

APPENDIX A3

POLITICAL PARTIES, ESS6 - 2012 ed. 2.0

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Albania

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Albanian
Year of last election:	2009
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partia Socialiste e Shqipërisë (PS) - The Socialist Party of Albania - 40,85 % 2. Partia Demokratike e Shqipërisë (PD) - The Democratic Party of Albania - 40,18 % 3. Lëvizja Socialiste për Integrim (LSI) - The Socialist Movement for Integration - 4,85 % 4. Partia Republikane e Shqipërisë (PR) - The Republican Party of Albania - 2,11 % 5. Partia Socialdemokrate e Shqipërisë (PSD) - The Social Democratic Party of Albania - 1,76 % 6. Partia Drejtësi, Integrim dhe Unitet (PDIU) - The Party for Justice, Integration and Unity - 0,95 % 7. Partia Bashkimi për të Drejtat e Njeriut (PBDNJ) - The Unity for Human Rights Party - 1,19 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Socialist Party of Albania (Albanian: Partia Socialiste e Shqipërisë), is a social-democratic political party in Albania; it is the leading opposition party in Albania. It seated 66 MPs in the 2009 Albanian parliament (out of a total of 140). It achieved power in 1997 after a political crisis and governmental realignment. In the 2001 General Election it secured 73 seats in the Parliament, which enabled it to form the Government. In the general election of 3 July 2005, the Socialist Party lost its majority and the Democratic Party of Albania formed the new Government, having secured, with its allies, a majority of 81 seats. 2. The Democratic Party of Albania (Albanian: Partia Demokratike e Shqipërisë, PD) is a conservative political party in Albania. The party has been the leading party in the governing coalition since the 2005 parliamentary elections. It is an observer member of the European People's Party (EPP) and a full member of the International Democrat Union and Centrist Democrat International. Rilindja Demokratike is the party's official newspaper. 3. The Socialist Movement for Integration (Albanian: Lëvizja Socialiste për Integrim, LSI) is a social-democratic political party in Albania. It was formed in September 2004 after Ilir Meta quit the Socialist Party of Albania. Through the use of the term "movement", LSI attempts to give the message that it is open and inclusive. The other reason for using this term is its intention to differentiate itself from the other parties. LSI implemented the one member, one vote system in March 2005 to elect its leader, Ilir Meta. 4. The Republican Party of Albania (Albanian: Partia Republikane e Shqipërisë) is a national conservative political party in Albania. It currently holds a single seat in the Parliament of Albania. The party was founded in January 1991 under the leadership of the writer Sabri Godo, who was also its first chairman. The party was formed with the backing of the Italian Republican Party. After the Democratic Party, it was the second party to be founded in Albania after the anti-communist revolution in the autumn of 1990. The Republicans chose the American Republican Party as their political role model. They arranged themselves as right of center on the political spectrum, slightly more right-wing than the Democratic Party of Albania. 5. The Social Democratic Party of Albania (Albanian: Partia Socialdemokrate e Shqipërisë, PSD) is a social-democratic minor political party in Albania. The party held seats in Parliament between 1992 and 1996, and again from 1997 until 2009. It is currently led by Skënder Gjinushi, a former Minister of Education (1987–1991) and Speaker of Parliament. 6. The Party for Justice, Integration and Unity (Albanian: Partia Drejtësi, Integrim dhe Unitet or PDIU) is a nationalist political party in Albania whose primary aim is the promotion of national issues. The party's goals and objectives are to express the struggle of the "Ethnic Albanians, who after world and regional wars, are facing challenges that affect their rights. In the light of paradigms such as freedom and human rights, these challenges bring them together, forge common interests, and constitute their national issues." The party focuses on highlighting national issues, including Kosovo, Albanians in Macedonia, Montenegro, Presevo Valley and especially the Cham issue. 7. The Unity for Human Rights Party (Albanian: Partia Bashkimi për të Drejtat e Njeriut, Greek: Κόμμα Ένωσης Ανθρωπίνων Δικαιωμάτων) is a centrist political party in Albania. Founded in 1992, it represents Albania's minorities and is mainly related to the Greek minority, and is the political continuation of Omonoia. The party is currently led by Vangjel Dule, who holds the party's only seat in Parliament.

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The President of the Republic is elected by parliament to serve a 5-year term. - Prime Minister is approved by the president with the approval of the parliament. - In the Parliament of Albania (Kuvendi i Shqipërisë) 140 members are elected through a closed-list proportional representation system to serve 4-year terms. - There are 12 multi-member constituencies corresponding to the country's 12 administrative regions. Within any constituency, parties must meet a threshold of 3%, and pre-election coalitions must meet a threshold of 5%.

Belgium

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Dutch and French
Year of last election:	The national/federal election 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"> 1. Groen! Green! (Flemish) 2. CD&V (Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams) Flemish Christian Democrats (Flemish) 3. N-VA (Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie) New Flemish Alliance (Flemish) 4. Lijst Dedecker List Dedecker (Flemish) 5. SP.A (Socialistische Partij Anders) Socialist Party (Flemish) 6. PVDA+ (Partij van de Arbeid) Labour Party (Flemish) 7. Vlaams Belang Flemish Interest (Flemish) 8. Open VLD (Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten) Open Flemish Liberals and Democrats (Flemish) 9. CDH (Centre Démocrate Humaniste) Humanistic and Democratic Center (French) 10. Ecolo Ecologists (French) 11. Front National National Front (French) 12. MR (Mouvement Réformateur) Reformist Movement (Liberal French) 13. PS (Parti Socialiste) Socialist Party (French) 14. PTB (Parti du Travail de Belgique) Labour Party (French) 15. Parti Populaire People's Party
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. Opposition during fieldwork period (although working together with coalition on state reform)</p> <p>2. CD&V (center) Flemish Christian democratic party that changed its name to CD&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&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&V has got the lowest score ever, while the former cartel partner N-VA became the biggest party in Belgium. Government coalition during fieldwork period.</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&V and together they won the regional elections in 2004 and federal elections in 2007. On September 23, 2008 the cartel with CD&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 communitarian relations stood central - N-VA became the biggest Flemish party. Biggest opposition party during fieldwork period.</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. Opposition during fieldwork period.</p> <p>5. SP.A (left) Flemish social democratic party and one of three traditional movements in Belgium. 1885-1940: Belgian workers party > 1940-1978: Belgian socialistic party > 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 Gennez 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&V) formed a coalition government with CD&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. Part of the governing coalition during fieldwork period.</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. Opposition on national level.</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. Opposition during fieldwork period.

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 in Flanders, 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. Part of the governing coalition during fieldwork period.

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. Part of the governing coalition during fieldwork period.

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. Opposition during fieldwork period (but works together with the coalition 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. Opposition during fieldwork period.

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 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

	<p>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. Had to break up the cooperation with the communitarian radical FDF in order to join the government coalition. Part of the governing coalition during fieldwork period.</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. Part of the governing coalition during fieldwork period. The Belgian Prime Minister (Elio Di Rupo) is the former president of PS.</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. In opposition during fieldwork period.</p>
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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 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:	23 (first round) and 30 October (second round) 2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GERB - Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria 2. Balgarska sotsialisticheska partia (BSP) - Bulgarian Socialist Party 3. Ataka - Attack 4. Red, zakonnost i spravedlivost (RZS) - Order, Lawfulness, Justice 5. Balgarsko natsionalno dvizhenie (VMRO-BND)- IMRO – Bulgarian National Movement 6. BZNS - Bulgarian Agrarian National Union (BANU) 7. Natsionalen front za dpassenie na Bulgaria (NFSB) - National Front for Salvation of Bulgaria (NFSB) 8. Sayuz na desnite sili (SDS) - Main party - Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) 9. Natsionalno dvizhenie Edinstvo (NDE) - Movement for National Unity and Salvation - MNUS 10. Edinna narodna partia (ENP) - United National Party (UNP) 11. Partia za horata ot naroda (PHN) - Party For The Common People/ (PFCP) 12. Balgarska demokraticzna obshtnost (BDO) - Bulgarian Democratic Union PP 13. Kandidati, izdignati ot Initsiativni komiteti - Independent candidates 14. Demokrati za silna Bulgaria (DSB) - Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria (DSB) (PRTCLCBG=5) 15. Partia „Balgarski sotsialdemokrati” (PBSD) - Union of Free Democrats (UFD) (PRTCLCBG=8) 16. Zelena partia (Aleksandar Karakachanov) (ZP) - PP “The Green Party” (PRTCLBG=10) 17. NDSV - National Movement for Stability and Progress (NMSS) (PRTCLBG=11) 18. Partia „Dvizhenie Bulgaria na grazhdanite” (M.Kuneva) (DBG) - Party “Movement Bulgaria to it's citizens” (PRTCLBG=12) 19. Grazhdansko obedinenie za realna demokratsia (S.Binev) (GORD) - Civil Alliance for Real Democracy (CARD) (PRTCLBG=13) 20. Sayuz na svobodnite demokrati (SSD) - Union of Free Democrats (UFD) (PRTCLBG=14) 21. „Novoto vreme” (Emil Koshlukov) (NV) - PP “The New Times” (PRTCLBG=15) 22. Sayuz na patriotichnite sili „Zashtita” (SPS) - Union of Patriotic Forces “Defense” (PRTCLBG=16) 23. Drugata Bulgaria (DB) - “The Other Bulgaria” (PRTCLBG=17) 24. Narodna partia „Svoboda i dostoinstvo” (NPSD) - National Party “Freedom and Dignity” (PRTCLBG=18)
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. Bulgarian Socialist Party (left) is the successor to the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party (BSP) that governed Bulgaria in the totalitarian period (1944 – 1989 г.). 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. 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. 4. Order, Lawfulness, 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. 5. 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. 6. Bulgarian Agrarian National Union (BANU) is a political party devoted to representing the causes of the Bulgarian peasantry. It was most powerful between 1900 and 1923. In practice, it was an agrarian movement. Unlike the socialist movements of the early 20th century, it was devoted to questions concerning agriculture and farm workers, rather than industry and factory workers. The BZNS, one of the first and most powerful of the peasant parties in Eastern Europe, dominated Bulgarian politics during the beginning of the 20th century. It is also the only peasant party in Europe that ever came to power with a majority government, rather than merely as part of a coalition. It was a founding member of the former International Agrarian Bureau. Restored at the end of 1989 and co-founder of the coalition Union of Democratic Forces. A unifying congress of BZNS (United) and BZNS “Nikola Petkov” united the different agrarian wings under the name BZNS in November 1992. since 2009: 1 MP 7. National Front for Salvation of Bulgaria (NFSB). Bulgarian nationalist political party founded on 17 May 2011 in the city of Burgas. There are three co-chairs - Valeri Simeonov, Valentin Kasabov and Dancho Hajiyev. Secretary of the party's Maria Petrova. The motto of the party is "If we you lose Bulgaria, we loose everything." NFSB anthem is the "Shumi Maritsa" The program of formation are the principles of unity around the patriotic cause, the support of the Orthodox Christianity, radical reforms in health and education. 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.

9. Movement for National Unity and Salvation - MNUS. On 26 April 2009, in Sofia, representatives of several NGOs and celebrities with active citizenship launch a movement for national unity and salvation - MNUS. The founders explicitly state that they would not become a political party and will be a strong corrective to the civil government. Main objectives of the Movement are also identified. Movement "MNUS" is open civil structure. Civil Movement "MNUS" has no leader or central management, but Coordination Council, which works to promote his ideas of the movement to the institutions. Members of the Coordinating Council of the Movement were selected: Prof. Radostin Moskov, journalist Ivan Takev, Victor Angelov of "Horizon" Radio and Krasimir Lukanov of "Lords of the Air", Prof. Chavdar Nikolov, SWU "Neophyte Rilski", Blagoevgrad, poet Ivan Esenski, journalist and actor - Nikolay Georgiev, designer and owner of fashion house "Roshavata Garga" Albena Alexandrova, Professor Vihroni Popnedev - professor at the Art Academy, Toshka Ianeva, businesswoman, actress Latina Petrova, Rumen Krumlov - President of the National Union of carriers in Bulgaria, Lyubomir Velinov - Chairman of the National Union of paraspport and lecturer at the Sports Academy, Dimitar Stanchev - businessman, Valentin Yovev - ecologist. Over 500 people present on movement's foundation gave unanimous request to build a powerful, unified civil sector, able to exercise effective control over politicians and government actions in the country.

10. Right political party, founded in 2008 Chairman - Maria Capon. Vice president Nadia Mironova, Evelyn Videnoff, Anatoli Asenov. The objectives of the party are: economic growth, social solidarity, national identity. Participated in the 41st National Assembly and general election for 42 National Assembly with no mandate granted.

11. Political Party "Party for Common People" is a eurosceptic political party. Participated in the presidential elections 'in 2011 and the local elections' 2011. PFCP was founded as a coalition of activists from several civil movements prior to the launch of the local pre-election campaign in Sofia/Bulgaria in 2009. At the local and presidential elections in October 2011 the new political party won 1% of the electoral votes in the capital city and received votes in 258 out of 264 municipalities in the country. The party has elected local councilors and mayors in three large municipalities in the country. The unifying force behind the Party for the Common People (PFCP) is the idea to create a party, which looks after the interests of ordinary citizens and protects them from the arbitrary rule of the administrations in Brussels and Sofia as well as from the political status quo and monopolies. Each of the founding members of PFCP subscribed to the following views:

- The European civilisation is the product of Christian culture, enriched by the achievements of the Enlightenment and humanism. PFCP is opposed to all attempts to substitute or diminish the role of Christianity for modern Europe;
- Today, the historical destiny of the Bulgarian and other peoples in Europe, is decided by anonymous, unelected bureaucrats in Brussels through an illegitimate process of decision-making that is neither public nor transparent;
- For the above reasons, Bulgarian citizens, in their overwhelming majority, are the poorest in Europe, and live in a country with a healthcare and pension systems that are on the verge of a total collapse. Under the boot of EU bureaucrats the Bulgarian State has totally abdicated from its role of ensuring the functioning of a welfare society;
- the crisis that is devastating the European Union today is the direct result of the shortsightedness of centralised management of the vastly different economies of the Member States by Brussels-based bureaucrats;
- There are no laws that protect human rights effectively and "now". The responsibility of bureaucrats and monopolists is washed away in a sea of diverging and conflicting pieces of legislation drafted without any measure of transparency and accountability;
- PFCP is opposed to Turkey's attempts to present itself as a part of European civilisation and join the European Union. Turkey has never been and is not a part of Europe;
- PFCP is also opposed to the influx of immigrants from countries that are geographically and politically remote from Europe. We believe that immigrants from these countries do not integrate well into European societies, which jeopardises the civilisational identity of Europe;
- PFCP sees Europe and the Union as an alliance of sovereign European nation states, which is the only reasonable alternative to the European Union.

The innovative approaches to political activity employed by PFCP centre upon its cooperation - PFCP sees Russia and the new established Europe-Asian Union, declared by President Putin as an alternative for Bulgaria to get out of the political and economy crisis, that devastates us with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil movements. The representatives of the party are actively engaged in the work of a number of NGOs under the auspices of the UN. The Party for the Common People is convinced that civil movements and NGOs are much closer to the everyday problems of ordinary people - MUCH MORE so than any party-political or parliamentary elite.

For PFCP the highest foreign policy priority is to join hands with political parties and movements with similar political goals in other around the world in order to set in motion a process of reform of the European Union, and also join the Euro-Asian Union with a view to enhancing direct democracy and ensuring transparency and accountability.

FOR Europe as an alliance of nation states and AGAINST the Super State of European bureaucrats! For a world of democracy, transparency and social justice.

