

## APPENDIX A3

### POLITICAL PARTIES, ESS7 - 2014 ed. 3.0

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# Austria

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	German
Year of last election:	2013
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs (SPÖ) - Social Democratic Party of Austria - 26.8 %</li> <li>2. Österreichische Volkspartei (ÖVP) - Austrian People's Party - 24.0 %</li> <li>3. Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs (FPÖ) - Freedom Party of Austria - 20.5 %</li> <li>4. Bündnis Zukunft Österreich (BZÖ) - Alliance for the Future of Austria - 3.5 %</li> <li>5. Die Grünen – Die Grüne Alternative (Grüne) - The Greens – The Green Alternative - 12.4 %</li> <li>6. Kommunistische Partei Österreichs (KPÖ) - Communist Party of Austria - 1.0 %</li> <li>7. NEOS – Das Neue Österreich und Liberales Forum (NEOS) - NEOS – The New Austria and Liberal Forum - 5.0 %</li> <li>8. Piratenpartei Österreichs - Pirate Party of Austria - 0.8 %</li> <li>9. Team Stronach für Österreich - Team Stronach for Austria - 5.7 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. The Social Democratic Party (Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs)            SPÖ is a social democratic/center-left political party that was founded in 1888 as the Social Democratic Worker's Party (Sozialdemokratische Arbeiterpartei, or SDAP), when Victor Adler managed to unite the various opposing factions. The party was reconstituted as the Socialist Party of Austria in 1945 (renamed to the Social Democratic Party of Austria in 1991) after being outlawed in 1934. Between 1970 and 1999, it governed the country either alone or with a junior partner, and all but two of the Presidents of Austria since 1945 have either been members of the SPÖ or nominated by it. Originally having a high following among blue-collar workers, it sought to expand its focus on middle class and white-collar workers in the late 1950s. In the 1990s, it started viewing privatization of nationalised industries more openly, after large losses of state owned enterprises came to light. Along with the conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), the SPÖ is one of the two major political parties in Austria, and has ties to the Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB) and the Austrian Chamber of Labour (AK). The party currently governs the country as the larger partner in a coalition with the ÖVP, with SPÖ leader Werner Faymann serving as Chancellor of Austria. (see: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_of_Austria">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_of_Austria</a>)</p> <p>2. The People's Party (Österreichische Volkspartei)            ÖVP was founded by leaders of the former Christian Social Party in 1945 as a conservative/center-right party with loose ties to the Catholic Church. Between 1945 and 1970 it provided the Chancellor of Austria and since 1987 it has continuously been in government, its leader Wolfgang Schüssel being Chancellor between 2000 and 2007. It finds support from farmers, large and small business owners, and lay Catholic groups, but also from voters without party affiliation, with strongholds in the rural regions of Austria. In federal governance, the ÖVP is currently the smaller partner in a coalition government with the SPÖ, with ÖVP party leader Reinhold Mitterlehner as Vice-Chancellor of Austria. (see: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austrian_People's_Party">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austrian_People's_Party</a>)</p> <p>3. The Freedom Party (Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs)            FPÖ is a right-wing populist political party that was founded in 1955 as a successor to the Federation of Independents. According to polls, it mainly attracts votes from young people and workers, predominantly males. Their nationalist rhetoric targets Muslims, immigrants and the European Union. The party steadily gained support after Jörg Haider took over leadership of the party in 1986, until it attracted about 27% of the vote in the 1999 elections. After being reduced to 10% in the 2002 elections, they achieved 20.5% in 2013. (own extensions of <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Austria#Freedom_Party_of_Austria">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Austria#Freedom_Party_of_Austria</a>)</p> <p>4. The Alliance for the Future of Austria (German: Bündnis Zukunft Österreich)            BZÖ is a national-conservative political party in Austria. The BZÖ was founded on 3 April 2005 by Jörg Haider as a moderate splinter from the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) and immediately took the FPÖ's place in coalition with the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP). The party won seven seats at the 2006 election, ending its involvement in government. The September 2008 election saw the BZÖ breakthrough with 21 seats, while the FPÖ's vote also increased. 13 days after the election, Haider died in a car crash; under a new leadership, the party moved towards economic liberalism, leading to the secession of the party's Carinthia branch to form the Freedom Party in Carinthia in December 2009. In the 2013 national election, the BZÖ failed to reach 4% of the vote and thus lost its seats in the national council. In all following regional elections, the BZÖ did not manage to win any seats. (<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliance_for_the_Future_of_Austria">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliance_for_the_Future_of_Austria</a>)</p> <p>5. The Greens were formed in 1986 with the name Grüne Alternative, following the merger of the more conservative Green party Vereinte Grüne Österreichs (United Greens of Austria VGÖ, founded 1982) and the more progressive party Alternative Liste Österreichs (Alternative List Austria, ALÖ, founded 1982). Since 1993, the party has carried the official name Die Grünen – Die Grüne Alternative (Grüne), but refers to itself in English as "Austrian Greens". There are still differences between the former members of the old Alternative and VGÖ factions within the party, which is reflected in the different opinions between the national party and the state parties. Apart from ecological issues such as environmental protection, the Greens also campaign for the rights of minorities and advocate a socio-ecological (ökosozial) tax reform. Their basic values according to their charter in 2001 are: "direct democracy, nonviolence, ecology, solidarity, feminism and self-determination". (see: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Greens_%E2%80%93_The_Green_Alternative">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Greens_%E2%80%93_The_Green_Alternative</a>)</p> <p>6. The Communist Party of Austria (Kommunistische Partei Österreichs)            KPÖ is a communist party in Austria. Established in 1918, it is one of the world's oldest Communist parties. The KPÖ was banned between 1933 and 1945 under both the Austrofascist regime and the Nazi German control of Austria after the 1938 Anschluss.[1] It played an important role in the Austrian resistance against the Nazis. The party currently holds two seats in the Styrian Landtag (state parliament), but has not had representation in the National Council (Nationalrat, Austria's federal parliament) since 1959. It is part of the New European Left Forum (NELF) and the Party of the European Left. (see:</p>

	<p><a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_Austria">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_Austria</a>)</p> <p>7. NEOS is a young political movement founded in October 2012, contested the 2013 legislative election on a joint electoral list with the Young Liberals Austria and Liberal Forum. On 25 January 2014 NEOS formally absorbed the Liberal Forum, creating "NEOS - The New Austria and Liberal Forum". In March 2014, it also absorbed the formerly independent Young Liberals (JuLis), forming the party's youth wing JUNOS – Young liberal NEOS. NEOS became a full member of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) on 2 May 2014. In the 2014 European elections held on 25 May 2014, the party received 8.1% of the national vote, and returned a single MEP. The party supports direct democracy using referenda and the ending of conscription, and opposes increased property taxes and public financing of political parties. (see: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NEOS_%E2%80%93_The_New_Austria">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NEOS_%E2%80%93_The_New_Austria</a>)</p> <p>8. The Pirate Party of Austria (German: Piratenpartei Österreichs) PIRAT is a political party in Austria and part of the global Pirate Party movement which fights for freedom of information and the protection of privacy. It is mostly known for opposing the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement. (see: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirate_Party_of_Austria">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirate_Party_of_Austria</a>)</p> <p>9. Team Stronach for Austria is a Eurosceptic and right-wing populist political party in Austria founded by and named after Austrian-Canadian businessman Frank Stronach. The new party was registered on 25 September 2012, and was launched two days later. Team Stronach supports Austria leaving the Euro currency and returning to the Schilling. Although an advisor of Team Stronach suggested later on in an interview with the Austrian economic news magazine "Format" they want to keep the Euro but additionally introduce national currencies. Unlike some other anti-euro parties, Stronach is not anti-immigration. The party advocates cutting bureaucracy and instituting a 25% flat-rate income tax. Team Stronach supports ending conscription and introducing an all-volunteer army. Stronach supports democratic reform, including the use of primary elections. (see: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Team_Stronach">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Team_Stronach</a>)</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The 183 members of the National Council ("Nationalrat") are elected by nation-wide popular vote for a term of five years, i.e. general elections. The voting system aims at party-list proportional representation, uses partially open lists, and is relatively straightforward. In case of general elections, Austria is divided into nine regional electoral districts corresponding to the nine federal states of Austria. The nine regional electoral districts are subdivided into a total of 39 local electoral districts. Political parties submit separate ranked lists of candidates for each district, regional, local, or federal-level, in which they have chosen to run. An election threshold of 4% is in effect. Elections at the European, federal, states, and local levels are hardly staggered. As a result, electoral campaigns are always under way, and each election is viewed, at least to a certain degree by the press, as a test of the federal government's popularity and the strength of the opposition. All elections are held on Sunday.</p>

# Belgium

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Dutch and French
Year of last election:	2014
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Groen - Green (Flemish) - 5.3%</li> <li>2. CD&amp;V (Christen-Democratische en Vlaams) - Flemish Christian Democrats (Flemish) - 11.6%</li> <li>3. N-VA (Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie) - New Flemish Alliance (Flemish) - 20.3%</li> <li>4. Lijst Dedecker - List Dedecker (Flemish) - 0.4%</li> <li>5. SP.A (Socialistische Partij Anders) - Socialist Party (Flemish) - 8.8%</li> <li>6. PVDA+ (Partij van de Arbeid) - Labour Party (Flemish) - 1.8%</li> <li>7. Vlaams Belang - Flemish Interest (Flemish) - 3.7%</li> <li>8. Open VLD (Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten) - Open Flemish Liberals and Democrats (Flemish) - 9.8%</li> <li>9. CDH (Centre Démocrate Humaniste) - Humanistic and Democratic Center (French) - 5.0%</li> <li>10. Ecolo - Ecologists (French) - 3.3%</li> <li>11. Front National - National Front (French) - 0.0%</li> <li>12. MR (Mouvement Réformateur) - Reformist Movement (Liberal French) - 9.6%</li> <li>13. PS (Parti Socialiste) - Socialist Party (French) - 11.7%</li> <li>14. PTB (Parti du Travail de Belgique) - Labour Party (French) - 2.0%</li> <li>15. Parti Populaire - People's Party - 1.5%</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Groen (left) Flemish progressive and ecologist party. Works closely together with its Francophone counterpart Ecolo. Good score at the federal elections in 1999. Part of the purple-green federal government under prime minister Verhofstadt. Kicked out of government after defeat in the federal elections in 2003. Since then, it won votes election after election but very slowly. At the 2014 elections 5.3% of the Belgian votes went to Groen. In opposition during fieldwork period.</li> <li>2. CD&amp;V (center) Flemish Christian democratic party. One of the three traditional political movements in Belgium (liberals, socialists and Christian democrats). Had a huge political influence on post-war Belgium. Was part of the government in every coalition and produced a lot of prime ministers. At the start of 21st century its influence started to wane. Formed a cartel with a much smaller but very Flemish nationalistic party N-VA in 2004. Won election after election but in 2008 the cartel with N-VA ceased to exist. At the next federal elections of 2010 CD&amp;V has got the lowest score in history, while the former cartel partner N-VA became the biggest party in Belgium. CD&amp;V is part of the government coalition during the fieldwork period.</li> <li>3. N-VA (right) Flemish-nationalistic, conservative, republican, economically ultraliberal. Was formed in 2001 after the split of Volksunie (also Flemish nationalists). Flirted with the electoral threshold of 5% at the federal elections in 2003. Formed a cartel with CD&amp;V (see above) in 2004 and together they won elections. In 2008 the cartel with CD&amp;V ceased to exist. At the federal elections of 2010 - where the communitarian relations stood central - N-VA became the biggest Flemish party. At the federal elections in 2014 was clearly the biggest party in Belgium. N-VA is part of the government coalition during the fieldwork period.</li> <li>4. Lijst Decker (right) Flemish right liberal, republican, neoliberal, libertarian political party founded in 2007 by former Open VLD senator Jean Marie Dedecker. Good result in first few years but lost heavily in 2010. The result was even worse in 2014. No representatives anymore in the Kamer/Chambre.</li> <li>5. SP.A (left) Flemish social democratic party and one of the three traditional movement in Belgium. Very strong electoral scores at the start of the 21st century under chairmanship of Steve Stevaert. Lost seats since then. Biggest Flemish opposition party during the fieldwork period.</li> <li>6. PVDA+ (extreme left) Marxist-Leninist, unitarian political party that was formed in 1979. Strong links with the Francophone PTB. Quite good scores in the most recent elections but still small compared to the other parties. In opposition during the fieldwork period.</li> <li>7. Vlaams Belang (extreme right) Flemish nationalistic, rightwing conservative political party and is know for their pursuit for an independent Flanders, its opposition to immigrants who - according to VB - are reluctant against integration or assimilation to Western standards, defense of traditional values and opposition to the alleged advance of political islam and islamic fundamentalism in Europe. Based on their "racistic values" of VB, the other parties decided that rapprochment with that party is undesirable at every political level (so called cordon sanitaire). Grew steadily in the 90's with a peak in 2004. It became the largest political party in Flanders. At the federal elections in 2007 the party stagnated but at the regional elections of 2009 they lost one third of all votes. A second electoral defeat followed at the federal elections of 2010 and in 2014 it became almost insignificant. In opposition during the fieldwork period.</li> <li>8. Open VLD (center right) Flemish, progressive liberal political party. Is a descendant of the first political party in Belgium, the Liberal Party (1846). Guy Verhofstadt transformed the party and renamed it VLD in 1992. 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 and Patrick Dewael (also VLD) from the Flemish government (both in purple-green coalitions). At the federal elections in 2003 the party won again and Verhofstadt made a new (purple) coalition with him as prime minister. But leading up to the regional elections in 2004, the party was characterized by heavy clashes between figures at the top of the party. 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 in 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. On April 26, 2010 Open VLD left the federal</li> </ol>

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. In the most recent federal elections of 2014, Open VLD was one of the few parties that won votes next to the domination of N-VA. Is part of the governing coalition during the fieldwork period.

