

# **From Event Reporting to Coding: Political Claims A Feasibility Experiment in the European Social Survey**

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# Overview

- Why event reporting
- History event reporting ESS
- Claims-making approach
- Feasibility study

# Multiple purposes event reporting

- Fieldwork events
  - Floods, scandals
- National electionss
- Narrative
  - Type of country
- Major events
  - That can influence answers questionnaire
  - Frontpage news several days
- Modelling
  - Link to questionnaire/respondent
  - Coded data
  - Standardized, objective

## Event reporting guidelines ESS

- Major national events that make the frontpage of newspapers for several days
- Major international events that draw national attention
- Elections, major changes in the national landscape

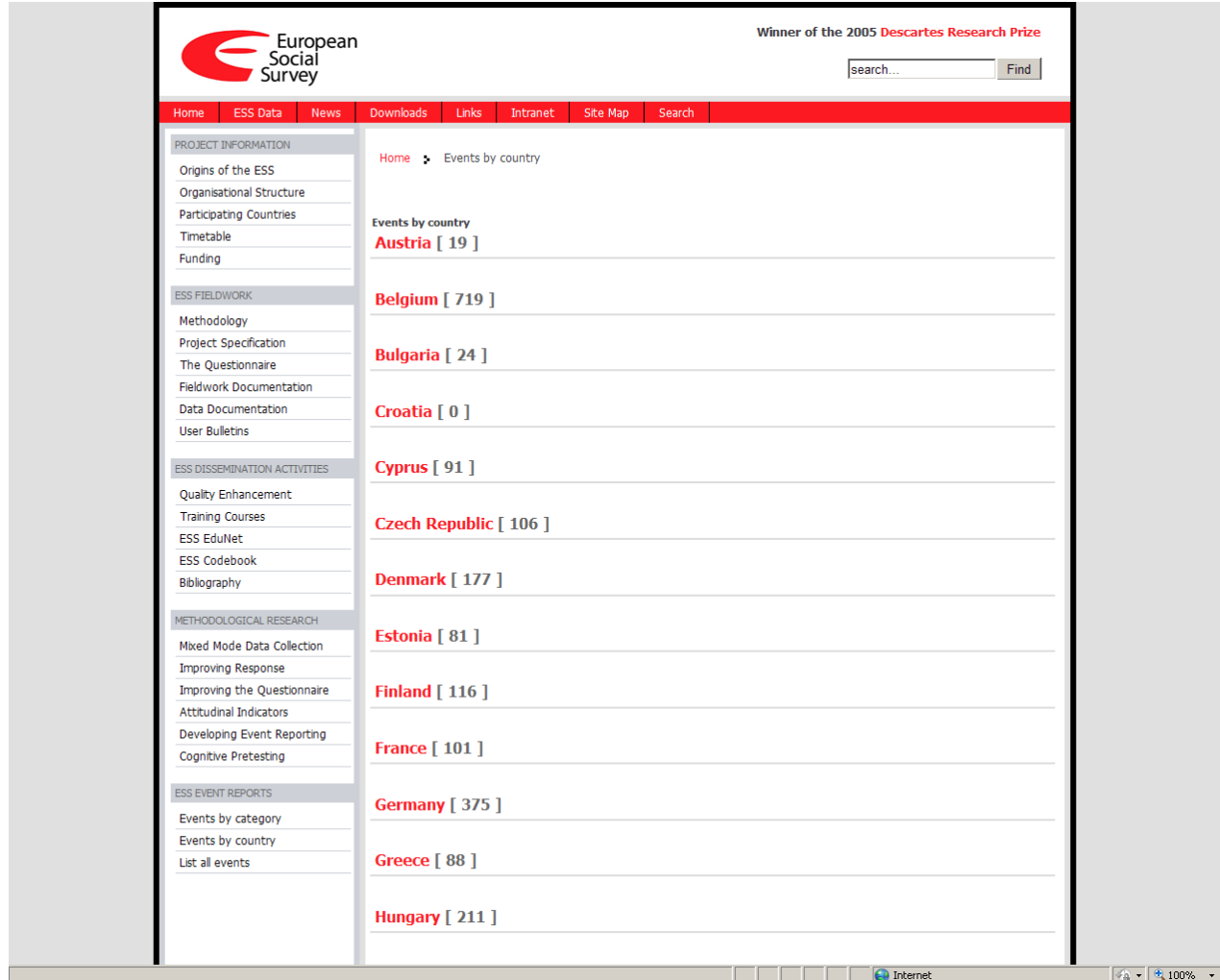
# Framework event reporting ESS

- Name (of specific event)
- Category (select all that apply)
- Short description
- Timing (date)
- Coverage (attention in media)
- Web link
- Link to questionnaire
- Possible effect on fieldwork
- Additional information, if any

# Event categories

- Elections (national & local), including plebiscites and referendums,
- Resignations, appointments and the dismissal of politically significant person,
- Fall of cabinet, change of government, new government,
- Significant change in laws,
- Strikes, demonstrations,
- Acts of terrorism (like the Madrid bombings),
- Events involving ethnic minorities, asylum seekers and other immigrants,
- Events concerning the national economy and labour market,
- Political, financial and economic scandal,
- Frauds (both by politicians, organisations, businesses etc. as well as by the general public);
- National events (eg royal weddings, sports championships),
- Crimes (kidnappings, robberies),
- Disasters (outbreaks foot and mouth/mad cow disease/ extreme weather conditions),
- International conflicts (Israel-Palestine conflict, Iraq, Pakistan) that have a national impact,
- Major international events that draw vast local attention.

# Event website Round 4 and Round 5



The screenshot shows the European Social Survey website. The header includes the logo, the text 'Winner of the 2005 Descartes Research Prize', and a search bar. A red navigation bar contains links: Home, ESS Data, News, Downloads, Links, Intranet, Site Map, and Search. The left sidebar lists categories: PROJECT INFORMATION, ESS FIELDWORK, ESS DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES, METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH, and ESS EVENT REPORTS. The main content area displays 'Events by country' with a list of countries and their respective event counts.

