties, among them the Spanish Communist Party (Partido Comunista Español, PCE) and the Green Party. Although the third political party for its number of votes, near 1 million in the 2008 national elections, IU just holds 2 seats in Congress because of its vote dispersion.</li> <li>4. Convergència i Unió (CiU, Convergence and Union) is a coalition of two conservative, Catalanian nationalist parties, Convergència Democràtica de Catalunya (CDC, Democratic Convergence of Catalonia) and Unió Democràtica de Catalunya (UDC, Democratic Union of Catalonia). Led by Catalanian president Artur Mas, CiU is the third political party in the national Congress, where it hold 10 seats.</li> <li>5. Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (Republican Left of Catalonia, ERC) is a left wing Catalanian party which favors independence of the autonomous community from Spain. It's one of the oldest nationalist parties, one which was very important during the Spanish Second Republic (1931-1939).</li> <li>6. Partido Nacionalista Vasco (Nationalist Basque Party, PNV) is the largest nationalist party from the Basque country, and one of the oldest in Spain. Its ideological orientation is conservative. It has supported both the PSOE and the PP in the national Congress.</li> <li>7. Bloque Nacionalista Galego (Nationalist Galician Bloc, BNG) is a colaition of left-wing, Galician nationalist parties. Since 1996 it has had two or three members in the national Congress.</li> <li>8. Coalición Canaria-Partido Nacionalista Canario (Canary Islands Coalition, Canary Nationalist Party, CC-PNC) is a centre-right, nationalist party form the Canary Islands. It is the ruling party in the Canary Islands and has alligned both with the PSOE and PP in the national Congress.</li> <li>9. Nafarroa Bai (Yes to Navarra, Na-Bai) is a coalition of both left and right wing nationalist parties from Navarra created in 2004.</li> <li>10. Unión, Progreso y Democracia (Union, Progress and Democracy, UPyD) is a center-left party created in 2007. Led by Rosa Díez, a former member of the PSOE, party with which she was a member of the Basque government and the European Parliament.</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	According to International IDEA's terminology, Spain has a "List Proportional Representation" electoral system. Each party or party coalition presents a list of candidates for a multi-member electoral district (which, for national elections, is the province), the voters choose a party, and parties receive seats in proportion to their overall share of the vote. The allocation of seats is done using the D'Hont formula.

# Sweden

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Swedish
Year of last election:	2010
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Centern - Centre party - 6,56 %</li> <li>2. Folkpartiet - Liberals - 7,06 %</li> <li>3. Kristdemokraterna - Christian Democrats - 5,60 %</li> <li>4. Miljöpartiet de gröna - Green party - 7,34 %</li> <li>5. Moderata samlingspartiet - Conservatives - 30,06 %</li> <li>6. Socialdemokraterna - Social Democrats - 30,66 %</li> <li>7. Vänsterpartiet - Left party - 5,60 %</li> <li>8. FI (Feministiskt initiativ) - Feminist Initiative - 0,40 %</li> <li>9. Junilistan - The June List</li> <li>10. Sverigedemokraterna - Sweden Democrats - 5,70 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Centern/Centre party: Belong to the right coalition, but place in the middle on the left right scale. Connected to farmers and people living in rural areas.</li> <li>2. Folkpartiet/Liberals: Belong to the right coalition, but place in the middle on the left right scale.</li> <li>3. Kristdemokraterna/Christian Democrats: Belong to the right coalition. Adhere many non religious people on issues of moral.</li> <li>4. Miljöpartiet/Green party: Belong to the red-green coalition.</li> <li>5. Moderaterna/Conservatives: Belong to the right coalition. More liberal (in an economic sense) than conservative.</li> <li>6. Socialdemokraterna/Social democrats: left, part of the red-green coalition (red-green coalition dissolved after the 2010 election).</li> <li>7. Vänsterpartiet/Left: to the left, former communist party, part of the red-green coalition (red-green coalition dissolved after the 2010 election)</li> <li>8. Feministiskt initiativ/Feminist Initiative: feminist party</li> <li>9. Junilistan:The June List is a eurosceptic party founded in 2004 for the European Parliament election. They received 14 % of the votes and gained three seats in the European Parliament. They lost all seats in the 2009 election. They ran in the Swedish parliament election in 2006 but only received a 0.47 % support. The party is not very active in Swedish politics today.</li> <li>10. Sverigedemokraterna/Sweden democrats: nationalist right-wing party, established 1988, elected for the first time into the Riksdag (parliament) in 2010.</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	Members of Parliament are directly elected by a proportional representation system to serve four-year terms.