12. Bulgarian Democratic Union political party is founded in 2009. It is the free will of a group of Bulgarian citizens to change the government of the state through political participation in elections to government institutions in the country. The understanding of politics as a tool for the well-being of individuals and communities in the state is the main foundation of this citizen effort. The center of the political principles of the participants in this political endeavor stands worldview perception that man is endowed with an inviolable dignity, and that each person is valuable in itself. Values the PP professes are: the freedom and dignity of the individual; justice impartiality to all people in their personal dignity, regardless of success or failure, and social status; justice as a principle of equal opportunity, not equal outcomes; family as a social structure and roots of Bulgarian spirituality.

14. 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).

15. 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.

16. The Green Party is left-centre green political party in Bulgaria. It was founded on 28 December 1989 in Sofia as the Green Party of Bulgaria. Chairman of the party since its inception is Alexander Karakacarov. Since its establishment the party rarely goes alone in elections, but in coalition with right-wing and left-wing forces:

- 1989 - Founder of the UDF coalition
- 1991 elections for 36 National Assembly - a coalition UDF liberals will - elected representatives
- 1994 election to the 37th National Assembly - a coalition DAR - no elected representatives
- 1997 election for the 38th National Assembly - a coalition OHC - 2 MPs
- 2005, elections for the 40 National Assembly - the Coalition for Bulgaria
- 2007, separate list for elections for Bulgarian representatives in the European Parliament - including representatives of environmental organizations and civil society, won 9976 votes or 0.51 percent of voters

In 2007, the Green Party in Bulgaria joins the Green Party Bulgaria under the name of Green Party – "The Bulgarian Greens", which was replaced by the Green Party in 2009.
 At the presidential election in 2011, the Green Party did not nominate a candidate and did not endorse any candidate. Conducted at the same time local elections the party participated in various coalitions whose candidates won in municipalities Muglish, Strumiani and Tryavna

17. 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.

18. Party "Movement Bulgaria to it's citizens" was established on 1 July 2012 by the former European Commissioner Meglena Kuneva, based on previously created self-titled civil association. Kuneva is also a chairman of the party. Movement Bulgaria to it's citizens is a democratic right political party, defending the values of freedom, responsibility and fairness. Program priorities of the PP " Movement Bulgaria to it's citizens ", which will be implemented by the management of the party, contain three main pillars. First pillar is "civil", which will ensure the empowerment of people through the introduction of mechanisms to control the power, remove obstacles to the holding of local referendums and steps towards the adoption of a new Constitution. The second pillar in the management program of the party is dedicated to "the economy." Bulgaria needs not only of stability and of growth. Therefore, PP " Movement Bulgaria to it's citizens ' prepares real reforms in health, education, administration and the pension system. The third pillar of government priorities is entitled "Bulgaria's future" and tackles a radical reform of the judicial system and the exclusion of the Prosecution from the Judiciary System, direct election of members of the Supreme Judicial Council and the failure of parliamentary quota of the Council, and the introduction of electronic voting and eliminating the power related privileges.

19. Civil Alliance for Real Democracy (CARD) is a civil association, established on 22 April 2012. The main protagonist is Slavtcho Binev, and among its members are the writer Luben Dilov Jr., the sports journalist Krum Savov, businessman Rumen Raltchev, Literature Prof. Valeri Stefanov, former Justice Minister Anton Stankov and others. Among its founders were also George Chapkanov-Chapa (sculptor), Dimitar Shumaliev (journalist and writer), Lubo Ganev (former volleyball player), Martin Zahariev (publisher) Miglena Angelova (TV host) CARD targets patriotic voters which felt disappointed after the turmoil in PP "Ataka". Among the objectives of the organization is "proud and brave Bulgaria with children who would succeed here and now" and symbol-creed it is the support of the Bulgarian entrepreneurship, science, sports and culture. PP participated in 2013 General elections, gaining almost 1% of the vote.

20. 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.

21. Liberal Democratic Party, established as a party structure as of July 10, 2004 Chairman of the party is Emil Koshloukov, deputies: Borislav Cekov, Krassen Kravev, Miroslav Sevlievski

	<p>and Juliana Dontcheva. Party emerged as a successor of the "pressure group" "Modern Times", founded in 1999 by a group of rogue Bulgarian intellectuals and artists. On 10 April 2003, within the Parliamentary Group of the National Movement for Stability and Progress (NMSS) formed a separate discussion club "Modern Times" and on March 10, 2004, formed a separate parliamentary group "Modern Times." It initially included 11 MPs. In 2005 and 2013 participated as a party in the parliamentary elections, but failed to pass the 4% barrier. Values of "Modern Times" are based on modern liberalism - freedom, law and justice, equality, responsibility, diversity, opportunities, tolerance, subsidiarity.</p> <p>22. Union of Patriotic Forces "Defense" is a Bulgarian political party, the successor to the established in December 1998 in Plovdiv Union of Patriotic Forces and War Veterans "Security". Leader of the Union is Jordan Velichkov - and deputies Petar Beron and Dimitar Yotinska.</p> <p>Union of Patriotic Forces "Security" - / UPF 'Protection' / is a political organization of the Bulgarian citizens, united by the idea of building a society based on the principles of personal freedom, justice and equality before the law, to achieve the economic prosperity of the spiritual nation and protect its interests. Its purpose is to consolidate the Bulgarian patriots in the name of national interests and values. UPF "Protection" protects the rights and dignity of the Bulgarian nation, fights for economic and social progress in Bulgaria and amelioration if the living standard. UPF "PROTECTION" achieve its goals through dissemination of patriotic ideas and strengthening the national spirit and traditions of statehood and cultural identity. UPF "PROTECTION" fights the destructive effects on the people, leading to spiritual and moral decline. UPF "protection" stands for healthy growth of generation capabilities to overcome the demographic breakdown.</p> <p>23. The Other Bulgaria is another political party in Bulgaria, which states that it represents the Bulgarian emigrants. At its heart are the values and principles of liberal democracy. The party was founded on March 22, 2009, filed April 29. It's chairman is Bozidar Tomalevski. As of May 8, 2009 the party has built structures in 26 countries and has about 21000 members. The main objective of the Initiative Committee of "The Other Bulgaria" is the integration of Bulgarian immigrant community in the world. Feeling of belonging to the motherland, the Bulgarians living abroad can really help by participating in the governance of the state. "The Other Bulgaria" aims to be present in the Bulgarian Parliament and to defend the interests of their constituents through parliamentary mechanisms.</p> <p>The main goal of the party is preparing a long-term state policy supporting the Bulgarians living outside the national boundaries. It will also be fully focused and aimed at solving problems of the Diaspora regardless of its location.</p> <p>Drafting legislative and other conditions corresponding to emigration issues in solving national problems in the context of a democratic European development of Bulgaria</p> <p>24. The party was founded on December 1, 2012. Among the founders are Kasim Dal and Korman Ismailov, left the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF) in early 2011. NPDF is a center-right party that puts in its core human life, freedom and dignity of people. Bulgarian National Party, which aims to unite Bulgarians, Turks, Roma, Pomaks, Jews, Armenians, who are Bulgarian citizens and legal basis of this modern form multiethnic and multicultural Bulgarian nation. The new party will definitely fight playback of the communist past and former National Security traditions that continues to destroy the religious and civil rights of Christians and Muslims.</p>
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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 240 members of the National Assembly were elected by closed-list proportional representation in 31 multi-member constituencies. Parties had to receive at least 4% of the national vote to win any of the proportional seats, which were distributed using the largest remainder method.</p> <p>Parties that failed to pass the 4% threshold, but received more than 1% of the national vote were to be allocated annual state subsidies to the amount of 12 leva (€6) per vote received.</p>

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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AKEL, Progressive Party for the Working People - 32.67 % 2. DIKO, Democratic Party - 15,76 % 3. DISY, Democratic Rally - 34,28 % 4. EVROKO, European Party - 3,88 % 5. The Cyprus Green Party - 2,21 % 6. KS EDEK, Social Democrats - 8,93 %
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. It 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. DISY is a liberal conservative party. The party was founded on 4 July 1976 by veteran politician Glafkos Clerides. 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 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	
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>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>

Czech Republic

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"> 1. Komunistická strana Čech a Moravy (KSČM) - Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia - 11.3% 2. Česká strana sociálně demokratická (ČSSD) - Czech Social Democratic Party- 22.1% 3. TOP 09 (Tradice Odpovědnost Prosperita 09) - TOP 09 (Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09) - 16.7% 4. Věci veřejné (VV) - Public Affairs - 10.9% 5. Občanská demokratická strana (ODS) - Civic Democratic Party - 0.2%
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM) is extreme-left party. It's ideology is based primarily on marxism and communism. In the past, the party has been politically isolated, but recently it has become closer to the ČSSD. Sometimes it is also 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: European United Left - Nordic Green Left. The party was formed in 1989 by the Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia which decided to create a party for the territories of Bohemia and Moravia. In 2010 parliamentary elections, the party received 11.3 % of the vote for the Chamber of Deputies. This made it the fourth largest party in the Chamber of Deputies with 26 seats. Party chairman is Vojtěch Filip.</p> <p>2. Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD) is a major left-wing political party in the Czech Republic. It is a member of the Socialist International and the Party of European Socialists. Ideology: social democracy, democratic socialism, economy: Keynesianism. European Parliament political group: The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. ČSSD has seven seats in the European Parliament. Founded in 1993 by Miloš Zeman (today's President of the Czech Republic) as a part of Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party, which took it's place in the Czechoslovakia before it's split. In the 2010 parliamentary elections ČSSD obtained 22.1 % of the votes and 56 of 200 seats. Currently has 54 members in the Chamber of Deputies. The current chairman of the party is Bohuslav Sobotka.</p> <p>3. Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09) is a conservative centre-right party. It's ideology is liberal conservatism and pro-europeanism. It is a member of the 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 Minister of Foreign Affairs. The party soon enjoyed popularity as the second strongest right-wing party (behind ODS). In the elections to the Chamber of Deputies in 2010 the party obtained 16.7 % of the total vote share and thus 41 of 200 seats and formed a new government together with ODS and Public Affairs (till break-up of the Public Affairs in 2012).</p> <p>4. Public Affairs (VV) is centre right populist party. It's ideology is liberalism and direct democracy - the peoples can change the course of the party by internet referendums. The party was founded in 2001 as a Prague municipal party fighting to address issues concerning the capital's residents, particularly residents of Prague 1. 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 investigative 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 2010 elections to the Chamber of Deputies Public Affairs won 10.9 % of the votes on its anti-corruption campaign, and thus 24 of 200 seats in parliament. The party became a member of government coalition with two other centre-right parties - ODS and TOP 09. As a result of long term government crisis and internal party disputes, the party broke-up in April 2012, when Karolína Peake, a vicechairman of the party, left it. She was followed by the last two ministers and six other deputies for Public Affairs. Prime minister Petr Nečas at that time denounced the coalition agreement with Public Affairs and expressed his willingness to cooperate with Karolína Peake, who along with other ex-members of Public Affairs established a new political party LIDEM. Currently, the Public Affairs has only 11 representatives in the Chamber of Deputies and is a part of the opposition.</p> <p>5. Civic Democratic Party (ODS) is the largest right-wing political party in the Czech Republic. It's ideology is mainly liberal and national conservatism, economic liberalism and euroscepticism. It is a member of the International Democrat Union and the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists. European Parliament political group: European Conservatives and Reformists. The party was founded by Václav Klaus (President of the Czech Republic in the period 2003-2013) in 1991 as the pro-free market wing of the Civic Forum (political movement in the Czech part of Czechoslovakia, established during the Velvet Revolution in 1989). Klaus led the party till 2002. Currently is led by Petr Nečas. 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 (since beak-up of the Public Affairs in 2012 are members of the government members of the newly formed party LIDEM) and Petr Nečas became the prime minister. ODS has 50 deputies in the Chamber of Deputies.</p>

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 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 method.</p>

Denmark

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Danish
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Socialdemokraterne - The Social Democrats - 24,8 % 2. Det Radikale Venstre - The Radical Liberal Party - 9,5 % 3. Det Konservative Folkeparti - Conservative People's Party - 4,9 % 4. SF Socialistisk Folkeparti - Socialist People's Party - 9,2 % 5. Dansk Folkeparti - Danish People's Party - 12,3 % 6. Kristendemokraterne - Christian Democrats - 0,8 % 7. Venstre, Danmarks Liberale Parti - The Liberal Party - 26,7 % 8. Liberal Alliance - Liberal Alliance - 5,0 % 9. Enhedslisten - Unity List - The Red-Green Alliance - 6,7 % 10. Andet - Other - 0,1 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Social Democrats - Established in 1871. For many years the strongest party in Danish politics. Labour party advocating democratic socialism. 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. 3. Conservative People's Party - Established in 1915 based yhe former "the Right". A traditional conservative party. 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. 5. Danish People's 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. 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. 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. 8. Liberal Alliance former 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. 9. The Unity List - The 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.

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 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. 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"> 1. Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit - Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica - 20,5 % 2. Eesti Keskerakond - Estonian Centre Party - 23,3 % 3. Eesti Reformierakond - Estonian Reform Party - 28,6 % 4. Eestimaa Rahvaliid - People's Union of Estonia - 2,1 % 5. Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond - Social Democratic Party - 17,1 % 6. Erakond Eestimaa Rohelised - Estonian Greens - 3,8 % 7. Erakond Eesti Kristlikud Demokraadid - Estonian Christian Democrats - 0,5 % 8. Eesti Iseseisvuspartei - Estonian Independence Party - 0,4 % 9. Eestimaa Ühendatud Vasakpartei - Estonian United Left Party - 0,9 %
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. 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>Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_of_Pro_Patria_and_Res_Publica</p> <p>2. Estonian Centre Party (Estonian: Eesti Keskerakond). Social-liberal (left-centre) party established in 1991 on the basis of the Popular Front, which headed the democratic movement in 1988-1991.</p> <p>Source: European Election Database (www.nsd.uib.no)</p> <p>3. 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>Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estonian_Reform_Party</p> <p>4. People's Union of Estonia (Estonian: Eestimaa Rahvaliid) is a political party in Estonia, currently led by Juhan Aare.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The party was founded on 29 September 1994 in Tallinn under the name of Estonian Country People's Party (Eesti Maarahva Erakond, EME). On 18 October 1999 the party was renamed to 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 as approximately 3000 members.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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</p>

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.

Source:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People's_Union_of_Estonia

5. Social Democratic Party (Estonian: Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond) 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.

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.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estonian_Greens

7. 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).