9. CDH (center left) French Christian-democratic and humanistic party and was given its name in 2002 (before PSC - Parti Social Chrétien). 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. After the federal elections in 2010 and yet another long negotiation process, it was part of the governing coalition under Di Rupo. At the federal and regional elections of 2014 the party had to choose: form a regional government with PS in Wallonia and Brussels or form a federal government with MR as the only other Frenchspeaking party and tolerate the Flemish nationalistic party N-VA. It chose for the former and is thus not part of the federal coalition during the 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 small and insignificant until the elections of 1999. It achieved a score of 18% of the votes in Wallonia and 14% in Brussels-Capital. Joined the federal government coalition under Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt. In the following years Ecolo has conflicts with other government parties. Bad elections in 2004. Fell below 10% and went in opposition. At the federal elections in 2007 Ecolo won again and doubled its representation in parliament but did not join the government coalition because sister party Groen was 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. At the elections of 2014 Ecolo lost about 1/3 of its electorate compared to 2010 and is back at the level of 2004. Ecolo is not part of the government coalition during the fieldwork period.

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. Their 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. No representatives in the federal parliament.

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 joined 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 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. At the elections of 2014, the party won a little while PS - biggest competitor in Frenchspeaking Belgium - lost a bit, though PS is still the biggest party on the Frenchspeaking side. Big rivalry between those two parties immediately after the elections. CDH was in the middle of the bed and CDH chose for PS to form a Walloon and Brussels government. MR was furious and decided to form a federal government with MR as the only Frenchspeaking party (thus federal government has a minority on the Frenchspeaking side) in a government with N-VA, CD&V and Open VLD. MR was able to deliver the prime minister (Charles Michel). Heavy opposition from PS on MR during fieldwork.. especially on the fact that MR is in a government with N-VA (which has - according to PS - some racist individuals). Is part of the federal government coalition during fieldwork.

13. PS (left) is a French social-democratic political party. Its Flemish counterpart is SP.a. At the elections of 2010 it became 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 and until 2014 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. At the elections of 2014 the party lost a few seats but still the biggest party on the Frenchspeaking side. Heavy rivalry between PS and MR after election (see above). Is part of the Walloon and Brussels government but not part of the federal government coalition. Heavy opposition on the government under prime minister Charles Michel (MR).

14. PTB (extreme left) is the Francophone wing of PDVA+ (see above)

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. No representatives in the federal 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:

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 5 years. To obtain a representative distribution, the Chamber is composed of candidates from 11 constituencies. The constituencies follow the boundaries of the 10 provinces + Brussels Capital Region. Citizens have to be 18 years old to vote. Belgium is one of the few countries where voting is compulsory.

# Czech Republic

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Czech
Year of last election:	2013
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Komunistická strana Čech a Moravy (KSČM) - Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia - 14,91 %</li> <li>2. Česká strana sociálně demokratická (ČSSD) - Czech Social Democratic Party - 20,45 %</li> <li>3. Tradice Odpovědnost Prosperita 09 (TOP 09) - Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 - 11,99 %</li> <li>4. Akce nespokojených občanů 2011 (ANO 2011) - Action of Dissatisfied Citizens - 18,65 %</li> <li>5. Občanská demokratická strana (ODS) - Civic Democratic Party - 7,72 %</li> <li>6. Křesťanská a demokratická unie - Československá strana lidová (KDU-ČSL) - Christian and Democratic Union - Czechoslovak People's Party - 6,78 %</li> <li>7. Úsvit přímé demokracie Tomia Okamury - Dawn of Direct Democracy of Tomio Okamura - 6,88 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM) is extreme-left party. It 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. It's ideology is based primarily on Marxism and communism. In the past, the party was largely isolated, but recently it has become closer to the ČSSD (especially so-called liberal wing of the party, represented by Miloslav Ransdorf or Jiří Dolejš). The party is stronger with older voters, with the majority of the membership being over 60. The membership base of the KSČM is steadily decreasing. The KSČM has never been part of any government coalition since the advent of democracy in Czech Republic in 1989, although it has always been part of the Parliament. European Parliament political group: European United Left - Nordic Green Left. In the last European Parliament elections, the party gained three seats. In the 2013 parliamentary elections, the party received 14,91 % of the vote for the Chamber of Deputies. This made it the third largest party in the Chamber of Deputies with 33 seats. The party chairman is Vojtěch Filip.</li> <li>2. The Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD) is a major left-wing political party in the Czech Republic. To support freedom, solidarity and justice, and to support the socially responsible development of country - these are the main goals of the party, as declared on its official website. The party is a member of the Socialist International and the Party of European Socialists. It claims to be inspired by Keynesianism and political ideology of social democracy. In the European Parliament, the party belongs to the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. The ČSSD currently has four elected seats in the European Parliament. The origin of the party can be traced back to the Austro-Hungarian times. The party has its current name since 1993. In the 2013 parliamentary elections, the ČSSD obtained 20,45 % of the votes and 50 of 200 seats and formed a new government together with the ANO 2011 and the KDU-ČSL. The current chairman of the party, Bohuslav Sobotka, is also Prime Minister in the government.</li> <li>3. TOP 09 (Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09) is a conservative centre-right party. It is noted for its support of the free market and the European Union. The party claims to be based on the platform of conservatism and fiscal responsibility with a strong emphasis on European Judeo-Christian tradition. TOP 09 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. TOP 09 is led by Karel Schwarzenberg until now. After the 2013 parliamentary elections, the party moved into opposition. In the elections, TOP 09 obtained about 12 % of the total vote share and thus 26 of 200 seats in the Chamber of Deputies.</li> <li>4. ANO 2011 is a centre-right political party founded in 2012. It is based on the former movement Action of Dissatisfied Citizens founded in autumn of 2011 by agronomic mogul Andrej Babiš. The main objectives of the party include fighting against corruption and unemployment, and improving the transport infrastructure. The party targets voters who are dissatisfied with traditional parties and the current situation in the country. In the European Parliament, the party belongs to the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group. ANO 2011 won 2014 Czech European Parliament election obtaining 16,13 % of votes and 4 seats. In the 2013 parliamentary elections, ANO 2011 gained a surprisingly large amount of votes, 18,7 %, and attained second place behind the Czech Social Democratic Party. The party has become a part of government coalition. Andrej Babiš, the current Minister of Finance of the Czech Republic, have been chairman of the party since its establishment.</li> <li>5. The Civic Democratic Party (ODS) had been for a long time the largest right-wing political party in the Czech Republic. Until 2013, the ODS had been the strongest governmental party and Petr Nečas, the chairman of the party, had been Prime Minister. However, in the 2013 parliamentary election, the party was marginalized by only securing 16 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Thus, the party has been in opposition since 2013. 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 ODS has two seats in the European Parliament. 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 until 2002, the current leader is Petr Fiala.</li> <li>6. The Christian and Democratic Union - Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-ČSL) is a medium sized, centrally-oriented party. It expresses particularly Christian democratic views. Ideology of</li> </ol>

	<p>the party includes social conservatism, Christian democratism and regionalism. It is a member of the Centrist Democrat International and European People's Party. The KDU-ČSL is one of the oldest Czech political parties, it was originally created in 1919 as Czechoslovak People's Party (ČSL), reuniting other Catholic parties. After the Velvet Revolution in 1989, the ČSL attempted to shed its compromised figures and policies of the past: this included a change of name in 1992 after the merger with the Christian Democratic Union. The KDU-ČSL has relatively low but stable support of voters (6-10 %), which is strongest in the traditionally Catholic rural areas in Moravia. In the 2010 Chamber of Deputies elections, the KDU-ČSL got only 4.4% of voters and thus narrowly missed securing parliamentary seats. Then chairman of the party, Cyril Svoboda, resigned as a consequence of the results. This downfall also contributed to internal party conflicts, which led the former party leader Miroslav Kalousek and some of his colleagues to break away and establish the TOP 09. In November 2010 new chairman Pavel Bělobrádek was elected at the party congress. After his election, the position of the party has shifted slightly to the right. In October 2013, the parliamentary elections resulted in the success of the KDU-ČSL, which gained 6,78 % of the votes and 14 seats. The party has joined government coalition with the ANO 2011 and the ČSSD.</p> <p>7. The Dawn of Direct Democracy of Tomio Okamura (from July 2014 the Dawn of Direct Democracy) is a populist political party seeking to amend the Constitution to strengthen direct democracy. The party is also noted for its xenophobic rhetoric targeting especially Roma people. The party was founded in May 2013 by Tomio Okamura, independent senator and the businessman. He founded it after he had been rejected as a candidate for the President of the Czech Republic due to lack of petition signatures. In the parliamentary election of 2013, the party obtained 6,88 % of the votes and gained 14 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. The party is in the opposition. In the 2014 European Parliament elections the party failed and gained no seats.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>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. Every citizen of the Czech Republic who has the right to vote and who has attained the age of twenty-one years may be elected to the Chamber of Deputies. 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"> <li>1. Socialdemokraterne - The Social Democrats - 24,8 %</li> <li>2. Det Radikale Venstre - The Radical Liberal Party - 9,5 %</li> <li>3. Det Konservative Folkeparti - Conservative People's Party - 4,9 %</li> <li>4. SF Socialistisk Folkeparti - Socialist People's Party - 9,2 %</li> <li>5. Dansk Folkeparti - Danish People's Party - 12,3 %</li> <li>6. Kristendemokraterne - Christian Democrats - 0,8 %</li> <li>7. Venstre, Danmarks Liberale Parti - The Liberal Party - 26,7 %</li> <li>8. Liberal Alliance - Liberal Alliance - 5,0 %</li> <li>9. Enhedslisten - Unity List - The Red-Green Alliance - 6,7 %</li> <li>10. Andet - Other - 0,1 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Social Democrats - Established in 1871. For many years the strongest party in Danish politics. Labour party advocating democratic socialism.</li> <li>2. The Radical Liberal Party ("The Radical Left") - Established 1905 as a splinter party from the Left Reform Party (not a socialist party but the present Liberal Party). The party is traditionally a centre party.</li> <li>3. Conservative People's Party - Established in 1915 based yhe former "the Right". A traditional conservative party.</li> <li>4. Socialist People's Party - Established 1959 by people expelled or having left the Communist Party. The party has a popular socialist profile and a (slowly softening) opposition to Denmark's EU membership.</li> <li>5. Danish 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.</li> <li>6. The Christian Democrats - Established 1970 as a christian party as they are known in the other Nordic countries. Are not represented in the Parliament since 2005.</li> <li>7. The Liberal Party ("Venstre" directly translated "Left") - established in 1870 as the United Left. Known as Left Reform Party 1895-1910. The party was traditionally representing the rural population but has since 1960's evolved towards a classical liberal party.</li> <li>8. 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.</li> <li>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-</li> </ol>