# Switzerland

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	French, German, Italian
Year of last election:	2007
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Freisinnig-Demokratische Partei (FDP) // Parti radical-démocratique (PRD) - Radicals (merged with liberals in 2009 to form "FDP.The Liberals") - 15,8 %</li> <li>2. Christlich-demokratische Volkspartei (CVP) // Parti démocrate-chrétien (PDC) - Christian Democrats - 14,5 %</li> <li>3. Sozialdemokratische Partei (SP) // Parti socialiste (PS) - Socialist Party (social democrats) - 19,5 %</li> <li>4. Schweizerische Volkspartei (SVP) // Union démocratique du centre (UDC) - Swiss People's Party - 28,9 %</li> <li>5. Liberale Partei (LP) // Parti libéral (PL) - Liberal Party (merged with the Radicals in 2009 to form "FDP.The Liberals") - 1,9 %</li> <li>6. Christlich-soziale Partei (CSP) // Parti chrétien-social (PCS) - Christian-Social Party - 0,4 %</li> <li>7. Partei der Arbeit (PdA) // Parti du travail (PdT) / Parti ouvrier populaire (POP) - Swiss Labour Party - 0,7 %</li> <li>8. Grüne Partei (GPS) // Les Verts, Parti écologiste suisse (PES) - Green Party - 9,6 %</li> <li>9. Grünliberale (GLP) // Parti vert libéral (PEL // PVL) - Green Liberal Party - 1,4 %</li> <li>10. Schweizer Demokraten (SD) // Démocrates suisses (DS) - Swiss Democrats - 0,0 %</li> <li>11. Eidgenössische Demokratische Union (EDU) // Union démocratique fédérale (UDF) - Federal Democratic Union - 1,3 %</li> <li>12. Evangelische Volkspartei der Schweiz (EVP) // Parti évangélique populaire Suisse (PEV) - Evangelical People's Party - 2,4 %</li> <li>13. Lega dei Ticinesi - Ticino League - 0,6 %</li> <li>14. FDP. Die Liberalen // PLR. Les Libéraux-Radicaux (since 2009) - FDP.The Liberals (since 2009; merge of Radicals and Liberals)</li> <li>15. Bürgerlich-Demokratische Partei (BDP) // Parti bourgeois démocrate (PBD) (since 2008) - Conservative Democratic Party (since 2008; split from Swiss People's Party)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Radicals (UNTIL 2009) ==&gt; Right, conservative This party has been founded in 1894 and grew out of the liberal, radical and democratic movements that dominated the first decades of the federal state. It relies on classical liberalism. It is Swiss largest party in terms of membership. In January 2009, they merged with the smaller Liberal to form the new party "FDP.The Liberals". Together, they became the party with most members in government. So the former Radical Party does not exist anymore.</li> <li>2. Christian democrats ==&gt; Centre-right, conservative This party has been founded from the conservative Catholics, who lost the short civil war of 1847. But they are currently also present in protestant dominated cantons, with more ecenristic positions. They claim for a social market economy. It is the second largest party in term of membership, but the smallest of the four-party coalition government. They form a faction with the green liberals, the evangelical people's party and one christian-social at the national parliament, but being the strongest actor in this faction (43 seats out of 51).</li> <li>3. Socialist party ==&gt; Centre-left (= social democrats) This party has been founded in 1888, with the merge of the cantonal workers' parties. It is currently the most pro-european party in Switzerland. They are the forth party in terms of membership but the second in election and national parliament. They have their own faction in the national parliament.</li> <li>4. Swiss people party ==&gt; Right, conservative Founded in 1936 from an association of farmers and artisans, this party became more and more populist, especially it's rightwing. They became the strongest party in the 1960s. Since the 1990's, they adopted some anti-foreigner positions from the far-right. They define themselves as opposition party from the right. They are the third party in terms of membership, but attained the highest score in the 2007 elections. They form their own faction with the alliance of 1 Lega and 1 Federal Democratic Union (out of 68 seats).</li> <li>5. Liberal party (UNTIL 2009) ==&gt; Right, conservative The roots of this party go back to the 19th century, and developed mainly in the french-speaking part of Switzerland. They belong to the smaller parties, but all other current protest parties where founded in the 20th century. After some years of political alliance, they merged with the much bigger party of the Radicals in January 2009 to form the new party "FDP. The Liberals". Therefore, this party does not exist anymore.</li> <li>6. Christian-social ==&gt; Centre-left, liberal This party has been founded in 1997 on the national level, out of older cantonal groups. As opposed to other Christian parties, they are very liberal on societal issues such as abortion and homosexual partnerships. They share social democratic views on redistribution and have strong environmentalist views. They could be considered as christian left party. They have alliances with the Christian Democrats and the Green Faction, being split in both factions.</li> <li>7. Swiss labour party ==&gt; Far left This party was founded in 1944 by the illegal Communist Party of Switzerland. Alliance with the green faction.</li> <li>8. Green party ==&gt; Left, centre left Born from the environmental movement, this party gained strength in the 1980s. It is the strongest party not represented in the executive national government. They currently have 22 seats out of 24 in the Green faction, along with 1 Christian-Social and 1</li> </ol>