Country	Count
Austria	19
Belgium	719
Bulgaria	24
Croatia	0
Cyprus	91
Czech Republic	106
Denmark	177
Estonia	81
Finland	116
France	101
Germany	375
Greece	88
Hungary	211

# Major problems

- Guidelines
  - Subjective
  - What is an event?
- Text-based structure
- Lots of work (if done properly)
- Fieldwork period only
  - What happened in between only in very few countries (and no standard)
- Mediascape differs (frontpage)



**Frontpage Dutch quality newspaper: no news!**  
**Frontpage UK quality newspaper: text.**

[illegible]



**Ashes Special**  
Selva's Hops and  
Haight celebrate

**Sport** Pages 1 & 2

**40th Anniversary**  
Published  
on the 10th  
of January 1968

**Doubts over value of £3bn Sure Start**

**Flagship government scheme to help deprived youngsters may be failing**

**Key Word**

The first time an independent flagship programme was launched in the United Kingdom was in 1968 when the first issue of the magazine was published.

Although some have been sceptical about the value of the £3bn Sure Start programme, it has been hailed as a landmark in the history of social policy. The programme was launched in 1999 and is aimed at helping disadvantaged children and their families. It is a flagship programme, meaning it is a programme that is intended to be a model for other programmes.

But there are doubts about the value of the programme. Some people think it is too expensive and that it is not doing enough. Others think it is too late and that it is not doing enough.

**National**  
**Reid: UK needs new nuclear deterrent**

The government says the UK will be the first to develop a new nuclear deterrent. The UK will be the first to develop a new nuclear deterrent. The UK will be the first to develop a new nuclear deterrent.

**JG Ballard**  
Abrilant film about war

**Art** Page 3

**the guardian**

**Richard Williams**

**After 16 years, to England, the Ashes**

**Richard Williams**

The first time an independent flagship programme was launched in the United Kingdom was in 1968 when the first issue of the magazine was published.

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**National**  
**Two teenage boys found dead in wood**

Two teenage boys were found dead in a wood. The boys were found dead in a wood. The boys were found dead in a wood.

**Art** Page 3

**the guardian**

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**National**  
**We can handle Iraq and Katrina - Bush**

We can handle Iraq and Katrina. We can handle Iraq and Katrina. We can handle Iraq and Katrina.

**Art** Page 3

**the guardian**

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**Financial**  
**eBay buys internet phone service**

eBay has bought an internet phone service. eBay has bought an internet phone service. eBay has bought an internet phone service.

**Art** Page 3

**the guardian**

**Richard Williams**

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**Richard Williams**

The first time an independent flagship programme was launched in the United Kingdom was in 1968 when the first issue of the magazine was published.

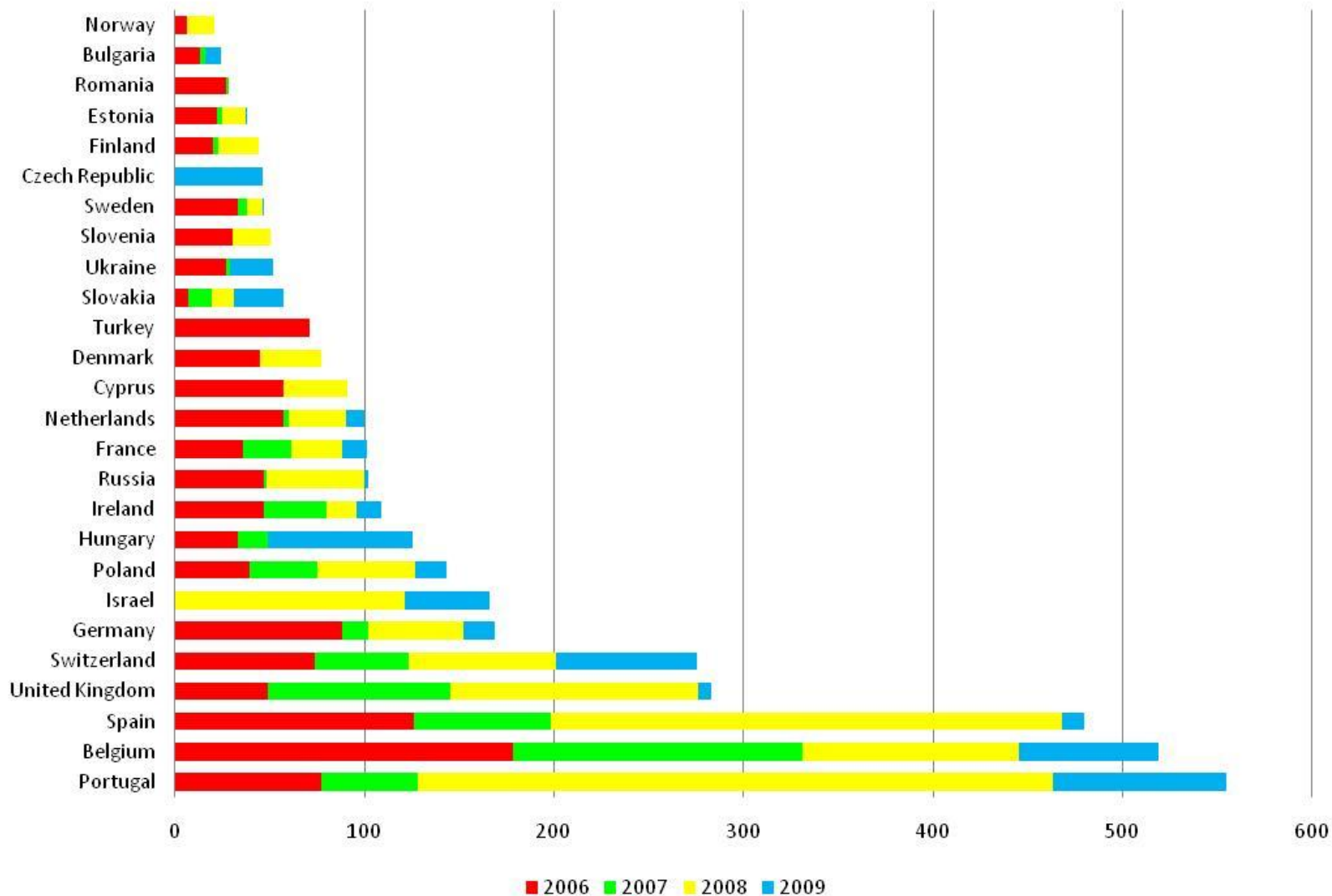
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**Economics**  
**House prices to fall, homeowners told**

House prices are expected to fall. House prices are expected to fall. House prices are expected to fall.