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

# Estonia

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Estonian
Year of last election:	2015
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eesti Reformierakond - Estonian Reform Party (27.7%)</li> <li>2. Eesti Keskerakond - Estonian Centre Party (24.8%)</li> <li>3. Erakond Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit - Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica (13.7%)</li> <li>4. Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond - Social Democratic Party (15.2%)</li> <li>5. Erakond Eestimaa Rohelised - Estonian Greens (8.1%)</li> <li>6. Eesti Konservatiivne Rahvaerakond (endine Rahvaliid) - Estonian Conservative Peoples party (N/A)</li> <li>7. Vene Erakond Eestis - The Russian Party in Estonia (N/A)</li> <li>8. Erakond Eesti Kristlikud Demokraadid - Estonian Christian Democrats (0.9%)</li> <li>9. Eesti Iseseisvuspartei - Estonian Independence Party (0.2%)</li> <li>10. Üksikkandidaadid - Individual candidates (N/A)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. The Estonian Centre Party (Estonian: Eesti Keskerakond) is a centrist and social liberal political party in Estonia. The Centre Party is a member of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party. The party was founded on 12 October 1991 from the basis of the Popular Front of Estonia after several parties split from it. At that time, the party was called People's Centre Party (Rahvakeskerakond) in order to differentiate from the smaller Rural Centre Party (Maa-Keskerakond). The party's chairman is Edgar Savisaar. The party claims that its goal is the formation of a strong middle class in Estonia. The Centre Party declares itself as "middle class liberal party"; however, against the backdrop of Estonia's economic liberal policies, the Centre Party has a reputation of having more left-leaning policies. The Centre Party has become by far the most popular party among Russians in Estonia.</li> <li>3. Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica (Estonian: Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit, IRL) is an Estonian political party. It was founded on 4 June 2006 when two conservative parties, Pro Patria Union and Res Publica merged. The party is a member of the European People's Party (EPP). It has about 8,500 members.</li> <li>4. The Social Democratic Party (Estonian: Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond or SDE) is a social democratic party in Estonia, led by Sven Mikser. It has been a member of the Party of European Socialists since 16 May 2003 and a member of the Socialist International since November 1990. It was formerly known as the Moderate People's Party (Rahvaerakond Mõõdukad). In 2012 Vene Erakond Eestis joined the Social Democrats.</li> <li>5. Estonian Greens (Erakond Eestimaa Rohelised) is an Estonian green political party. Dropped out from the Parliament in 2015 elections.</li> <li>6. Estonian Conservative Peoples party EKRE is an Estonian conservative and nationalist political party. It was founded in March 2012 when the agrarian centrist party People's Union of Estonia and the pressure group Estonian Patriotic Movement merged. The People's Union of Estonia was founded in 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. The first Chairman of the party was the previous President of the Republic of Estonia, Arnold Rüütel.</li> <li>7. Vene Erakond Eestis - The Russian Party in Estonia. Was unified with The Social Democratic Party in 2012.</li> <li>8. The Party of Estonian Christian Democrats (Erakond Eesti Kristlikud Demokraadid), formerly known as the Estonian Christian People's Union (Eesti Kristlik Rahvapartei) did not participate in election because of financial difficulties.</li> <li>9. The Estonian Independence Party (Estonian: Eesti Iseseisvuspartei, EIP) is a nationalist political party in Estonia. The party, founded in 1999, is a successor to the Estonian Future Party. One of the principal aims of the party is the withdrawal of Estonia from the European Union.</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>Nature of the electoral system and basic trends in voter participation</p> <p>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</p>

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. For elections to the Riigikogu there is a three-phase cycle of distributing mandates (personal mandate, electoral list mandate, compensation mandate), which implies the transfer of votes between candidates on the same list. As a result of such procedures, candidates for whom a voter has not voted may find themselves elected. Undoubtedly this principle decreases the legitimacy of the deputy and his or her involvement with the electorate in the people's eyes. The majority of systems of proportional representation also make use of an electoral threshold, with the aim of avoiding excessive fragmentation in the elected bodies. In Estonia the 5% threshold of votes across the country for Riigikogu elections is quite high. Source:  
[http://www.estonica.org/en/Society/Development\\_of\\_the\\_Estonian\\_political\\_landscape\\_until\\_2006/Nature\\_of\\_the\\_electoral\\_system\\_and\\_basic\\_trends\\_in\\_voter\\_participation/](http://www.estonica.org/en/Society/Development_of_the_Estonian_political_landscape_until_2006/Nature_of_the_electoral_system_and_basic_trends_in_voter_participation/)

More information:

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

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

# Finland

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Finnish
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<p>01. Kansallinen Kokoomus - The National Coalition Party - 20,38 %</p> <p>02. Ruotsalainen Kansanpuolue - Swedish People's Party of Finland - 4,28 %</p> <p>03. Suomen Keskusta - Centre Party - 15,76 %</p> <p>04. Perussuomalaiset - The True Finns Party - 19,05 %</p> <p>05. Suomen Kristillisdemokraatit - Christian Democrats - 4,03</p> <p>06. Vapauspuolue Suomen tulevaisuus - Freedom Party Finland's Future - 0,15 %</p> <p>07. Muutos 2011 - Change 2011 - 0,26 %</p> <p>08. Piraattipuolue - Pirate Party of Finland - 0,51 %</p> <p>09. Suomen Senioripuolue - Senior Citizens' Party of Finland - 0,11 %</p> <p>10. Itsenäisyyspuolue - Independence Party - 0,11 %</p> <p>11. Köyhien Asialla - For the Poor - 0,05 %</p> <p>12. Vihreä liitto - Green League - 7,25 %</p> <p>13. Suomen Sosialidemokraattinen Puolue - Social Democratic Party of Finland - 19,10 %</p> <p>14. Vasemmistoliitto - Left Alliance - 8,13 %</p> <p>15. Suomen Kommunistinen Puolue - Communist Party of Finland - 0,31 %</p> <p>16. Kommunistinen Työväenpuolue - Communist Workers' Party For Peace and Socialism - 0,05 %</p> <p>17. Suomen Työväen Puolue - Workers Party of Finland - 0,06 %</p>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. The National Coalition Party is a moderate conservative party and the main Rightist party in Finland. Founded in 1918, the National Coalition Party is one of the four largest parties in Finland.</p> <p>2. Swedish People's Party of Finland is the main political movement of the Swedish speaking population in Finland. Calls itself a "moderate liberal party". Swedish-speaking Finns' right to their own language and to maintain the Swedish language's position in Finland.</p> <p>3. Centre Party is the former Agrarian Union, clearly a right wing party. It is one of the four largest political parties in the country.</p> <p>4. The True Finns Party emphasizes conservative social values, socio-cultural authoritarianism, and ethnic nationalism, religion, Finnish traditions. Wants to limit immigration; The main go-home party.</p> <p>5. Christian Democrats is a small party emphasising christian values. The party describes itself as following the tenets of Christian Democracy.</p> <p>6. Freedom Party Finland's Future is a very small anti-immigration party.</p> <p>7. Change 2011 is a very small party emphasising direct democracy, freedom of speech and the interests of Finnish citizens.</p> <p>8. Pirate Party of Finland supports reform of copyright and patent law and free sharing of knowledge.</p> <p>9. Senior Citizens' Party of Finland is a very small centre-right party which aims to advance pensioners' interests.</p> <p>10. Independence Party is a small rightist party, wants the country to resign from EU.</p> <p>11. For the Poor is a very small party with no clear political profile.</p> <p>12. Green League emphasizes environmental issues and social liberal perspectives.</p> <p>13. Social Democratic Party of Finland is one of the four major political parties in Finland. The main Leftist party in Finland.</p> <p>14. Left Alliance is a party consisting of former members of the suppressed Communist Party and left-wing socialists. The second important leftist party.</p> <p>15. Communist Party of Finland is a very small party continuing the political traditions of the original Communist Party after its suppression. 1997.</p> <p>16. Communist Workers' Party For Peace and Socialism is a very small party continuing the political traditions of the original Communist Party after its suppression.</p> <p>17. Workers Party of Finland is a very small party on the extreme left.</p>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No

Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	The term is 4 years. Government formation follows parliamentarism, 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 (Parliament) are almost invariably nominated by a political party. Finland uses the d'Hondt constituency list system with only slight modifications. Under this system, elections are based on proportionality rather than on plurality, and seats are allotted to parties commensurately with the number of votes polled. Votes go to individual candidates, however, and voters indicate their preferred politician by circling the number assigned to him or to her on their ballots. There is no electoral threshold.
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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:	01. Nouveau Centre - New Centre - 2.20 % 02. FN (Front National) - National Front - 13.6 % 03. PR (Parti Radical Valoisien) - The Radical Party - 1.24 % 04. NPA (Nouveau Parti Anti-Capitaliste) - The New Anticapitalist Party - 0.30 % 05. LO (Lutte Ouvrière) - Workers' Fight - 0.49 % 06. FDG (Front de Gauche) - Left Front - 6.91 % 07. PG (Parti de Gauche) - Left party - N/A 08. MPF (Mouvement pour la France) - The Movement for France - 0.47 % 09. PS (Parti Socialiste) - Socialist party - 29.35 % 10. UMP (Union pour un Mouvement Populaire) - Union for a Popular Movement - 27.12 % 11. MODEM (Mouvement Démocrate) - Democrat Movement - 1.77 % 12. EELV (Europe Ecologie des Verts) - The Greens - Europe Ecology - 5.46 % 13. Autres mouvements écologistes - Other green movements - 0.96 % 14. Autre - Other parties - 8.48 % 15. Blanc 16. PCF (Parti Communiste Français) - French Communist Party - N/A 17. Parti Radical de Gauche - Left-wing radical party - 1.65 % 18. UDI (Union des démocrates indépendants) - The Union of Independent Democrats - N/A
Description of political parties listed above	1. New Centre, also known as the European Social Liberal Party (Parti Social Libéral Européen, PSLE) is a centre-right political party in France. 2. FN: Extreme right party. 3. PR: Center-Right Party. 4. NPA: Extreme Left Party. 5. LO: Trotskyist Party. 6. 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). 7. 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). 8. MPF: Conservative party 9. PS: Main left-wing party. 10. UMP: Main right-wing party. 11. MODEM: center party. 12. EELV: Green party. 13. Other ecological movements. 14. Other parties present in the last national elections.

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

# Germany

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	German
Year of last election:	2013
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands - CDU/CSU - Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (41.5%)</li> <li>2. Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands - SPD - Social Democratic Party(25.7%)</li> <li>3. Die Linke - The Left Party of Democratic Socialism (8.6%)</li> <li>4. Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen - Green Party (8.4%)</li> <li>5. Freie Demokratische Partei - FDP - Liberal Democratic Party (4.8%)</li> <li>6. Alternative für Deutschland - AfD -Alternative for Germany (4.7%)</li> <li>7. Piratenpartei - Pirate Party (2.2%)</li> <li>8. Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands - NPD - National Democratic Party / German People's Union (1.3%)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union. The CSU is the Bavaria-based sister party of the CDU. The CDU is one of the main national parties, based on Christian values. The social market economy is the basic topic of CDU policy.</p> <p>SPD: Social Democratic Party. The SPD is the second main national party. It was considered the working class party for a long time, today it calls itself a mainstream party striving for social justice.</p> <p>Die Linke (the Left Party) is a cooperation between the PDS (Party of Democratic Socialism, former SED) and the WASG (Labour and Social Justice – The Electoral Alternative), which was founded in 2004 by former SPD-members and trade unionists and became a political party in 2005. In June 2007, the two parties merged into Die Linkspartei or Die Linke (The Left). Therefore, the federal election of 2009 has been the first national electoral contest for this party.</p> <p>Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (the Green party). The Greens are a grassroots democratic party committed to promoting environmental issues, pacifism and equal rights for men/women, natives/immigrants etc.</p> <p>FDP: Free Democratic Party. The FDP upholds the tradition of liberalism, believing in increasing citizens' responsibility and reducing the role of government. It has been part of the national government for most of West Germany's post war history.</p> <p>AfD: The AfD ("Alternative für Deutschland") is a relatively new party which originally focused almost solely on criticism of the European monetary system and the Euro, including transfer payments to other European countries during the European financial crisis. Since then it has moved into what many commentators consider a right-wing populist party which criticises immigration to Germany and supports traditional family policies.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>NPD: National Democratic Party. The right-wing extremist party covers nationalistic issues like the REPUBLIKANER party, but is even more extreme and is closer to the Neo-Nazi-milieue.</p>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The Basic Law guarantees the right to vote by secret ballot in direct and free elections to every German citizen eighteen years of age or older. To be eligible to vote, an individual must have resided in a constituency district for at least three months prior to an election. Officials who are popularly elected include Bundestag deputies at the federal level, Landtag representatives or senate members at the Land level, and council members at the district and local levels.</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:	2014
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demokratikus Koalíció (DK) - Democratic Coalition - (NA)</li> <li>2. Együtt2014 - Together2014 - (NA)</li> <li>3. Fidesz – Magyar Polgári Szövetség Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt - Fidesz – Christian Democratic Alliance (45%)</li> <li>4. Jobbik (Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom) - Jobbik Movement for a Better HungaryKereszténydemokrata Néppárt - (20%)</li> <li>5. Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt - Christian Democratic Alliance - (NA)</li> <li>6. LMP (Lehet Más A Politika) - Politics Could Be Different - (5%)</li> <li>7. Magyar Szocialista Párt - Hungarian Socialist Party - (NA)</li> <li>8. Munkáspárt - Worker's Party - (0.5%)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Founded in 2011 by the former Prime Minister and Hungarian Socialist Party leader and member Ferenc Gyurcsány. The party defines itself as "Western", civic center-left with traditional socialist and social democratic values. Currently the party has no officially recognized fraction in the Hungarian Parliament.</li> <li>2. The original movement was in Autumn 2012 with the initial plan to create an umbrella organization of centre-left parties. It did not become a reality, so the movement transformed itself into party on 8 March 2013 (as only parties were allowed to participate in the election). Together with PM they won four seats in the national assembly out of which three belonged to Együtt.</li> <li>3. Fidesz – Magyar Polgári Szövetség Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt: is a party alliance consisting of the Alliance of Young Democrats and the Christian Democratic Party. A right wing, populist party serving its second term with a stable majority in the Parliament. Between 2010-2014 they had a 2/3rd majority and they won the 2014 able to form a 2/3 majority in the Parliament. Later in 2014 they lost their 2/3rd. History: FIDESZ started as an opposition alliance of young people in 1988 opposing communist rule and asking for democratic changes and free election. FIDESZ used to be a liberal pro-democratic party and changed its political agenda in the mid-1990ies when it turned away from liberal ideology and became a conservative, right wing political power within a few years, taking over this position from the collapsing Hungarian Democratic Forum (which formed the first government in 1990). The leader of the party has always been Viktor Orban with an overwhelming power within the party ever since its formulation. By today, the party is known for its illiberal ideology, anti-immigrant and xenophobic attitude coupled with populist governance.</li> <li>4. Jobbik (Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom) is an extrem right wing party in the Hungarian political palette. It was formed in 2003 and become popular in second part of the 2000nd by explicit and open xenophobic, militant, anti-Roma and anti-corruption discourse. It identifies itself with being "conservative and radically patriotic Christian party." They identify with the radical right ideology of the 1930ies and 1940ies. They voice a strong anti-EU opinion. They gained a stunningly high share of votes and have been on the rise ever the late 2000nds. The leader is Gábor Vona.</li> <li>5. The Christian Democratic People's Party (Hungarian: Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt, 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 and has been unable to get into the Parliament on its own since 1994 when it barely passed the election threshold of 5% of votes. Without Fidesz, its support cannot be measured</li> <li>6. LMP (Lehet Más A Politika): Politics could be Different (translation by the ESS team, as the party does not have an English homepage) was formed in 2009. According to its Funding Document is a liberal, center-left, community based party building also on conservative traditions. It has sustainability, ecology, social justice and community in its focus. It has always been a small party, about the threshold of 5% enabling it to enter the Parliament. It has gone through one major change; following an intensive debate whether to cooperate with the Socialist party in overthrowing the rule of FIDESZ on the 2014 parliamentary elections members of the party could not come to a consensus. On January 2013 appr. half of the members of the party have left the party and formed a new political party: Dialogue for Hungary.</li> <li>7. Hungarian Socialist Party was founded on 7 October 1989 by the reform wing of the ruling communist Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. MSZP was one of the two major parties in Hungarian politics until 2010, however the party lost much of its popular support as a result of 2006 protests and 2008 economic crisis. Still MSZP is the strongest left-wing opposition party in the parliament since 2010.</li> <li>8. Munkáspárt (Magyar Kommunista Munkáspárt) - Hungarian Communist Party was formed after the transition in 1989 on the ashes of the former Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (leading communist party). It is an extreme left wing but not radical party, identifying communist ideology. Ever since its formation it has not been able to pass the 5% threshold to enter the Parliaments.</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes

Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The Hungarian elections are regulated by the 2011/203 law. Elections have one round, but each voter gives two votes on the elections: one on a party list and one for the representative of the given electoral district (who may represent a party or be an independent candidate). The number of members of Parliament has been decreased from 386 to 199 in 2011 out of which 106 are representatives of a geographical district (direct election) and 93 are elected through party lists. The threshold for a party to enter the Parliament is 5% on the party list. For party coalitions the threshold is 10 or 15% depending on the number of parties participating in the coalition.</p> <p>Parliamentary elections are held every 4 years.</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"> <li>1. Fianna Fáil - Soldiers of Destiny (17.4%)</li> <li>2. Fine Gael - Tribe of the Irish (36.1%)</li> <li>3. Green Party (1.8%)</li> <li>4. Independent (12.6%)</li> <li>5. Labour (19.4%)</li> <li>6. People Before Profit (1.0%)</li> <li>7. Sinn Féin - Ourselves (9.9%)</li> <li>8. Socialist Party (1.2%)</li> <li>9. United Left Alliance (2.7%)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> <li>9. The United Left Alliance comprises the Socialist Party, the People Before Profit Alliance, the</li> </ol>

	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
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## 2. Electoral system

<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>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. 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>

# Israel

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2015
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zionist Camp - HaMahane HaTzioni (18.67%)</li> <li>2. Likud - Likud (23.40%)</li> <li>3. Yisrael Beiteinu - Yisrael Beiteinu (2.1%)</li> <li>4. Shas - Shas (5.74%)</li> <li>5. Meretz - Meretz (3.93%)</li> <li>6. The Jewish Home - The Jewish Home (6.74%)</li> <li>7. United Torah Judaism - United Torah Judaism (4.99%)</li> <li>8. Yesh Atid - Yesh Atid (8.82%)</li> <li>9. Kulanu - Kulanu (7.49%)</li> <li>10. Yachad - Yachad (2.97%)</li> <li>11. The Joint List - The Joint List (10.61%)</li> <li>12. The Arab List - The Arab List (0.10%)</li> <li>13. Ale Yarok - (1.12%)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. Zionist Camp. The Labor Party and Hatnuah agreed on 10 December 2014 to form a joint ticket. The list was established to create a large electoral list for the centre-left bloc, in the hope that it will form the 34th government. Hatnuah leader Tzipi Livni has said that other parties will also be part of the alliance. Livni and Labor leader Isaac Herzog said that if the alliance forms the next government, they would take turns in the role of Prime Minister, with Herzog serving for the first two years and Livni for the second two, in a compromise known as rotation.</p> <p>2. Likud (Hebrew: HaLikud, lit. The Consolidation) is the major center-right political party in Israel. It was founded in 1973 by Menachem Begin in an alliance with several right-wing and liberal parties. Likud's victory in the 1977 elections was a major turning point in the country's political history, marking the first time the left had lost power. In addition, it was the first time in Israel that a right wing party won the plurality of the votes. However, after ruling the country for most of the 1980s, the party lost the Knesset election in 1992. Nevertheless, Likud's candidate Benjamin Netanyahu did win the vote for Prime Minister in 1996 and was given the task of forming a government after the 1996 elections. 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 the 2006 elections. Following the 2009 elections, the party appears to have mostly recovered from its loss, and led the Israeli government under the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. In the 2013 election, the party won 20 seats, running on a joint list with Yisrael Beiteinu.</p> <p>3. Yisrael Beiteinu (Hebrew: lit. Israel Our Home) is a secularist and right-wing nationalist political party in Israel. The party's base has traditionally been secular, Russian-speaking Israelis. 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 primarily represents immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Although it has attempted to expand its appeal to a more veteran Israeli public, it has not been successful, and most of its voters are Russian-speaking. It takes a strong line towards the peace process and the integration of Israeli Arabs, characterized by its 2009 election slogan "No loyalty, no citizenship". Its main platform includes recognition of the two-state solution, the creation of a Palestinian state that would include an exchange of some largely Arab-inhabited parts of Israel for largely Jewish-inhabited parts of the West Bank. The party maintains an anti-clerical mantle and encourages socio-economic opportunities for new immigrants, in conjunction with efforts to increase Jewish immigration. In the 2009 election the party won 15 seats, its most to date, making it the third largest party in the previous Knesset. In the 2013 election, the party won 11 seats, running on a joint list with the Likud party.</p> <p>4. Shas (Hebrew: an acronym for Shomrei Sfarad, lit. Sfarad's guards (of the Torah)) is an ultra-orthodox religious political party in Israel. Founded in 1984 under the leadership of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, a former Israeli Sephardi chief rabbi, who remained its spiritual leader until his death in October 2013, it primarily represents the interests of Haredi-Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews. Originally a small ethnic political group, Shas is currently Israel's fifth largest party in the Knesset. Since 1984, it had almost always formed a part of the governing coalition, whether the ruling party was Labor or Likud. As of 2013, Shas members sat with Labor in the opposition due to disagreements with other right-wing parties in Netanyahu's coalition about conscription of the ultra-Orthodox into national service.</p> <p>5. Meretz (Hebrew: lit. Vigour) is a left-wing social-democratic and Zionist political party in Israel. The party was originally formed in 1992 with the union of Ratz, Mapam, and Shinui and was at its peak in the 13th Knesset between 1992 and 1996, during which it held 12 seats. At the 2013 legislative elections the party won six seats. The secular party emphasizes a two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, social justice, human rights (especially for ethnic and sexual minorities), religious freedom, and environmentalism.</p> <p>6. The Jewish Home (Hebrew: HaBayit HaYehudi) is a religious Zionist political party in Israel formed as the successor party to the National Religious Party. It was originally formed by a merger of the National Religious Party, Moledet and Tkuma in November 2008. However, after its top representative was placed 17th on the new party's list, Moledet broke away from the party, and instead ran on a joint list with Hatikva called the National Union. Tkuma also rejoined the National Union whereas the Ahi faction have joined Likud. For the 19th Knesset Elections, The Jewish Home and Tkuma parties merged their lists under the leadership of the chairman of The Jewish Home, Naftali Bennett; Uri Bank and his Moledet party supported the merger.</p> <p>7. United Torah Judaism (Hebrew: Yahadut HaTora HaMeuhedet; UTJ) is 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. The two parties have not always agreed with each other about policy matters. However, over the years they have cooperated and united as a voting bloc in order to win the maximum number of seats in the Knesset, since many extra votes can</p>

	<p>be wasted if election thresholds are not attained under Israel's proportional representation parliamentary system. When UTJ joined Ariel Sharon's coalition in 2004 it split into its two constituent factions of Degel HaTorah and Agudat Israel. Before the 2006 election, Degel HaTorah and Agudat Israel agreed to revive their alliance under the banner of United Torah Judaism to not waste votes and achieve maximum representation.</p> <p>8. Yesh Atid (Hebrew: lit. There is a Future) is a political party founded by former journalist Yair Lapid in 2012 that seeks to represent what it considers the center of Israeli society: the secular middle class. It focuses primarily on civic, social, and governance issues. In 2013, Yesh Atid placed second in the general election, winning 19 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, far more than polls had predicted it would win.</p> <p>9. Kulanu (Hebrew: lit. All of Us), also transliterated Koolanu,[3] is a political party in Israel led by Moshe Kahlon that focuses on economic and cost-of-living issues. The party was established on 27 November 2014 following months of speculation that Kahlon would form a new party after he took a break from politics in 2013. Opinion polls in the summer of 2014 had suggested that a new party formed by Kahlon could win 5–8 seats in the Knesset. On 8 December the party agreed on a vote-sharing arrangement with Yisrael Beiteinu for the March 2015 elections.</p> <p>10. Yachad. The party was established on 15 December 2014 following a rift between Shas leader Aryeh Deri and Yishai. Jewish Home member Yoni Chetboun announced on 14 December 2014 that he would join the party. Rabbi Meir Mazuz, the dean of the Kisse Rahamim yeshivah, has been named as the party's spiritual leader. Its name was not settled until it submitted its list of candidates for the 2015 elections, with early suggestions being Maran and HaAm Itanu (The Nation is with Us).</p> <p>11. The Joint List (Hebrew: HaReshima HaMeshutefet) is an Israeli Arab political alliance. The Joint List was formed in the build-up to the 2015 elections as an alliance of Balad, Hadash, the southern branch of the Islamic Movement, Ta'al and the United Arab List. The agreement between the parties was signed on 22 January, marking the first time the major Arab parties had run as a single list. Balad, Hadash and the United Arab List had run separately for elections since the 1990s (Balad and Hadash ran together in 1996), whilst Ta'al had run in alliance with all three during the 1990s and 2000s. However, the raising of the electoral threshold from 2% to 3.25% led to the parties creating an alliance to increase their chances of crossing the threshold, as both Hadash and Balad received less than 3% of the vote in the 2013 elections.</p> <p>12. The Arab List (Hebrew: HaReshima HaArvit) established on 2015 for the 2015 elections. The Arab List is an alliance of The National Arab Party and The Democratic Arab Party.</p> <p>13. Ale Yarok (Hebrew: lit. Green Leaf) is a liberal (or libertarian) political party in Israel best known for its ideology of decriminalizing cannabis. To date, it has had no representation in the Knesset. Ale Yarok did not meet the electoral threshold for inclusion in the 19th Knesset on 2013, picking up zero seats.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>Elections to the Knesset allocate 120 seats by party-list proportional representation, using the D'Hondt method. The election threshold for the 2006 election was set at 2% (up from 1.5% in previous elections), which is a little over two seats. The election threshold for the 2015 election was set at 3.25% (up from 2% in previous elections), which is four 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>

