



European  
University  
Institute

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies



# European Union Democracy Observatory

**Annual Report 2010**

**Florence, November 2010**

## **EUDO Annual Report 2010**

### **Content**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Introduction  | 1  |
| I. EUDO General   | 2  |
| I.1 Activities 2009/2010  |    |
| I.2 Outlook for 2011  |    |
| II.1 EUDO Observatory on Public Opinion, Political Elites and the Media | 5  |
| II.1.1 Activities and Research  |    |
| II.1.2 Events   |    |
| II.1.3 Outlook for 2011   |    |
| II.2 EUDO Observatory on Political Parties and Representation           | 11 |
| II.2.1 Activities and Research  |    |
| II.2.2 Events   |    |
| II.2.3 Outlook for 2011   |    |
| II.3 EUDO Observatory on Institutional Change and Reforms               | 16 |
| II.3.1 Activities and Research  |    |
| II.3.2 Events   |    |
| II.3.3 Outlook for 2011   |    |
| II.4 EUDO Observatory on Citizenship                                    | 19 |
| II.4.1 Activities and Research  |    |
| II.4.2 Events and Dissemination Activities                              |    |
| II.4.3 Outlook for 2011   |    |
| III. People   | 24 |
| IV. Selected Publications   | 30 |

## Introduction

The European Union Democracy Observatory (EUDO) is an independent and interdisciplinary academic organization fully-integrated within the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS). Its declared **goals** are:

To translate scientific and academic research on the key issues of European democracy into policy-relevant and publicly-understandable outputs.  
To produce a permanent and periodic evaluation of democratic practices within the EU.

To develop practical suggestions for improving democratic performance in the EU.

To offer expertise, information, and policy reports on relevant EU institutions.

To serve as a forum where research results, experiences, ideas, and good practices can be exchanged between scholars and policy-makers.

The **primary focus of EUDO in 2009** was the consolidation of its structures and, most importantly, the establishment of its platform. These efforts entailed the setting up of the academic and

administrative EUDO-team and planning development for the EUDO-website and its interactive elements. In addition, several research projects were conducted and various conferences, seminars and the like were organized. At the end of 2009 and **in 2010**, these efforts continued and EUDO managed to win a number of tenders and to carry out several research projects, to attract external funding and to reach out to the wider academic and policy-making community. In addition, the EUDO working paper series as well as the EUDO debate web-forum started and several other initiatives have been initiated. For **2011**, EUDO's aim is to continue this work and to keep on down the road to becoming a leading research centre for EU democracy. To do so, we intend to strengthen EUDO's interdisciplinary approach.

In this **annual report** we will present the EUDO activities from **the end of 2009 and 2010** and give an overview of work planned for 2011. The report is structured as follows: section I will present EUDO activities from the last year and the outlook for 2011 at the general EUDO level. Section II contains a more detailed account of activities and work in the four EUDO Observatories. In section III an overview of the people involved in EUDO in 2010 will be presented, section IV lists selected publications from 2010.



## I. EUDO General

At the end of 2009 EUDO began to make a name for itself with the EUDO Launch Conference, a major event which took place at the European University Institute 3 and 4 December of that year. In 2010, EUDO attracted external funding for research projects, of which some have already been completed while others are ongoing. Further external funding applications have been submitted or are in the pipeline. The EUDO data centre was also created, offering a broad range of research results and data in an innovative and easily accessible way, and the first “EUDO Café” debate was launched. In addition, conferences and seminars were organised and the EUDO website was continuously developed.

### I.1 Activities 2009/2010

#### **EUDO Launch Conference:**

##### **“Observing European Democracy”**

On 3 and 4 December 2009, experts from academia and the policy-making community gathered and exchanged their views on the most pressing issues regarding EU democracy, while also formally launching the EUDO platform. The Conference was structured into four panels, one per Observatory. Each panel was introduced by the two directors who set out the *ratio* of their Observatory, the research focus and any activities carried out in 2009. This presentation was followed by contributions on the part of scholars from different Universities in Europe (such as University College Dublin, Sciences Po Paris and the University of Zurich) and from practitioners (from the Council of Europe, from the European Commission and from the European Parliament) and a lively discussion involving all the Conference participants and the audience. The Conference ended with a Roundtable where 9 key stakeholders (such as Giuliano Amato, Josep Borrell, Ambassador Alexis Lautenberg and MEP Carlo

Casini) presented their ideas for the future of European Democracy.

#### **EUDO Website Platform and Visibility**

In 2010 EUDO has devoted particular attention to making EUDO events visible and accessible online: abstract videos, pictures and audio files of the EUDO Launch Conference (December 2009) and of other EUDO events are now accessible at the website ([www.eudo.eu](http://www.eudo.eu)). In March 2010 the EUDO Café was launched: <http://debate.eudo.eu/cafe/>. The EUDO Café is a place for discussing the challenges facing democracy in today's Europe. It hosts periodical, invited posts inspired by current events in worldwide and European politics, by groundbreaking EUDO research, as well as by debates in the media. Posts will be open for discussion to everyone: scholars, politicians, journalists and citizens. As its name suggests, the EUDO Café is supposed to be a place for free-flowing, open discussion on the general issues and challenges facing democracy in Europe. Its aim is to attract academic experts, practitioner and ‘regular citizens’ alike. So far, five contributions have been published: “Reforming the European Parliament” by Peter Mair, “The New Semipresidential EU” by Josep Colomer, “The Protracted Revolution” by Dorothee Bohle, “Can Europe Go in Two Directions at Once?” by Richard Rose, “Brussels Establishes a New Fund to Promote European Citizenship”, by MEP Daniel Hannan and “The Countdown for the 2014 Elections to the European Parliament Must Begin Now” by Wojciech Gagalek.

In May 2010, EUDO also published on its website and circulated among academics and practitioners worldwide its first Newsletter presenting the main activities carried out by EUDO and its Observatories. EUDO has also created a Facebook group and a Twitter account.

#### **EUDO Data Centre**

EUDO is currently developing a EUDO Data Centre. Relying on the Dataverse software developed at Harvard, the centre will consist of a web-based repository for the distribution and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data and research results produced or acquired by EUDO



projects. The centre, organized in observatory- and project-level collections, will make studies available by providing data access and downloads – complete with accurate citation information – as well as detailed information about all the institutional subjects involved in each study. Access and use of the studies will be regulated, but public access and use – upon specific and sensible terms – will be possible for an important part of the collections. A trial version of the EUDO Data Centre is now available online: <http://www.eui.eu/Projects/EUDO/EUDODataCentre.aspx>.

#### **EUDO Working Paper Series**

The EUDO working paper series started in Decem-

ber 2009 and is a core element of EUDO's efforts in disseminating high-quality research. The working papers cover a broad range of issues, which the four EUDO Observatories deal with. So far three EUDO working papers have been published (available at the EUDO website: <http://www.eui.eu/Projects/EUDO/EUDOWorkingPaperSeries.aspx> and others are underway or being reviewed.