	<p>Labour Party seat.</p> <p>9. Green liberal party ==&gt; Centre, liberal          Founded in 2007, they immediately won a seat in the Council of the states and three in the national council. Since then, they expanded in the cantonal elections. They are the centre-right as opposed to the left-wing Green Party. They want to combine moderate economic liberalism, liberalism on civil liberties and environmental sustainability.          Alliance with the Christian Democrats, being in the same faction at the national level.</p> <p>10. Swiss democrats ==&gt; Far right          Founded in 1975 as a split from the Evangelical People's Party. Beyond their social conservatism and christian values, they are eurosceptic and support some anti-foreigner positions.          No more in the national parliament since end 2007 (only one seat in the council of the states).</p> <p>11. Federal Democratic Union ==&gt; Far right          The Swiss Democrats lost their only seat in the Parliament with the 2007 elections, but still compete in elections.          Alliance with the Swiss People's Party, being in the same faction at the national level.</p> <p>12. Evangelical People's Party ==&gt; Centre          Founded in 1919, this small protestant party stands rather centre-left on some issues (redistribution, education, immigration, environment), but is conservative on others (abortion, family, euthanasia). The economic position is centrist.          Alliance with the Christian Democrats, being in the same faction at the national level.</p> <p>13. Lega dei Ticinesi ==&gt; Far right          Founded in 1991, this very populist party was created on the model of the italian Lega Lombarda. It defends national conservative and isolationist positions. It is one of the major parties in the Canton Ticino.          Alliance with the Swiss People's Party, being in the same faction at the national level</p> <p>14. FDP.The Liberals (NEW since 2009) ==&gt; Right, conservative;          This party has been founded in January 2009, as a merge of the Radicals and the much smaller Liberal Party. This new party relies on classical liberalism. Together, they became the party with most members in government. It has two members in the Federal Council and 35 seats out of 200 in the national Council.          They have their own faction at the national parliament.</p> <p>15. Conservative Democratic Party of Switzerland (NEW since 2008) ==&gt; Centre right          New party, created in November 2008, as a split of the Swiss people's party.          The Swiss people party (UDC, SVP) becoming more and more populist, a fraction of this party splitted from it, creating in November 2008 the more moderate party "Conservative Democratic Party of Switzerland". In 2011 it has one Federal Councillor (Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, elected as SVP-member) and 5 seats out of 200 in the National Council. Its ideology is conservative with an economic liberalism.          They have their own faction at the national parliament.</p> <p><b>GENERAL ABOUT SWISS PARTIES</b>          It was relatively late that political trends of the 19th century developed into actual party organizations in Switzerland. The history, the boundaries of the cantons and the electoral system have had as consequence the existence of many political parties.          The four main parties are: the FDP.The Liberals (former Radicals and Liberals), the Christian-Democrats, the Social-Democrats and the Swiss People's Party (and the Conservative Democratic Party, splitted from the People's Party). Contrary to what happened in Germany, Austria and Italy, the Radical Liberal Party has remained powerful: the permanency of radicalism is even one of the peculiarities of Swiss politics. Apart from these four parties that are represented by many members of the Federal Council and which represent the main tendencies at a national level, there are numerous small parties which sometimes have only regional significance.</p> <p>The so-called bourgeois groups are clearly dominated by the Radical Party (FDP) which developed from the Liberal- and Radical Democrats who created the Modern Federal State in the 19th century. The only liberal conservative party which is slightly different of them is the Swiss Liberal Party. The Swiss People's Party (SVP) developed as a farmer's branch of the mainstream liberal movement. The National Association of Independent (LdU), which is closely allied to the largest retail concern in Switzerland, calls itself social-liberal. The Christian Democratic People's Party (CVP) dominates the field of confessional and social parties; it has a trades-allied wing and a Christian-social wing. The other party with a definite confessional character, the Evangelic People's Party (EVP), is far smaller. The mainstream within the socialist movement is represented by the Swiss Social Democratic Party (SPS). There are also groups further to the left, movements on the extreme right with a low number of supporters, and various "Green" groups, generally positioned at centre left, except the Green liberal party which constitutes a new trend.</p> <p><b>GENERAL ABOUT ALLIANCES:</b>          Concerning the political alliances between parties and except the factions described above, there are important variations between the Cantons and they are done and broken according to the dealt subjects. In general, the small parties joint their forces to bigger ones in order to defend a subject. One can note that the Greens and the Socialists often form a camp, the so-called Bourgeois parties another group. In several Cantons the Swiss people's party become allies with Radicals, whereas in other Radicals are more close to Christian-democrats.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes

<p>Description of the electoral system for this assembly:</p>	<p>Switzerland has a two-chamber parliament: The National Council and the Council of States, together referred to as the Federal Assembly, constitute the legislative power in the federal state. The National Council represents the population as a whole, the Council of States the individual cantons. The National Council gives a rather true picture of the electorate, in spite of the reapportionment in cantons. On the contrary, the Council of the States, because of the system of the majority vote, comprises few Social-Democrats (Socialist Party) and Swiss People's Party and many Radicals and Christian-Democrats. (see also <a href="http://www.ch.ch">www.ch.ch</a> and <a href="http://www.parlement.ch">www.parlement.ch</a>)</p> <p>The National Council comprises 200 members who represent the Swiss people. The individual cantons are represented in proportion to the number of their inhabitants. Each canton is a constituency, and each returns at least one member. The National Council is elected using a system of proportional representation, whereby each party is allocated a number of seats in proportion to its numerical strength. The candidates who receive the highest number of votes obtain the seats won by their party. Unlike majority voting, proportional representation allows smaller parties to obtain a seat in parliament. The election of the National Council takes place every 4 years, on the second last Sunday in October. The members are elected for a term of 4 years, while re-elections are possible.</p> <p>The Council of States is made up of 46 representatives of the Swiss cantons. Each canton returns two members, with the exception of the smaller cantons of Obwalden, Nidwalden, Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft, Appenzell Ausserrhoden and Appenzell Innerrhoden, which have one representative each. The elections are carried out according to cantonal legal rules. In most Cantons it is a majoritarian election system, only in two Canton it is proportional.</p>
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# Ukraine