# 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"> <li>1. Lietuvos Respublikos liberalu sąjudis - Liberals' Movement of the Republic of Lithuania (LRLS) - 8.57 %</li> <li>2. Respublikonų partija - Republican Party (RP) - 0.27 %</li> <li>3. Darbo partija - Labour Party (DP) - 19.82 %</li> <li>4. Demokratine darbo ir vienybės partija - Democratic Labour and Unity Party (DDVP) - 0.32 %</li> <li>5. Tėvynės sąjunga - Lietuvos krikščionys demokratai - Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) - 15.08 %</li> <li>6. „Drasos kelias“ politinė partija - Political Party 'The Way of Courage' (DK) - 7.99 %</li> <li>7. Lietuvos lenkų rinkimų akcija - Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania (LLRA) - 5.83 %</li> <li>8. Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija - Lithuanian Social Democratic Party (LSDP) - 18.37 %</li> <li>9. Partija Tvarka ir teisingumas - Party Order and Justice (TT) - 7.31 %</li> <li>10. Lietuvos centro partija - Lithuanian Centre Party (LCP) - (Part of National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (ULL) (Nacionalinis susivienijimas 'Už Lietuvą Lietuvoje' )) - 0.94 %</li> <li>11. Lietuvos socialdemokratų sąjunga - Lithuanian Social Democratic Union (LSDS) - (Part of National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (ULL) (Nacionalinis susivienijimas 'Už Lietuvą Lietuvoje' )) - 0.94 %</li> <li>12. Tautininkų sąjunga - Nationalist Union (TS) - (Part of National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (ULL) (Nacionalinis susivienijimas 'Už Lietuvą Lietuvoje' )) - 0.94 %</li> <li>13. Tautos vienybės sąjunga - National Unity Union (TVS) - (Part of National Association 'For Lithuania in Lithuania' (ULL) (Nacionalinis susivienijimas 'Už Lietuvą Lietuvoje' )) - 0.94 %</li> <li>14. Krikščionių partija - Christian Party (KP) - 1.20 %</li> <li>15. Lietuvos žmonių partija - Lithuanian People's Party (LZP) - 0.25 %</li> <li>16. Socialistinis liaudies frontas - Socialist People's Front (SLF) - 1.21 %</li> <li>17. Lietuvos valstiečių ir žaliųjų sąjunga - Lithuanian Peasant and Greens Union (LVZS) - 3.88 %</li> <li>18. Partija „Jaunoji Lietuva“ - Party 'Young Lithuania' (JL) - 0.63 %</li> <li>19. Liberalų ir centro sąjunga - Liberal and Centre Union (LiCS) - 2.06 %</li> <li>20. Emigrantų partija - Emigrants' Party (EP) - 0.29 %</li> <li>21. Politinė partija „Sąjunga Taip“ - Political Party 'Union Yes' (ST) - 1.76 %</li> <li>22. Kovotojų už Lietuvą sąjunga - Union of Fighters for Lithuania (KLS)</li> <li>23. Lietuvos pensininkų partija - Lithuanian Pensioners' Party (LPP)</li> <li>24. Politinė partija „Lietuvos sąrašas“ - Political Party 'List of Lithuania' (LS)</li> <li>25. Politinė partija „Lietuvos žaliųjų sąjudis“ - Political Party 'Lithuanian Green Movement' (LZS)</li> <li>26. Tautinė partija Lietuvos kelias - National Party Way of Lithuania (TPLK)</li> <li>27. Žemaičių partija - Zemaiciai (Samogitian) Party (ZP)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>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.</p> <p>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 Valkiunas, who joined party in 2012.</p> <p>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 Loretta 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Sąjudis 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).</p> <p>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 paedophiles 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".</p> <p>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</p>

into the governing coalition of LSDP, TT and DP. However, after some disagreements with other governmental parties it left the governing coalition in 2014. 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) was 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 Lithuanian Social Democratic Union. 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). It stopped its activity in the end of 2014.

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. It 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

	<p>with the National Resurrection Party (TPP), however, it has lost its former support from the electorate. It merged with ST in 2014 to form Lithuanian Freedom Union (Liberals).</p> <p>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 electorate.</p> <p>21. Political Party 'Union Yes' (ST) is a minor centrist (liberal/Christian) party. It was founded in 2011 and was led by the long-term Vilnius mayor Arturas Zuokas. Many of its members have splintered from LiCS at different times. The party has representatives only at the Vilnius municipality. It merged with LiCS in 2014 to form Lithuanian Freedom Union (Liberals).</p> <p>22. 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 months 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 led 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>23. 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>24. 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>25. Political Party 'Lithuanian Green Movement' (LZS) was a minor green party established in 2011. In 2012 (after the Seimas elections) it was reorganised into the Lithuanian Green Party and is led by the former political advisor to the President Dalia Grybauskaitė Mr. Linas Balsys. It still does not have any significant support from the electorate.</p> <p>26. 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. Consequently, it merged with Lithuanian People's Party in 2014, led (at that time) by the first Prime Minister of the independent Lithuania - Kazimira Danute Prunskiene.</p> <p>27. 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 (Zemaitija). However, party did not receive any significant support from the electorate.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The only national level legislative assembly in Lithuania is the Seimas (the President is also elected by the popular vote). It is elected for 4 years term and consists of 141 members. 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 &gt; 40% OR 20% of votes from the registered voters if turnout &lt; 40%). Votes in a multi-member constituency are allocated on the basis of the simple quotient and greatest remainders rules (Hare quota). There are two thresholds of eligibility for seat distribution in a multi-member constituency: a) 5% of total votes for party lists and b) 7% of total votes for joint multi-party electoral lists. Voting is not compulsory. Voting age: 18 years.</p>

# 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"> <li>1. Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie, VVD - People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (26.6%)</li> <li>2. Partij van de Arbeid, PvdA - Labour Party (24.8%)</li> <li>3. Partij voor de Vrijheid, PVV - Party for Freedom (10.1%)</li> <li>4. Socialistische Partij, SP - Socialist Party (9.7%)</li> <li>5. Christen Democratisch Appèl, CDA - Christian Democratic Appeal (8.5%)</li> <li>6. Democraten 66, D66 - Democrats 66 (8.0%)</li> <li>7. ChristenUnie, CU - Christian Union (3.1%)</li> <li>8. GroenLinks, GL - Green Left (2.3%)</li> <li>9. Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij, SGP - Reformed Political Party (2.1%)</li> <li>10. Partij voor de Dieren, PvdD - Party for the Animals (1.9%)</li> <li>11. 50PLUS - 50PLUS (1.9%)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. PvdA is a leftist social democratic party, led by Mr. Samsom since 2012. It was founded in 1946 and now forms the coalition cabinet with the VVD.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4. 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.</li> <li>5. 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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>7. 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.</li> <li>8. 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.</li> <li>9. SGP is an orthodox Protestant party with conservative standpoints. The party was founded in 1918 and is led by Mr. Kees van Staij. 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.</li> <li>10. Partij voor de Dieren is a single-issue animal rights party with natural affinity for environmental issues (center-left).The party is led by Ms. Marianne Thieme.</li> <li>11. 50PLUS is a special interest party for the elderly. It was founded in 2009 and is led by Mr. Jan Nagel.</li> </ol>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The Dutch Parliament (called the Staten-Generaal) consists of two houses: the 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 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.</p>

# Norway

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2013
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<p>01. Rødt (R) - The Party Red - 1.1 %</p> <p>02. Sosialistisk Venstreparti (SV) - Socialist Left Party - 4.1 %</p> <p>03. Det norske Arbeiderparti (A) - Norwegian Labour Party - 30.8 %</p> <p>04. Venstre (V) - Liberal Party - 5.2 %</p> <p>05. Kristelig Folkeparti (KRF) - Christian Democratic Party - 5.6 %</p> <p>06. Senterpartiet (SP) - Centre Party - 5.5 %</p> <p>07. Høyre (H) - Conservative Party - 26.8 %</p> <p>08. Fremskrittspartiet (FRP) - Progress Party - 16.3 %</p> <p>09. Kystpartiet (KYST) - Coast Party - 0.1 %</p> <p>10. Miljøpartiet De Grønne (MDG) - Green Party - 2.8 %</p>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>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.)</p> <p>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. From 2005 to 2013 participating in the Red-Green Coalition with the Labour and the Centre Party. (4.1 % of votes in last national election.)</p> <p>3. Norwegian Labour Party is a social-democratic party with a hegemonic hold on government in post-war years. It was the senior partner in the (from 2005-2013) previous Norwegian government as part of the Red-Green Coalition. Jonas Gahr Støre replaced long-serving Jens Stoltenberg (2002-2014) as leader of the party in 2014, when the latter was appointed Secretary General of NATO. (30.8 % of votes in last national election.)</p> <p>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. (4.1 % of votes in last national election.)</p> <p>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. (5.6 % of votes in last national election.)</p> <p>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. (5.5 % of votes in last national election.)</p> <p>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. The Conservative Party currently holds the Prime Minister position (Erna Solberg) in Norway. (26.8 % of votes in last national election.)</p> <p>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 third largest party and since the 2013 elections junior partner in the Conservative Party-led minority coalition government. (16.3 % of votes in last national election.)</p> <p>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. (0.1 % of votes in last national election.)</p> <p>10. Green Party was formed in 1988 from a number of local environmental election lists. Following the 2013 elections, the party has one member of parliament, and, since the last local elections in 2011, representation in 16 municipality councils. The party does not have a leader in the traditional sense - it is led by the national board which currently (2015) consists of ten persons. (2.8 % of votes in last national election.)</p>

2. Electoral system	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No

<p>Description of the electoral system for this assembly:</p>	<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> <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.</p> <p>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</p>
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# 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"> <li>1. Kongres Nowej Prawicy - Congress of the New Right - (1.06%)</li> <li>2. Platforma Obywatelska Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (PO) - Civic Platform - (39.18%)</li> <li>3. Polska Jest Najważniejsza - Poland Comes First - (2.19%)</li> <li>4. Polska Partia Pracy–Sierpień '80 - Polish Labour Party-August '80 - (0.55%)</li> <li>5. Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (PSL) - Polish Peasants' Party - (8.36%)</li> <li>6. Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (PiS) - Law and Justice - (29.89%)</li> <li>7. Ruch Palikota (Ruch PL) - Palikot Movement - (10.02%)</li> <li>8. Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej (SLD) - Democratic Left Alliance - (8.24%)</li> <li>9. Other</li> <li>10. Polska Razem Zjednoczona Prawica (PR) - Poland Together United Right</li> <li>11. Ruch Narodowy (RN) - National Movement</li> <li>12.. Twój Ruch (TR) - Your Movement</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>1. Kongres Nowej Prawicy (KNP) [Congress of the New Right] – a conservative and highly eurosceptical party. It was established in 2011 by Janusz Korwin-Mikke (formerly the chairman of Unia Polityki Realnej, UPR [Real Politics Union]) under the name 'Nowa Prawica – Janusza Korwin-Mikke' [Congress of the New Right of Janusz Korwin-Mikke], then as 'Nowa Prawica' [New Right] and it adopted its current name in 2011. The party 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 a minimum wage threshold. In the 2011 elections the party did not attain the required minimum percentage of votes and stayed outside the parliament.</p> <p>2. Platforma Obywatelska Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (PO) [the Civic Platform of the Republic of Poland] – the ruling party with a centre-right orientation, strongly pro-European. The leading party in the government coalition since 2007. Member of the European People's Party. 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 first entered the Parliament in 2001. It won the 2007 parliamentary elections and formed a government coalition with PSL (line 4 in Z1.3 and see below). The support for the two coalition parties did not change significantly in the 2011 parliamentary elections: both set up a government again. However, since that time, the electorate of the party has shrunk and it is not clear if the party can still hold onto power after the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 2015. Also, the results of the presidential elections, held in May 2015, confirmed a weaker position of PO. Unexpectedly, the candidate supported by PO, who was running to be re-elected (president Komorowski, previously the Speaker of Parliament and member of PO), lost to Andrzej Duda, a candidate supported by PiS, the main opposition party. Undoubtedly, PO scored a success when its leader Donald Tusk (prime minister in 2007–2014) got elected President of the European Council. Donald Tusk was the longest-standing prime minister in the history of Poland's democracy after 1989. Ewa Kopacz, a co-chair of PO and the Speaker of the Parliament at that time, and Health Minister in 2007–2011, replaced Donald Tusk in both roles (prime minister and party leader). As a ruling party, PO is criticised for failing to conduct reforms announced before two subsequent elections (in 2007 and 2011). On the other hand, those reforms which were implemented fell under severe critique. Implementation of the pension reform was not consulted with the public (protests by trade unions). During the implementation of the health care system reform serious problems were revealed (scandals related to changes in the list of government-refundable medicines and medical treatments guaranteed to patients who have medical insurance). The party initially put a strong focus on the liberal economic stance, yet starting from the 2007 election campaign the party modified its image, stressing the importance of welfare-oriented solutions. In the ideological sphere, (e.g. civil unions, abortion), the party is trying to hold onto centrist views, which ends in criticism from the right-wing circles (incl. those related to the Roman Catholic Church in Poland) as well as left-wing ones. In recent years, a few well-known politicians with conservative views left PO (see TR).</p> <p>See also: NTS documentation of political parties for ESS Round 6 in Poland More information about the party in English can be found on the following website: <a href="http://www.platforma.org/en/">http://www.platforma.org/en/</a></p> <p>3. Polska Jest Najważniejsza (PJN) [Poland Comes First] – a centre-right party. PJN was formally registered in 2011 but was formed in 2010 by a breakaway group from PiS after a conflict with the PiS chairman Jarosław Kaczyński. Initially, the party had its representatives in the Polish Parliament and the European Parliament. However, in the 2011 elections it did not attain the required minimum number of votes 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 that of PiS. In 2013, it joined the new centre-right party PR (see below).</p> <p>4. Polska Partia Pracy – Sierpień '80 (PPP) [Polish Labour Party-August '80] – a left wing party. During the 2011 parliamentary elections, Polska Partia Pracy (PPP) [Polish Labour Party] joined forces with the radical trade union 'Sierpień 80' [August '80], a socialist grouping relying on the traditions of workers' movement. PPP was founded in 2001 as Alternatywa – Partia Pracy [The Alternative – Labour Party]. It acquired its current name in 2004. The party 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. In September 2015 the party joined the electoral alliance 'United Left Forces' (see above) to run in the 2015 parliamentary elections.</p> <p>5. Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (PSL) [Polish Peasants' Party] – a centre-right party with a traditional outlook. The party is agrarian and professes euroscepticism (sceptical about the European integration and potential threats to agriculture). Importantly, PSL has been present in</p>

all subsequent Polish parliaments since 1989. The media call it 'a rotary party' due to its ability to form a coalition with any winning party.