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Party_of_Estonian_Christian_Democrats

8. Estonian Independence Party (Estonian: Eesti Iseseisvuspartei) 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.

Source:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estonian_Independence_Party

9. Estonian United Left Party (Estonian: Eestimaa Ühendatud Vasakpartei). 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.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estonian_United_Left_Party

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>Nature of the electoral system and basic trends in voter participation 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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/</p> <p>More information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_Estonia http://www.ipu.org/parline/reports/2105_B.htm</p>

Finland

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"> 1. Kansallinen Kokoomus - National Coalition Party - 20.38 % 2. Ruotsalainen Kansanpuolue - Swedish People's Party - 4.28% 3. Suomen Keskusta - Centre Party - 15.76% 4. Perussuomalaiset - True Finns - 19.05% 5. Suomen Kristillisdemokraatit - Christian Democrats - 4.03% 6. Vapauspuolue - Freedom Party - 0.15% 7. Muutos 2011 - Change 2011 - 0.26% 8. Piraattipuolue - Pirate Party - 0.51% 9. Suomen Senioripuolue - Senior Citizens' Party - 0.11% 10. Itsenäisyyspuolue - Independence Party - 0.11 % 11. Köyhien Asialla - For the Poor - 0.05 % 12. Vihreä liitto - Green League - 7.25 % 13. Suomen Sosialidemokraattinen Puolue - Social Democratic Party - 19.10 % 14. Vasemmistoliitto - Left Alliance - 8.13 % 15. Suomen Kommunistinen Puolue - Communist Party - 0.31 % 16. Kommunistinen Työväenpuolue - Communist Workers' Party - 0.05 % 17. Suomen Työväen Puolue - Workers' Party - 0.06 % 18. Jokin muu - Other - 0.40 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kansallinen Kokoomus - Conservative Party - The main rightist party. 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". 3. Suomen Keskusta - Centre Party - The former Agrarian Union, clearly a right wing party. 4. Perussuomalainen - True Finns - Rightist populist party, with strong emphasis on work values, religion, Finnish traditions. Wants to limit immigration; The main go-home party. 5. Suomen Kristillisdemokraattinen Puolue - Christian Democratic Party - A small party strongly emphasising christian values. 6. Vapauspuolue - Freedom Party - A very small anti-immigration party. 7. Muutos 2011 - Change 2011 - A very small party emphasising direct democracy, freedom of speech and the interests of Finnish citizens. 8. Piraattipuolue - Pirate Party - Supports reform of copyright and patent law and free sharing of knowledge. 9. Suomen Senioripuolue - Senior Citizens' Party - A very small centre-right party which aims to advance pensioners' interests. 10. Itsenäisyyspuolue - Independence party - A small rightist party, wants the country to resign from EU. 11. Köyhien Asialla - For the Poor - A very small party with no clear political profile. 12. Vihreä liitto - Green League. The Green party - Emphasises environmental issues, currently in government coalition with the major rightist parties, Centre and Coalition party. 13. Suomen Sosialidemokraattinen Puolue - Social Democratic Party - The main leftist party. 14. Vasemmistoliitto - The Left Alliance - A party consisting of former members of the suppressed Communist Party and left-wing socialists. The second-most important leftist party. 15. Suomen Kommunistinen Puolue - Communist Party - A very small party continuing the political traditions of the original Communist Party after its suppression. 16. Kommunistinen Työväenpuolue - Communist Workers' Party - Another very small, party continuing the political traditions of the original Communist Party after its suppression. 17. Suomen Työväen Puolue - Workers' Party - One more very small party on the extreme left.

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 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</p>

	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.
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France

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	French
Year of last election:	2012
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<p>01. Nouveau Centre - New Centre - 2.20 %</p> <p>02. FN (Front National) - National Front - 13.6 %</p> <p>03. PR (Parti Radical Valoisien) - The Radical Party - 1.24 %</p> <p>04. NPA (Nouveau Parti Anti-Capitaliste) - The New Anticapitalist Party - 0.30 %</p> <p>05. LO (Lutte Ouvrière) - Workers' Fight - 0.49 %</p> <p>06. FDG (Front de Gauche) - Left Front - 6.91 %</p> <p>07. PG (Parti de Gauche) - Left party - N/A</p> <p>08. MPF (Mouvement pour la France) - The Movement for France - 0.47 %</p> <p>09. PS (Parti Socialiste) - Socialist party - 29.35 %</p> <p>10. UMP (Union pour un Mouvement Populaire) - Union for a Popular Movement - 27.12 %</p> <p>11. MODEM (Mouvement Démocrate) - Democrat Movement - 1.77 %</p> <p>12. EELV (Europe Ecologie des Verts) - The Greens - Europe Ecology - 5.46 %</p> <p>13. Autres mouvements écologistes - Other green movements - 0.96 %</p> <p>14. Autre - Other parties - 8.48 %</p> <p>15. PCF (Parti Communiste Français) - French Communist Party - N/A</p> <p>16. Parti Radical de Gauche - Left-wing radical party - 1.65 %</p> <p>17. UDI (Union des démocrates indépendants) - The Union of Independent Democrats - N/A</p>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>01. New Centre, also known as the European Social Liberal Party (Parti Social Libéral Européen, PSLE) is a centre-right political party in France.</p> <p>02. FN: Extreme right party.</p> <p>03. PR: Center-Right Party.</p> <p>04. NPA: Extreme Left Party.</p> <p>05. LO: Trotskyist Party.</p> <p>06. FDG: French electoral coalition created for the 2009 European elections by the Left Party (PG - Parti de Gauche) and the French Communist Party (PCF - Parti Communiste Français). As the "Front de Gauche" is not a party but a coalition of the PG and the PCF, the two parties are separately listed in the response categories of the variable PRTCLFR (B18b).</p> <p>07. PG is a left-wing party, member of the Left Front (FDG - Front de Gauche). This party is listed in the response categories of the variable PRTCLFR (B18b).</p> <p>08. MPF: Conservative party.</p> <p>09. PS: Main left-wing party.</p> <p>10. UMP: Main right-wing party.</p> <p>11. MODEM: center party.</p> <p>12. EELV: Green party.</p> <p>13. Other ecological movements.</p> <p>15. PCF, the French communist party, is a member of the Left Front (FDG - Front de Gauche) since 2009. This party is listed in the response categories of the variable PRTCLFR (B18b).</p> <p>16. Parti Radical de Gauche: Radical party of the Left.</p> <p>17. UDI is a centrist political party in France founded on 18 September 2012, on the basis of the parliamentary group of the same name. This party is composed of 9 centrist parties. For now, no election took place since its creation, however 31 members of Parliament are now affiliated to this new party. This party is present in the response categories of the variable PRTCLFR (B18b).</p>

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>Maximal length of term: 5 years. 577 constituencies (magnitude = 1).</p> <p>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.</p>

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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands - Social Democratic Party (23,0%) 2. Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands / Christliche-Soziale Union in Bayern - Christian Democratic Union (33,8%) 3. Bündnis 90/Die Grünen - Green Party (10,7%) 4. Freie Demokratische Partei - Liberal Democratic Party (14,6%) 5. Die Linke - The Left Party of Democratic Socialism (11,9%) 6. Die Republikaner - Republican Party (0,4%) 7. Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands - National Democratic Party / German People's Union (1,5%) 8. Piratenpartei - Pirate Party (2,0%)
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 6. Die Republikaner: Republican Party. The party covers nationalistic issues like fighting against "foreignization" and the process of European Unification. 7. NPD: National Democratic Party. The right-wing extremist party covers nationalistic issues like the Republican Party (Die Republikaner), but is even more extreme and is closer to the Neo-Nazi-milieu. 8. Piratenpartei (Pirate Party): The Pirate Party Germany was founded 2006 as part of the Pirate Parties International. The party promotes protection of data privacy and enhancement of transparent governance. It supports reforms of copyright, genetic patents and drug policy as well as unconditional basic income and direct democracy via e-democracy.

2. Electoral system	
Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:	
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.</p> <p>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 or four years in the 16 'Bundesländer' (federal states). Elections at the federal (Land) and local levels are not held simultaneously, as in the United States, but are rather 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>

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"> 1. Centrum Párt (Centrum Összefogás Magyarországért), Centre Party - Centre Alliance for Hungary 2. CM (Civil Mozgalom), Civic movement - 0.89 % 3. Fidesz - KDNP (Fidesz – Magyar Polgári Szövetség Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt) - FIDESZ – Hungarian Civic Union , KNDP – Christian Democratic People's Party - 52.7 % 4. Jobbik (Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom), The Movement for a Better Hungary - 16.7 % 5. LMP (Lehet Más A Politika), Politics Can Be Different - 7.47 % 6. MDF (Magyar Demokrata Fórum), Hungarian Democratic Forum - 2.67 % 7. MIÉP (Magyar Igazság És Élet Pártja), Hungarian Justice and Life Party - 0.05 % 8. MSZP (Magyar Szocialista Párt) , Hungarian Socialist Party - 19.3 % 9. MSZDP (Magyar Szociáldemokrata Párt), Hungarian Socialdemocratic Party - 0.08 % 10. Munkáspárt (Magyar Kommunista Munkáspárt), Hungarian Communist Workers' Party - 0.11 % 11. MCF Roma Összefogás Párt, Forum for Hungarian Gypsy Organisations – Party of GypsyAlliance 12. ÖP (Összefogás Párt), Union Party - 0.07 % 13. SZDSZ (Szabad Demokraták Szövetsége - A Magyar Liberális Párt) , The Alliance of Free Democrats – The Hungarian Liberal Party 55. Other 87. Didn't go to vote (Category has been deleted from data)
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Centre Party 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) the Hungarian Democratic People's Party (Magyar Demokrata Néppárt) and the Greens. 2. The Civil Movement, abbreviated to CM, is a centre-right political party in Hungary. It has a third way ideology, but very limited presence in the Hungarian political life. 3. The Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Union is a major national conservative political party in Hungary. At the 2010 election in Hungary, Fidesz-Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) won a two-thirds majority of seats by gaining 52% of the votes, with Fidesz winning 227 seats and KDNP winning 36. Fidesz is a member of the European People's Party (EPP). 4. Jobbik, The Movement for a Better Hungary (Hungarian: Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom), commonly known as Jobbik, is a Hungarian radical nationalist political party. The party describes itself as "a principled, conservative and radically patriotic Christian party", whose "fundamental purpose" was the protection of "Hungarian values and interests." Jobbik has been described by scholars, different press outlets and its political opponents as fascist, neo-fascist, Neo-Nazi, racist, anti-Semitic, anti-Roma and homophobic. Measured according to its representation in the European Parliament and the National Assembly, it is Hungary's third largest party. 5. Politics Can Be Different 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. The party was preceded by a non-governmental organization social initiative founded in 2008, with the purpose of reforming Hungarian politics. During the party's congress in November 2012, the Politics Can Be Different decided not to join Together 2014, the electoral alliance of opposition parties and movements. In January 2013, the LMP's congress rejected against the electoral cooperation with other opposition forces, including Together 2014. As a result members of LMP's "Dialogue for Hungary" platform announced their decision to leave the opposition party and form a new organization. 6. The Hungarian Democratic Forum was a centre-right political party in Hungary. It had a liberal conservative, Christian democratic and national populist ideology. The party was represented continuously in the National Assembly from the restoration of democracy in 1990 until 2010. The MDF was the largest party on Hungary's emergence as a democratic country under the leadership of József Antall, Prime Minister between 1990 and 1993. Since then, its representation has receded, with the party playing the role of junior coalition partner to Fidesz from 1998 to 2002, and in opposition otherwise. 7. The Hungarian Justice and Life Party is a far-right nationalist political party in Hungary led by the formerly 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. At the 2002 elections, April 7 and 20, 2002, the party won 4.4% of the popular vote and no seats. Currently its importance is minimal on Hungarian politics. 8. The Hungarian Socialist Party describes itself as a social democratic party in Hungary. At the 2006 elections, MSZP won with 43.2% of party list votes, which gave it 190 representatives out of 386 in the Parliament. 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. 9. The Hungarian Social Democratic Party is a social-democratic political party in Hungary. The party has failed to cross the threshold into Parliament at every subsequent election. Whilst retaining its separate status, it has become even further linked to the MSZP. 10. The Hungarian Communist Workers' Party was created on December 17 1989, as a successor party of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZMP). It has always opposed capitalism, and has never been represented in the Parliament since the 1989 change of regime.

	<p>11. In 2006 the first entirely Romani party was founded in Hungary, called the "MCF Roma összefogás" (MCF Union of the Roma), although they managed only very low number of total votes (under 1%) at the parliamentary elections held in 2006 and 2010.</p> <p>12. Union Party was founded in 2009. The party defines itself as "problem solving party". At the last elections it received only 2732 votes (0,05%).</p> <p>13. The Alliance of Free Democrats – Hungarian Liberal Party is a formerly much more important liberal political party in Hungary. Its origins lie in the illegal Democratic Opposition under the communist rule. This gave rise to the loosely organized Network of Free Initiatives in 1988 and to the foundation of the SZDSZ as an opposition political party in 1988. In the 2010 parliamentary election, SZDSZ won only 0.25 percent of the vote and was shut out of the legislature altogether for the first time since the change of system. The party was even wiped off the map in Budapest.</p> <p>14. The party 4K! - Fourth Republic, often abbreviated 4K!, is a social-democratic political party in Hungary. It was formed at a Congress in April 2012, and its membership is largely drawn from a predecessor civil organization, also called 4K!.</p> <p>15. The Democratic Coalition, abbreviated to DK, is a centre-left political party in Hungary led by former Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány. Founded in 2010 as a group within the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP), the party split from the MSZP on 22 October 2011 and became a separate party.</p> <p>16. Együtt (Together) 2014 is a political electoral alliance in Hungary, formed on 26 October 2012 for the next Hungarian parliamentary election, to contrast Viktor Orbán's government. The current leader of the party is Gordon Bajnai, former Prime Minister of Hungary.</p> <p>17. The Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) is a political party in Hungary. It is officially a coalition partner of ruling party Fidesz, but in reality it is a satellite party of Fidesz</p>
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2. Electoral system	
Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>General elections until 2010: 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. 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> <p>Changes from 2014 onwards: one round system instead of the two round system, no 50%, nor 25% turnout is necessary (formerly 50% turnout was needed for the first round and 25% for the second round), 199 seats (decreased from 386) 106 constituency seats (decreased from 176, increased from 45.6% to 53.3% of all seats), regional party-lists and national party-lists merged (now shortly: party-lists), 93 party-list seats, including minority-list seats (decreased from 210 regional- and national list seats, decreased from 54.4% to 46.7% of all seats). 5% threshold still exists in case of party-list, and 10% in case of two parties' joint list, 15% in case of three or more parties' joint list.</p>

Iceland

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Icelandic
Year of last election:	2009
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samfylkingin - The Social Democratic Alliance - 29,79% 2. Framsóknarflokkur - Progressive Party - 14,8% 3. Sjálfstæðisflokkur - The Independence Party - 23,7% 4. Vinstrihreyfingin - grænt framboð - The Left Green Movement - 21,68% 5. Frjálslyndi flokkurinn - Liberal Party - 2,22% 6. Borgarahreyfingin - The Citizens' Movement - 7,22 7. Lýðræðishreyfingin - The Democracy Movement - 0,59% 8. Björt framtíð - Bright Future 9. Hreyfingin - The Movement 10. Samstaða - Solidarity
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samfylkingin - The Social Democratic Alliance: Social-democratic, moderate-left wing alliance founded in 2000 on the merger of four left-of center, socialist, social-democratic and/or feminist parties with the intent of uniting the left-wing in Iceland. In opposition from 1999-2007 but in government with the IP from 2007-2009 and the Left-Greens from 2009-2013. 2. Framsóknarflokkur - Progressive Party: Center-right party founded in 1916. Originally a farmer's party, more recently generally center-right. Self-proclaimed "rationalism" neither left or right. Elements of nationalism/patriotism, liberalism, conservatism, EU-opposition. Government-subsidized agriculture, fisheries and big (aluminum) industries. In governments with coalitions to left and right for most of its history, f.x. from 1995-207 with the Independence Party. Supported minority-government of left-parties in 2009. 3. Sjálfstæðisflokkur - The Independence Party: Right-wing party reaching to the center, founded in 1929 with the unification of the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party. Unusual right-wing solidarity, combining strands of conservatism, liberalism and an emphasis on national-independence with a general support of welfare-state policies. Historically the largest party in Iceland and the only large party on the right-wing. In government from 1991-2009, most notably led by Davíð Oddsson; prime minister from 1991-2004 and proponent of liberalistic reforms in Icelandic politics. 4. Vinstrihreyfingin - grænt framboð: Left-wing, socialist, feminist, environmental, pacifist party founded in 1999 as a fragment from the merger of four left-wing parties into The Social Democratic Alliance by more left-wing politicians not content with the Alliance. In opposition from 1999-2009 but in government with the Social-democrats from 2009-2013. 5. Frjálslyndi flokkurinn - Liberal Party: Small right-wing party, separated from the IP in 1998 by MP Sverrir Hermannsson, due to disputes regarding the fishing-quota system in Iceland. Moderate-liberals, mostly advocating free fisheries and changing the quota-system. In parliament from 1999-2009, not elected in 2009 and never in government. 6. Borgarahreyfingin - The Citizens' Movement: A loose alliance of protesters and reformists connected to the "Pots-and-pans revolution" in 2009; advocating a new constitution for Iceland, debt-relief for the general-public, direct democracy, transparency, individual-voting etc. Self-proclaimed above left and right, perceived as moderate-left wing. Never in government but elected to parliament in 2009 with 4 MP's that soon split up and left the party. 7. Lýðræðishreyfingin - The Democracy Movement: Party founded by frequent presidential-candidata Ástþór Magnússon in 2009, advocated basing Icelandic politics and government on direct, electronic-democracy. Did not get elected. 8. Björt framtíð - Bright Future: Center-party formed in 2012 by former members of the Social Democratic Alliance and the Progressive party, along with the Best Party in Reykjavik and others. Emphasise consensus-based politics, improved political culture and discourse and co-operation between parties. Pro-EU, environmental, social-liberal but more focused on general goals and ideas than specific policies. 9. Hreyfingin - The Movement: A Parliamentary group founded by 3 MP's that had been elected to parliament for the Citizen's Movement with the same agenda and platform as them (see above) but not formally a part of the Citizen's Movement. Later reunited with them and others. 10. Samstaða - Solidarity: Radically left-wing (although self-proclaimed neither left nor right) party founded by Lilja Mósesdóttir, former MP for the Left-Greens, in 2012. Emphasis on equality, public-good, co-operation, sustainability, environmentalism and democracy. Dissolved before the election in 2013.