<b>1. Political parties</b>	
Language used in data file:	Ukrainian, Russian, English
Year of last election:	2007
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Block Lyvyvna - Block of Lytvyn - 3.96 %</li> <li>2. Block Yulii Tymoshenko - Block of Yulia Tymoshenko - 30.71 %</li> <li>3. Block Nasha Ukraina - Narodna Samooborona - Block 'Our Ukraine - People's self-defense' - 14.15 %</li> <li>4. Komunistichna partia Ukrainy - Communist party of Ukraine - 5.39 %</li> <li>5. Partia regionov - Party of regions - 34.37 %</li> <li>6. Progresyvna socialistichna partia Ukrainy - Progressive socialist party of Ukraine - 1.32 %</li> <li>7. Socialistichna partia Ukrainy - Socialist party of Ukraine - 2.86 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Electoral block. Leader Volodymyr Lytvyn is the speaker of the parliament. Left center.</li> <li>2. Electoral block on the base of the party "Fatherland". Leader of the block is former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Left center.</li> <li>3. Electoral block, former President Viktor Yuschenko was the formal leader of this block. One of the leader of this block is Yuri Lutsenko, former Minister of Domestic Affairs. Right center.</li> <li>4. They claim themselves as successor of the Communist Party of Soviet Union.</li> <li>5. The Party represents the interests of East and South regions of Ukraine. In this regions we have big metal and chemical enterprises, coal mines. Now they have majority in the parliament in coalition with Communist Party. Current President V. Yanukovych was the leader of this party.</li> <li>6. To the left of the communist party. Currently not in the parliament.</li> <li>7. Socialist party of Ukraine is currently not in the parliament.</li> </ol>

<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	Ukraine has 450 seats in parliament. There are 450 electoral districts in the whole of Ukraine. Every citizen can vote for one party only. It was the law of election 2007. This year there will be election (in October 2012) but with different electoral law.

# United Kingdom

<b>1. Political parties</b>	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2010
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conservative - 47.1%</li> <li>2. Labour - 39.8%</li> <li>3. Liberal Democrat - 8.8%</li> <li>4. Scottish National Party - SNP - 0.9%</li> <li>5. Plaid Cymru - 0.5%</li> <li>6. Green Party - 0.2%</li> <li>7. Democratic Unionist Party - 1.2%</li> <li>8. Sinn Fein - 0.8%</li> <li>9. Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party - 0.5%</li> <li>10. Alliance Party - 0.2%</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>Conservative - traditionally right-leaning party. Currently in office in coalition with the Liberal Democrats.</p> <p>Labour - traditionally left-leaning party. Currently in opposition to the leading coalition.</p> <p>Liberal Democrat - traditionally central though now more left wing. currently in office in coalition with the Conservative party.</p> <p>Scottish National Party - Regional Scottish party which campaigns for the independence of Scotland from the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Plaid Cymru - Regional Welsh party, supports independence for Wales, a view to attain Full National Status, left-leaning/social democracy.</p> <p>Green Party - in England and Wales only, follows traditions of Green politics.</p> <p>Democratic Unionist party - regional party, largest party in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Sinn Fein - Regional party in Northern Ireland, aim of a creating a united Ireland.</p> <p>Social &amp; Democratic Labour Party - social democratic Irish nationalist political party in Northern Ireland, supports Irish reunification and devolution of powers to Northern Ireland while part of the UK.</p> <p>Alliance Party - regional party in Northern Ireland, liberal, aim to promote unity within Northern Ireland.</p>

<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	The UK Parliament is elected according to a 'first-past-the-post system'. The country is divided into a number of constituencies with each constituency electing one Member of Parliament (MP). The party with the largest number of MPs forms the government.