The party was formed in 1990 on the basis of several groupings. A high proportion of its activists originate from Zjednoczone Stronnictwo Ludowe (ZSL) [United People's Party]. In the communist period, ZSL was formally a governing partner in the ruling coalition but in reality it was a satellite party of the Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza, (PZPR) [Polish United Workers' Party], representing PZPR in rural areas.

Originally, PSL was a left-wing party, entering into coalitions with the post-communist Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej (SLD, see below) [Democratic Left Alliance] but the alliance broke down later. Since then PSL has moved towards more centrist and conservative policies. In the 2007 parliamentary elections PSL received just under 9% of votes and is currently part of the government coalition with the PO [Civic Platform]. This is the second term of this coalition, which first ruled after the 2007 parliamentary elections and then after the 2011 elections. It can be observed that the traditional rural electorate of PSL has been shrinking, migrating towards PiS.

In the 2015 presidential elections, the PSL candidate Adam Jarubas (vice-president of PSL) received 1.60% of votes. This weak result also indicates that the chances for PSL candidates to be elected to the new parliament after the October 2015 elections might be slim.

6. Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (PiS) [Law and Justice] – the largest opposition party with a strong right-wing orientation, moderately eurosceptical. It is a member of the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists (AECR), a European political party.

PiS was founded in 2001 by brothers Jarosław Kaczyński and Lech Kaczyński. The party often stresses the importance of dealing with the communist past and focuses on fighting with corruption. It was a leading party in the government in 2005–2007. After the 2007 elections and until today PiS has been the key rival to the ruling PO. PiS is critical about the government's performance in almost all spheres. PiS attaches a great importance to tighter relations with the USA, accentuating the protection of Poland's interest within the EU and highlighting potential threats. PiS also criticises PO in foreign policy for taking a weak position in the negotiations of the 2014–2020 EU budget, which resulted (in the view of PiS) in cutting financial aid for Poland. The PiS candidate Lech Kaczyński won the 2005 presidential elections, outperforming Donald Tusk (the PO candidate). Lech Kaczyński was the President of Poland until his death in 2010 in the air-crash at Smolensk-North airport in Russia. PiS criticises the government for not spending enough time to clarify the causes of that accident 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).

After the subsequent presidential elections in 2010, lost by the PiS candidate Jarosław Kaczyński, a group of politicians expelled from PiS established a grouping called Polska Jest Najważniejsza [Poland Comes First] (see line 6 in Z1.3 and below). A similar situation took place after the 2011 parliamentary elections, again lost by PiS: a number of PiS activists (incl. a key member and 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 (SP) [United Poland] (see also NTS Documentation of political parties for ESS Round 6). After those developments PiS became a far-right party and its electorate shrank significantly.

However, before the local elections in 2014, SP and PR decided to become allies and support the PiS candidate in presidential elections. In the 2015 parliamentary elections, the candidates supported by SP and PR will be running from PiS electoral lists.

Political surveys conducted before and during the ESS 7 fieldwork showed, however, that the electorate of PiS was steadily expanding before the October 2015 elections. The presidential elections in 2015 were won by the PiS candidate Andrzej Duda. Since that victory the electorate of PiS continues to grow even more rapidly.

7. Ruch Palikota (RP) [Palikot Movement] – a centre-left (liberal and anti-clerical), pro-European party. It was founded by a former key member of PO Janusz Palikot in October 2010. During the ESS 5 Palikot Movement was known as Ruch Poparcia [Support Movement]). The party competes against the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD, see line 5 and below) 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 existing anti-abortion law and legalisation of soft drugs. This party is very active in the media, and more radical than SLD when criticising the privileges enjoyed by the Roman Catholic church in Poland. It 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 income tax, stimulation of entrepreneurship) but, on the other hand, it also supports an active role of the government in the economy (during 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 even more critical about PiS, the main opposition party. Ruch Palikota quite unexpectedly made it to the Polish parliament in the 2011 elections, something that no other new party had achieved for many years. In October 2013, the party was renamed into its current name Twój Ruch [Your Movement], see line 11 in Z1.3 and below.

8. Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej (SLD) [Democratic Left Alliance] – a centre-left, pro-European party (it advocates Poland's further integration with the EU structures).

SLD was established as a single party in 1999 but had been formed in 1991 as an electoral alliance of centre-left parties. The highest proportion of its activists originate from Socjaldemokracja Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (SdRP) [Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland], a descendant of the communist party Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza (PZPR) [Polish United Workers' Party], disbanded in 1989. One of its creators and leading figures was Aleksander Kwasniewski (former Polish president from 1995 to 2005).

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 voters with TR but is usually less radical than the latter in matters related to world outlook and morals. 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 public support (to 11%). This was related to the so-called Lew Rywin corruption scandal. It broke out in the media towards the end of 2002, then an investigation in the parliament ensued, ending in 2004 with a prison sentence for the famous Polish film producer Lew Rywin. Also other scandals emerged, resulting in an escalation of conflict within the party. Since that time, SLD has struggled to regain popularity. In the 2011 parliamentary

	<p>elections it attracted approx. 8% votes. It has remained in opposition since 2005: it criticises the activities of PO (as a governing party) but is even more critical towards PiS. In the 2015 Polish presidential elections the SLD candidate Magdalena Ogorek received 2.4% of votes. As a response to such poor performance, SLD formed an electoral alliance called 'United Left' (see below) together with Your Movement, Labour United, The Greens, and the Polish Labour Party (joined later) to run in the 2015 parliamentary elections.</p> <p>10. Polska Razem Zjednoczona Prawica (PR) [Poland Together United Right] – a right-wing party. PR was founded in 2013 by a former PO member Jaroslaw Gowin (former Minister of Justice) and members of PJN (see above) under the name of 'Polska Razem Jaroslawa Gowina' [Jaroslaw Gowin's Poland Together]. In 2015 the party acquired its current name. In the 2015 parliamentary elections, its candidates will be running from PiS electoral lists.</p> <p>11. Ruch Narodowy (RN) [National Movement] – a far-right party. RN was formed after the so-called Polish Independence March in 2012. The party was founded in 2015 as an electoral alliance of right-wing and far-right nationalist political movements in Poland: Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (ONR) [National Radical Camp], Młodzież Wszechpolska (MW) [All-Polish Youth], and Unia Polityki Realnej (UPR) [Real Politics Union].</p> <p>12. Twój Ruch (TR) [Your Movement] – a centre-left (liberal and anti-clerical), pro-European party. (Previously: Ruch Palikota (RP) [Palikot Movement], see line 3 in Z1.3 and above). In October 2013, Ruch Palikota was renamed and re-established as Twój Ruch (TR) [Your Movement] trying to extend its electorate. The party joined small grouping Racja PL [Reason Party] (anti-clerical, social democratic), and started to collaborate with the Social Democracy of Poland, Labour United and Union of the Left. In the 2015 presidential elections, Janusz Palikot, the candidate of TR, received very low support. As the party competes for left-wing voters, in July 2015 it formed an electoral alliance together with the Social Democracy of Poland, Labour United, The Greens and the Polish Labour Party (which joined later) to run in the 2015 parliamentary elections under the umbrella name of 'United Left Forces'.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The 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. 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.</p> <p>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>

# Portugal

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Portuguese
Year of last election:	2015
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bloco de Esquerda (BE) - Left Block - 10.19 %</li> <li>2. Centro Democrático Social /Partido Popular (CDS/PP) - Social Democratic Centre - Popular Party - PAF</li> <li>3. CDU – Coligação Democrática Unitária (PCP-PEV) - Unitarian Democratic Coalition - 8.25 %</li> <li>4. Partido Comunista dos Trabalhadores Portugueses- Movimento Reorganizativo do Proletariado Português (PCTP-MRPP) - Communist Party of the Portuguese Workers / Reorganizative Movement of the Portuguese Proletariat - 1.11 %</li> <li>5. Partido Democrático do Atlântico (PDA) - Democratic Party of the Atlantic</li> <li>6. Partido Humanista (PH) - Humanist Party</li> <li>7. Nova Democracia (PND) - New Democracy</li> <li>8. Partido Nacional Renovador (PNR) - National Renewal Party - 0.50 %</li> <li>9. Partido Operário de Unidade Socialista (POUS) - Workers Party of Socialist Unity</li> <li>10. Partido Social Democrata (PPD/PSD) - Social Democratic Party - PAF</li> <li>11. Partido Socialista (PS) - Socialist Party - 32,31 %</li> <li>12. Votou em branco / nulo - Voted blank - 3.75 %</li> <li>13. Outro - Other - 3.79 %</li> <li>14. PAF (PSD-CDS) - PAF ("Portugal Ahead" - coalition PSD-CDS) - 36,86 %</li> <li>15. PAN - PAN (People, Animals, Nature) - 1.39 %</li> <li>16. Livre - Free - 0.73 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BE - Left Block is a left wing party established in 1999 through the fusion of the three other parties: União Democrática Popular (Popular Democratic Union), Partido Socialista Revolucionário (Revolutionary Socialist Party) and Política XXI (XXI Politics). Other small political groups and trends also join the party. It adopts a wide range of left wing policies.</li> <li>2. CDS/PP - The Social Democratic Centre – Popular Party is a right wing conservative party that was founded in 1974. This Party has made alliances with the Social Democratic Party. In 1979 this alliance also included the Monarchic Party and was called the “Democratic Alliance”. In 2002, when the Social Democratic Party won the legislative elections and after 20 years, another alliance was made with this party, called the “Democratic Coalition”. In 2011, the CDS-PP was invited again to form a coalition government with the winning party, Social Democracy Party.</li> <li>3. PCP-PEV - Unitarian Democratic Coalition - It is a coalition of two portuguese parties - the Partido Comunista Português (Portuguese Communist Party) and the Ecological party. The Portuguese Communist Party is a left wing party. It is Marxist -Leninist party and its organization is based on democratic centralism. The party was born in 1921 as the Portuguese section of the International Communist Party. By the end of this decade the party would become illegal by the dictatorship installed in Portugal which lasted for five decades. The Portuguese Communist Party would play an important role against the dictatorship. Since the Portuguese Revolution (April 25th 1974) against dictatorship, the Portuguese Communist Party has been an important political force, being very close to the working class. This party has made alliances at the local level with the Socialist Party. The Partido Ecologista – Os Verdes (The Ecological Party –The Greens) is a left wing ecological party born in 1982. The party's political concerns refer to promoting an active intervention regarding the environment.</li> <li>4. PCTP-MRPP - Communist Party of the Portuguese Workers / Reorganizative Movement of the Portuguese Proletariat (PCTP-MRPP) - It is generally the biggest of the small parties, although it seldom reaches 1% of the votes. It has no representation in the national parliament. It was founded in 1976 and it is a left wing party, with a maoist inspiration.</li> <li>5. PDA - 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.</li> <li>6. PH - 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. (Did not take part in October 2015 elections)</li> <li>7. PND - 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. (Did not take part in October 2015 elections)</li> <li>8. PNR - The National Renewal Party is the more extrem right-wing party in Portugal. It is a nationalist party, defending policies against immigration and defending the values of the nation. It was found in 2000 and has no representation in the national parliament. It is a member of the European National Front.</li> <li>9. POUS - 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. (Did not take part in October 2015 elections)</li> <li>10. PPD/PSD - 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</li> </ol>