#### **EUDO Dissemination Conference: “Approaching European Democracy”**

The EUDO Dissemination Conference will take place 18 and 19 November 2010 in conjunction with the Piredeu Conference in Brussels in order to fully connect EUDO activities to EU in-

stitutions. This Conference will offer the results of EUDO's documentation gathering to a wider public and connect too with civil society. The Conference will bring together more than 100 high-level academics and external experts (politicians, policy-makers, civil-society leaders).

The Conference will be organized, like last year, into four panels. The aim of each panel will be to discuss the activities achieved by each Observatory in 2010 in terms of data gathering and analysis. Each panel will have three leading academics (the two Observatory directors and an external academic), a policy-maker (an MEP, a representative of the European Commission or a representative of the Council) and a representative from civil society. Each panel will be followed by a discussion. The Conference will end with a roundtable (on European Democracy in times of crises) and with a novel show-case session where the public will have access to EUDO Data Centre through special computer stations and will be guided in the use of the tools developed by the four Observatories.

## I. 2 Outlook for 2011

In 2010, EUDO will concentrate and streamline its efforts to become a leading and broadly known hub in EU democracy research. It is our intention that EUDO will become one of the leading sources that academics, policy-makers and ordinary citizens turn to, when they look for information and research on democracy in the EU. To do so, research and initiatives will increasingly be interlinked and developed encouraging interdisciplinary cooperation between all four observatories and the wider EUI community. The inter- and multi-disciplinary character of EUDO will be fostered and used to create even more synergies and to conduct common research projects and studies as well as for submitting common funding applications. Linked to these internal efforts there will be external activities: inviting more external scholars and research centres to join the EUDO network and cooperating with other leading actors in the field. Regarding the strengthening of

the interdisciplinary character and related activities, EUDO and its observatories will strive in 2011 to attract still more considerable structural funding, in order to become more independent and so as to only rely on revenue created by individual projects. In addition, such funding needs to be gradually increased and stabilised in order to guarantee enough structural funds from 2013 onwards, when funding from the EUI Research Council will end.

In terms of concrete activities, the further advancement of the EUDO Data Centre will be of central importance in 2011. Not only do we want to prepare and to include all "our" data, but we are already preparing several cooperation agreements with other academic projects to include their data and research results as well. Furthermore, 2011 will see the enlargement of the debate section in terms of frequency and topics covered and the working paper series will be expanded. Further publications are in the pipeline and EUDO will continue to make maximal use of new media and technologies. Audio files and videos as well as other technological means to present EUDO events and research will be used and EUDO intends to become a fore-runner in using new technologies to present and give access to academic output. In addition to this, 2011 will see another EUDO dissemination conference and we have the ambitious aim of presenting there or soon after the first general report on the state of EU democracy.



## II.1 EUDO Observatory on Public Opinion, Political Elites and the Media



The Observatory on Public Opinion, Political Elites and the Media focuses on the analysis of the attitudes and preferences of publics, the media and the elites, and has the aim of measuring the extent to which these converge or

diverge, in which field and in which direction. It is managed by Mark Franklin (EUI) and Alexander H. Trechsel (EUI). In the European Parliamentary Elections year 2009, this Observatory almost exclusively dedicated its work to these elections. In particular, two major research projects PIREDEU and EU Profiler generated in a combined effort possibly the largest data collection on public opinion among European voters yet achieved. In 2010 the data analysis was further refined and discussed in a continuous dialogue between academia and the policy-making community. The first studies, based on these data, were produced and published throughout 2010.

### II.1.1 Activities 2009/2010

#### PIREDEU (Providing an Infrastructure for Research on Electoral democracy in the European Union)

PIREDEU is co-ordinated by the RSCAS and has its origins in the European Election Studies (EES). The project involves more than 20 participating researchers from some 14 institutions in Western and Eastern Europe and a large community of affiliated experts from all EU member states. The pan-European project is funded by the European Union under the Seventh Framework Programme from 2008 up to 2011. It assesses the feasibility of an upgrade to European Election Studies that will provide an infrastructure for research into citizenship, political participation, and electoral democracy in the European Union (EU). This assessment is conducted in the context of a pilot study of the 2009 elections to the European Parliament that collected linked data regarding voters, candidates, party manifestos and media activities. These data have already given rise to a number of conference papers and to a Special Issue of *Electoral Studies* that will be published in December 2010. Additional publications are planned – especially a book-length compendium of papers that will be presented at the PIREDEU final conference (see below).



In 2009 and 2010, preparations were made to link the data from PIREDEU with data collected by this Observatory's other major data collection enterprise – the EU Profiler (see below). The EUDO Observatory has contributed to the success of the PIREDEU project by funding the linking of the PIREDEU voters study with the EU Profiler and, in the process, helping to fund the pre-linking of the PIREDEU components. A number of co-ordinated research activities are currently being undertaken as data from both projects become available. Most importantly, the linking of the PIREDEU voters study with data collected by the EU Profiler enables us to evaluate the EU Profiler data in terms of how well it provides coverage of the electorates of the countries where it was deployed. At the same time, this evaluation gives a set of electorate weights for each country that will enable that study to be employed as though it had derived from a random sample. Furthermore, the linking of the two studies permits the PIREDEU voters study to import from the EU Profiler, data on voter preferences regarding issues about which PIREDEU was unable to ask questions for lack of questionnaire space. The EU Profiler's large battery of issue questions hugely increases the value of the data collected by PIREDEU and enables more elaborate analyses to be conducted in partnership between these two projects, studying the impact of issues on party preferences in the European Parliament elections of 2009.

The work will also be supported by Dr. Danilo di Mauro, Marie Curie Fellow for the "Initial Training Network ELECDem", who will be at the EUI between September 2010 and August 2011. Dr. di Mauro will focus on a new initiative within EUDO to provide continuous monitoring of developments in public opinion as revealed by new survey data as this becomes available from the Eurobarometer, European Social Survey and other regular surveys that cover all or most EU countries. This work will leverage the work of the PIREDEU study, providing added value to new survey data by linking it to previously collected but relatively unchanging data (e.g. regarding party positions) derived from PIREDEU and the EU Profiler.

### **EU Profiler**

The EU Profiler voting advice application (VAA) for the European Parliament elections of June 2009 was the first Europe-wide tool of its kind. The research project was developed under the auspices of EUDO, in a consortium with the Amsterdam-based company Kieskompas and the NCCR Democracy (University of Zurich/Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau)/Politools network. It also involved the active participation of the Observatory on Political Parties and Representation (OPPR – see below). More than 120 academic collaborators contributed to the project and currently the huge amount of data that was generated by coding the parties and by users filling in the questionnaire is being analysed by the research team. During the period in which the EU Profiler tool was online (from 23 April 2009 until the elections in June) it attracted more than 2.5 million users. It was a huge success in terms of user numbers, press coverage and the general publicity it gained. In October 2009 the EU Profiler won the prestigious World e-Democracy Forum Award during a ceremony in the French Parliamentary Assembly.