# # of event ESS R3 & R4



### Round 3 Event Reporting

show all events [by week](#) - [by id](#) - [by category](#) | [add a paper or an event](#) | [rss](#)

nr	1151
year	2006
week	40
category	National events (royal weddings, sports championships),
country	Germany
name	German Government urged to intervene in Airbus Crisis
shortdescription	Plans to move Airbus operations out of Germany as part of a cost-cutting plan have angered politicians and officials who are calling on the German government to intervene in a bid to retain investment in the firm. News that Airbus is facing an uncertain future due to the delayed roll-out of the A380 super jumbo jet by at least a year, and the proposed shifting of operations from Hamburg to cheaper sites in Russia, India and China, has angered politicians and industry officials in Germany. Politicians in Hamburg, home of the Airbus plant charged with building the super jumbo's cabins, are reportedly enraged at prospects of layoffs after the German state spent 750 million euros to keep the plant running. Airbus is responsible for some 40,000 jobs in Germany. The German government is particularly concerned about the future of Airbus' factory in Hamburg -- which employs some 12,000 people amid rumors that all production activities connected with A380 superjumbo could be transferred to Airbus' parent company EADS (European Aeronautic Space and Defence Company) Toulouse in France. Germany is present in EADS via German-US auto giant DaimlerChrysler, but the group has recently reduced its shareholding in the aerospace group. EADS announced late Tuesday that deliveries of the A380 jet will be delayed by another year on average, meaning the programme is now running up to two years behind schedule. Airbus boss Christian Streif has called for crisis talks with Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Michael Glos and will meet the minister on Thursday, October 5, to discuss emergency measures to prevent Germany losing influence in Airbus. The prospect of a transfer of operations out of Germany would be a major blow, according to a number of politicians who have expressed their concern. "Such a transfer cannot be accepted without resistance," economic expert of the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Laurenz Meyer told Bild Zeitung newspaper Wednesday. The German government is being urged to intervene to save the plant and stop the operation being moved abroad. Thomas Mirow, the German finance secretary, has called for Berlin to take a direct stake in Airbus to prevent the plant from being switched to other foreign alternatives and has also suggested the alternative of the state-bank KfW buying a stake in Airbus from DaimlerChrysler AG, which owns 22.5 percent of the company, to secure its future. The German government refused to rule out buying the German car maker's stake, originally designed to balance the influence of the French Government and the media group Lagadere, which own 22.5 per cent in total, in the long term but had no plans to do so in the near future. That left the possibility of KfW stepping in, with the purchase of DaimlerChrysler shares being financed by the sale of the state-owned bank's stakes in Deutsche Telekom or Deutsche Post. However, this may also not come in time to save the Hamburg operation as KfW, which holds large minority stakes in both former state-owned companies, has promised investors not to sell more Post shares until next year and Telekom shares until the middle of 2008. While the German government would welcome the purchase of a stake in Airbus as a counterweight to Paris and Lagadere's influence, it would go against Berlin's policy in taking stakes in companies and any further state control in Airbus may upset the United States, whose Boeing company is in direct competition.
timing	This news was released on October 4.
coverage	all national news papers and news programmes
questionnairelink	B 25, B 26, E 52
possibleeffects	
additionalinformation	
source	German Government urged to intervene in Airbus Crisis (BILD-Zeitung)
source	German Government urged to intervene in Airbus Crisis (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

This page was last modified: 2007-11-19. Any questions, comments or suggestions? [Let us know](#).

### Round 3 Event Reporting

[show all events](#) | [by week](#) | [by id](#) | [by category](#) | [add a paper or an event](#) | [rss](#)

<b>nr</b>	311
<b>year</b>	2006
<b>week</b>	40
<b>category</b>	Election (national, local), plebiscite, referendum, Events concerning the national economy, labour market, National events (royal weddings, sports championships),
<b>country</b>	Sweden
<b>name</b>	New government
<b>shortdescription</b>	The new prime minister presents the outline of the Government's policies for the coming years. The new ministers are also presented.
<b>timing</b>	6
<b>coverage</b>	All media
<b>questionnairelink</b>	
<b>possibleeffects</b>	
<b>additionalinformation</b>	
<b>source</b>	Fredrik Reinfeldts nya regering klar (Sveriges Radio)

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## Major problems: quality

- Not standardized
  - Guidelines
- Not objective
  - Reporter
- No link to ESS-questionnaire
- Not usable analytically
- Not used cross-nationally
- Quality of reporting
  - Number of events
  - Detail reports
- Not comparable across countries

# What important actors claim about ESS topics in the media

- Where/what is an event?
  - Egypt, Tunisia, Libya uprising
- What does it mean in each country?
  - Interest in news
  - Insecurity
  - Performance of the government
  - Trust in government
  - Nationalism
  - Fear of immigrants
  - Rising oil prices



## Activities up till now

- Bristol (Paul Statham and colleagues)
  - Development coding schemes
  - Coding claims for a number of countries (database)
  - Mediascape few countries
- ESS NCs feasibility study
  - Introductory workshop
  - Coding claims according to scheme (database)
  - Second workshop
    - Evaluation
    - Questions and problems

## Claims-making acts: ‘claims’ definition

(based on Paul Statham, Bristol)

The unit of analysis for capturing the ideological contents is a ‘claims-making act’. A claims-making act (shorthand: a claim) is a strategic action in the public sphere.

*It consists of intentional public speech acts which articulate political demands, calls to action, proposals, and criticisms, which, actually or potentially, affect the interests or integrity of claimants and/or other collective actors in a specific issue-field.*



# Claims-making acts: coded variables

- 1. Location of claim in time and space (WHEN and WHERE is the claim made?)
- 2. Actor making claim (WHO makes the claim?)
- 3. Form of claim (HOW is the claim inserted in the public sphere?)
- 4. Substantive issue of claim (WHAT is the claim about?)
- 5. Addressee of claim (AT WHOM is the claim directed?)
- 6. Justification for claim (WHY should this action be undertaken?)
- 7. Constituency actor: who would be affected by the claim if it were realised (FOR/AGAINST WHOM?)

In a simple form: at a time and place (1.) an event occurs, where an actor (2.) mobilises a speech act (3.) that raises a claim about an issue (4.) which addresses another actor (5.) calling for a response, on the basis of a justifying argumentation (6.). The claim is made with reference to a public constituency, whose interests are affected (7.).