	<p>2002 with Durão Barroso, with an alliance with Social Democratic Centre – Popular Party. Durão Barroso would then leave to be the President of the European Commission, and due to instability and lack of leadership within the party, elections were called in 2005 and the Socialist party won. The Social Democratic Party has won election again in 2011, forming a government in coalition with the The Social Democratic Centre – Popular Party.</p> <p>11. PS -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> <p>15. Pessoas-Animais-Natureza – People-Animals-Nature (PAN). PAN is a post-materialist party that strongly rejects anthropocentrism and speciesism and is mainly concerned with the attainment of an "ecological harmony" between people, animals and nature, as its name suggests. It is therefore an ecology party particularly focused on animal welfare and animal rights. Ideologically PAN presents itself as a centrist party, as far as possible above the left-right divide. Among other things it proposes the suppression of entertainments that use violence towards animals, such as bullfighting; the amendment of the Constitution in order to consecrate the animal rights to life and well-being; and the adoption of Gross National Happiness as a new way of measuring development, complementary to the GDP.</p> <p>16. LIVRE/Tempo de Avançar – FREE/ Time to Advance (L/TDA). LIVRE is a left-liberal political party which resulted from the gathering of some dissatisfied left-wing individuals who, for the most part, had until then been either militants or supporters of one of the various Portuguese leftist parties. Ideologically LIVRE can be described as a subscriber of the progressive ideas of the New Left of the 1960s and 1970s. It is viscerally against communism and is primarily devoted to such issues as social fairness, income redistribution, multiculturalism, gay rights, gender equality, abortion and environmental protection.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>The Parliament of the Portuguese Republic consists of a single chamber, the Assembleia da República or Assembly of the Republic, composed of 230 members directly elected by universal adult suffrage for a maximum term of four years. Assembly members represent the entire country, rather than the constituencies in which they were elected. Governments require majority support in the Assembly in order to remain in office.</p> <p>Each one of Portugal's eighteen administrative districts, as well as each one of the country's two autonomous regions - the Açores (Azores) and Madeira - is an electoral constituency. Portuguese voters residing outside the national territory are grouped into two electoral constituencies - Europe and the rest of the world - each one of which elects two Assembly members. The remaining 226 seats are allocated among the national territory constituencies in proportion to their number of registered electors.</p> <p>Political parties and party coalitions may present lists of candidates. The lists are closed, so electors may not choose individual candidates in or alter the order of such lists. Electors cast a ballot for a single list. The seats in each constituency are apportioned according to the largest average method of proportional representation (PR), conceived by the Belgian mathematician Victor d'Hondt in 1899. There are no legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats.</p>

# Slovenia

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Slovenian
Year of last election:	2014
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DeSUS, DEMOKRATIČNA STRANKA UPOKOJENCEV SLOVENIJE - Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia (10.2%)</li> <li>2. Državljska lista - Civic List (N/A)</li> <li>3. NOVA SLOVENIJA, KRŠČANSKI DEMOKRATI - New Slovenia Christian People's Party (5.6%)</li> <li>4. POZITIVNA SLOVENIJA - Positive Slovenia (N/A)</li> <li>5. SD, SOCIALNI DEMOKRATI - Social Democrats (6.0%)</li> <li>6. SLOVENSKA DEMOKRATSKA STRANKA (SDS) - Slovenian Democratic Party (20.7%)</li> <li>7. SLOVENSKA LJUDSKA STRANKA - Slovene People's Party (N/A)</li> <li>8. SMC STRANKA MIRA CERARJA - Party of Miro Cerar / Party of Modern Center (34.5%)</li> <li>9. VERJAMEM! LISTA DR. IGORJA ŠOLTESA - I Believe! Party of Igor Šoltes (N/A)</li> <li>10. ZAVEZNIŠTVO ALENKE BRATUŠEK - Alenka Bratusek Alliance (4.4%)</li> <li>11. KOALICIJA ZDRUŽENA LEVICA (DSD, IDS IN STRANKA TRS) - United Left (6.0%)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DeSUS - DEMOKRATIČNA STRANKA UPOKOJENCEV SLOVENIJE - Left, Party of Pensioners, part of the coalition</li> <li>3. NOVA SLOVENIJA - KRŠČANSKI DEMOKRATI - Right, Christian, small party, opposition</li> <li>5. SD - SOCIALNI DEMOKRATI - Left, part of the coalition</li> <li>6. SLOVENSKA DEMOKRATSKA STRANKA - SDS - Right, second largest government party, opposition</li> <li>8. SMC STRANKA MIRA CERARJA - Centre, largest government party, coalition</li> <li>10. ZAVEZNIŠTVO ALENKE BRATUŠEK - Left, small and new party, opposition, derived from disintegrated Pozitivna Slovenija (PS)</li> <li>11. KOALICIJA ZDRUŽENA LEVICA (DSD, IDS IN STRANKA TRS) - Left, new party, opposition</li> </ol>

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

# Spain

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	Spanish
Year of last election:	2011
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partido Popular (PP) - People's Party - 44.62 %</li> <li>2. Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) - Spanish Socialist Workers' Party - 28.73 %</li> <li>3. Convergència i Unió (CiU) - Convergence and Union - 4.17 %</li> <li>4. Izquierda Unida (Iniciativa per Catalunya) (IU - ICV in Catalonia) - United Left, Initiative for Catalonia - 6.92 %</li> <li>5. Amaiur/Bildu - 1.37 %</li> <li>6. Unión, Progreso y Democracia (UPyD) - Union, Progress and Democracy - 4.69 %</li> <li>7. Partido Nacionalista Vasco / Euzko Alderdi Jeltzalea (PNV) - Basque Nationalist Party - 1.33 %</li> <li>8. Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC) - Republican Left of Catalonia - 1.05 %</li> <li>9. Bloque Nacionalista Galego (BNG) - Galician Nationalist Bloc - 0.75 %</li> <li>10. Coalición Canaria / Nueva Canaria (CC - NC) - Canarian Coalition / New Canarias - 0.59 %</li> <li>11. Compromís EQUO - Compromise EQUO - 0.51 %</li> <li>12. Foro de Ciudadanos (FAC) - Forum of Citizens - 0.40 %</li> <li>13. Geroa Bai - Yes to the future - 0.17 %</li> <li>14. Unión del Pueblo Navarro (UPN) - Navarrese People's Union - (Stood together with PP at general elections)</li> <li>15. Podemos - We can - (Did not exist in 2011)</li> <li>16. Ciudadanos - Citizens - (Did not run in the 2011 general elections)</li> <li>17. Candidatura d'Unitat Popular (CUP) - Popular Unity Candidacy - (Did not run in the 2011 general elections)</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PP (Conservatives, right wing). Originally named Alianza Popular, it was founded in 1976 by Manuel Fraga (a former Minister of Franco's regime). It was relaunched in 1989 adopting a new denomination: People's Party. It was the incumbent party between 1996 and 2000 (minority government), 2000 – 2004 (majority government), with J.M. Aznar as Prime Minister. It won the 2011 general elections (186 seats) and Mariano Rajoy became Prime Minister.</li> <li>2. PSOE (Socialdemocrats, centre-left). It was founded in 1879 by Pablo Iglesias. In its 28th Congress (1979) the party agreed to move away from its Marxist ideology. It was the incumbent party between 1982 and 1993 (majority governments) and between 1993-1996 (minority government). During that time, Prime Minister was Felipe González. The PSOE also ruled between 2004 and 2011 (minority government, 110 seats in the Congress of Deputies), with José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero as Prime Minister. He ruled with the support of ad-hoc legislative majorities.</li> <li>3. CiU (Catalan nationalists, centre-right). Founded in 1979, it is a coalition of the 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. The CiU ruled in the regional government of Catalonia between 1983 and 2003 and again, since 2010. Since 2012, the CDC has adopted a position in favour of the secession of Catalonia from Spain. In november 2014, the CDC promoted a popular consultation on the political future of Catalonia. The CDC position in favour of secession from Spain is not shared by the UDC. At the 2011 legislative national elections, the CiU got 16 seats.</li> <li>4. IU (Left-wing). Founded in 1986, the IU is a political coalition made up of leftist, greens, socialist, left-wing republicans and the Communist Party of Spain (PCE). In Catalonia, it takes part in general elections forming a 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 Alberto Garzón. In the term 2011-15 IU is part of the parliamentary group named the Plural Left, and it has 11 seats in the Spanish lower chamber (Congress of Deputies), including 2 from ICV and 1 seat from Chunta Aragonesista, a small left-wing regionalist party from Aragón).</li> <li>5. Amaiur/Bildu (Basque secessionist party, left wing). Its roots are connected with Batasuna, a secessionist party that did not reject the strategy and actions of terrorist group ETA. Batasuna has adopted many forms and different names over the years, partly as a result of a change of its strategy and partly as a result of being banned by different decisions by the Constitutional or the Supreme Court. Amaiur was founded in 2011, as a coalition of parties from the Basque Country and Navarre. Eusko Alkartasuna, Alternatiba (both of which had been part of Bildu and (which had been created after ETA cease fire in January 2011), and Aralar (formed from a split of Batasuna) participate in this coalition. Amaiur also included independent individuals of the nationalist left (ezker abertzalea), some of whom had been part of Batasuna. It obtained 7 seven seats in the 2011 general elections</li> <li>6. UPyD (Social liberalism/centre, against Catalan/Basque nationalism). It was founded in 2007 by Rosa Díez, former high-ranked politician of the PSOE (former member of the Basque government, head of list for the 1999 European Elections). The party does not define itself as left or right. It claims for the regeneration of Spanish democracy and it fiercely opposes all forms of nationalism as well as separatist movements. It defends a stronger central state, and it fights decentralisation. Its leader is Rosa Díez. It won 5 seats at the 2011 legislative elections.</li> <li>7. PNV - (Basque nationalism, Centre). It was founded by Sabino Arana in 1895. Originally, it was a Catholic conservative party and it sought self-government for the Basque Country. 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. It obtained 5 seats in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies at the 2011 general elections.</li> <li>8. ERC - (Catalan secessionist party, left). 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 party has a clear stand for Catalonia's secession from Spain. Its leader is Oriol Junqueres. In the 2012 Catalan regional elections it became for the first time the second largest party in the Catalan parliament, replacing the PSC (Partit dels Socialistes</li> </ol>

	<p>Catalans), the Catalan branch of the PSOE. It is the CiU partner in the Catalan parliament. It got 3 seats in the 2011 Spanish general elections.</p> <p>9. BNG (Galician nationalism, left) It was founded in 1982 by Xosé Manuel Beiras. The BNG claims for further promoting the Parliament of Galicia self-government, and the recognition of Galicia as a nation. Between 2005 and 2009, the BNG was a coalition partner in the Galician government, together with the PSG, the Galician Branch of the PSOE. In 2012, Beiras and other members of the BNG abandoned it, and formed secessionist parties. It obtained 2 seats in the 2011 elections to the Spanish Parliament.</p> <p>10. CC (Canarian nationalism, centre/centre-right). It was founded in 1993, and formed from a grouping of different parties (Agrupaciones Independientes de Canarias, Iniciativa Canaria Nacionalista, Asamblea Majorera, Partido Nacionalista Canario, Centro Canario Independiente). The main goal of the CC is to get greater self-government for the Canary Islands. The party has ruled the regional government in the Canary Islands since 1993. In 2011, it ran in the general elections in coalition with Nueva Canarias, a center-left Canarian-oriented political party, and obtained 2 seats in the Congress of Deputies.</p> <p>11. Coalició Compromís EQUO (Eco-socialism, left). Coalició Compromís was founded in 2010. It is a regionalist political party, based in the Comunidad Valenciana. It was originally an electoral coalition made up of the Valencian Nationalist Bloc, the left-wing Valencian People's Initiative, and environmentalist parties. Its leader is Mónica Oltra. The coalition got one seat in the 2011 general election.</p> <p>12. Foro de Ciudadanos (Conservative, regionalist party) Foro de Ciudadanos o Foro Asturias was founded in 2011 by a former leader of the PP, Francisco Álvarez Cascos (who had been Deputy Prime Minister in the first term of José María Aznar (1996-2000), and Minister in the second term (2000-04). It is a regionalist party based in Asturias. It obtained 1 seat at the 2011 general elections.</p> <p>13. Geroa Bai (Basque secessionist, centre-left). It is a secessionist electoral coalition formed in 2011. It is based in Navarra. The parties involved in the coalition are PNV, Atarrabia Taldea and the Zabaltzen association. These groups have previously participated in general elections in Navarra together with Eusko Alkartasuna and Aralar. In 2003 all these groups formed the electoral coalition Nafarroa Bai. However, in 2011, both Eusko Alkartasuna and Aralar entered the coalition Amaiur, while Geroa Bai stood at those general elections on its own, obtaining one seat at the Congress of Deputies.</p> <p>14. UPN (Conservative, regionalist party). It is a conservative regional party characterised by its opposition to Basque nationalism. From the early 1990s, UPN has acted as the Navarrese branch of the PP (which, in return, has not run at Navarrese elections as a part of their agreement.)</p> <p>15. Podemos (Left-wing). Podemos originated in the aftermath of the 15M or Indignados protests. It was founded in January 2014. In the European Parliament elections in 2014, Podemos received 8% of the total vote and quickly grew in the electoral support anticipated by election polls and in its presence in the media (especially his leader, Pablo Iglesias). The party and its leaders repeatedly present Podemos as a citizens' platform appealing people with no ideology or from the two sides of the ideological spectrum. Despite this, general population surveys carried out by CIS show that the electorate clearly places it in the left (average of 2-2,5 on a scale from 1-10).</p> <p>16. Ciudadanos/Ciudadans (Center/ against nationalist/secessionist movements). It was formed in Catalonia in July 2006 in response to the call made in a manifesto by a group of well-known figures in Catalanian civic society. This manifesto called for forming a new political party which was not "another" representative of the Catalan nationalism, and that would defend the use of Spanish in Catalonia. The leader is Albert Rivera. It has 9 deputies in the Parliament of Catalonia. It won 2 seats in the 2014 elections to the European Parliament. In addition to its opposition to nationalist-separatist movements, the party has insisted on themes such as the struggle against corruption. Since the 2014 European elections it has run state-wide and sub-national elections in all Autonomous Communities, as well as the 2015 general elections, becoming thus a state-wide party. The party tries to avoid defining itself as either right or left: according to CIS surveys it is located around position 6 (average) by the electorate on a 1-10 scale.</p> <p>17. CUP (Secessionist Catalan, left) It has traditionally concentrated on local politics and has mostly participated in municipal elections. In 2012, the CUP for the first time decided to present a party-list at the elections to the Catalan Parliament, obtaining three seats (out of 135). So far they have not had candidates in any Spanish general elections.</p>
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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	The legislature Spain (Cortes Generales) consists two chambers, the Congreso de los Diputados or Congress of Deputies, and an upper house, the Senado or Senate. Congress has greater legislative power than the Senate. The Congress of Deputies is composed of 350 members directly elected by universal adult suffrage for a four-year term of office. Each one of Spain's fifty provinces is a constituency entitled to an initial minimum of two seats while the