The EU Profiler and its follow-up work have two aims. First of all, during the election campaign and before the elections took place, it was a means for voters to obtain an unobstructed view of the European political landscape and their place within it. Voters, who wanted to gain an overview of the parties' positions on a number of salient political issues, could position themselves with 30 statements in a simple questionnaire. This allowed them to compare their stances to those of the parties and to grasp not only what national but also what European parties had on offer. With easy to understand analyses and visualisations, the user got the opportunity to gain knowledge about what was at stake in the elections and which parties were closest to his or her preferences.

As well as offering a tool that allows voters to inform themselves on the elections and the European political landscape, the EU Profiler team had a strong academic interest in generating research data related to the European elections. First of all, with the coding of 274 European parties, the team

obtained an immense database on the positions of scores of European parties on current political issues. The data on party positions has been made available to any interested researcher through the EUDO Data Centre. It is public and freely downloadable. Furthermore, the opinions of users complemented a dataset, the like of which has never been seen. Overall, the EU Profiler provided academics with an enormous amount of innovative data to conduct research on the European electorate and the European political landscape. At the moment, various research projects are being carried out on the basis of this data. The tool is accessible at [www.euprofiler.eu](http://www.euprofiler.eu) and more information can be found on the EUDO-website. Users of the EUDO platform have already been provided with the possibility of accessing the first, preliminary presentation of the EU Profiler data. They can explore the positions of political parties in all 30 European countries and the interactive 3-D Political Landscape for each country, representing the answers of almost one million users across all Europe. In the fall of 2010 EUDO made the raw user data available to all EU Profiler collaborators in tab-delimited format. It will be made available to the wider public after Easter 2011 within the EUDO Data Centre.



### EU Profiler e-book

Based on the EU Profiler, numerous researchers involved in the project contributed to an electronic book on the European Parliamentary elections. The “2009 Elections to the European Par-

liament – Country Reports”, edited by Wojciech Gagattek, is perhaps the first publication of this kind to date in the field. It contains four introductory chapters, investigating various aspects of these elections comparatively, as well as 24 country reports, offering reliable analyses written by country experts. The originality of this publication is twofold. First, given that a the wider public expects comparative, reliable information on this election, and given that actors, such as political parties, civil-society organisations, politicians and journalists may also like to have clear, succinct, and understandable analyses which they can use in their own work, the authors of this volume particularly wanted to avoid using overly academic vocabulary or sophisticated statistical analyses so that these chapters are written in a jargon-free fashion. Each chapter is, therefore, relatively short (6-7 pages), and follows the same structure, with four clearly-defined sections: Background, Issues, Campaign and Results. Second, this publication will be available on-line for free. In this manner, the range of potential readers is likely to be large, and even ordinary citizens may read all or parts of the book. The eBook was published in mid-April 2010 and can be downloaded (for free) at: <http://www.eui.eu/Projects/EUDO/eBook.aspx>

### Possible cooperation with the Visitors’ Centre of the European Parliament and Eurobarometer

The European Parliament has requested permission to use the EU Profiler as an installation in its visitor’s centre, whose opening is foreseen for the beginning of 2011. Currently, the observatory is in discussion with the European Parliament to establish under which conditions such a use would be possible.

Furthermore, we had informal deliberations with the European Commission (DG COMM) on possible cooperation between the EU Profiler and Eurobarometer. Such a cooperation could open up extensive possibilities with regard to Europe-wide public opinion research on many political and social issues and would link up with our aforementioned efforts to institute a continuous monitoring of new public opinion surveys.

## Comparative Study on EU Member States Consultations with Civil Society on European Policy Matters

In December 2009 EUDO won a tender from the European Social and Economic Committee (EESC) to produce a comparative study on Member State consultations with civil society on European policy matters. The aim of the study is to map and analyse consultation with civil society at the national level, in order to offer policy advice on how to improve EESC-led consultative processes. The project is led by Didier Chabanet, who is supported by a project coordinator and a team of appointed country experts consisting of EUI researchers and external fellows trained in the field. The country experts collect and analyse information about the way in which the “voice” of civil society is represented, not only at the national level, but in particular through EESC-led consultative processes. The study, which is almost completed, contains 27 national reports and a cross-country comparison.

### Project “Puzzled by Policy”

The Observatory formed part of a larger consortium that won, in December 2009, a tender in the framework of the European Commission’s “Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme”, ICT Policy Support Programme (Objective Theme 3: ICT for governance). The project aims to end the often felt detachment of citizens from policy-making by providing all citizens – regardless of their literacy skills or subject matter knowledge – a unique platform/portal to learn about policy at the EU level where they can find out what particular policies mean to them on the national level so that they can contribute to policy drafting and impact assessments. Equally important, *Puzzled by Policy* will help decision makers at both the National and European level better understand the impact of their policies on constituents by providing citizen reactions.

In contributing to this large project, the observatory will mainly use its experiences gained with the EU Profiler and will develop components that allow citizens to profile their ideas on selected policy-making issues. Currently, final contract



negotiations for the project are underway and the project started in October 2010.

### EUDO Spotlight

Spotlight is an integrated project of the EUDO Observatory on Public Opinion, Political Elites and the Media. Like a magnifier, Spotlight focuses its analyses on public opinion reactions to the most recent issues at stake in the European political agenda, showing how they affect European democracy. Economic crisis, migration, climate change – just to cite some well-known issues – represent new challenges for the European Institutions both in terms of policy-making and public-opinion demands. *How are those issues perceived by European citizens? And, to what extent do they influence public attitudes toward the Union and its legitimacy?* Those questions are at the core of the

Spotlight project. It is addressed to two main targets of users: 1) a wide category of people interested in politics, including stakeholders, journalists, politicians, functionaries, students and in general all common citizens interested in understanding public opinion; and 2) social scientists studying public opinion and European democracy. In order to reach the first target, Spotlight will present periodic reports on mainstream public-opinion debates, showing their consequences on attitudes toward Europe and EU institutions. Within this field, the project will prefer a synthetic and clear style to technical/scientific language, using simple tools to show results. Moreover, the Spotlight project will gradually implement its contribution to the scientific community by providing a software-based collection of Eurobarometers' questions – and later on including all possible related surveys – divided by issues. This tool will, it is hoped, represent the larger experiment of data merging *per topic*. Through it, every investigator may use variables of different databases both in a diachronic and spatial perspective.

Spotlight's first report will be presented at the joint conference of the EUDO and PIREDEU project that will be held in Brussels 18 and 19 November 2010.

