

Representation in Europe

Policy Congruence between Citizens and Elites
REPCONG

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Team – Principal Investigators

University of Vienna

1 Post Doc – 1 Pre Doc

University of Lausanne

1 Post Doc – 1 Pre Doc

University of Konstanz

1 Post Doc – Student Assistants

Trinity College Dublin

1 Pre Doc

Team – Collaborators

Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen
Forschung (**FWF**) – Austria

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (**DFG**) –
Germany

Irish Research Council of Humanities and
Social Sciences (**IRCHSS**) – Ireland

Schweizerischer Nationalfond (**SNF**) –
Switzerland

Funding Organizations

- 1) What determines the level of policy congruence between citizens and elites? What impact do political institutions and direct democracy have on policy congruence
- 2) What impact has the level of policy congruence on the perception of and satisfaction with democracy?

General Research Questions

- Establishing *measures* for policy congruence
- Establishing *factors* that determine policy congruence
- Making empirically informed judgments about *degrees of representation*
- Contributing to debate on the *democratic deficit* of the EU
- Creating *database* that unites political data on citizens, parties and legislatures

Objectives

- Team Vienna: policy congruence at the **European level** – collecting individual level data
- Team Konstanz: policy congruence at the **national level** – collecting national electoral manifestos
- Team Dublin: impact of policy congruence on **satisfaction with democracy** – collecting European electoral manifestos
- Team Lausanne: impact of **direct democracy** on policy congruence

IP Contributions

- Start: July 1, 2008 – End: June 30, 2011
- Year 1:
 - Theoretical frameworks
 - Data Collection
 - Database design
- Year 2:
 - Calculation policy congruence measures
 - Designing multi-level models
 - Statistical analyses
- Year 3:
 - Empirical analyses (continued)
 - Dissemination

Work Plan

- **ECPR General Conference** 2009 in Potsdam – Section on *Policy Representation in Comparative Perspective*
- **Publication projects:** e.g. special issue in a scientific journal, book, co-authored papers
- Methodological **workshops** (e.g. hierarchical models)
- **Working group meetings** (at least twice a year)
- Short-term **research visits**
- **Final Conference**

REPCONG activities