## Examples: The structure of political claims-making acts - Claims

<b>WHO (CLAIMANT)</b>	<b>HOW (FORM)</b>	<b>AT WHOM (ADDRESSEE)</b>	<b>WHAT (ISSUE)</b>	<b>FOR/AGAINST WHOM? (ULTIMATE TARGET)</b>	<b>WHY (FRAME)</b>
<b>A group of asylum seekers</b>	<b>engage in a hunger strike</b>	<b>Demanding the government</b>	<b>not to deport to their country of origin</b>	<b>themselves (the group of asylum seekers)</b>	<b>because this would be in violation of the Geneva Convention</b>
<b>The European Parliament</b>	<b>passes a resolution</b>	<b>criticizing the Turkish government and demanding</b>	<b>measures to improve the treatment of</b>	<b>Political prisoners</b>	<b>arguing that respect for human rights is a core value of the European Union</b>

# Coding scheme: overview

- Reliance on media (including radio, television, internet)
- Community relations
- Political engagement
- Trust in political institutions
- Collective action/ actions by members of the civil society
- Salience of political parties
- Personal wellbeing and life satisfaction
- Perception of national performance
- Limits of state intervention
- Environmental problems
- Enlargement/ deepening EU interaction
- Ethnic difference and immigration
- Economic effects of immigration
- Cultural diversity (within the country)
- Violent crimes targeting individuals and perception of safety in the local environment
- Terrorist act/threat
- Liberal state's responses to terror threats
- Religion
- Religiosity and attendance/participation
- Discrimination

# Coding scheme: details

## ■ Reliance on media

- *Questionnaire category- questions A1 to A7 in the questionnaire.*
- Claims relating to how much people depend on the different forms of media (radio, television, internet etc.) for informational or other purposes.

## ■ Community relations

- *Questionnaire category- questions A8 to A10 in the questionnaire.*
- Claims relating to the state of relations between different communities in a country, including aspects of mutual trust, harmony and influence.

## ■ Political engagement

- *Questionnaire category- questions B1 to B3 and B11 in the questionnaire.*
- Claims relating to people's involvement with politics in the country, how much do they feel they can understand and engage with it, do they feel involved in the political processes in their own country.

## ■ Trust in political institutions

- *Questionnaire category – questions B4 to B10 in the questionnaire.*
- Claims relating to public's trust in macro political institutions and bodies, people's perception of the role of these bodies.

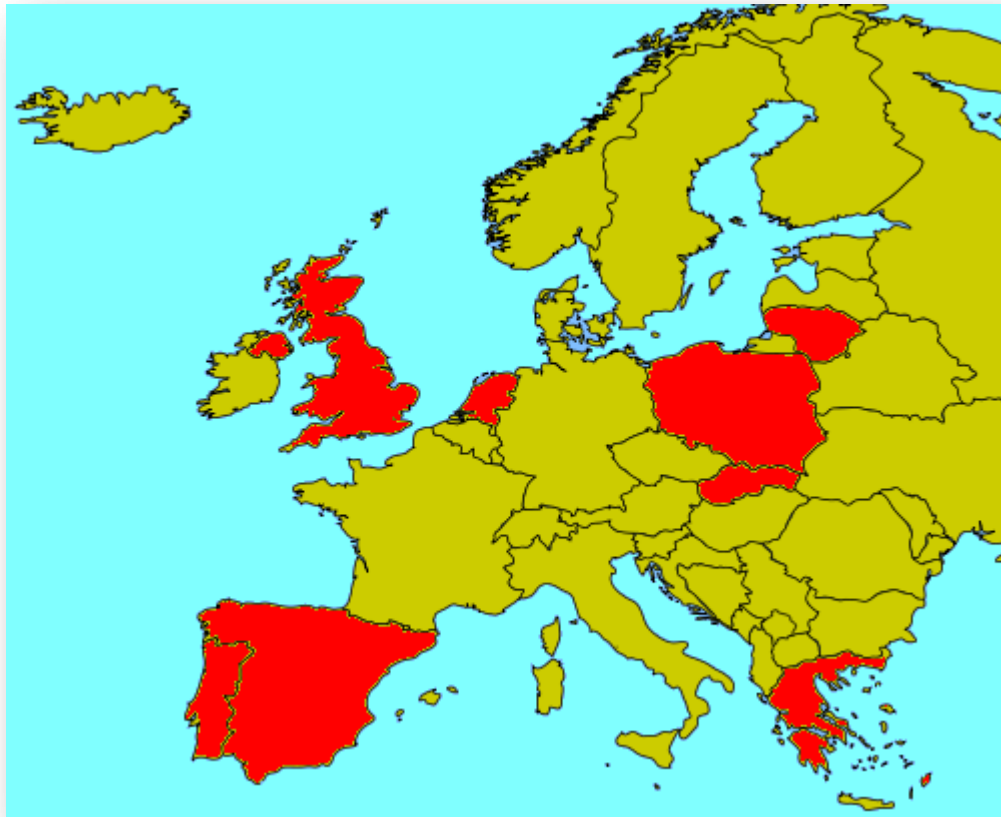
## ■ Collective action/ actions by members of the civil society

- *Questionnaire category - questions B13 to B19 in the questionnaire.*
- How active are people as members of the civil society in making their opinions/stance known by taking some sort of action.

## ■ Salience of political parties

- *Questionnaire category – questions B20 to B23 in the questionnaire.*
- Prominence of national political parties in people's perception or claims made in relation to a specific political party.

# Experiment



# Experiment

Country	Newspapers
UK	The Guardian, The Times
NL	De Volkskrant, NRC Handelsblad
ES	ABC, El País
PT	Correio da Manhã, Público
SK	Pravda, SME
GR	KATHIMERINI, TA NEA
PL	Fakt, Gazeta Wyborcza