## II.1.2 Events

### Conference “Internet and Voting”

The Conference took place at the EUI's Villa La Fonte 3 and 4 June 2010. The Conference explored new theoretical and/or empirical insights into the linkage between voting and internet-based information and communication technologies. The Conference was organised by the Observatory on Public Opinion in partnership with the University of California, Irvine (Center for the Study of Democracy). Papers were solicited from the academic community. The Conference brought together over 20 academics and practitioners from the US, Europe and Asia. A follow-up conference will be held in May 2010 in Laguna Beach, California organized by the Center for the Study of Democracy at the University of California, Irvine,

directed by Professor Bernie Groffman and will lead to the publication of an edited volume on the topic.

### PIREDEU Conference

The final PIREDEU conference will take place 18-19 November 2010 in Brussels, in which the added value of the PIREDEU feasibility and pilot study for the European social science community and other stakeholders will be evaluated. Thirty-six conference papers have been solicited from our user community that employ the data collected in the pilot studies for scholarly research relating to the quality of electoral democracy in Europe. This will constitute the basis for a report ‘auditing’ European electoral democracy and for additional scholarly and other publications. The conference is organised within the general EUDO framework and directly connected to the EUDO annual dissemination conference taking place at the same time in Brussels.

## II.1.3 Outlook for 2011

In 2011 the Observatory will continue to focus on the refinement and discussion of data analysis in a continuous dialogue between academia and the policy-making community. The output will mainly concern the enormous amount of data gathered by PIREDEU and EU Profiler. In addition to ongoing activities, several additional research activities will be undertaken in order to further analyse the obtained data in concrete terms, to compare it to other existing data sets and to work together with similar projects focusing on European public opinion. Here, the EUDO Data Centre will play a crucial role and will offer academics and citizens alike access and the possibility of using data in an innovative way. Besides, the above-mentioned consultations and cooperation projects with official EU bodies focusing on public opinion will be taken further in 2011.

The Observatory will also deepen its expertise in Internet voting and hopes to conduct an in-depth analysis of the 2011 national elections in Estonia. To this end we are already in contact with the Council of Europe and the Estonian National

Election Committee. Producing another study on e-voting in Estonia (a EUDO team of international scholars led by Alexander H. Trechsel has already conducted four consecutive surveys in order to explore the patterns of Internet voting and its effects on political behaviour in Estonia) would complete our efforts in this regard and would allow us to produce a unique and in-depth analysis of this voting channel and linked behavioural developments in Estonia, in terms of party and electorate, and to draw more general conclusions for other countries and modern democratic means in general.

In addition, we plan the publication of various working papers, articles and books and the organisation of several seminars, workshops and conferences.

Finally, PIREDEU and the financial support from the EU's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme will terminate

in early 2011. As a result, EUDO and the European Election Studies (EES/PIREDEU) will have to invest resources so as to sustain the network and any funding for a European Election Study in 2014. Initial steps will be taken for the preparation of a new project application. At the same time, efforts will be made to establish a Consortium for European research on elections (CERES) which should include the EES and national election studies in Europe. Such a consortium would be intended primarily as a springboard from which to apply for EU infrastructure funding. It might also provide a clearing house for ideas and an inventory of "best practices". It would offer help and expertise to those who do not yet have functional national election studies. And, finally, it is possible that such a consortium might serve as a venue for discussing strategies for investigating the quality of democracy in Europe, and for providing the means to implement these.



## II.2 EUDO Observatory on Political Parties and Representation

### PARTIES & REPRESENTATION



The Observatory on Political Parties and Representation (OPPR) is the EUDO component focusing on political parties and on the wider issue of political representation in Europe. Its aim is to study to Euro-

pean parties in all their dimensions, analysing their evolving organisation and pattern of competition at EU level, as well as their changing role and representative capacity at national and sub-national levels. The Observatory is co-directed by Luciano Bardi (Professor of Political Science at the University of Pisa and Part-time Professor at the RSCAS-EUI) and Peter Mair (Professor of Comparative Politics at the EUI), and its activities are coordinated by Manuele Citi (EUDO Research Assistant).

The creation of Europarties, and the development of a full-blown EU party system, has been widely regarded as a necessary step toward the creation of a fully democratic and accountable EU political system. The achievement of this objective, however, would require some profound changes in the organisation of European parties, with a shift from the current condition of independent national parties organised on different levels (national parties, party groups in the European Parliament, and Europarty federations) to a system where nearly-homogenous supranational organisations start to compete at the supranational level for control of the EU political office and agenda. If these conditions were to be realized, Europarties could provide a much strong link between European civil society and the EU supranational institutions, allowing a more effective transfer of preferences and policy priorities from the citizens to the EU legislative system.

The importance of European parties has been sanctioned by the Statute for European Political Parties (approved by the European Parliament in November 2003), a document that defines their role as well as the requirements needed for their EU financing. The creation of effective mechanisms for multi-level coordination between national parties and their Europarty counterparts is all the more important in view of the great potential of party groups in the European Parliament, as demonstrated by their growing voting cohesiveness and increasing inclusiveness. As several empirical analyses have shown, plenary votes in the European Parliament occur along party lines on a left-right axis, while national party delegations have aggregated into fewer and progressively larger groups, significantly reducing parliamentary fragmentation. In addition, the new powers attributed to the European Parliament with the Lisbon Treaty should further increase the incentives for national parties to develop even greater voting cohesion and stronger organisational structures at European level. For the first time, the role accorded to Europarties in the appointment of the President of the European Council and of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has the potential to establish a strong partisan link between the EU's supranational legislature and its intergovernmental institutions.

Scholars from a variety of disciplines (political science, law and history) have produced a large amount of research and empirical data on political parties and representation in Europe, both at the national and at the supra-national level. Thanks to a number of insightful works in this area, and to the wealth empirical evidence they produced, we nowadays have a substantive understanding of the internal organization of European political parties, of their patterns of interaction at the national and EU level, and of their changing representative capacity in contemporary democracies. All these research efforts, however, have been largely uncoordinated, resulting in a dispersal of datasets and electronic repositories across a number of different research institutions, which are sometimes difficult to access (e.g. non-digitalized data, or

data whose access is restricted due to copyright issues or to specific access policies of the hosting institution). This has made quite hard the work of comparative researchers.

As a matter of fact, there is not a single repository containing datasets on the organisational evolution of Europarties, on the changing behaviour and career-paths of MEPs, on the patterns of interaction of political groups within the European Parliament and the relationship between Europarties and national parties. One of the core objectives of OPPR is therefore to address this problem, by collecting in a single one-stop digital repository all the datasets produced by the four EUDO observatories, and by encouraging external scholars and other relevant institution to submit/upload their data in the same repository. Thanks to the electronic infrastructure specifically created for this purpose – the EUDO Datacentre – these datasets will become easily accessible to a worldwide audience of international academics and policy-makers, for an indefinite time, making the observatory a reference point for the international community of scholars. Some of datasets produced by OPPR and the other observatories have already been uploaded in the Datacentre,

and are freely accessible to external users. Others will be uploaded soon. In addition, the OPPR is already in contact with some external institutions that could provide even more data.