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:	63 members are elected to parliament (Alþingi) using proportional-representation and the d'hondt formula for list/party-elections in six multi-member constituencies. 54 seats are allocated within these constituencies but 9 are allocated to make up for nation-wide voting-weight disparities, based on which parties suffer the largest-disparities and allocated in the constituency in which they are closest to getting a member elected. Parties can only receive these supplementary seats if they have received 5% or more of the popular vote nation-wide.

	<p>Each candidate can run for one party-list and one party-list only in a single constituency. Voters can only vote for one list and only in their constituency, but they can change the preferred order of candidates and/or strike out names of candidates from that list.</p>
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Ireland

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Irish/English
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fianna Fáil - Soldiers of Destiny - 17.4% 2. Fine Gael - Tribe of the Irish - 36.1% 3. Green Party - 1.8% 4. Independent - 12.6%% 5. Labour Party - 19.4% 6. People Before Profit - 1.0% 7. Sinn Féin - Ourselves - 9.9% 8. Socialist Party - 1.2% 9. United Left Alliance - 2.7%
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 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</p>

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

2. Electoral system

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

Only one single vote registered:	No
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Two or more votes registered:	Yes
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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). 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. 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>
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Israel

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Hebrew, Arabic, Russian (in the questionnaires); English (SPSS)
Year of last election:	2009
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mifleget Ha' Avoda - The Israeli Labor Party - 9.93% 2. Ha' Likud - 21.61% 3. Kadima - 22.47% 4. Shas - 8.49% 5. The New Movement - Meretz - 2.95% 6. The Jewish House - 2.87% 7. Ya'Hadut Ha'Tora - United Torah Judaism - 4.39% 8. Gil- Gimlaey Israeli la' Knesset - Pensioners of Israel to the Knesset - 0.52% 9. Israel Beiteinu - Israel Our Home - 11.7% 10. Halhud HaLeumi - The National Union - 3.34% 11. Ha'Tnu'a HaYeruqa - The Green Movement - 0.82% 12. Ale Yarok - Green Leaf - 0.39% 13. HaYerukim - The Greens - 0.37% 14. Hadash - 3.32% 15. Balad - National Democratic Assembly - 2.48% 16. Ra'am- Ta'al - 3.38% <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Yesh Atid - There is a Future- (founded in 2012) 21. Am Shalem - Whole Nation - (founded in 2012) 22. Hatnua - The Movement - (founded in 2012)
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</p>

	<p>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.</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 man, 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 party's 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> <p>20. Yesh Atid (There is a Future). Yesh Atid is a political party founded by Yair Lapid on April 2012. On 1 May, the first party conference was held, in which Lapid revealed the "Lapid Programme" - military service for all Israelis.[8] According to the party's rules, Lapid would determine the candidates that would run for a seat in the Knesset, as he would be the one to take the final decisions on political issues and is guaranteed the chairman position of the party during the term of the 19th Knesset and the 20th Knesset. Yesh Atid gained 14.33% of the votes for the 19th parliament.</p> <p>21. Am Shalem (Whole Nation). Established on 14 April 2011 by Knesset member Haim Amsalem, five months after he was expelled from Shas, and took its name from the Hebrew translation of his surname. The party intends to run for the 19th Knesset, on a secular-religious unity platform. Its main goals are to bring the secular and religious sectors together, separating religion from politics but not from the state, encouraging the haredi sector to join the workforce, campaigning against communal segregation in haredi communities, and supporting IDF conversions. Am Shalem gained 1.2% of the votes for the 19th parliament.</p> <p>22. Hatnua. Hatnua, or The Movement in English, is a liberal political party in Israel that Tzipi Livni formed to present an alternative to voters distressed by the stalemate in peacemaking. The party was formed by dissidents in Kadima, which Livni, who had led the party's progressive wing. Hatnua ran on a joint list with the Green Movement, and incorporated many of its core ideals into the party's platform. Hatnua's platform emphasizes Arab-Israeli peace, social justice, environmental protection, the integration of the Haredi and Arab communities into the military and workforce, and religious pluralism. Hatnua gained 4.99% of the votes for the 19th parliament.</p>
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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>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.</p> <p>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>

Italy

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Italian
Year of last election:	2013
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partito Democratico (PD)- Democratic Party - 25,42% 2. Movimento 5 Stelle - Five Star Movement - 25,55% 3. Popolo della Libertà (PDL) - The People of Freedom - 21,56% 4. Lega Nord - Northern League- 4,08% 5. Scelta civica (con Monti) - Civic Choice - 8,30% 6. Sinistra, Ecologia e Libertà (SEL) - Left, Ecology and Freedom - 3,20% 7. Fratelli d'Italia - Brothers of Italy - 1,95% 8. Unione di Centro (UDC) - Union of the Centre - 1,78% 9. Rivoluzione Civile (- Ingroia) - Civil Revolution - 2,25% 10. Fare per fermare il declino (FARE - Giannino) - Act to stop the decline - 1,12% 11. Futuro e Libertà (FLI) - Future and Freedom - 0,46% 12. La Destra - The Right - 0,64% 13. Centro Democratico - Democratic Centre - 0,49% 14. Südtiroler Volkspartei - South Tyrolean People's Party - 0,43% 15. Movimento per le Autonomie - Movement for Autonomies - 0,43% 16. Partito Comunista dei Lavoratori - Workers' Communist Party - 0,26% 17. Forza Nuova - New Force - 0,26%
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Democratic Party is the main centre-left party in Italy; it has been established in 2007, after the fusion of several parties (most notably of the social-democratic Democrats of the Left and the centrist Democracy is Freedom). In 2013 it won the general elections thanks to its centre-left alliance with Left, Ecology and Freedom, the Democratic Centre and the South Tyrolean People's Party, though not resulting the most voted party. It is now the majority party supporting Letta's government. 2. Five Star Movement is a newly established party, launched by and strongly linked to Beppe Grillo, a popular activist and comedian. It can hardly be included in the left-right paradigm, since it is a multi-issue party (it has been labeled as Eurosceptic, environmentalist, anti-corruption and populist party). Thanks to its strong criticism towards classic political parties, it resulted the most voted party in 2013 elections, though not running within any electoral alliance (and not supporting, afterwards, the nominated government). 3. The People of Freedom is the main centre-right party in Italy; it has been established in 2007, with the fusion of several parties, most notably Forza Italia and National Alliance. It is strongly linked to the personality of its leader, Silvio Berlusconi. Though it might be considered as a conservative liberal party, it has opposed Mario Monti's previous government and is now part of the grand coalition supporting Enrico Letta's government. 4. The Northern League is a federalist and regionalist party, mostly rooted in the Northern regions of Italy. Its electoral fortunes are mainly due to its criticism to the central government in Rome and to its anti-immigration rhetoric. It is the traditional ally of Berlusconi's party, although it does not support the current government. 5. Civic Choice is the centrist and liberal party funded by Mario Monti for the 2013 elections, in which it run together with the Union of the Centre and Future and Freedom. It is now part of the grand coalition supporting Letta's government. 6. Left, Ecology and Freedom is a democratic socialist party, funded in 2009 (firstly as an alliance called Left and Freedom, which was formed by leftist and environmentalist formations) by its leader Nichi Vendola, a left-wing politician and LGBT activist who has been President of Apulia since 2005. Though having run with the Democratic Party in 2013, it does not support Letta's government. 7. Brothers of Italy is a national-conservative party established in 2013 by a small group of MPs who were previously members of Berlusconi's People of Freedom. In 2013 it was part of the Centre-Right coalition, led by Silvio Berlusconi. 8. The Union of the Centre is the coalition of minor Christian democratic parties, established in 2008. It is the most direct successor of the old Christian Democracy, the party that led Italy for most of the second half of last century. In 2013 it run in the coalition "With Monti for Italy". 9. Civil Revolution is a left-wing coalition established for the 2013: principally it was formed by Italy of Values (an anti-corruption, centrist party), the Communist Refoundation Party (traditionally the principal Communist Party since the 90s) and Civil Action, a formation led by the magistrate Ingroia. 10. Act to stop the decline is a liberal-libertarian political party founded in 2012 by Oscar Giannino. Its identity is strongly linked with the libertarian economic ideology (reduction of public expenditures and privatizations). It did not run in any coalition in 2013 elections. 11. Future and Freedom is a conservative political party established in 2010 by Gianfranco Fini. Though Fini was a traditional ally of Berlusconi, his decision to found another party was mainly due to the political divergences between the two. In 2013, it has supported the coalition "With Monti for Italy". 12. The Right is a national-conservative political party founded in 2007. Though usually associated with far-right political positions, it has joined the Centre-Right coalition in 2013. 13. The Democratic Centre is a minor centrist party founded in 2012. It is led by Bruno Tabacci, a former Christian Democrat and, in 2013, it has joined the Centre-Left coalition. Its support is mainly rooted in some Southern regions, such as Basilicata, Calabria and Apulia.

	<p>14. The South Tyrolean People's Party is a regionalist, autonomist and ethnic-based political party of South Tyrol (the Italian Alto Adige). It does not have a precise political connotation along the left-right continuum (it has traditionally supported the Christian Democracy and, since 1998, it is usually part of Centre-Left coalitions), but it is deeply rooted in the province of Bolzano, where it has the absolute majority since 1948.</p> <p>15. The Movement for Autonomies is a regionalist and Christian democratic party. It mainly demands economic development and greater autonomy for Sicily and other Southern regions.</p> <p>16. The Workers' Communist Party was created in 2006 by the Trotskyist wing of the Communist Refoundation Party. Its anti-globalization and far-left positions make its coalition-potentiality quite low.</p> <p>17. New Force is one of the most longstanding among current far-right parties in Italy. It has been founded in 1997 and, since then, it adopts ultra-nationalist and neo-fascist positions.</p>
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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:	Members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected by all adult citizens by voluntary, universal and direct suffrage; their terms last for five years. They are elected through a party-list proportional system, with a double electoral threshold: only members of parties joining coalitions that have reached a minimum of 10% of votes are considered eligible; furthermore, within this coalition, the party must have at least 2% of votes. In case the party does not belong to any coalition, the electoral threshold is 4%.

Kosovo

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Albanian and Serbian
Year of last election:	2010
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës (LDK) - Kosovo Democratic League - 24.69 % 2. Partia Demokratike e Kosovës (PDK) - Kosovo Democratic Party - 32.11 % 3. Lëvizja Vetëvendosje (VV) - Self-Determination Movement - 12.69 % 4. Aleanca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës (AAK) - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo - 11.04 % 5. Partia e Drejtësisë (PD) (Coalition) - Justice Party - 6. Aleanca Kosova e Re (AKR) (Coalition) - New Kosovo Alliance - 7.29 % 7. Other 8. Srpska Napredna Stranka (SNS) - Serb Progressive Party - 0.11 % 9. Demokratska Stranka (DS) - Democratic Party - 0.11 % 10. Demokratska Stranka Srbije (DSS) - Serbian Democratic Party 11. Socialisticka Partija Srbije (SPS) - Serbian Socialist Party 12. Liberalno Demokratska Partija (LDP) - Democratic Liberal Party 13. Srpska Liberalna Stranka (SLS) - Serbian Liberal Party - 7.1 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Democratic League of Kosovo (Albanian: Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës, LDK) is the second largest political party in Kosovo. It is a conservative and liberal conservative party; the main right-wing party in Kosovo. 2. The Democratic Party of Kosovo (Albanian: Partia Demokratike e Kosovës, PDK) is the largest political party in Kosovo[a]. It was originally a social democratic party coming out of demilitarized KLA after the war with most of the leadership being former members of PMK, but during its congress on January 2013, it positioned itself as a center-right party. It is the main center-right party in Kosovo. The party shows strong social and economic liberalism tendencies. It is headed by Hashim Thaçi, the political leader of the former Kosovo Liberation Army. The first post-war Prime Minister of Kosovo, Bajram Rexhepi, belongs to the Democratic Party of Kosovo. The party stands for an independent, free and democratic Kosovo, as do all other ethnic-Albanian political parties. (Source: Wikipedia) 3. Vetëvendosje (trans. Self-determination) is a radical, nationalistic political movement in Kosovo[a], which opposes foreign involvement in internal affairs of the country and campaigns for the sovereignty exercised by the people instead, as part of the right of self-determination. The movement widely bases its philosophy in the works of Ukshin Hoti and Hegel. The big contrast with the rest of the political spectrum within Kosovo gleams in regard of two main issues that characterize the country after the war: the long process of negotiations with Serbia concerning the internal organization and socio-political aspects of Kosovo, without imposing any prior conditions to the Serbian side, which they consider "unfair and harmful", and the process of privatization of public companies which they describe as "a corruption model, contributing to increasing unemployment, ruining the economy, and halting economic development of the country". (Source: Wikipedia) 4. The current president of the party is Ramush Haradinaj. In December 2004 the parliament elected him as Prime Minister of Kosovo and he formed a coalition government with the largest party, the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). He resigned as Prime Minister in March 2005 after learning that he had been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, for 37 counts of war crimes. He received a full acquittal from the Tribunal on 3 April 2008. He returned to Kosovo and immediately resumed his duties as president of the party. 5. The Justice Party follows a right-wing conservative platform as well as advocating a more liberal stance towards the economy. The party tends to attract religious conservatives in Kosovo (mainly Muslims) and has for example campaigned for a mosque to be built in Pristina to house the growing number of practising Muslims there. Although it is allied to the liberal Aleanca Kosova e Re it continues to follow a conservative platform and the religious conservative faction in the part continues to grow. 6. New Kosovo Alliance (Albanian: Aleanca Kosova e Re, AKR) is a liberal political party in Kosovo which is in the current coalition government made up by the PDK and AKR. The party was founded on 3 May 2006, by Behgjet Pacolli, a businessman. He is the founding owner of Mabetex, the Swiss-based project-engineering firm that has managed significant engineering projects ranging from restorations in the White House in the United States to the rebuilding the Kremlin in Moscow. (Source: Wikipedia) 8. The Serbian Progressive Party was formed by a group of 21 former Serbian Radical Party (SRS) MPs led by Tomislav Nikolić. Disenchanted with the direction of the party, the pro-EU members left and formed the Forward Serbia parliamentary group. The SNS was founded and held its first congress meeting on 21 October 2008. Of the Serbian Radical Party's representatives elected in the Serbian parliamentary election, 2008, 21 moved to the Serbian Progressive Party, while 56 remained in the SRS. 9. The Democratic Party (Serbian: Демократска странка, ДС / Demokratska stranka, DS) is a social liberal and social democratic political party in Serbia. It is the main centre-left party in Serbia, and is currently second largest party in the National Assembly and official opposition party. The Democratic Party is a full member of the Socialist International, the Progressive Alliance, and is an associate member of the Party of European Socialists. The party was founded in 1989 by a group of Serbian intellectuals as a revival of the old Democratic Party. It was one of the main opposition parties to the presidency of Slobodan Milošević during the 1990s. 10. The Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) was founded in 1992 by a breakaway nationalist faction of the Democratic Party (DS), which advocated involvement in the Democratic Movement of Serbia (DEPOS). Founding members of the party were Vojislav Koštunica, Vladeta Janković, Đurđe Ninković, Draško Petrović, Mirko Petrović and Vladan Batić. The founding assembly was held on July 26, 1992 and elected Vojislav Koštunica as it's first