## Experimental period

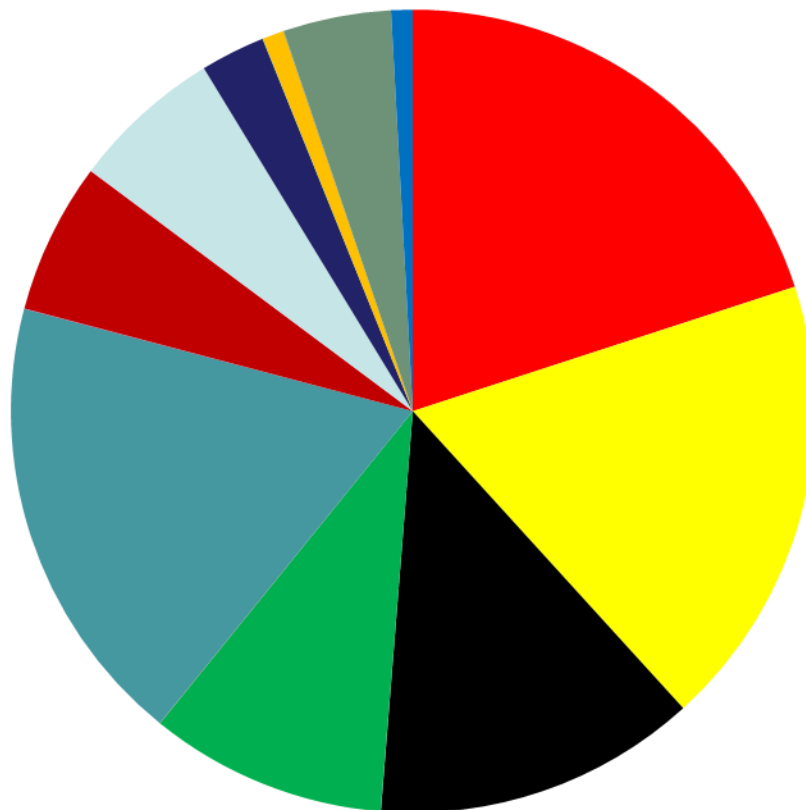
Country	Start	End	# of days
UK	01.11.2010	11.11.2010	9
NL	01.11.2010	19.11.2010	17
ES	01.11.2010	14.11.2010	14
PT	01.11.2010	21.11.2010	21
SK	02.11.2010	09.02.2011	84
GR	01.11.2010	30.11.2010	30
PL	02.11.2010	30.11.2010	29

## Experiment: number of claims

Country	#	%	claims/ day
UK	125	11.2	13.9
NL	108	9.7	6.4
ES	115	10.3	8.2
PT	132	11.8	6.3
SK	108	9.7	1.3
GR	228	20.4	7.6
PL	195	17.5	6.7
Total	1117	100	5.2