Apart from the production and dissemination of data on European parties, the Observatory promotes the development of research projects in new and emerging dimensions of political representation in Europe, such as the Europeanisation of party organisations and the challenge of multi-level politics, the use of new media in electoral campaigns and the declining importance of party membership; the legalisation and constitutionalisation of political parties in European democracies, the weakening ties between parties and civil society, and the status and standing of party government, including the importance of party patronage and public appointments.

### II.2.1 Activities and Research

The Observatory has been engaged in a range of activities that are establishing it as a key forum for comparative research on Europarties and political groups in the European Parliament (EP).



In particular, the Observatory has been actively developing a database of research and documentation on Europarties and political groups in the EP, which will become publicly accessible. Data of particular interest to the Observatory include EP electoral law(s), party manifestos and electoral programmes; Europarty statutes; the evolution and internal functioning of EP party groups; the evolution and party composition of EP Committees; MEP voting behaviour in plenary sessions; and systematic surveys of MEPs and Europarty elites. In collaboration with the EUDO Observatory on Public Opinion, OPPr is also collecting data on EP electoral results and turnout; the monitoring of press time and content devoted to EU party politics and the EP; and relevant mass surveys of European voters. This will make EUDO the authoritative repository for data on party politics and elections at European level. The most visible activities on which the OPPr has been involved in 2010 are the following:

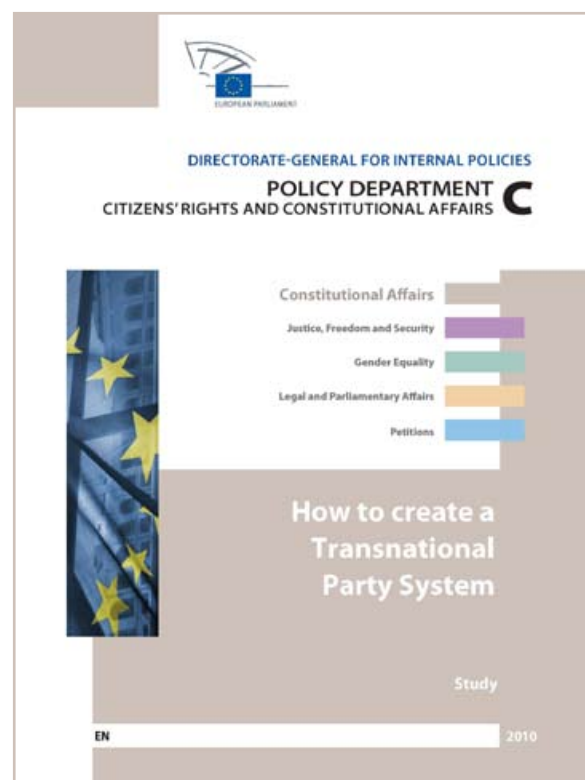
#### **Project on transnational party system in Europe**

In November 2009, the OPPr won a tender of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament for writing a report on “How to Create a Transnational European Party System?”. The report, written in the first half of 2010 by four OPPr researchers under the direction of Prof. Bardi and Prof. Mair, analyses the factors that could affect the development of a full-fledged party system at EU level, and is divided into four parts:

- An analysis of the political doctrine and programme of major political parties in as many Member States as feasible.
- An examination of current procedures applied to political parties to choose leaders for European Office.
- The development of proposals on how to help a European political party system evolve from national structures strongly influenced by historical traditions and cultural factors.
- The development of suggestions regarding the extent to which the European electoral system and

different systems of party financing would have to be revised in order to facilitate the above.

The preliminary results of the report have been presented on 2 June before the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament, whereas the final version of the report has been submitted to the Parliament in early August. One of the core conclusions reached by the report is that we need to distinguish between the phenomenon of transnationalisation of political parties and the phenomenon transnationalisation of their party system. Much of the evidence examined in the report points to the increasing transnationalisation of the parties, and reveals that there are relatively few obstacles to large-scale convergence across Europe. Despite this convergence, however, there is still little progress towards the formation of a transnational party system. At the level of competition between parties, in other words, national boundaries and national identities remain paramount. In the concluding remarks, the report formulates and discusses some ways in which these latter barriers might be lowered, and the implications of such a change.



The presentation of preliminary findings at the Parliament's Committees received a very positive feedback, both from MPs and from the other attendees of the presentation (journalists, exponents of NGOs and think tanks). The Observatory is currently waiting an institutional feedback from the Committee, which is likely to come in late 2010.

### **Datacentre on European party politics and elections**

The OPPr Observatory has participated to the setting up of the EUDO Data centre, an electronic repository of data that will collect all the datasets produced by the four EUDO observatories and other data coming from external institutions. The Datacentre has been made operative by Dr. Lorenzo De Sio and Dr. Holger Doering, and the first two datasets have already been uploaded: the ParlGov dataset on Parliament and Government composition in EU countries, and the EU Profiler dataset on European parties and party positions. These datasets are already freely accessible to external users. In the next months each observatory, including OPPr, will progressively expand the volume of data available in the datacentre.

### **Report on European parties' attitude toward renewable energies and climate change**

This study was commissioned to EUDO by General Electric, and was prepared by Dr. Manuele Citi for OPPr. The study analyzes the European political parties' attitude toward the issues of renewable energies climate change, and is based on an empirical analysis of comparative data extracted from the ParlGov database and the EU Profiler database. The study shows for each country the weighted mean position of all the parties toward the two issues, and then makes a more refined distinction between the mean position of government parties, and the mean position of opposition parties. Overall, the maps included in the report give a very clear idea of the European 'landscape' of party positions on the two issues.

### **Development and updates of the electronic infrastructure**

In May and June, the OPPr Project assistant has

completed the transition of contents from the old OPPr website to the new one. The information contained in the new website has been simplified and reorganized in a much more rational and clear way. In addition, the OPPr project assistant has been trained to prepare, upload and manage data of the EUDO Data centre, in view of progressively expanding the base of data contained in the electronic repository.

### **Other projects on party membership and party patronage**

Other research projects on party membership and party patronage are currently being completed in collaboration with researchers at the University of Leiden. The party membership project has gathered data on current levels of membership in 27 European democracies, and these data will soon be published on the Observatory website. The party patronage volume has gathered data on political control of public appointments in 14 European democracies, and a final volume reporting and analysing these results will be submitted for publication in 2010. In this case also, the data, based on some 700 expert interviews across ten policy sectors, will eventually be published on the Observatory website.

## **II.2.2 Events**

On 27 April 2010, the OPPr participated with one of its Directors (Prof. Bardi) to the EUSA-ECPR Conference on "The Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty: Institutional and Policy Implications". In one of the panels of the Conference, Prof. Bardi gave a speech on the "Impact of the Lisbon Treaty on Europarties".

On 2 June 2010, the two OPPr directors have presented the preliminary results of the report on "How to Develop a Transnational European Party System" before the Committee for Constitutional Affairs and the Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament. The event, which has attracted a lot of attention from MEPs and from a number of experts belonging to Brussels-based NGOs and think

tanks, has been very successful. The Observatory has received several messages of appreciation from the participants.