	<p>president. The first party assembly was held on December 5, 1992 and adopted the party's first manifesto.</p> <p>11. The Socialist Party of Serbia (Serbian: Социјалистичка партија Србије, СПС / Socijalistička partija Srbije, SPS) is a political party in Serbia that officially identifies as democratic socialist. It is also widely recognised as a Serbian nationalist party, though the SPS itself does not acknowledge this. The party claims to be centre-left, a position which is disputed by critics of the party. (Source: Wikipedia)</p> <p>12. The Liberal Democratic Party was founded on 5 November 2005 by former members of the Democratic Party, lead by Čedomir Jovanović, who were expelled in a party purge in 2004. Jovanović had become critical of the new direction of the Democratic Party and its newly elected president, Boris Tadić. The LDP gained its first seat in parliament after Đorđe Đukić defected from the Democratic Party. Members of the foundation board were: Nenad Prokić, Nikola Samardžić, Branislav Lečić and Đorđe Đukić. The LDP has a long standing relationship with the Social Democratic Union and League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina. The LDP is one of the few political parties in Serbia to actively support Serbia's membership into NATO and Kosovo-Albanian independence from Serbia. The LDP is also highly supportive of LGBT rights in Serbia.</p> <p>13. The Serbian Liberal Party (Serbian: Српска либерална странка / Srpska liberalna stranka) was a political party in Serbia. The party was founded in March 1991 by academicians Nikola Milošević and Kosta Čavoški, who left the Democratic Party. In the 2003 parliamentary election the party obtained one seat in the National Assembly on the list of the Democratic Party of Serbia. The Serbian Liberal Party officially ceased to exist in 2010.</p>
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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>Parliamentary elections to the Assembly of Kosovo (Albanian: Kuvendi i Kosovës, Serbian: Скупштина Косова, transliterated Skupstina Kosova) have been held four times since 1999 with the latest in December 2010. The Assembly was an institution within the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) established by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to provide 'provisional, democratic self-government' in advance of a decision on the final status of Kosovo. Kosovo, formerly a province of Serbia, came under UN administration in 1999 and unilaterally declared its independence in February 2008. The Assembly elected in 2007 continued in office after the declaration of independence. Since the Kosovo War the country has held four parliamentary elections, one every three years, in 2001, 2004, 2007, and 2010 respectively. The first two were administered by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the second two monitored by the international community, with the OSCE and other observing groups concluding that these elections were generally fair and free.</p> <p>Under Kosovo's Constitutional Framework, which established the PISG, elections were to be held every three years for the Assembly. The Assembly then in turn elects a president and prime minister. The Assembly had 120 members elected for a three year term: 100 members elected by proportional representation, and 20 members representing national minorities (10 Serbian, 4 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian, 3 Bosniak, 2 Turkish and 1 Gorani). Under the new Constitution of 2008, the guaranteed seats for Serbs and other minorities remains the same, but in addition they may gain extra seats according to their share of the vote. Kosovo has a multi-party system, with numerous parties and the system of proportional representation and guaranteed minority representation means that no one party is likely to have a parliamentary majority. (In addition, a minimum number of Ministers were and remain reserved for Serbs and other minorities)</p>

Lithuania

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2012
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lietuvos Respublikos liberalu sąjūdis - Liberals' Movement of the Republic of Lithuania (LRLS) - 8.57 % 2. Respublikonų partija - Republican Party (RP) - 0.27 % 3. Darbo partija - Labour Party (DP) - 19.82 % 4. Demokratinė darbo ir vienybės partija - Democratic Labour and Unity Party (DDVP) - 0.32 % 5. Tėvynės sąjunga - Lietuvos krikščionys demokratai - Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) - 15.08 % 6. „Drąsos kelias“ politinė partija - Political Party 'The Way of Courage' (DK) - 7.99 % 7. Lietuvos lenkų rinkimų akcija - Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania (LLRA) - 5.83 % 8. Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija - Lithuanian Social Democratic Party (LSDP) - 18.37 % 9. Partija Tvarka ir teisingumas - Party Order and Justice (TT) - 7.31 % 10. Lietuvos centro partija - Lithuanian Centre Party (LCP) - 0.94 % 11. Lietuvos socialdemokratų sąjunga - Lithuanian Social Democratic Union (LSDS) - 0.94 % 12. Tautininkų sąjunga - Nationalist Union (TS) - 0.94 % 13. Tautos vienybės sąjunga - National Unity Union (TVS) - 0.94 % 14. Krikščionių partija - Christian Party (KP) - 1.20 % 15. Lietuvos žmonių partija - Lithuanian People's Party (LZP) - 0.25 % 16. Socialistinis liaudies frontas - Socialist People's Front (SLF) - 1.21 % 17. Lietuvos valstiečių ir žaliųjų sąjunga - Lithuanian Peasant and Greens Union (LVZS) - 3.88 % 18. Partija „Jaunoji Lietuva“ - Party 'Young Lithuania' (JL) - 0.63 % 19. Liberalų ir centro sąjunga - Liberal and Centre Union (LiCS) - 2.06 % 20. Emigrantų partija - Emigrants' Party (EP) - 0.29 % 21. Politinė partija „Sąjunga Taip“ - Political Party 'Union Yes' (ST) - 1.76 % 22. National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (ULL) 23. Kovotojų už Lietuvą sąjunga - Union of Fighters for Lithuania (KLS) 24. Lietuvos pensininkų partija - Lithuanian Pensioners' Party (LPP) 25. Politinė partija „Lietuvos sąrašas“ - Political Party 'List of Lithuania' (LS) 26. Politinė partija „Lietuvos žaliųjų sąjūdis“ - Political Party 'Lithuanian Green Movement' (LZS) 27. Tautinė partija Lietuvos kelias - National Party Way of Lithuania (TPLK) 28. Žemaičių partija Zemaiciai (Samogitian) Party (ZP)
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liberals' Movement of the Republic of Lithuania (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, National Resurrection Party (TPP) and LiCS (TPP merged with LiCS in 2011). After the 2012 parliamentary elections it is one of the two biggest opposition parties in the Seimas (MP from this party is a Deputy Speaker of the Seimas). 2. Republican Party (RP) is a minor rightist (nationalist/populist) party. It was founded in 1990, however, has never had representatives in the Seimas. Currently, it is headed by the former MP Valdemaras Valkiūnas, who joined party in 2012. 3. Labour Party (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. After the 2012 parliamentary elections it formed the governing coalition with LSDP, TT and LLRA. Currently, one of its leaders Loreta Grauziniene is the Speaker of the Seimas. Importantly, some leaders (present and former) of this party are currently under the trial and in 2013 were found guilty for bookkeeping fraud by the first instance court. 4. Democratic Labour and Unity Party (DDVP) is a minor leftist (populist) party. It was founded in 2012 and is headed by the widow of the former President and prominent Lithuanian politician Algirdas Brazauskas - Kristina Brazauskienė. 5. Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) is a major rightist (conservative/Christian democratic) party in Lithuania. It is a successor party of the Independence Movement Sąjūdis 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 led 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, National Resurrection Party (TPP) and LiCS (TPP merged with LiCS in 2011). After the 2012 parliamentary elections it is one of the two biggest opposition parties in the Seimas (it holds opposition leader post and another MP from this party is a Deputy Speaker of the Seimas). 6. Political Party 'The Way of Courage' (DK) is a populist (single issue) party. It was founded in 2012 and has an anti-corruption and anti-neoliberal (in economics) platform. The party was established by supporters of Drasius Kedys, who claimed that justice officials had whitewashed a ring of pedophiles after his daughter had been sexually molested. Kedys died under unclear circumstances in 2010. The party's name alludes to Kedys' first name Drasius which means "the brave". 7. Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania (LLRA) is an ethnic minority (rightist/conservative) party. Before 2012 it used to be a regional party having several MPs and MEPs. However, in the 2012 parliamentary elections its candidate list (which was joined by separate candidates from the Alliance of Russians in Lithuania, minor regional ethnic party) won enough votes to enter the parliament via the multi-member district. After this electoral success it was included into the governing coalition of LSDP, TT and DP. Its leader Waldemar Tomaszewski is very actively fighting for the rights of Poles in Lithuania and is also well known by some rather controversial political claims.

8. Lithuanian Social Democratic Party (LSDP) is a major leftist (social democratic) party in Lithuania. It is one of the major parties in Lithuania, lead the government coalitions (formed with different left leaning parties) from 2001 to 2008. It was founded in 2001 when former LSDP merged with ex-communist party (Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party). In 2008-2012 it was the biggest opposition party, and after winning the 2012 parliamentary elections formed the governing coalition with DP, TT and LLRA. Currently, its leader Algirdas Butkevicius is the Prime Minister.
9. Party Order and Justice (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. Most of the time it spent in the opposition, however, after the 2012 parliamentary elections it was included into the governing coalition (with LSDP, DP and LLRA).
10. Lithuanian Centre Party (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. In 2012 parliamentary elections it formed electoral coalition National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (together with LSDS, TS and TVS).
11. Lithuanian Social Democratic Union (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. In 2012 parliamentary elections it formed electoral coalition National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (together with LCP, TS and TVS).
12. Nationalist Union (TS) is currently a minor nationalist party, however, with a long history. Originally, it was founded in 1924 and after the authoritarian coup in 1926 its member Antanas Smetona became the President of Lithuania for the rest of independence period (till 1940). In 1940 it was banned by the Soviet regime. In 1989 it was re-established, however, did not receive major support. It had several MPs in the Seimas before 2000 and some representatives at the municipal level (its members were elected as mayors in a couple of municipalities). In 2008 it merged into the TS-LKD and had several MPs, however, in 2011 it again splintered and re-established as an independent party. In 2012 parliamentary elections it formed electoral coalition National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (together with LCP, LSDS and TVS).
13. National Unity Union (TVS) is a minor leftist (nationalist/populist) party. It was established in 2011 when Party of Civic Democracy (PDP) was reorganised. PDP was 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. Currently, it is headed by the former MP Algimantas Matulevicius. In 2012 parliamentary elections it formed electoral coalition National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (together with LCP, LSDS and TS).
14. Christian Party (KP) was a minor rightist (populist) party. It was founded in 2010 when two other minor Christian democratic parties (one of them was a splinter from TS-LKD lead by the former Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and the other was a splinter from the former Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party that participated in the governing coalition in 1996-2000 and merged into TS-LKD in 2008) merged into one. The party was joined by the MPs who splintered from the National Resurrection Party (TPP) in 2009-2010. After unsuccessful parliamentary elections in 2012 (although it had some representatives at the local level) it merged into DP (in 2013).
15. Lithuanian People's Party (LZP) is a minor party without clear ideological orientation. It was founded in 2012 by the infamous Russian millionaire Vladimir Romanov (his bank 'Ukio bankas' went bankrupt and he fled to Russia), however, it does not have any significant support from the electorate.
16. Socialist People's Front (SLF) is a minor radical leftist (pro-Russian) party. It was founded in 2009 when Party 'Front' (splinter from LSDP (in 2008), led by a radical Algirdas Paleckis) merged with Lithuanian Socialist Party. Currently, it is headed by A. Paleckis, however, does not have any significant support from the electorate.
17. Lithuanian Peasant and Greens Union (LVZS) is an agrarian (leftist/green) party, having its origins in the interwar period. It was re-established 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, former Prime Minister Kazimira Danute Prunskiene, 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 (in 2012) into the Lithuanian Peasant and Greens Union. Currently, it is headed by the former MP and long-term leader of the Lithuanian Peasants Party – Ramunas Karbauskis.
18. Party 'Young Lithuania' (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.
19. Liberal and Centre Union (LiCS) used to be 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. From 2004 till 2012 it was a member of government coalitions with both LSDP and TS-LKD. In 2011 it merged with the National Resurrection Party (TPP), however, it has lost its former support from the electorate.
20. Emigrants' Party (EP) is a populist (single issue) party. It was founded in 2012 in order to represent 'interest of emigrants', however, did not receive any significant support from the

	<p>electorate.</p> <p>21. Political Party 'Union Yes' (ST) is a minor centrist (liberal/Christian) party. It was founded in 2011 and is lead by the long-term (and the present) Vilnius mayor Arturas Zuokas. Many of its members have splintered from LiCS at different times. The party has representatives only at the Vilnius municipality.</p> <p>22. National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (ULL) is simply an electoral coalition of parties 10-13 (LCP, LSDS, TS and TVS).</p> <p>23. Union of Fighters for Lithuania (KLS) is a minor populist party. It was established in 2011 when Lithuanian Freedom Union (LLS) was reorganised into the Union of Lithuanian President and the widow of the former President and prominent Lithuanian politician Algirdas Brazauskas - Kristina Brazauskiene joined in. After three month she left the party and the party was again reorganized into its current form with the current name. Importantly, LLS used to be a minor rightist (nationalist/conservative) party. It was founded as a splinter from the Lithuanian Freedom League in 1992/1994 and was lead by the controversial politician (former mayor of Kaunas) Vytautas Sustauskas, who has been elected into the Parliament in 2000. He took the leadership again when Kristina Brazauskiene left the party.</p> <p>24. Lithuanian Pensioners' Party (LPP) is a minor populist (single issue) party. It was founded in 2007 in order to represent 'interest of pensioners', however, did not receive any significant support from the electorate.</p> <p>25. Political Party 'List of Lithuania' (LS) is a minor (mostly single issue – fighting corruption) political party. It was founded in 2012 by some prominent civil society leaders in order to transform Lithuania into 'non-oligarchic and decentralized state', however, did not receive any significant support from the electorate.</p> <p>26. Political Party 'Lithuanian Green Movement' (LZS) was a minor green party established in 2011. In 2012 (after the Seimas elections) it was reorganised into Lithuanian Green Party and is lead by the former political advisor to the President Dalia Grybaikaite Mr. Linas Balsys. It still does not have any significant support from the electorate.</p> <p>27. National Party Way of Lithuania (TPLK) is a minor populist (rightist) party. It was founded in 2001 in order to 'protect national interests and values in the context of globalisation', however, did not receive any significant support from the electorate.</p> <p>28. Zemaiciai (Samogitian) Party (ZP) is a minor (regional/rightist) party. It was founded in 2009 in order to protect 'family values' and interests of Lithuanian ethnic group Zemaiciai (Samogitians) mostly residing in the Western part of Lithuania. However, party did not receive any significant support from the electorate.</p>
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2. Electoral system	
Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:	
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:	Dutch
Year of last election:	2012
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (VVD) - People's Party for Freedom and Democracy - 26,6 % 2. Partij van de Arbeid (PvdA) - Labour Party - 24,8 % 3. Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV) - Party for Freedom - 10,1 % 4. Christen Democratisch Appèl (CDA) - Christian Democratic Appeal - 8,5 % 5. Socialistische Partij (SP) - Socialist Party - 9,7 % 6. Democraten 66 (D66) - Democrats 66 - 8,0 % 7. GroenLinks (GL) - Green Left - 2,3 % 8. ChristenUnie (CU) - Christian Union - 3,1 % 9. Staatskundig Gereformeerde Partij (SGP) - Reformed Political Party - 2,1 % 10. Partij voor de Dieren (PvdD) - Party for the Animals - 1,9 % 11. Piratenpartij - Pirate Party - 0,3 % 12. 50PLUS - 50PLUS - 1,9 % 13. Partij voor Mens en Spirit (MenS) - Party for Human and Spirit - 0,2 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VVD is 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/PvdA cabinet). Since the 2012 Dutch general elections, VVD forms a coalition cabinet with the PvdA. Between 2010 and 2012 it formed a coalition cabinet with the CDA, with parliamentary support from the PVV. 2. PvdA is a leftist social democratic party, led by Mr. Samsom since 2010. It was founded in 1946 and now forms the coalition cabinet with the VVD. 3. PVV is a conservative-liberal party led by Mr. Geert Wilders (former 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. Between 2010 and 2012 it supported the VVD-CDA cabinet. Currently it is in opposition. 4. CDA is a christian democratic party at the centre of the Dutch political centrum Since 2012, Mr. van Haersma Buma is the political leader of the party. It was founded in 1980 after a fusion of several smaller christian parties. Currently it is in opposition. 5. SP is a Leftist (socialist) party led by Mr. Emile Roemer since 2010. The party was founded in 1971. It gained its first parliamentary seats in 1994, and grew 16.6% in 2006. 6. D66 is a 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 GreenLeft. In 2010 it supported a budget agreement together with GL, CU, and the VVD-CDA coalition cabinet, after that cabinet collapsed following the PVV's withdrawal of parliamentary support. 7. Groen links is a Leftist party with green environmentalist ideals, led by Mr. Bram van Ojik since 2012 after a loss in parliament. It was founded in 1990, after a fusion of several smaller leftist parties. 8. Christen Unie is a christian (Protestant) democratic party led by Mr Arie Slob from 2011. CU has conservative stances on abortion, euthanasia and gay marriage. For other issues, the party is considered centre-left. 9. SGP is an orthodox Protestant party with conservative standpoints. The party was founded in 1918 and is led by Mr. Kees van Staaij. Only as of 2006, women has been allowed to become members of this party. Only in 2013 party regulations formally allow passive voting rights for women following a court order. 10. Partij voor de Dieren is a single-issue animal rights party with natural affinity for environmental issues (center-left). 12. 50PLUS is a special interest party for the elderly. It was founded in 2009 and is led by Mr. Henk Krol.