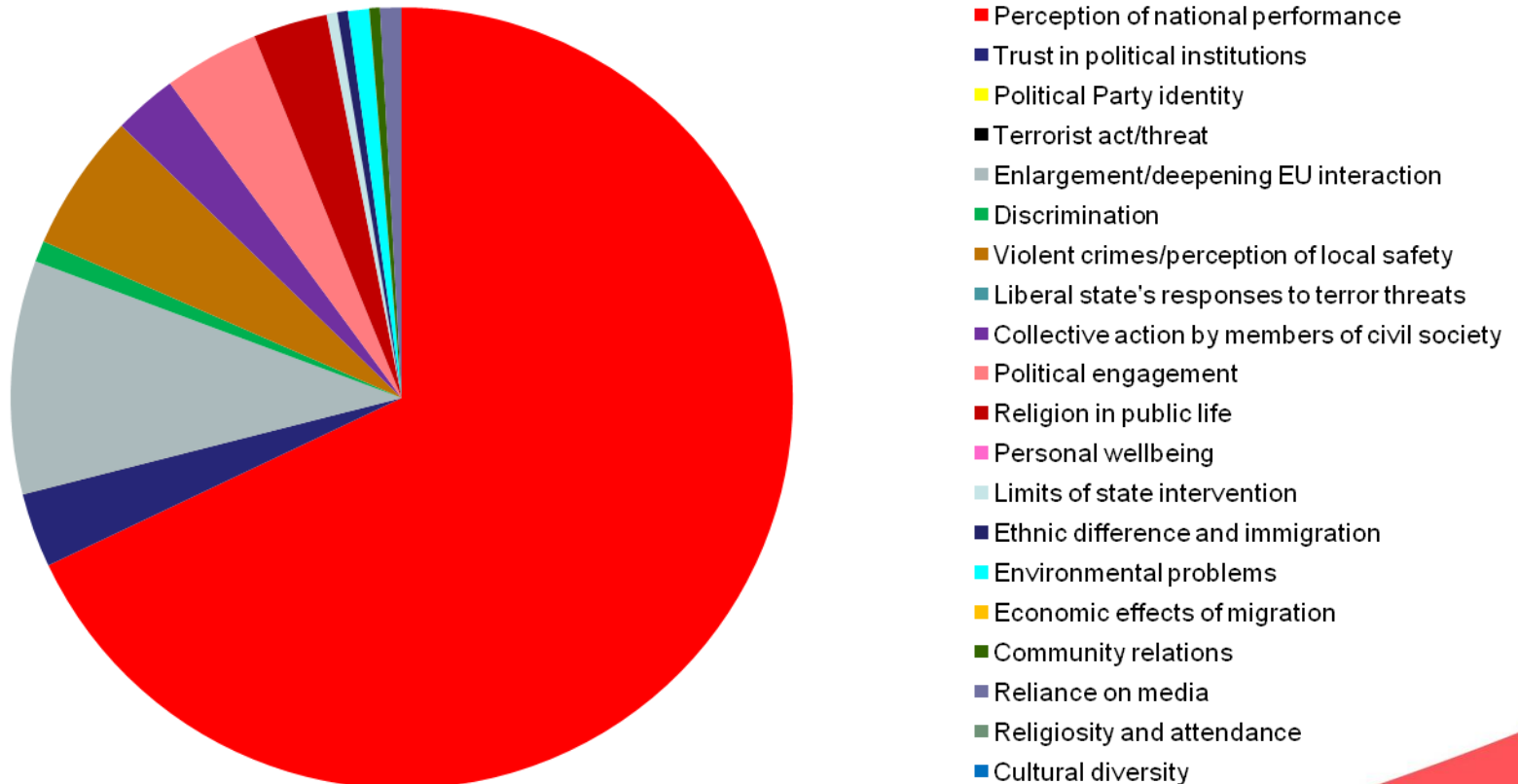


# Spain

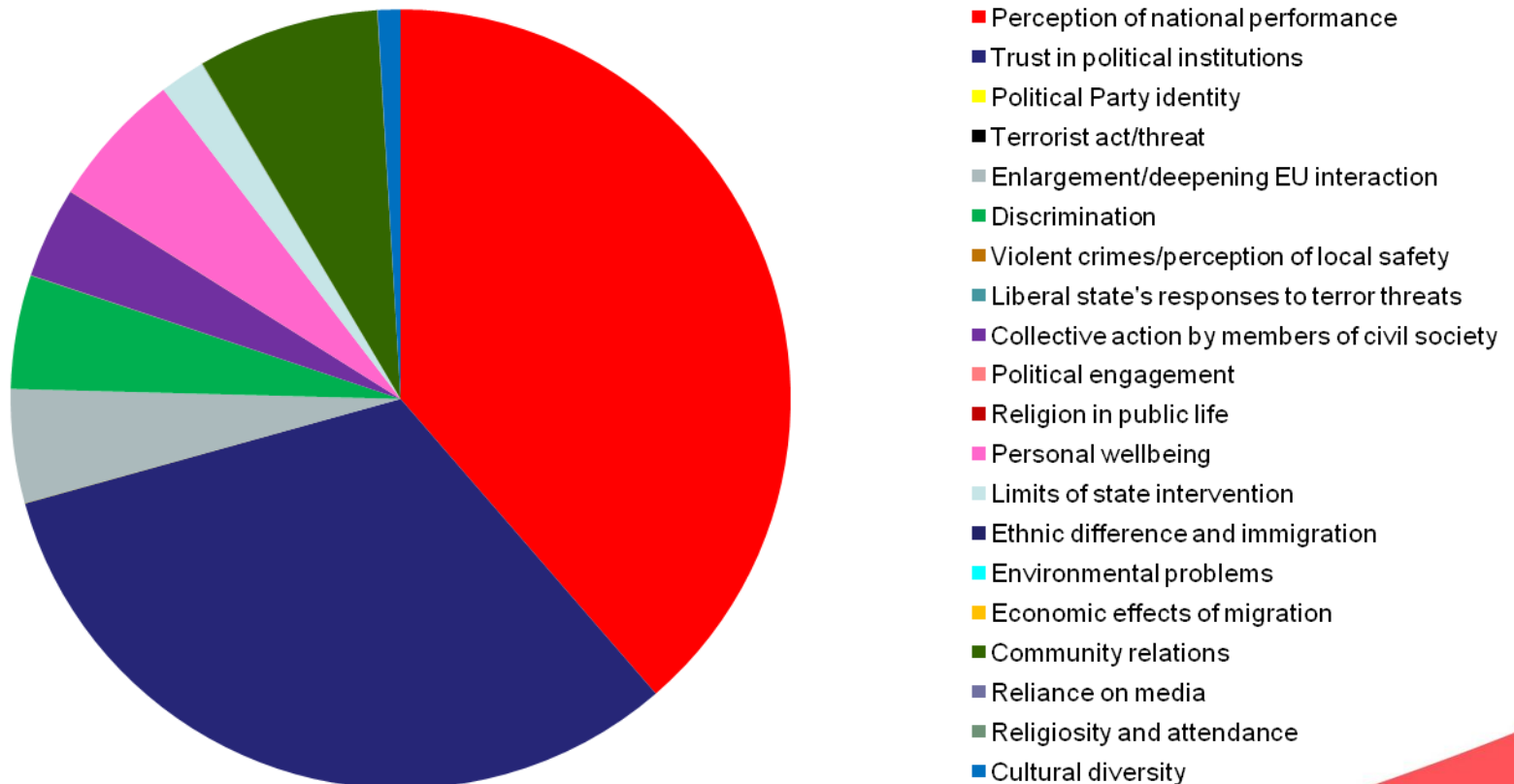


- Perception of national performance
- Trust in political institutions
- Political Party identity
- Terrorist act/threat
- Enlargement/deepening EU interaction
- Discrimination
- Violent crimes/perception of local safety
- Liberal state's responses to terror threats
- Collective action by members of civil society
- Political engagement
- Religion in public life
- Personal wellbeing
- Limits of state intervention
- Ethnic difference and immigration
- Environmental problems
- Economic effects of migration
- Community relations
- Reliance on media
- Religiosity and attendance
- Cultural diversity