The OPPR Observatory will participate to the EUDO Dissemination Conference to be held in Brussels On 18 November 2010, with a panel on Political Parties and Representation. The Panel, chaired by the two EUDO Directors, will have as discussant Aleks Szczerbiak (University of Sussex), Ingrid van Biezen (Leiden University), Roland Freudenstein (Centre for European Studies) and Monica Frassoni (European Green Party).

### II.2.3 Outlook for 2011

The Observatory will try to situate itself at the centre of the network of international research projects on European party politics that adopt a trans-national or cross-national perspective. The Observatory also intends to work with a series of partner institutions that are at the forefront of research on European party politics. In any event, the monitoring of Europarty system institutionalisation will continue. The Observatory intends to exploits its unique capabilities to make further funding applications, in full collaboration with EUDO and the Robert Schuman Centre. In 2011, the Observatory will concentrate its activities on the launch of 2 new projects. The first project will focus on the relationship between Europarties and political parties belonging to countries with a special partnership with the EU, and will analyse the patterns of interaction between these two sets of actors. The second project will focus European parties as 'campaign organizers', and will compare party behaviour in national campaigns and European Campaigns. Both these project will be launched with a seminar/conference, that will be held either at the EUI or at another venue to be decided later.

Apart from these research projects, there are two initiatives that OPPR is particularly keen on developing in 2011. The first is the establishment of a form of coordination between the activities of OPPR and the Journal 'Party Politics', in particu-

lar by relying on the Observatory's contacts with Susan Scarrow and Paul Webb. The second initiative is the participation in the research activities of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, which has recently started an interesting study on the overhauling of the European Parliament's electoral law.

Finally, in 2011 the Observatory will seek continuously to expand the pool of data (old and new data) to be made available through the EUDO Data Centre. For this purpose, it will encourage its international research partners to share and upload their data in the same repository. In a more long-term perspective, the Observatory will actively seek ways to make the archives of Europarties and their parliamentary groups more easily accessible to the academic and policy community, and will contact European policy-makers to envisage ways in which this goal could be realised and connected to the ongoing work of the Historical Archives of the EU, also situated in the EUI.



## II.3 EUDO Observatory on Institutional Change and Reforms

### INSTITUTIONS



The Observatory on Institutional Change and Reforms is devoted to the analysis of institutional reforms and adaptations in the current institutional design of the EU and aims at assessing whether and to what extent these institutional reforms and adaptations are likely to foster the prospects for an increased popular acceptance and legitimacy of the Union. The Observatory is co-directed by Adrienne Héritier (Joint Chair of Comparative and European Public Policy at the EUI/RSCAS) and Bruno de Witte (Professor of European Law at Maastricht University) and its activities are organised by Chiara Steindler (EUDO Research Assistant).

It is our objective to systematically describe institutional democratic reforms below the Treaty level, as with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, there will be no Treaty amendments for the foreseeable future. It is, therefore, all the more important to observe the reforms and changes in decision-making rules that have, in part, been designed at the sub-treaty level. But it is also impor-

tant to track changes in institutional democratic rules that have emerged in the course of the application of existing treaty rules and that constitute a change in institutional democratic rules.

The Observatory intends to describe such changes between and among the European Parliament, the national Parliaments, the Commission and the Council of Ministers. The Observatory also intends to describe reform and changes in the institutional procedural rules of the above mentioned European Institutions and national Parliaments with respect to European legislation.

Moreover, we will assess changes in democratic decision-making procedures from individual policy areas in order to discover whether changes occur and whether they are of importance for other policy areas.

The Observatory aims at systematically documenting and describing such changes in order to get a complete picture of on-going reforms and changes in democratic decision-making rules at the sub-treaty level. The documentation will then be made available on the website.

### II.3.1 Activities and Research

During 2010 the Observatory has continued its activity as part of two research projects:

- Interstitial Institutional Change. Contested Competencies in the European Union



This project investigates institutional change in the European Union which takes place between the highly salient formal treaty revisions. The aim of the project is to scrutinize under which conditions such change occurs in areas of codecision, comitology, right of initiative, *inter alia*, and to analyze the underlying causal processes. The project is funded and coordinated by SIEPS – the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (Project Manager at SIEPS: Carl Fredrik Bergström) and coordinated at the RSCAS by Adrienne Héritier.

- Seclusion and Inclusion in the European Polity: Institutional Change and Democratic Practices (SIEPOL)

This research project analyzes the causes, processes and impact of political seclusion and inclusion at the European level and at the national level of the old member states, as well as the inter-relationship between these levels. The analysis is primarily focused on the role of institutions in the process of seclusion, and on their relation to the democratic functioning of the European Union and its member states. By seclusion and inclusion we refer to the following: at both the European and national levels, we appear to be witnessing two contrasting developments. On the one hand, political decision-makers appear increasingly “sealed off” or “secluded” from the wider constituency, and, indeed from the rank-and-file of elected politicians, such as in the case of early agreements in the European legislative process under codecision; on the other hand, there are multiple and diffuse attempts at a radi-

cal opening-up of democratic decision-making that invoke direct democratic procedures, the opening-up of political decision-making through transparency, and access to information which can include greater parts of the citizenry and can also enhance contact with civil society. SIEPOL is intended to investigate the factors that drive these developments at the European and national levels, to assess the extent to which the two processes are related, and to analyze the links, if any, between what occurs at the national level and what occurs at the European level. We finally discuss the normative implications that our findings have for democratic legitimation in Europe. SIEPOL is financed by the Research Council of the EUI for the period 2008 – 2010 and is co-funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council. The directors of the project are Adrienne Héritier (EUI) and Peter Mair (EUI).

The Observatory took also part in the preparation of the study on “How to maximise the influence of the European Parliament in the light of the Lisbon Treaty, in order to implement the Social Agenda and get the citizens closer to the EU” (the report, which is published on the EUDO website is titled: “Legislating after Lisbon. New Opportunities for the European Parliament). The study was commissioned by the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament, and was prepared under the direction of Bruno De Witte and Alexander Trechsel. The study mainly analysed the following four topics. First, how and in which policy areas the extension of co-decision can get the EP closer



to citizens' daily concerns and can reinforce the visibility of the EP. Second, how the influence of the EP towards other EU institutions can be maximised (focusing above all on newly established President of the Council, the High Representative and the External Action Service). Third, the study analysed the reinforcement of national parliaments and its linked opportunities and challenges for the EP. Finally, the study shed some light on the enhanced role of civil society under the Lisbon Treaty (above all on the Citizens' Initiative) and on how the EP can maximize its political impact in cooperation with civil society. The study was presented in Brussels 14 April of this year. It received notably positive feedback from the S&D-group and is now being widely distributed.