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 Dutch Parliament (called the Staten-Generaal) consists of two houses: the indirectly elected First Chamber, with 75 members who only have the power of veto in the legislative process, and the directly elected Second Chamber, whose 150 members control the government and can propose legislation. Members of both houses serve a four-year term.</p> <p>Direct elections to the Second Chamber of parliament are held every four years. A system 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 a representative assembly. The country is divided into 19 electoral districts during the elections to the Second Chamber, allowing parties to put up candidates who are well</p>

	known in particular parts of the country. 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"> 1. Rødt (R) - The Party Red - 1.3 % 2. Sosialistisk Venstreparti (SV) - Socialist Left Party - 6.2 % 3. Det norske Arbeiderparti (A) - Norwegian Labour Party - 35.4 % 4. Venstre (V) - Liberal Party - 3.9 % 5. Kristelig Folkeparti (KRF) - Christian Democratic Party - 5.5 % 6. Senterpartiet (SP) - Centre Party - 6.2 % 7. Høyre (H) - Conservative Party - 17.2 % 8. Fremskrittspartiet (FRP) - Progress Party - 22.9 % 9. Kystpartiet (KYST) - Coast Party - 0.2 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.) 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.) 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.) 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.) 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.) 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.) 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.) 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.) 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.)

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 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 the Polish version of questionnaire)
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kongres Nowej Prawicy - Congress of the New Right - 1.06% 2. Platforma Obywatelska Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (PO) - Civic Platform [Citizens' Platform] - 39.18% 3. Polska Jest Najważniejsza - Poland Comes First - 2.19% 4. Polska Partia Pracy–Sierpień '80 - Polish Labour Party-August '80 - 0.55% 5. Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (PSL) - Polish Peasants' Party - 8.36% 6. Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (PiS) - Law and Justice - 29.89% 7. Ruch Palikota (Ruch PL) - Palikot Movement - 10.02% 8. Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej (SLD) - Democratic Left Alliance - 8.24% 9. Solidarna Polska Zbigniewa Ziobro - United Poland
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1: Kongres Nowej Prawicy, Congress of the New Right – a grouping established in 2011 by Janusz Korwin-Mikke (formerly the chairman of Unia Polityki Realnej, UPR – Union of Realpolitik). The grouping Kongres Nowej Prawicy promotes a conservative outlook on morals and family combined with liberal economic views. It strongly criticises government interventionism in the economy. It postulates the abolishment of trade union privileges and the minimum wage threshold.</p> <p>2: PO (Platforma Obywatelska), Civic Platform – before the 2007 elections PO 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). The support for the two coalition parties did not change significantly in the 2011 parliamentary elections: both set up a government again.</p> <p>Before 2007, in the economic domain, PO postulated, among others, a reduction of taxes, further privatisation of state-owned enterprises, support for entrepreneurship. 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 Donald Tusk government is often criticised in the media for failing to carry out the promised reforms. Many economists blame PO for maintaining the public debt at a high level and for adopting solutions which would improve the country's budget only in the short run. Moreover, opposition parties and trade unions criticise the pension system reform introduced in 2012, whereby the retirement age for men and women was increased to 67 years. It has been pointed out that the reform had not been announced before the elections and that there was no wide-ranging public consultation on the matter. PO also emphasizes the necessity for further integration with the EU (also in the context of fighting the economic crisis) and is less keen (than its predecessors, notably PiS) on tightening the co-operation with the USA.</p> <p>As regards views on morals and ideology, the stance adopted by PO is hard to determine unambiguously. PO's general worldview and ideology are moderately conservative: it opposes the legalisation of euthanasia and soft drugs ('legal highs') and the reinstatement of death penalty. Most of its members support the existing compromise regarding the abortion legislation. However, it needs to be emphasised that PO members strongly diverge in opinions on many subjects and this is one of the reasons why PO has been unable to come up with proposals to regulate in vitro fertilisation and civil unions, including same-sex unions. In those matters, the PO exposed itself to criticism from the leaders of the Roman Catholic church 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. The party also supported the quota act which would guarantee a specific pool of places on electoral candidate lists for women (PO is represented by the largest percentage of women in the Polish parliament) and announced an adoption of quotas in corporate boards. Many political observers argue that PO owes its second parliamentary victory to the particular characteristics of the Polish political scene. On the one hand, many voters were afraid that the right-wing PiS might return to power and, on the other, left-wing parties were weak.</p> <p>3: Polska jest Najważniejsza (PJN), Poland Comes First – Polska jest Najważniejsza (PJN) Poland Comes First – this party was established by former PiS politicians who left after a conflict with the PiS chairman Jarosław Kaczyński. Initially, the party had its representatives in the parliament but it did not attain the required minimum threshold in the 2011 elections and stayed outside the parliament. Since that time, its political significance began to dwindle. The party has a conservative profile but more centrist and less radical than PiS. The party postulates family-oriented policies as well as advantageous tax solutions for the poorest citizens.</p> <p>4: Polska Partia Pracy (PPR), Polish Labour Party – the party was founded in 2001. In the 2011 parliamentary elections it was associated with the radical trade union 'Sierpień 80' (August '80). It is 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.</p> <p>5: PSL (Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe), Polish Peasants' Party – A centrist political party with a traditional outlook. PSL opposes the potential reinstatement of death penalty, legalisation of euthanasia and abortion, registration of homosexual unions. The party supports state interventionism (particularly in agriculture) as well as European integration. Importantly, PSL has been present in all subsequent Polish parliaments since 1989. In the 2007 parliamentary elections PSL won just under 9% of votes and is currently part of the government coalition with</p>

Civic Platform (PO). This is the second term of this coalition, firstly after the 2007 parliamentary elections and then after the 2011 elections.

6: 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 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, and it strongly opposes the introduction of civil unions (covering same-sex unions as well). PiS 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 interests 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 2010 presidential elections which the PiS candidate lost, a group of politicians expelled from PiS established a grouping called Polska Jest Najważniejsza (Poland Comes First, see below). A similar situation took place after the 2011 parliamentary elections, lost by PiS: a number of PiS activists (incl. a former justice minister Zbigniew Ziobro) criticised Jarosław Kaczyński, the leader of PiS, for the poor election results. In consequence, those activists were excluded from PiS and set up their own grouping called Solidarna Polska (United Poland, see below). After the 2007 elections and until today PiS has been the largest opposition party and the key rival to the ruling PO. PiS is critical about the government's performance in almost all spheres. It often criticises the government for not spending enough time to clarify the causes of the Smolensk tragedy and for being too meek vis-à-vis Russians. (see also the report on events between ESS4 and ESS5 'The Smolensk tragedy...' and events reports for ESS5).

7: Ruch Palikota (Ruch PL), Palikot Movement [in the previous ESS round this grouping was known as Ruch Poparcia – Support Movement] – this party was founded in October 2010 by Janusz Palikot who had left PO. The party competes against SLD for left-wing voters and clearly stresses liberal postulates in worldview and morals: discontinuation of religious education at schools, legalisation of homosexual unions, liberalisation of the anti-abortion law and legalisation of soft drugs. This party is more radical than SLD in criticising the privileges enjoyed by the Roman Catholic church in Poland. The party also supports the introduction of gender quotas on candidate lists in elections. In economic matters, it postulates, on the one hand, a number of liberal solutions (e.g. a flat rate tax, stimulation of entrepreneurship) but, on the other, it supports an active role of the government in the economy (on one of the conventions the chairman of the party talked about the need for the government to build factories).

This party is often criticised by other political parties, mostly because of its controversial leader and his statements about other politicians. Ruch Palikota criticises PO's activities as the ruling party but is more critical about PiS, the main opposition party. Ruch Palikota quite unexpectedly made it to the Polish parliament after the 2011 elections, something that no other new party has achieved for many years.

8: SLD (Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej), Democratic Left Alliance – A left-wing party which officially denies its communist roots (it promotes 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, and it criticises the role of the Roman Catholic church in public life. SLD competes for left-wing votes with Ruch Palikota, but is usually less radical than the latter in matters related to world outlook and morals. It advocates strong integration with EU structures. The popularity of SLD peaked in 2001 when it won the elections to the lower chamber (over 40% votes) and the 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 2011 parliamentary elections it attracted approx. 8% votes. It has remained in opposition since 2005. SLD criticises the activities of PO as a governing party but is more critical towards PiS.

9: Solidarna Polska Zbigniewa Ziobro, United Poland – a party established by Zbigniew Ziobro, one of the former PiS leaders who criticised Jarosław Kaczyński, the leader of PiS, after the failed 2011 parliamentary elections. Zbigniew Ziobro was excluded from PiS. Together with a few other former PiS politicians, he founded a new parliamentary caucus (the official requirement for a new caucus is 15 members) and then a political party in 2012. This grouping does not clearly cut itself off the PiS programme (see above) but rejects Kaczyński's leadership model. This party supports a conservative world outlook and morals, and postulates socially-oriented solutions in the economy. In 2012, most national surveys did not reveal a support for this party that would be higher than 5%.

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

<p>Description of the electoral system for this assembly:</p>	<p>The Polish Parliament consists of two assemblies: the Sejm (the lower chamber) and the Senate (the higher chamber). The elections to each assembly usually take place once every four years.</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 for 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 2011 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.</p> <p>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 level of 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. In the voting to the Senate (the secondary legislative assembly) the first-past-the-post voting system was applied for the first time in Poland, i.e. only one candidate could get a seat in the parliament from each constituency. The seat was assigned to the candidate who received the largest number of votes from the constituency.</p>
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Portugal

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Portuguese (English)
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BE (Bloco de Esquerda) - Left Block (BE) - 5,17% 2. CDS/PP (Centro Democrático Social /Partido Popular) - Social Democratic Centre - Popular Party (CDS-PP) - 11,71% 3. PCP-PEV (CDU – Coligação Democrática Unitária) - Unitarian Democratic Coalition (CDU) - 7,90% 4. PCTP-MRPP (Partido Comunista dos Trabalhadores Portugueses- Movimento Reorganizativo do Proletariado Português) - Communist Party of the Portuguese Workers / Reorganizational Movement of the Portuguese Proletariat (PCTP-MRPP) - 1,12% 5. PDA (Partido Democrático do Atlântico) - Democratic Party of the Atlantic (PDA) - 0,08% 6. PH (Partido Humanista) - Humanist Party (PH) - 0,06 7. PND (Nova Democracia) - New Democracy (PND) - 0,21 8. PNR (Partido Nacional Renovador) - National Renewal Party (PNR) - 0,31 9. POUS (Partido Operário de Unidade Socialista) - Workers Party of Socialist Unity (POUS) - 0,08 10. PPD/PSD (Partido Social Democrata) - Social Democratic Party (PPD/PSD) - 38,66 11. PS (Partido Socialista) - Socialist Party (PS) - 28,05 (12. Votou em branco / nulo - Voted blank / nule - 4,09) (13. Outro - Other - 2,55)
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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. 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. 5. Centre-left party; Is a regional political party founded in 1979 and based at archipelago of the Azores. Is a very small party in Portugal with no representatives in the parliament. 6. 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. 7. 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. 8. 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. 9. 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. 10. 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. 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

	<p>with the The Social Democratic Centre – Popular Party.</p> <p>11. 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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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 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:	English
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<p>1. Единая Россия - United Russia - 49,3%</p> <p>2. КПРФ (Коммунистическая партия Российской Федерации) - CPRF (Communist party of RF) - 19,2%</p> <p>3. ЛДПР (Либерально-демократическая партия) - LDPR - 11,7%</p> <p>6. Яблоко - Yabloko - 3,4% (no seats)</p> <p>11. Справедливая Россия - Fair Russia - 13,2%</p> <p>12. Правое дело - Pravoe Delo - 0,6% (no seats)</p> <p>13. Движение "Солидарность" - Movement "Solidarnost" - No participation</p> <p>15. Партия "Родина" - Party "Fatherland" - No participation</p> <p>16. Патриоты России - Patriots of Russia - No participation</p> <p>17. Республиканская партия России-Партия народной свободы (Парнас) - Republican party of Russia - Party of people's freedom (Parnas) - No participation</p> <p>18. Партия "Гражданская платформа" - Party "Civic Platform" - No participation</p>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. Established in 1999 Current leader - Dmitry Medvedev, but party is also supported by its former leader Vladimir Putin Pro-government center party Pro-government 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 elections 2007 won 64,1% of votes and got 315 seats in State Duma. In latest elections at December 2011 won 49% of votes in single national district and got 238 out of 450 seats in National Parliament. 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, in 2012 Presidential elections supported Putin. After Putin got the post of the President of Russia, he passed the post of leader of the party to former President and current prime-minister Dmitry Medvedev.</p> <p>2. Established in 1993 (as a heritage of Communist party of USSR) Current leader - Gennady Zyuganov Left (greater state control in economy, social provision, strong state) Participated in all Parliamentary selections, always elected and nominated candidate in all Presidential elections (V.Zhyuganov). In 1993-12% 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). In 2011 Parliamentary elections was the main competitor of pro-government party "United Russia" and got 19% of votees (92 seat in the Parliament).</p> <p>3. Established in 1990 Current leader is Vladimir Zhirinovskiy Nationalist, populist Participated in all Parliamentary selections, was always elected. nominated candidate in all Presidential elections (V.Zhirinovskiy). In 1993 -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), 11,7% of votees in 2011 (56 seats).</p> <p>6. Yabloko. Established at 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. In latest 2011 elections the party got 3,4% of votes (no seats). Party is popular in large cities among intelligentsia (12% of votes in St.-Petersburg and 9% in Moscow in latest elections). Party participated in regional elections and got seat in regional Parliaments in 3 regions - St.Petersburg, Karelia and Pskovskaya oblast.</p> <p>11. Spravedlivaya Rossia. Established at 1998 – Party of Russian regions, since 2004 – Party "Rodina", from 2006 Party "Fair Russia: Rodina/ Pensioners/Life, from June 2009 – party "Fair Russia" Current leaders are Nikolai Levichev and Sergei Mironov Center left, social democratic, member of Socintern In Parliamentary elections of 2007 got 7,8% of votes, passed 7% threshold and got 38 seats in the Parliament. In 2011 it improved its result and got 13,2% of votes. Major issues are Social security issues, rights of people in need, interests of pensioners, socially-oriented state</p> <p>12. Pravoe Delo. Established at November 2008 Leaders - Before June 2011- Gozman, Bovt, in June-September 2011 was headed by billionaire businessman Michail Prochorov, from September 2011 - Andrei Dunaev. 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. Party participated in latest Parliamentary elections at 2011 and got the smallerst percentage of votes (0,6%), not passing 7% barrier to get seats. Major issues are free market economy, human rights, democracy, civic society, closer cooperation with Western countries (joining EU)</p> <p>13. Movement "Solidarnost" Established at end of 2008 Leaders are Garry Kasparov, Ilya Yashin, Boris Nemtsov, Boria Bukovskiy.</p>