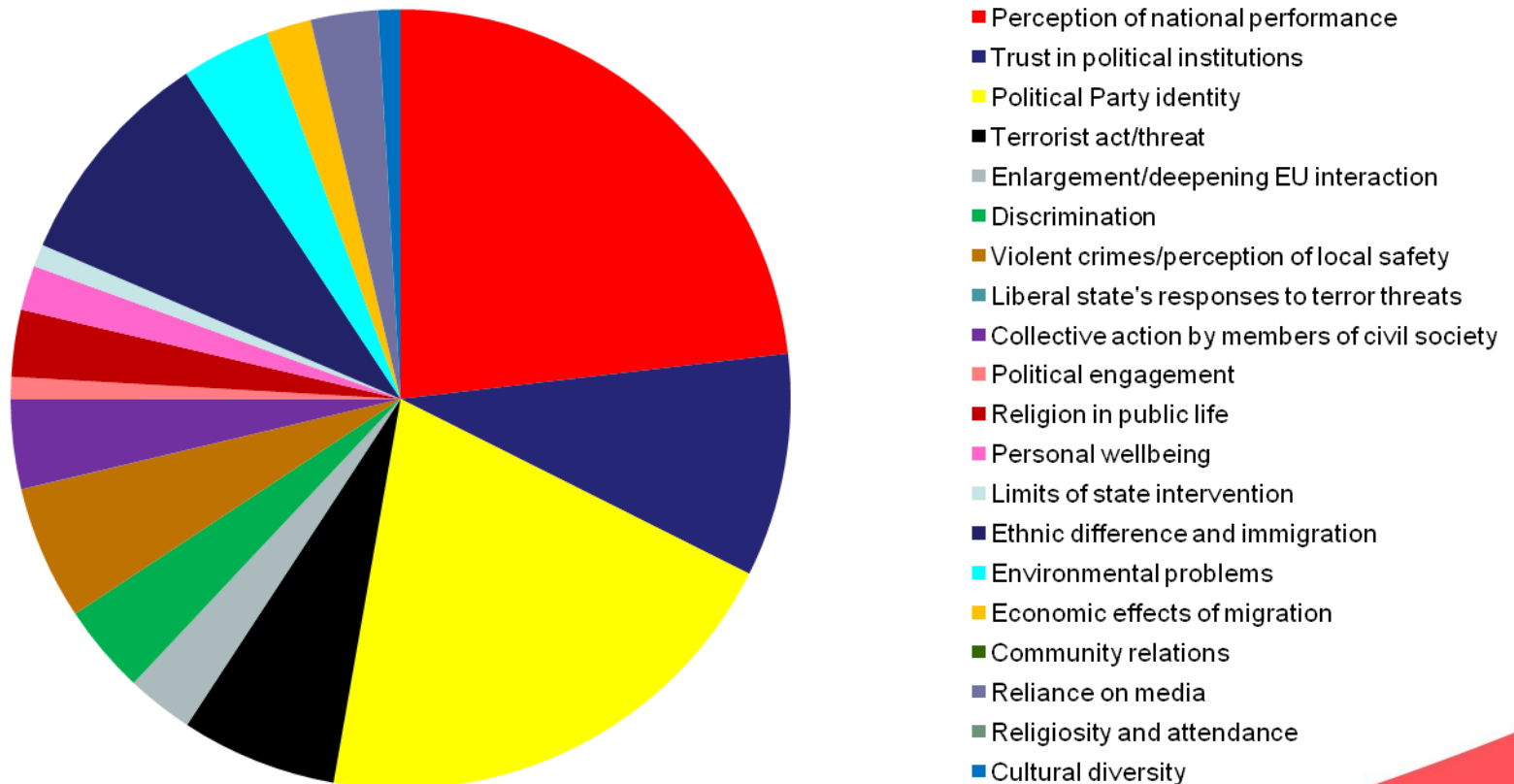
# Greece



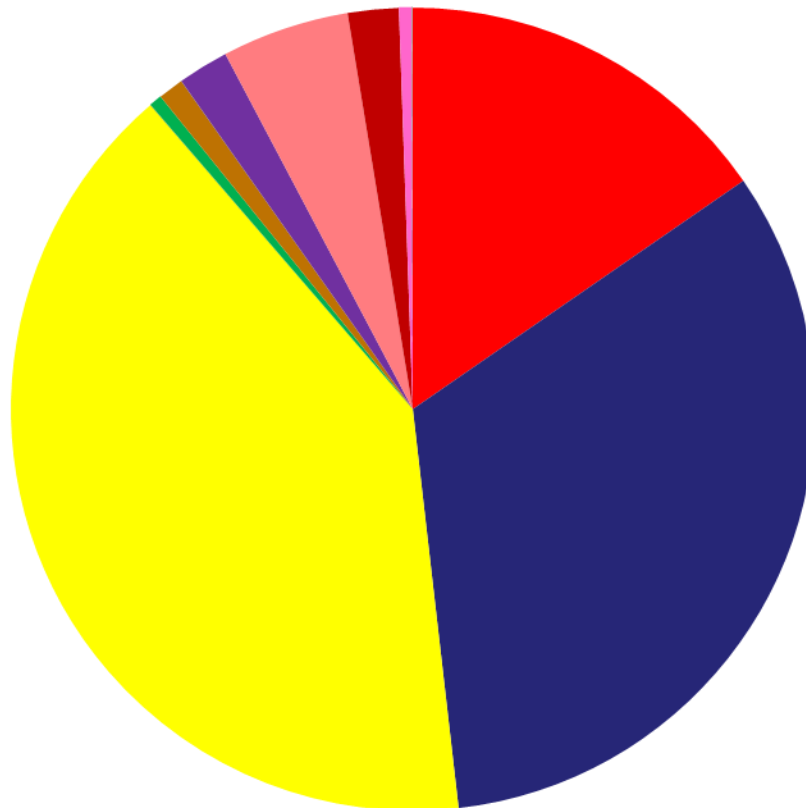
# Lithuania



# Netherlands

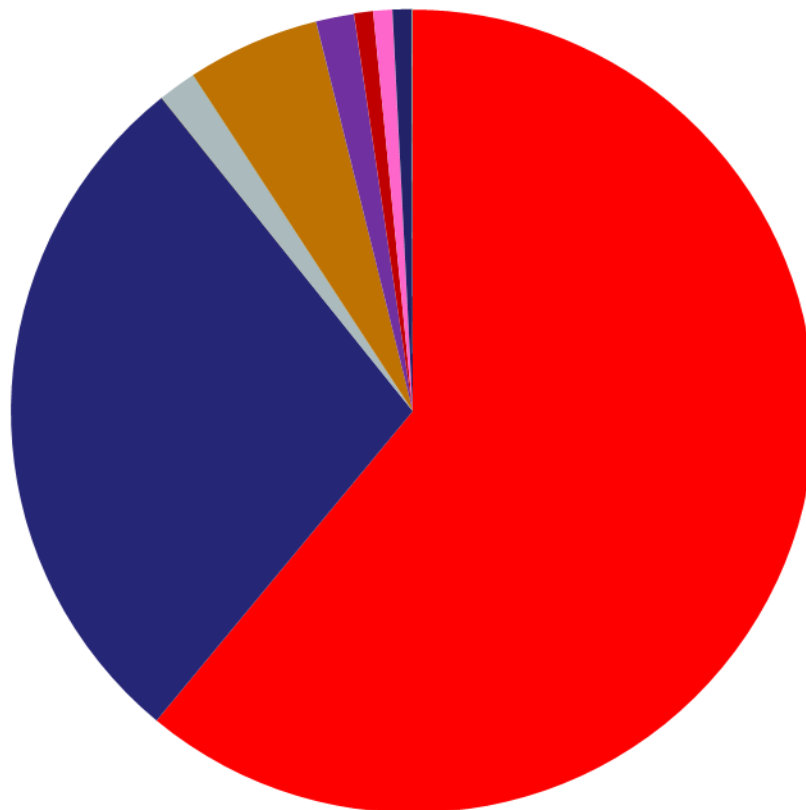


# Poland



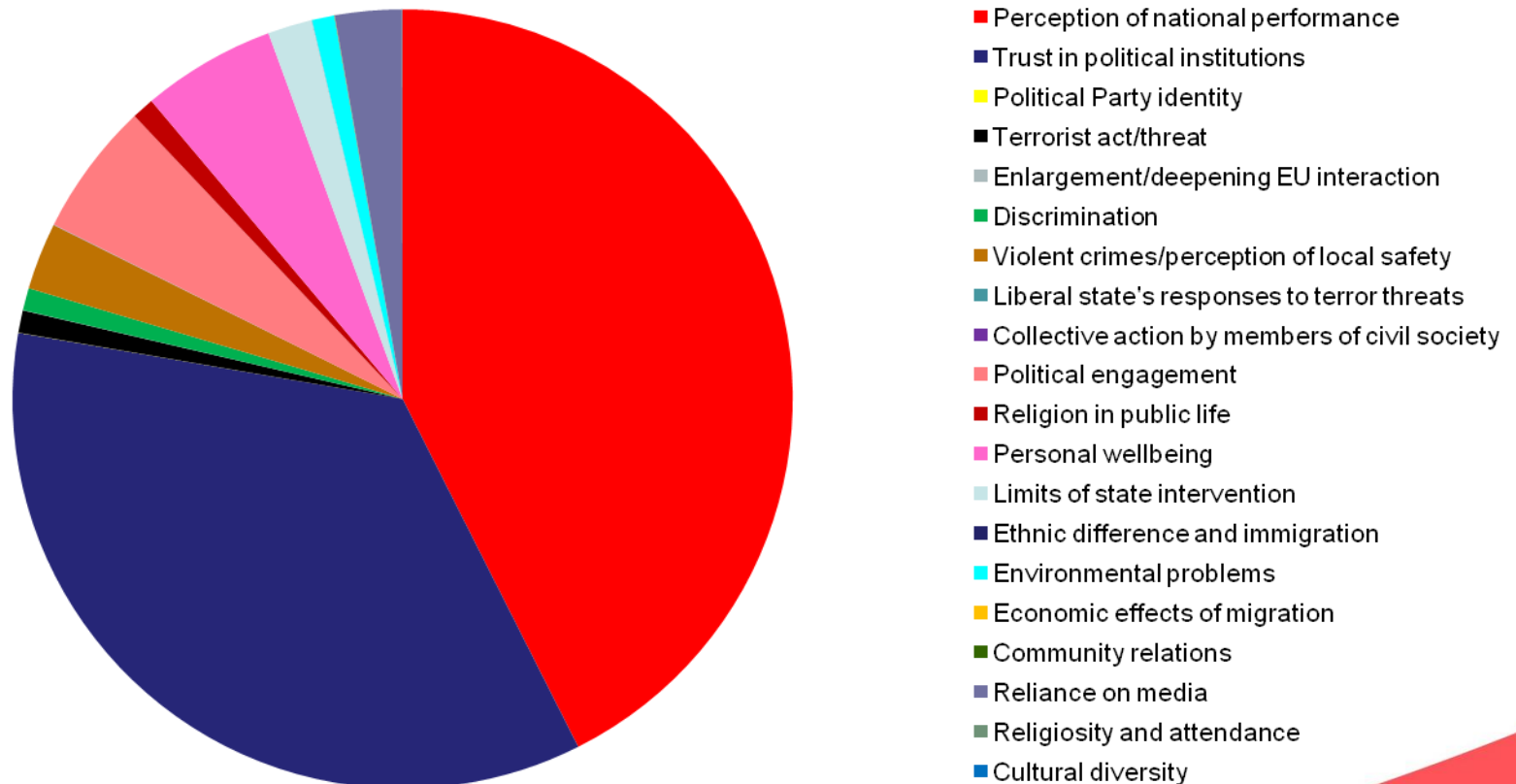