### II.3.2 Events

The Observatory has organised workshops and conferences that brought together academics and policy makers. It has also participated in the preparation of a study for the European Parliament on the foreseeable change of its power with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

#### **Workshop on the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty**

Right after the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty, this workshop examined in February 2010 seven



key areas in which the Treaty would have rapid institutional consequences, namely: the functioning of new 'personal triangle'; the new organisation of external relations; the new role of national parliaments; the mechanism for the citizens' initiative; the reform of comitology; the gradual reform of the 'third pillar'; and the institutional challenges of fundamental rights protection. A practitioner directly involved in preparing the reform and an academic expert was called to discuss each subject. The workshop was co-organised with Paolo Ponzano (EUI) and Miguel Maduro (EUI). The audio and video recordings of the seminar are online at the EUDO website.

#### **Practitioners' workshop on codecision, early agreements and comitology**

In February 2010, the Observatory brought together practitioners and academics to discuss the most recent institutional changes in the application of codecision, early agreements and the procedural guidelines of the Parliament, the Council and the Commission as well as the inter-institutional agreements dealing with the internal shift of power caused by the application of early agreements. A section of the workshop was devoted to the analysis of the experience in the application of the regulatory procedure with scrutiny under the revised comitology procedure and its implications for the role of the Parliament.

#### **Conference on the implementation of Lisbon Treaty: Institutional and Policy Implications**

The conference, which took place in April, was organized by Luciano Bardi, Chair of ECPR and Adrienne Héritier, Chair of EUSA (RSCAS/SPS).

### II.3.3 Outlook for 2011

In 2010 the Observatory will keep participating in the research projects mentioned above. Based on the results of our research projects, the publication of various working papers and articles is also planned. In addition, the organisation of a number of seminars, workshops and conferences that will bring together academics and policy makers is underway.

## II.4 EUDO Observatory on Citizenship



The EUDO Observatory on Citizenship provides the most comprehensive source of information on the acquisition and loss of citizenship in Europe for policy makers, NGOs and academic researchers. It identifies major

trends and problems in citizenship policies as a basis for informed policies and community action. Its website hosts a number of databases on domestic and international legal norms, naturalisation statistics, a comprehensive bibliography, a forum with scholarly debates on current citizenship trends, media news on matters of citizenship policy and various other resources for research and policy-making.

EUDO CITIZENSHIP is built on a network of experts for each of the countries covered, and co-directed by Rainer Bauböck (EUI, Department of Political and Social Sciences) and Jo Shaw (University of Edinburgh Law School). The consortium in charge of coordinating the Observatory development involves five partner institutions: the Central European University (Budapest, Hungary), the European University Institute (Florence, Italy), University College Dublin (Ireland), the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) and Maastricht University (Netherlands).

The EUDO CITIZENSHIP mission is to contribute to the understanding of current trends in citizenship policies in the European Union and neighbouring countries. Although the Observatory does not promote specific policy reforms, it intends to stimulate debates about shared principles and minimum standards among countries whose citizenship laws and policies are linked to each other through the common citizenship of

the European Union or through migration flows. EUDO CITIZENSHIP aims to collect documentation and data, to provide basic and applied research reports for EU institutions, and to foster dialogue between policy-makers, academics, NGOs and citizens.

The EUDO CITIZENSHIP Observatory consists of two main components: Citizenship Analysis and Citizenship Data.

The Citizenship Analysis section includes:

- The country profiles database, which collects expert reports on the history and current citizenship legislation in each country;
- A section on European Union citizenship providing information on legal norms, court decisions and policy documents concerning EU citizenship;
- A section on comparative analyses, which gathers a series of comparative reports commissioned by EUDO CITIZENSHIP;
- A news section, which offers a selection of media reports and news summaries on significant legislative changes, courts decisions and policy developments concerning citizenship in Europe and beyond;
- The citizenship forum, an online platform where users can submit written comments. It aims at fostering controversies about research hypotheses, findings and proposals for reform.
- The working papers section offers access to previously unpublished manuscripts on topics of citizenship laws and policies, and collections of edited contributions to forum debates;
- The policy briefs section, which gathers the policy briefs produced with EUDO CITIZENSHIP data.

The Citizenship Data section provides data on citizenship loss and acquisition, and includes the following research tools:

- The national citizenship laws database collects current and past nationality laws and other relevant texts such as constitutional provisions;
- The international legal norms database pro-

- vides access to international legal documents, and information on which countries adhere to which international legal norms;
- The citizenship case law database provides English summaries and full original language texts of important national and international court decisions concerning matters of citizenship and can be searched by country, year, institution or keyword;
- The databases *on* modes of acquisition and modes of loss of citizenship allow scholars to create customised comparative overviews for specific ways of acquiring and losing citizenship;
- Citizenship statistics allow researchers to create customised statistical tables by country, year, or specific mode of acquisition;
- Citizenship links is a database of websites of national, European and international organisations working on citizenship issues;
- The citizenship bibliography provides a searchable bibliography of more than 4,000 titles on matters of citizenship and nationality laws.



- The citizenship glossary provides definitions and explanations of frequently used concepts and technical terms in our web-based observatory.

Up until June 2010, core financing for EUDO CITIZENSHIP was provided by the European Commission's European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals through the Access to Citizenship in Europe (EUCITAC) project, which offers comprehensive analyses of citizenship in 33 countries. These are the 27 member states of the EU and 6 accession states or EEA countries (Croatia, Turkey, Moldova, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland). EUDO CITIZENSHIP is gradually expanding to include countries in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean European neighbourhoods (including Morocco, Lebanon, Egypt, Armenia, Ukraine, and Belarus). Additional financing for this project comes from the British Academy project CITMODES (Citizenship in modern European states) and from the CITSEE project. The CITSEE project on the Europeanisation of Citizenship in the Successor States of the Former Yugoslavia is funded by an advanced researchers grant of the European Research Council for Jo Shaw and has provided comprehensive data and country reports for the Western Balkan countries.

The Observatory has also been supported by the IMISCOE network of excellence on International Migration, Integration and Cohesion in Europe, and it was discussed at several meetings of the network.

Additional funding to finance the expansion of EUDO CITIZENSHIP came from the 2006 Latsis Prize of the European Science Foundation awarded to Rainer Bauböck.

#### II.4.1 Activities and Research

EUDO CITIZENSHIP incorporates and updates the analyses of earlier comparative projects on citizenship in the 15 pre-2004 EU member states (the NATAC project) and in 12 new and accession countries (the CPNEU project), both coor-

minated by Rainer Bauböck, the results of which were published with Amsterdam University Press ('The Acquisition and Loss of Nationality in 15 European States', published in 2 volumes in 2006, and 'Citizenship Policies in the New Europe', published in a second enlarged edition in 2009).

