

euandi 2019

- Methodological Report -

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Field work agents: The project involved 133 highly trained and knowledgeable social scientists at the doctoral or post-doctoral level researching and coding the political parties featured in the tool. The majority of country teams' members was affiliated with the European University Institute (EUI), but several collaborators were based in other parts of Europe. For a list of the collaborators visit the webpage:

<https://euandi2019.eu/IE/default/EN/pages/about>

Universe: A selection of political parties competing for the 2019 EP elections. The euandi team tried to be as inclusive as possible and the exclusion of a party was only considered if a range of opinion polls strongly suggested that the party would not win a single seat in the election. For detailed inclusion/exclusion criteria visit the webpage: <https://euandi2019.eu/IE/default/EN/pages/methodology>

Respondents: Around 55 percent of all the parties contacted by the euandi team took part in the self-placement. In addition, country teams took care of positioning the parties based on the available documentation.

Countries involved: 28 Member States of the European Union

Fieldwork period: February-April 2019

Study theme: large-scale coding of party positions on 22 issue dimensions during the EP2019 election campaign.

Questions asked: Political parties were asked to position themselves with regard to 22 statements on:

- (a) Welfare, family and health: welfare programmes maintained even if taxes increase;
- (b) Migration and immigration: immigration restriction, acceptance of European values by immigrants, asylum seekers distributed proportionally among EU Member States;
- (c) Society, religion and culture: legalisation of same sex marriages, legalisation of soft drugs, legalisation of euthanasia;
- (d) Finances and taxes: reduction of government spending, tax-raising powers for EU, tax increase on stock market gains;
- (e) Economy and work: stronger support for unemployed;

(f) Environment, transport and energy: support for renewable sources of energy, promotion of public transport;

(g) Law and order: restrictions of civil liberties, more severe punishment for criminals;

(h) Foreign policy: EU should strengthen security and defence policy, EU should speak with one voice;

(i) European integration: judgement about EU integration, judgement about single European currency, less veto power for individual member states, EU punishing Member States violating EU deficit rules, EU citizens able to cast a vote in any other Member State.

Data collection mode: Political parties running in the 2019 EP elections and selected by the euandi team for inclusion in the tool were given the opportunity to react to the selected 22 statements and provide their self-placement. The euandi team identified and contacted the parties inviting them to fill in a questionnaire and motivating their choices by supplying supporting material. In parallel, country teams proceeded to code parties' positions. Country experts were asked to specify what documentation they had used in order to place parties. They were invited to use eight types of sources hierarchically ordered – the top being the party's own EP election manifesto. In instances where the party has not printed any opinion, the researchers referred to other party manifestos, party websites, statements in the media and other secondary sources. In order to ensure the highest possible level of reliability among coders, crosschecks were organised within each team, while country team-leaders ran additional checks before finalising the process of party placement. Note that while parties were consulted throughout, the final decision remained with the country teams to guarantee total impartiality.