	<p>cities of Ceuta and Melilla elect one member each. The remaining 248 seats are allocated among the fifty provinces in proportion to their populations. Parties, federations, coalitions and agrupaciones de electores (electors' groups) may present candidates or lists of candidates in each constituency. The lists are closed, so electors may not choose individual candidates or alter the order of candidates in such lists. Electors cast a ballot for a single list, or for a single candidate in Ceuta and Melilla. The seats in each constituency are apportioned using the d'Hondt formula in 1899. In order to participate in the allocation of seats, a list must receive at least three percent of all valid votes cast in the constituency, including blank ballots. The single-member seats in Ceuta and Melilla are filled by the plurality or first-past-the-post method, i.e. the candidate obtaining the largest number of votes in the constituency is elected..</p>
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# Sweden

<b>1. Political parties</b>	
Language used in data file:	Swedish
Year of last election:	2014
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Centerpartiet - Centre party - 6.11 %</li> <li>2. Folkpartiet liberalerna - Liberals - 5.42 %</li> <li>3. Kristdemokraterna - Christian Democrats - 4.57 %</li> <li>4. Miljöpartiet de gröna - Green party - 6.89 %</li> <li>5. Moderata samlingspartiet - Conservatives - 23.33 %</li> <li>6. Socialdemokraterna - Social democrats - 31.01 %</li> <li>7. Vänsterpartiet - Left party - 5.72 %</li> <li>8. FI (Feministiskt initiativ) - Feminist Initiative - 3.12 %</li> <li>9. Piratpartiet - The Pirate Party - 0.43 %</li> <li>10. Sverigedemokraterna - Sweden Democrats - 12.86 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Centern/Centre party: Belong to the right coalition, but place in the middle on the left right scale. Connected to farmers and people living in rural areas.</li> <li>2. Folkpartiet/Liberals: Belong to the right coalition, but place in the middle on the left right scale.</li> <li>3. Kristdemokraterna/Christian Democrats: Belong to the right coalition. Adhere many non religious people on issues of moral.</li> <li>4. Miljöpartiet/Green party: Belong to the red-green coalition.</li> <li>5. Moderaterna/Conservatives: Belong to the right coalition. More liberal (in an economic sense) than conservative.</li> <li>6. Socialdemokraterna/Social democrats: left, part of the red-green coalition</li> <li>7. Vänsterpartiet/Left: to the left, former communist party, part of the red-green coalition (red-green coalition dissolved after the 2010 election)</li> <li>8. Feministiskt initiativ/Feminist Initiative: feminist party.</li> <li>9. Piratpartiet/The pirate party: Focusing on laws regulation copyright and patents and personal privacy.</li> <li>10. Sverigedemokraterna/Sweden democrats: nationalist right-wing party, established 1988, elected for the first time into the Riksdag (parliament) in 2010.</li> </ol>

<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	Yes
Two or more votes registered:	No
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	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"> <li>1. Union démocratique du centre (UDC) // Schweizerische Volkspartei (SVP) // Unione democratica di centro (UDC) - Swiss People's Party - 26,6 %</li> <li>2. Parti socialiste (PS) // Sozialdemokratische Partei (SP) // Partito socialista svizzero (PS) - Socialist Party (social democrats) - 18,7 %</li> <li>3. PLR. Les Libéraux-Radicaux // FDP. Die Liberalen // PLR. I Liberali Radicali - FDP. The Liberals (Radical Liberals) - 15,1 %</li> <li>4. Parti démocrate-chrétien (PDC) // Christlich-demokratische Volkspartei (CVP) // Partito Popolare Democratico (PPD) - Christian Democrats - 12,3 %</li> <li>5. Les Verts (PES) // Grüne Partei (GPS) // I Verdi - Partito ecologista svizzero (I Verdi) - Green Party - 8,4 %</li> <li>6. Parti vert liberal (PEL / PVL) // Grünliberale (GLP) // Partito Verde-Liberale - Green Liberal Party - 5,4 %</li> <li>7. Parti bourgeois démocrate (PBD) // Bürgerlich-demokratische Partei (BDP) // Partito borghese democratico (PBD) - Bourgeois (Conservative)-democratic Party - 5,4 %</li> <li>8. Parti évangélique (PEV) // Evangelische Volkspartei (EVP) // Partito evangelico (PEV) - Evangelical People's Party - 2,0 %</li> <li>9. Union démocratique fédérale (UDF) // Eidgenössische Demokratische Union (EDU) // Unione Democratica Federale (UDF) - Federal Democratic Union - 1,3 %</li> <li>10. Lega dei Ticinesi // Lega dei Ticinesi // Lega dei Ticinesi - Ticino League - 0,8 %</li> <li>11. Parti du travail (PdT) / Parti ouvrier populaire (POP) // Partei der Arbeit (PdA) // Partito del lavoro (PdL) - Swiss Labour Party - 0,5 %</li> <li>12. Mouvement des Citoyens Romands // Mouvement des Citoyens Romands // Mouvement des Citoyens Romands - Movement of the Citizens of French-speaking Switzerland - 0,4 %</li> <li>13. Parti Chrétien Social (PCS) // Christlich-soziale Partei (CSP) // Partito cristiano sociale (PCS) - Christian Social Party - 0,3 %</li> <li>14. La Gauche // Alternative Linke - Alternative Left - *</li> <li>15. Politische Frauengruppe St.Gallen - Political women's group - *</li> <li>16. Parti Pirate // Piratenpartei // Partito Pirata - Pirate Party Switzerland - 0,5 %</li> </ol>
Description of political parties listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Swiss people party ==&gt; Right, conservative Founded in 1936 from an association of farmers and artisans, this party became more and more populist, especially its rightwing. 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.</li> <li>2. Socialist party ==&gt; Centre-left (= social democrats) As a merge of several cantonal workers' parties, the Socialist/Socialdemocratic Party was 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.</li> <li>3. FDP. The Liberals (Radical Liberals) ==&gt; 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 130 000, it has by far the most members of all Swiss parties. "FDP. The Liberals" form their own faction in the National Council and are assigned 11 seats in the Council of States.</li> <li>4. Christian democrats ==&gt; Centre-right, conservative This party was 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.</li> <li>5. Green party ==&gt; Left, centre left Born from the environmental movement, this party was founded 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.</li> <li>6. Green liberal party ==&gt; Centre, liberal Founded in 2007, they immediately won a seat in the Council of 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.</li> <li>7. Bourgeois (Conservative) - Democratic Party of Switzerland ==&gt; Centre right</li> </ol>

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 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%).

#### 15. Politische Frauengruppe ==> centre left

Founded in 1981 in St. Gallen, feminist group defending gender equality and more largely those "who have no voice in our society".

#### 16. Pirate Party Switzerland ==> Center, liberal, thematic

The Swiss Pirate Party was 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.

#### 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 the dealt subjects. In general, the small parties join their forces into 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 cantons Radicals are more close to Christian-democrats.

#### GENERAL ABOUT SWISS PARTIES

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.

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

	<p>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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<b>2. Electoral system</b>	
<b>Number of votes registered in the election for primary legislative assembly at the national level:</b>	
Only one single vote registered:	No
Two or more votes registered:	Yes
Description of the electoral system for this assembly:	<p>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 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 <a href="http://www.ch.ch">www.ch.ch</a> and <a href="http://www.parlament.ch">www.parlament.ch</a></p> <p>The National Council comprises 200 members who represent the Swiss people. The individual cantons are represented in proportion to the number of their inhabitants. Each canton is a constituency, and each returns at least one member. The National Council is elected using a system of proportional representation, whereby each party is allocated a number of seats in proportion to its numerical strength. The candidates who receive the highest number of votes obtain the seats won by their party. Unlike majority voting, proportional representation allows smaller parties to obtain a seat in parliament.</p> <p>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>

# United Kingdom

1. Political parties	
Language used in data file:	English
Year of last election:	2010 although some fieldwork was conducted after the election in 2015 and for those cases, the question referred to the 2015 election. Share of vote is provided for both elections below - 2010 followed by 2015.
Official party names, English names/translation, and size in last election:	<p>Conservative - 36.1 %; 36.9 %</p> <p>Labour - 29.0 %; 30.4 %</p> <p>Liberal Democrat - 23.0 %; 7.9 %</p> <p>Scottish National Party - 1.7 %; 4.7 %</p> <p>Plaid Cymru - 0.6 %; 0.6 %</p> <p>Green Party - 0.9 %; 3.8 %</p> <p>UK Independence Party - 3.1 %; 12.6 %</p> <p>Ulster Unionist Party - 0.4 %; 0.4 %</p> <p>Democratic Unionist Party - 0.6 %; 0.6 %</p> <p>Sinn Fein - 0.6 %; 0.6 %</p> <p>Social Democratic and Labour Party - 0.3 %; 0.3 %</p> <p>Alliance Party - 0.1 %; 0.2 %</p> <p>Traditional Unionist Party - 0.1 %; 0.1 %</p> <p>Green Party Northern Ireland (size included in Green Party above)</p> <p>Independents (Size unavailable)</p> <p>People Before Profit Alliance 0.0 %; 0.0 %</p>
Description of political parties listed above	<p>Conservative - traditionally right-leaning party. Was in coalition with the Liberal Democrats until 2010, now governing as single party.</p> <p>Labour - traditionally left-leaning party. Currently in opposition.</p> <p>Liberal Democrat - traditionally central though now more left wing. Was previously in office in coalition with the Conservative party</p> <p>Scottish National Party - Regional Scottish party which campaigns for the independence of Scotland from the United Kingdom. Social democratic leaning. Significant upsurge in popularity at 2015 election, largest party in Scotland.</p> <p>Plaid Cymru - Regional Welsh party, supports independence for Wales, a view to attain Full National Status, left-leaning/social democracy</p> <p>Green Party - in England and Wales only, follows traditions of Green politics</p> <p>UK Independence Party - a right-wing party primarily campaigning for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union</p> <p>Ulster Unionist Party - regional party supporting the Union - has fielded joint candidates with the Conservative party in the past</p> <p>Democratic Unionist party - regional party, largest unionist party in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Sinn Fein - Regional party in Northern Ireland, aim of a creating a united Ireland</p> <p>Social &amp; Democratic Labour Party - social democratic Irish nationalist political party in Northern Ireland, supports Irish reunification and devolution of powers to Northern Ireland while part of the UK.</p> <p>Alliance Party - regional party in Northern Ireland, liberal, aim to promote unity within Northern Ireland</p> <p>Traditional Unionist Voice Party - regional party, largest unionist party in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Green Party (nir) - a regional party campaigning on environmental issues in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Independents (nir) - used to include independent (non-affiliated) candidates standing in elections in Northern Ireland constituencies</p> <p>People Before Profit Alliance - a socialist party in Ireland</p>

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