EUDO CITIZENSHIP aims at stimulating new independent research projects on citizenship. A call for papers was launched in June 2009 and four papers were selected for presentation at the second plenary network conference in January 2010. New PhD projects were started based on the data that EUDO CITIZENSHIP made available. EUDO CITIZENSHIP and its precursor projects have also provided essential input and advice for efforts to construct indices that measure the accessibility of citizenship in Europe and trends of liberalisation and convergence in various aspects of citizenship laws. The monograph by Marc Morjé Howard ('The Politics of Citizenship in Europe', Cambridge University Press, 2009), and the MIPEX index on Migrant Integration Policy in Europe, published by the Migration Policy Group, make extensive use of data and other inputs from our research.

EUDO CITIZENSHIP also commissioned specific comparative research carried out by experts within the network and published on the Observatory's website. The projects currently published on the website address the following topics: the comparative analysis of citizenship loss, the theory and politics of *ius soli*, practices and patterns of naturalisation in Europe, and reports on citizenship policy-making in Portugal, Italy, Spain and Greece, which constitute the backbone for a forthcoming comparative report on the Mediterranean region. Forthcoming reports include the politics of external kin-state citizenship in East Central Europe, trends and regulations in Europe on birthright citizenship, and the impact of EU citizenship and international law on member state citizenship laws.

Thematic Comparative Reports have also been condensed into EUDO CITIZENSHIP policy briefs that address a non-academic audience and

present our findings in an easily digestible and visually attractive format and contain policy recommendations. Alongside a general summary of our research in the EUDO CITIZENSHIP brochure, policy briefs on *ius soli*, loss of citizenship and naturalisation have been published.

Apart from the comparative reports, there are two other main research outputs of the EUDO CITIZENSHIP Observatory: Country Reports and Working Papers. EUDO CITIZENSHIP Country Reports are published in the Robert Schuman Centre/EUDO Citizenship Observatory Working Papers Series, both in printed and electronic form. At the time of printing this brochure, 39 country profiles are available on the website. Most country reports were revised and updated in spring 2010. The EUDO CITIZENSHIP Working Papers series is generally open for unsolicited submissions. However, we also publish the edited collections of contributions to the EUDO CITIZENSHIP Forum, which is dedicated to debating controversial issues in the field of citizenship policy. The Forum collects



invited contributions on specific topics. Forum debates have featured discussions on the following topics: “Is there (still) an East-West divide in the conception of citizenship?”; “How liberal are citizenship tests?”; “Has the European Court of Justice Challenged Member State Sovereignty in Nationality Law?”; “Dual citizenship for transborder minorities? How to respond to the Hungarian-Slovak tit-for-tat”; “Which indicators are most useful for comparing citizenship policies?”

#### II.4.2 Events and Dissemination Activities

##### **The second EUDO CITIZENSHIP plenary conference**

The second plenary conference took place in Edinburgh 21-22 January 2010. It gathered over 60 people engaged in discussing draft versions of

comparative analyses based on the data collected in the first stage of the project. Experts from outside the network were invited to comment on the work of the Observatory, and four new research papers based on EUDO CITIZENSHIP data, which have been selected from a call for papers, were presented.

##### **The presentation to the European Parliament**

The presentation took place in Brussels 2 June 2010. It was co-organised with the EUDO Observatory on Political Parties and Representation, and hosted by the EP Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs ((LIBE) and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO). EUDO CITIZENSHIP was represented by co-directors Rainer Bauböck and Jo Shaw, and by Maarten Vink (Maastricht University). A brochure of the EUDO CITIZENSHIP main results was produced for the occasion,



and distributed in Brussels, together with the most recent publications.

The EUDO CITIZENSHIP Observatory has also been presented at several international expert meetings and conferences, including the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) full round of consultations (7 May 2010), the IGC the workshop on citizenship (Helsinki, 8 June 2010), the Metropolis conference (The Hague, 4-8 October).

On 14-15 October 2010 EUDO CITIZENSHIP took part in the seminar on “Naturalisation and the socio-economic integration of immigrants and their children” organised by the European Commission and the OECD.

On 17 December, EUDO CITIZENSHIP will have several presentations at the Fourth Conference of Nationality of the Council of Europe, to be held in Strasbourg.

#### **II.4.3 Outlook for 2011**

In 2011, EUDO CITIZENSHIP will continue to update its databases and country reports, as well as the statistic sections. It will continue to regularly publish news and launch forum debates. In addition, the comparative aspect will be strengthened, as more comparative analyses will be published.

EUDO CITIZENSHIP aims to gradually expand its geographic scope. Reports on Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, and Armenia are scheduled to be published towards the end of 2010. The next priority will then be to cover other post-Soviet European states and more countries of the Maghreb area. An expert for Belarus joined the network in October 2010.

We expect new research to be produced using EUDO CITIZENSHIP data. Researchers are invited to share their work through the website and the network. For example, a section on ‘recent publications’ advertises the most recent books and journal issues on matters of citizenship, including works published by researchers and NGOs out-

side the network. Users are encouraged to interact in the forum, and to provide their citizenship news in a variety of languages.

EUDO CITIZENSHIP dissemination activities will be a major task for 2011. There are plans for a book publication with an academic publisher of comparative reports commissioned by the Observatory.

The most important source of funding for EUDO CITIZENSHIP was the EUCITAC project, which ended in June 2010. In order to keep the Observatory up-to-date and to further expand its geographic and thematic coverage, new sources of long-term funding will have to be found. EUDO CITIZENSHIP will require ongoing basic financing for recurrent updating of its reports and databases on acquisition and loss of citizenship, for commissioning new reports and for administration of a growing network of experts and a complex website.

In 2011 and beyond EUDO CITIZENSHIP plans to enlarge the thematic scope of the observatory to extend its coverage to electoral rights exercised by EU citizens in other member states or third countries as well as local, regional or national voting rights granted to third-country nationals in several EU states. There are four reasons for addressing this additional topic: first, the conceptual core of citizenship is generally understood to cover both the legal status of nationality and political participation rights; second, analysing access to nationality as well as to electoral rights with the same methodology and in integrated databases will enable richer comparative analyses of trends and of correlations between both dimensions of citizenship; third, documenting electoral rights in the EU will create stronger synergies with the other three EUDO Observatories that cover electoral participation, electoral competition and institutional design of representative institutions in the EU.

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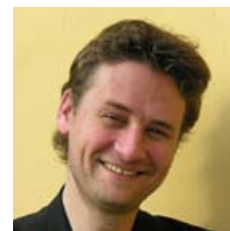
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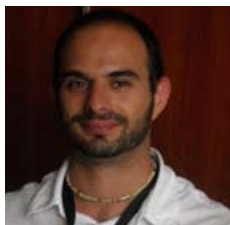
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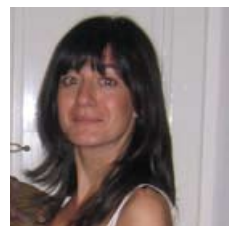
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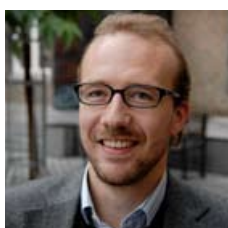
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