	<p>It is the movement of opposition forces of different kind - oppositional democrats and lefts. It is not officially registered and formally included in Republican party of Russia. Movement is currently boycotting official elections because of the lack of honesty, fairness and transparency. The movement adopted the program "300 steps to Freedom", major steps are "deputinizatoin", real democracy, fight with crime and corruption among state authorities, European standards of life.</p> <p>15. Party "Rodina" Party was established in 2004 after the conflict in Peoples-Patriotic Union "Rodina" (Skokov, Rogozin, Glaziev, Baburin, Shestakov) after the Parliamentary elections 2003, on the base of the party "Party of Russian Regions" and Congress of Russian Communities. In 2006 it merged with Russian party of Life and Russian party of Pensioners. In 2012 party announced its independent course. Leader - Alexei Zhuravlev. The program of the party is nationalism, patriotism, control over the usage of natural resources, increase of the impact of government into national economy (left nationalist).</p> <p>16. Established at April 2002 Leader is Gennady Semigin Left center, social-democrat, patriotic Party was organized after splitting from Communist Party of Russia. Formally the party was formed by changed the name and the leadership of Russian party of Labor. It included a lot of members of Russian party of labor, Nationalno-derhavnaya party of Russia, Eurasian Party and since 2008 -Party of Revival of Russia. It was also united with Russian political party of peace and unity in 2008 but splitted with it in 2011. Party did not participated in latest national Parliamentary elections, but participated in some regional elections (10% of votes in the Parliament of Dagestan and 8% of votes in Kaliningrad oblast). Major issues are social provision, social-democratic principles, patriotic slogans "Patriotism is higher than politics".</p> <p>17. Republican party of Russia - Party of people's freedom (Parnas) Established in 1990 as Republican Party of Russia based on the movement "Democratic Platform". Party run in different Parliamentary elections always in coalition with other parties. In 2000s the party was included into the movement "Other Russia" and participated in street protest actions "Marches of disagreed". In 2007 government officials called back the registration of this party, in 2011 Ministry of Justice returned the registration back admitting that the previous decision was illegal. (Opposition party, one of the organizer of street protests, did not participate in recent Parliamentary elections and run for regional elections in 2012) Leaders - Vladimir Ryzhkov, Michil Kasiyanov, Boris Nemtsov. Party is fighting for civic rights, democracy and freedoms, opposition to Vladimir Putin as a leader, for regional self-governing. it is right party. Party did not participate in national elections in recent years, but participated in few regional elections .</p> <p>18. Party "Civic Platform" New party (claim to be without ideology), did not participate in any elections yet. Established in June 2012 by top businessman in Russia Michail Prochorov after his participation in Presidential elections in 2012. Party is manifested to be new type of party uniting activists of different ideology and giving the opportunity for new people to be elected. Official leader is Elena Bulavskaya, but ideological leader - Michail Prochorov.</p>
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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 major legislative body in the country is State Duma – lower chamber of the Parliament (higher chamber is not elected by direct popular vote). The total number of 450 deputies elected for 4 years term before 2011 and for 5-years term since 2011.</p> <p>There were 6 Parliamentary elections in Russia since the break down of the Soviet Union – elections of 1993, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011. Four parliamentary elections were conducted using mixed system – 50% of the Parliament was elected in 225 single mandate district according to plurality rule (the nominated of candidates were either through parties or independent candidates collecting the required number of voter's signatures), 50% - in single national district by proportionate party system with 5% threshold. The turnout of 50% of all voters was required to count the elections valid.</p> <p>Since 2005 new electoral rules were introduced and applied to 2007 and further 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).</p>

Slovakia

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Slovak
Year of last election:	2012
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obyčajní ľudia a nezávislé osobnosti (OLANO) - Ordinary People and Independent Personalities - 8,56% 2. Slovenska demokraticka a krestanska unia-Demokraticka strana (SDKU-DS) - Slovak Democratic Christian Union-Democratic Party - 6,09% 3. SMER-socialna demokracia (SMER-SD) - Direction-Social Democracy - 44,41% 4. Most-Hid - Most-Hid - 6,89% 5. Krestanskodemocraticke hnutie (KDH) - Christian Democratic Movement - 8,82% 6. Sloboda a solidarita (SaS) - Freedom and Solidarity - 5,88%
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ordinary People and Independent Personalities (often abbreviated Ordinary people or Olano) is a Slovak political party registered by November 2011. Its chairman is Igor Matovic . 2. Slovak Democratic Christian Union - Democratic Party (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. 3. SMER-Social Democracy (SMER-SD) 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. 4. Most-Hid 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 . 5. Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) 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' . 6. Freedom and Solidarity (SaS) 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 .

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 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.</p> <p>Parties receiving more than five per cent of valid votes participate in the National Council.</p>

Slovenia

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Slovenian
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demokratska stranka upokojencev (DeSUS), Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia, 7% 2. Liberalna demokracija Slovenije (LDS), Liberal Democracy of Slovenia 3. Nova Slovenija - Kršćansko Ljudska stranka (NSi), New Slovenia - Christian People's Party, 5% 4. Slovenska Demokratska Stranka (SDS), Slovenian Democratic Party, 26% 5. Slovenska Ljudska stranka (SLS), Slovene People's Party, 7% 6. Socialni Demokrati (SD), Social Democrats, 11% 7. Pozitivna Slovenija (PS), Positive Slovenia, 29% 8. Državljska Lista (DL), Civic List, 8% 9. Zares (ZARES), ZARES 10. Slovenska nacionalna stranka (SNS), Slovenian National Party 11. Stranka za trajnostni razvoj (TRS), Party for Sustainable Development 12. Druga stranka , Other party
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demokratska stranka upokojencev (DeSUS): Left, Party of Pensioners, part of the coalition. 2. Liberalna demokracija Slovenije (LDS): Left, not in parliament, in the nineties the largest government party. 3. Nova Slovenija - Kršćansko Ljudska stranka (NSi): Right, Christian, small government party, coalition. 4. Slovenska Demokratska Stranka (SDS): Right, largest government party, coalition. 5. Slovenska Ljudska stranka (SLS): Right center, government party, coalition. 6. Socialni Demokrati (SD): Left, second largest opposition party, opposition. 7. Pozitivna Slovenija (PS): New party, party of Ljubljana's Mayor Zoran Janković, Left, largest opposition party. 8. Državljska Lista (DL): New party, party of former minister Gregor Virant (former SDS member), Center, government party, coalition. 9. Zares (ZARES): Left center, not in parliament, part of former LDS. 10. Slovenska nacionalna stranka (SNS): Right, not in parliament, slovenian nationalists. 11. Stranka za trajnostni razvoj (TRS): Left, not in parliament, party for Sustainable Development, ecological and socially oriented.

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>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:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partido Popular (PP) - People's Party - 44.63% 2. Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) - Spanish Socialist Workers' Party - 28.76% 3. Convergència i Unió (CiU) - Convergence and Union - 4.17% 4. Izquierda Unida (IU) [Iniciativa per Catalunya-Verds only in Catalonia] - United Left-Initiative for Catalonia The Greens - 6.92% 5. Amaiur - Amaiur - 1.37% 6. Unión, Progreso y Democracia (UPyD) - Union, Progress and Democracy - 4.70% 7. Partido Nacionalista Basco (PNV) - Basque Nationalist Party - 1.33% 8. Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC) - Republican Left of Catalonia - 1.05% 9. Bloque Nacionalista Galego (BNG) - Galician Nationalist Bloc - 0.75% 10. Coalición Canaria-Nueva Canarias - Canarian Coalition-New Canarias - 0.59% 11. Coalición Comprimís-EQUO - Coalició Compromís - 0.51% 12. Foro de Ciudadanos (FAC) - Asturian Forum - 0.41% 13. Geroa Bai - Geroa Bai - 0.17% 14. Otros - Otros - 3.2%
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1: PP Ideology: Conservatism Political Position: Right-wing Founded: 1989 Short History: It is a re-foundation of the People's Alliance -- a party founded by Manuel Fraga (a former Minister during Franco's dictatorship) in 1976. It won the 2011 legislative elections and it has a majority of the seats in the Spanish Parliament (PP Leader – Mariano Rajoy) Previous terms of office: 1) 1996 to 2000 - minority government with the legislative supports of the CiU and the PNV (PP Leader –José María Aznar) and 2) 2000 to 2004 – majority government (PP Leader –José María Aznar). At the 2011 legislative elections, the PP got 186 seats.</p> <p>2: PSOE Ideology: Social democracy Political Position: Centre-left Founded: 1879 Short History: It was founded in 1879 by Pablo Iglesias. In its 28th Congress the party agreed to move away from its Marxist background. Previous terms of office: 1) 1982-1986, 1986-1989, 1989-1993 –majority government (PSOE Leader –Felipe González), 2) 1993-1996- minority government with the legislative supports of the CiU and the PNV (PSOE Leader –Felipe González), 3) 2004-2008 – minority government with the IU and the ERC legislative supports (PSOE Leader -José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero), 4) 2008-2011 – minority government with punctual legislative supports from minor parties (PSOE Leader -José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero). In the 2011 legislative elections, the PSOE got 110 seats.</p> <p>3: CiU Ideology: Catalan nationalism Political Position: Centre-right Founded: 1978 Short History: It is a coalition of parties consisting of the larger Democratic Convergence of Catalonia (CDC) and its smaller counterpart, the Democratic Union of Catalonia (UDC). While the CDC is a more liberal party, the UDC is a Christian democratic party. In recent times, the CDC has adopted a position in favour of the secession of Catalonia from Spain. This position is not shared by the UDC. The CiU ruled in Catalonia between 1983 and 2003 and again, since 2010. At the 2011 legislative national elections, the CiU got 16 seats</p> <p>4: IU Ideology: Communism Political Position: Left-wing Founded: 1986 Short History: It originated as a political coalition which was made up of leftist, greens, socialist, left-wing republicans and the Communist Party of Spain (PCE). The PCE dominates the party. It concurs to general elections in coalition with Initiative for Catalonia (Iniciativa per Catalunya-Verds, now known as ICV), which is an ecosocialist party based in Catalonia. Its current leader is Cayo Lara. It has 11 seats in the Spanish Parliament (including 2 from ICV and 1 seat from Chunta Aragonesista).</p> <p>5: Amaiur Ideology: Basque nationanism, secessionist party Political Position: Left Founded: 2011 Short History: It was form as a coalition of parties from the Basque Country and Navarre. Eusko Alkartasuna, Alternatiba and Aralar are part of the coalition. It has 7 seven seats in the Spanish Parliament. Its leader is Xabier Mikel Errekondo</p> <p>6: UPyD Ideology: centralism, social liberalism Political Position: Centre Founded: 2007 Short History: It was founded by Rosa Díaz, former member of the PSOE and Member of the European Parliament. It is integrated by members of the association ¡Basta Ya!, which fought against ETA terrorism. The party claims for the regeneration of Spanish democracy and it</p>

	<p>fiercely opposes Basque and Catalan nationalism. Its leader is Rosa Díez. It got 5 seats at the 2011 legislative elections.</p> <p>7: PNV Ideology: Basque nationalism Political Position: Centre Founded: 1895 Short History: It was founded by Sabino Arana. Originally, it was a Catholic conservative party and it sought the Basque Country self-government. After transition to democracy, the PNV became the largest party in the Basque Country. The PNV ruled in the Basque Country between 1980 and 2009 and again, since 2012. At the 2011 legislative elections, the PNV got 5 seats.</p> <p>8: ERC Ideology: Catalan independence Political Position: Left Founded: 1931 Short History: It was founded in 1931. The ERC ruled in Catalonia during the Second Spanish Republic. The ERC declared an independent Catalan Republic in 1931 and again in 1934. The declaration of independence was first curtailed by the new Spanish Constitution and, then, by the arrest of Lluís Companys, the elected Catalan President, and the rest of the members of the cabinet. The party has a clear stand for Catalonia's secession from Spain. Its leader is Oriol Junqueres. In the last 2012 Catalana elections it became for the first time the second largest party in the Catalan parliament. It has 3 seats in the Spanish Parliament.</p> <p>9: CC Ideology: Canarian nationalism Political Position: Centre or Centre-right Founded: 1993 Short History: It was formed from a grouping of different parties (the most prominent being the Canarian Independent Group) The party main goal of the CC is to get greater autonomy for the Canary Islands. The party has ruled in the Canary Islands since 1993. The party leader is Claudina Morales. At the 2011 legislative elections, CC got 2 seats.</p> <p>10: BNG A permanent electoral coalition of independents and parties that defend the Galician language and advocates regional autonomy.</p> <p>11: Coalició Compromís EQUO. Ideology: Eco-socialism Political Position: Left Founded: 2010 Short History: Coalició Compromís is a regionalist political party, originally an electoral coalition, in the Valencian Community. The coalition is made up of the Valencian Nationalist Bloc, the left-wing Valencian People's Initiative, and environmentalist parties. Its leader is Enric Morera. The coalition got one seat in the 2011 legislative election (first deputy since democracy's restoration).</p> <p>12: Foro de Ciudadanos Ideology: Conservatism, regionalism Political Position: Centre-right Founded: 2011 Short History: Foro de Ciudadanos o Foro Asturias was founded in 2011 by a former member of the PP, Francisco Álvarez Cascos. The Foro is a regionalist party based in Asturias. Its leader is Francisco Álvarez Cascos. At the 2011 legislative election, the Foro got 1 seat.</p> <p>13: Geroa Bai Ideology: Basque independence. Political Position: Centre-left Founded: 2011 Short History: is a separatist electoral coalition. It is based Navarra. The parties involved in the coalition are PNV, Atarrabia Taldea and the Zabaltzen association. These groups have previously concurred to general elections in Navarra along with Eusko Alkartasuna and Aralar. All these groups have formed in 2003 the electoral coalition Nafarroa Bai. However, in 2011, both Eusko Alkartasuna and Aralar entered the coalition Amaieur. Geroa Bai leader is Uxue Barkos. The coalition got 1 seat at the 2011 legislative election.</p>
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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 form of government in Spain is a parliamentary monarchy. The Spanish Parliament, the Cortes Generales, consists of a lower house, the Congreso de los Diputados or Congress of Deputies, and an upper house, the Senado or Senate. Although legislative initiative belongs to both the Congress and the Senate (as well as to the Government), Congress has greater legislative powers than the Senate. Elections take place every four years, although the government may call snap elections.</p> <p>The Spanish electoral system is a form of proportional representation, based on the D'Hont electoral formula. To vote in a Spanish general election a person must be 18 years of age or over on polling day, be a Spanish citizen and not be subject to any legal incapacity to vote. All citizens are automatically registered to vote. Voting is not compulsory.</p>

	<p>The Spanish electoral system for electing the 350 members of the Congreso de los Diputados is based on closed lists. Each voter chooses one list of those made available in the constituency. Electoral district is the province: there are 51 districts with different district magnitudes.</p>
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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"> 1. Centern - Centre party - 6,56 % 2. Folkpartiet - Liberals - 7,06 % 3. Kristdemokraterna - Christian Democrats - 5,60 % 4. Miljöpartiet de gröna - Green party - 7,34 % 5. Moderata samlingspartiet - Conservatives - 30,06 % 6. Socialdemokraterna - Social Democrats - 30,66 % 7. Vänsterpartiet - Left party - 5,60 % 8. FI (Feministiskt initiativ) - Feminist Initiative - 0,40 % 9. Piratpartiet - The Pirate Part- 0,65 % 10. Sverigedemokraterna - Sweden Democrats - 5,70 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Folkpartiet/Liberals: Belong to the right coalition, but place in the middle on the left right scale. 3. Kristdemokraterna/Christian Democrats: Belong to the right coalition. Adhere many non religious people on issues of moral. 4. Miljöpartiet/Green party: Belong to the red-green coalition. 5. Moderaterna/Conservatives: Belong to the right coalition. More liberal (in an economic sense) than conservative. 6. Socialdemokraterna/Social democrats: left, part of the red-green coalition (red-green coalition dissolved after the 2010 election). 7. Vänsterpartiet/Left: to the left, former communist party, part of the red-green coalition (red-green coalition dissolved after the 2010 election) 8. Feministiskt initiativ/Feminist Initiative: feminist party 9. Piratpartiet/The Pirate Part: The Pirate Party was founded by Rickard Falkvinge in 2006 to defend the opportunities of modern information technology. The Pirate Party's main focus is on intellectual property rights and personal integrity and therefore oppose surveillance and any attempts to prevent people from freely use and share different thoughts and ideas on the internet as well as elsewhere. The party received 0,63 % of the votes in the national election 2006 and 0,65 % in 2010. In the 2009 election to the European Parliament the Pirate Party received 7,1 % of the votes and one mandate in the European Parliament. The party is currently broadening their political program to also include other policy areas such as for example the labor market and social policies. In 2011 founder Rickard Falkvinge resigned and Anna Troberg was elected as new party leader. 10. Sverigedemokraterna/Sweden democrats: nationalist right-wing party, established 1988, elected for the first time into the Riksdag (parliament) in 2010.

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:	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:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Union démocratique du centre (UDC) // Schweizerische Volkspartei (SVP) // Unione democratica di centro (UDC) - Swiss People's Party - 26,6 % 2. Parti socialiste (PS) // Sozialdemokratische Partei (SP) // Partito socialista svizzero (PS) - Socialist Party (social democrats) - 18,7 % 3. PLR. Les Libéraux-Radicaux // FDP. Die Liberalen // PLR. I Liberali Radicali - FDP. The Liberals (Radical Liberals) - 15,1 % 4. Parti démocrate-chrétien (PDC) // Christlich-demokratische Volkspartei (CVP) // Partito Popolare Democratico (PPD) - Christian Democrats - 12,3 % 5. Les Verts (PES) // Grüne Partei (GPS) // I Verdi - Partito ecologista svizzero (I Verdi) - Green Party - 8,4 % 6. Parti vert liberal (PEL / PVL) // Grünliberale (GLP) // Partito Verde-Liberale - Green Liberal Party - 5,4 % 7. Parti bourgeois démocrate (PBD) // Bürgerlich-demokratische Partei (BDP) // Partito borghese democratico (PBD) - Bourgeois (Conservative)-democratic Party - 5,4 % 8. Parti évangélique (PEV) // Evangelische Volkspartei (EVP) // Partito evangelico (PEV) - Evangelical People's Party - 2,0 % 9. Union démocratique fédérale (UDF) // Eidgenössische Demokratische Union (EDU) // Unione Democratica Federale (UDF) - Federal Democratic Union - 1,3 % 10. Lega dei Ticinesi // Lega dei Ticinesi // Lega dei Ticinesi - Ticino League - 0,8 % 11. Parti du travail (PdT) / Parti ouvrier populaire (POP) // Partei der Arbeit (PdA) // Partito del lavoro (PdL) - Swiss Labour Party - 0,5 % 12. Mouvement des Citoyens Romands // Mouvement des Citoyens Romands // Mouvement des Citoyens Romands - Movement of the Citizens of French-speaking Switzerland - 0,4 % 13. Parti Chrétien Social (PCS) // Christlich-soziale Partei (CSP) // Partito cristiano sociale (PCS) - Christian Social Party - 0,3 % 14. La Gauche // Alternative Linke - Alternative Left - * 15. Démocrates Suisses // Schweizer Demokraten // Democratici Svizzeri - Swiss Democrats - 0,2 % 16. Parti Pirate // Piratenpartei // Partito Pirata - Pirate Party Switzerland - 0,5 % 17. Parti Nationaliste Suisse // Partei National Orientierter Schweizer // Par - Swiss Nationalist Party - 0,05 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swiss people party ==> Right, conservative Founded in 1936 from an association of farmers and artisans, this party became more and more populist, especially its right wing. Since the 1990's, they adopted certain anti-foreigner positions from the far-right. Quite closely linked to the fact that they are represented by only one member in the Federal Council (government), they consider themselves as an opposition party. In terms of their share of total votes, they form the biggest Swiss party, while they are outreached by the Christian Democrats and the "FDP.The Liberals" in terms of membership. The national elections of 2011 marked the end of a 20-year period of steady growth in their share of total votes with a climax of 28.9% in the 2007 national elections. They form their own faction in an alliance with the Lega (2 Seats) and a resulting total of 56 seats in the National Council (total: 200 seats). In the Council of States they've gained 5 out of 46 seats. 2. Socialist party ==> Centre-left (= social democrats) As a merge of several cantonal workers' parties, the socialist/socialdemocratic Party has been founded in 1888. It is currently the most pro-european party in Switzerland. It ranks fourth in terms of membership, but the second biggest in terms of votes and seats (46) in the National Council. There, they form their own faction. In the Council of States they are represented with 11 seats. 3. FDP.The Liberals (Radical Liberals, NEW since 2009) ==> Right, conservative After some years of political alliance between the Radicals and the much smaller Liberal Party, in January 2009, they merged to form the new party "FDP.The Liberals". The former FDP was founded in 1894, growing out of the liberal, radical and democratic movements that dominated the first decades of the federal state. The Liberal Party as well has roots going back as far as in the 19th century and was developed mainly in French-speaking Switzerland. Very much like its precursors, "FDP. The Liberals" relies on classical liberalism. It has two members in the Federal Council and 30 seats in the National Council. With a number of 130000, it has by far the most members of all Swiss parties. FDP.The Liberals too, they form their own faction in the National Council and are assigned 11 seats in the Council of States. 4. Christian democrats ==> Centre-right, conservative This party has been founded by conservative Catholics, who lost the short civil war of 1847. Nevertheless, they are currently also present in Protestant cantons, with more eccentric positions. They claim for a social market economy. It is the second largest party in terms of membership, but the smallest of the four-party coalition government. They form a faction of 31 seats with the evangelical people's party, in which they hold 28 seats. In the Council of States they are assigned 13 seats. 5. Green party ==> Left, centre left Born from the environmental movement, this party was found in 1983 and gained strength throughout the 1980s. It is the strongest party not represented in the national executive government. They currently hold 15 seats in the National Council and form their own faction. In the Council of States they are represented with 2 seats. 6. Green liberal party ==> 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 successfully expanded in the cantonal elections. Sharing the

idea of environmentalism with the Green Party, its party program differs strongly with respect to regulation of the economy. It aims to combine moderate economic liberalism, liberalism on civil liberties and environmental sustainability.
They represent 12 seats in the National Council and form their own faction.

7. Bourgeois(Conservative)-Democratic Party of Switzerland (NEW since 2008) ==> Centre right
The Conservative Democratic Party was created in November 2008 as a split of the Swiss People's Party.
The Swiss People's Party (UDC, SVP) becoming more and more populist, a fraction of this party split from it, creating the more moderate "Conservative Democratic Party of Switzerland". It has one Federal Councillor (Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf), 9 seats in the National Council and one in the Council of the States. They commit themselves to conservative values and economic liberalism.
This party is represented by its own faction in the national parliament.

8. Evangelical People's Party ==> Centre
Founded in 1919, this small protestant party takes a centre-left position 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.
They currently hold two seats in the National Council.

9. Federal Democratic Union ==> Far right, conservative
The Christian, national-conservative Federal Democratic Union lost their only seat in parliament in the 2011 elections, while they won two seats in the 2003-election and one in 2007. They stand for value-oriented, biblical positions and strongly refuse European integration of Switzerland.

10. Ticino League ==> Far right, isolationist
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.
With their two seats in the National Council they belong to the Swiss People's Party faction.

11. Swiss Labour party ==> Far left
This party was founded in 1944 by the illegal Communist Party of Switzerland.
In 2011, they lost their only seat in the parliament and are no longer represented.

12. Movement of the Citizens of French-speaking Switzerland (Mouvement des Citoyens Romands, MCR) ==>
Far right
In 2005, a member of the Swiss People's Party and a former member of the Liberal Party founded the (local) patriotic protest party "Mouvement des Citoyens Genevois". After their first appearance in national elections in 2007 in the canton of Geneva, in 2011 they participated also in the canton of Vaud.
They bring forward anti-foreigner positions, especially against frontier workers from France. Contrarily, they take traditionally leftist stances in social welfare discourses.
They are represented by one seat in the National Parliament, without belonging to a faction.

13. Christian-social ==> Center-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 take strong environmentalist positions. They could be considered as Christian left party.
In 2011 they lost their only seat in the National Council, which they won in 2008.

14. Alternative left ==> Far left
After the cancellation of the feminist groups in the cantons of Basel and Zurich and the joining of the Green Party by the Alternative Party of the canton of Zug, in 2007, only the Alternatives of Zurich had ran in the national elections. In 2011, together with other small groups that so far mainly had campaigned in cantonal elections, they were registered as the loose formation of the "Alternative Left". Hence, their political programme generally can be described as traditional leftist, with particularly accentuated stances in the field of sexual discrimination.
Election lists were presented in the cantons of Zurich (1.0% of votes), Basel(-), Berne (.5%), Schaffhausen (-) and Valais (.6%).
They hold no seat in the National Council nor in the Council of States.

15. Swiss Democrats ==> Far right, nationalist
1961, the former "National Action" was reorganized to form the party of the Swiss Democrats. They hold strong nationalist-conservative, isolationist and protectionist positions and support environmental protection and the welfare state. In 2007, they were last represented in the National Council, while they hold some seats in city and community parliaments. The 2011 elections reflected a 0.2% share of national votes for them.

16. Pirate Party Switzerland ==> Center, liberal, thematic
The Swiss Pirate Party has been founded in 2009. Its positions are mainly thematic such as legislation of the internet and transparency of the state. In their first national elections, they won a total of .5% of votes, being listed in seven cantons: Zurich (share of votes in the canton: .9%), Berne (.7), Freiburg (.6%), Basel-City (1.9%), Aargau (0.8%). They hold no seat in the two national parliaments.

17. Swiss Nationalist Party ==> Right-wing extremist
This right-wing extremist party has been founded in 2001. They hold very strong isolationist, protectionist and anti-foreigner positions. Also, they consider socialist views to be part of their programme. In 2011, they won 0.05% of national votes and never held any political offices at the cantonal or national level (two elections in community councils).

GENERAL ABOUT ALLIANCES:
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

	<p>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> <p>GENERAL ABOUT SWISS PARTIES</p> <p>It was relatively late that political trends of the 19th century developed into actual party organizations in Switzerland. Its history, political and cultural boundaries between cantons and its electoral system have had as consequence the emergence of many political parties. The four main parties are: the FDP. The Liberals, the Christian-Democrats, the Social-Democrats and the Swiss 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, which disappeared from the national level in 2009 and continues to exist on the cantonal level. 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>
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2. Electoral system	
Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<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. also see www.ch.ch and www.parlament.ch</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 cantons it is proportional.</p>

Ukraine

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2012
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partiya Regioniv - Party of Regions - 30.00 % 2. Politychna partiya Vseukrainske obyednannya "Batkivschyna" - All Ukrainian Union "Fatherland" - 24.54 % 3. Politychna partiya "UDAR (Ukrainsky Demokratychny Alliance za Reformy) Vitaliya Klychka" - "UDAR (Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform) of Vitali Klitschko" - 13.96 % 4. Komunistychna Partiya Ukrainy - Communist Party of Ukraine - 13.18 % 5. Politychna partiya Vseukrainske obyednannya "Svoboda" - All Ukrainian Union "Freedom" - 10.44 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Party of Regions. Ruling party. President Yaanukovych was the leader of this party. Prime Minister Azarov now is formal leader of this party. Head of the Parliament is the member of this party. Most of the members of the Cabinet of Ministers are the members of this party. Most of the head of local administration (ordered by President) are the members of this party. Ideologically - Center, populist, oriented to the very big business (oligarchs). Based on the East and South of Ukraine. 2. All Ukrainian Union "Fatherland". Leader of the party Yu.Timoshenko (former Prime Minister) is in the prison. Ideologically - left center. Is in opposition to the ruling Party of Regions. No representatives in the government. 3. "UDAR (Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform) of Vitali Klitschko". Leader of the party is very famous boxer Vitaly Klychko. Ideologically - right center. Is in opposition to the ruling Party of Regions. No representatives in the government. 4. Communist Party of Ukraine. Successor of Communist party of Soviet Ukraine. Often support ruling party. Ideologically - formal left. Has some representatives in the government (like deputy ministers). 5. Political party All Ukrainian Union "Freedom". National oriented party. Ideologically - right but populist. Is in opposition to the ruling Party of Regions. No representatives in the government.

2. Electoral system	
Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>National Parliament Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council) has 450 seats. Half of Ukrainian Parliament (225 mandates) is elected in one all-Ukrainian multi-mandate district and half is elected in 225 single-mandate districts. Every registered for election party makes one list of candidates for the whole of Ukraine. This list is ordered. The number of mandates (several first candidates from this list can be elected) depends of the result of the party at the national level. Every voter get two ballots – first with list of candidates in the district (225 single-mandate districts in the country, every single-mandate district has own and different list, candidates in all this lists are independent, i.e. they are not officially dependent of any parties) and second with the list of parties (one common list of parties for the whole country).</p>

United Kingdom

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"> 1. Conservative Party - 47.1 % 2. Labour Party - 39.8 % 3. Liberal Democrats - 8.8 % 4. Scottish National Party - SNP - 0.9 % 5. Plaid Cymru- 0.5 % 6. Green Party- 0.2 % 12. Democratic Unionist Party - 1.2 % 13. Sinn Fein - 0.8 % 14. Social Democratic & Labour Party - 0.5 % 15. Alliance Party - 0.2 %
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservative Party - Traditionally right-leaning party. Currently in office in coalition with the Liberal Democrats 2. Labour Party - Traditionally left-leaning party. Currently in opposition to the leading coalition. 3. Liberal Democrats - Traditionally central though now more left wing. Currently in office in coalition with the Conservative Party. 4. Scottish National Party - Regional Scottish party which campaigns for the independence of Scotland from the United Kingdom. 5. Plaid Cymru - Regional Welsh party, supports independence for Wales, a view to attain Full National Status, left-leaning/social democracy. 6. Green Party - in England and Wales only, follows traditions of Green politics. 12. Democratic Unionist Party - Regional party, largest party in Northern Ireland. 13. Sinn Fein - Regional party in Northern Ireland, aim of a creating a united Ireland. 14. Social 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. 15. Alliance Party - Regional party in Northern Ireland, liberal, aim to promote unity within Northern Ireland.

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 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 part with the largest number of MPs forms the government