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# Portugal

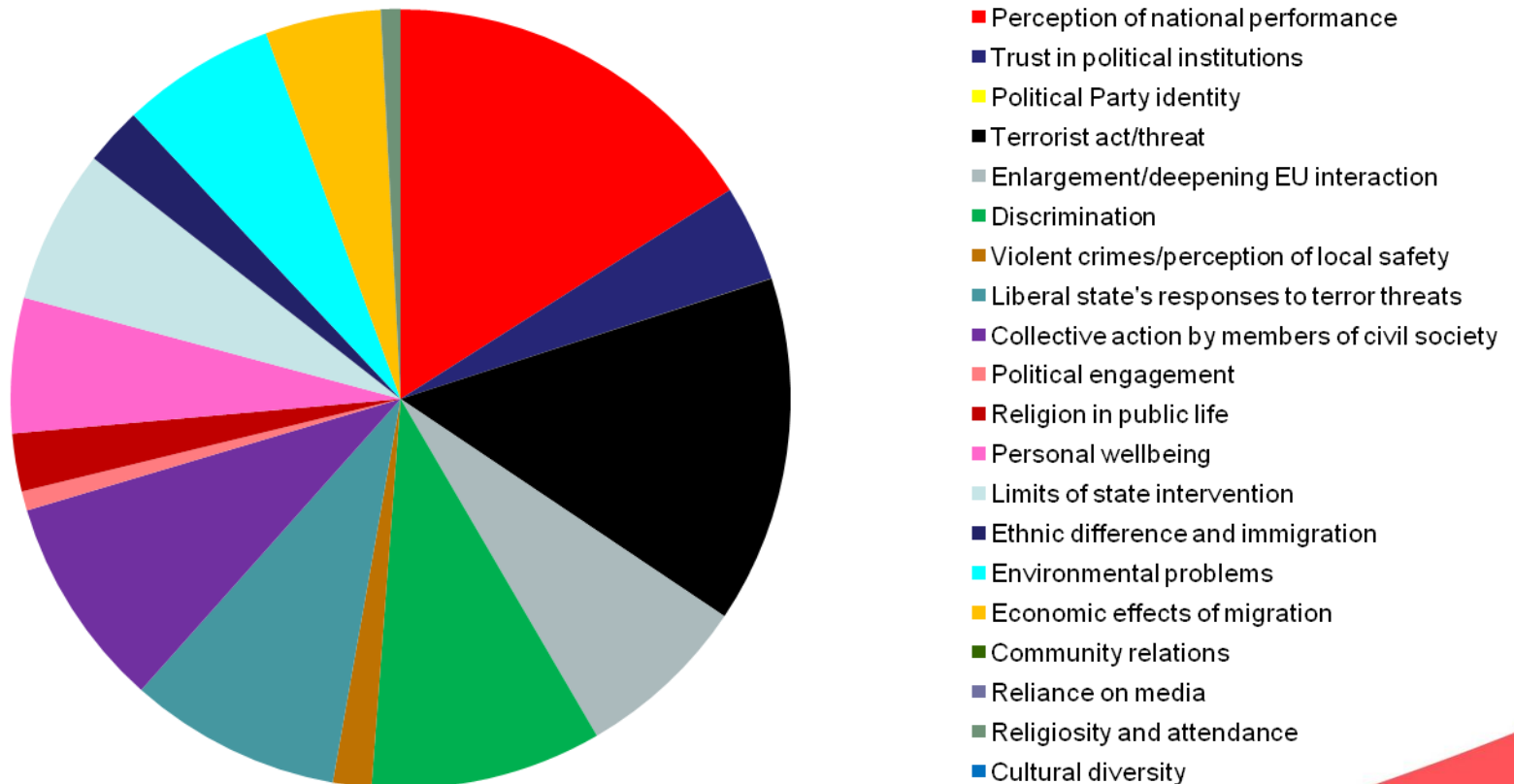


- Perception of national performance
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# Slovakia

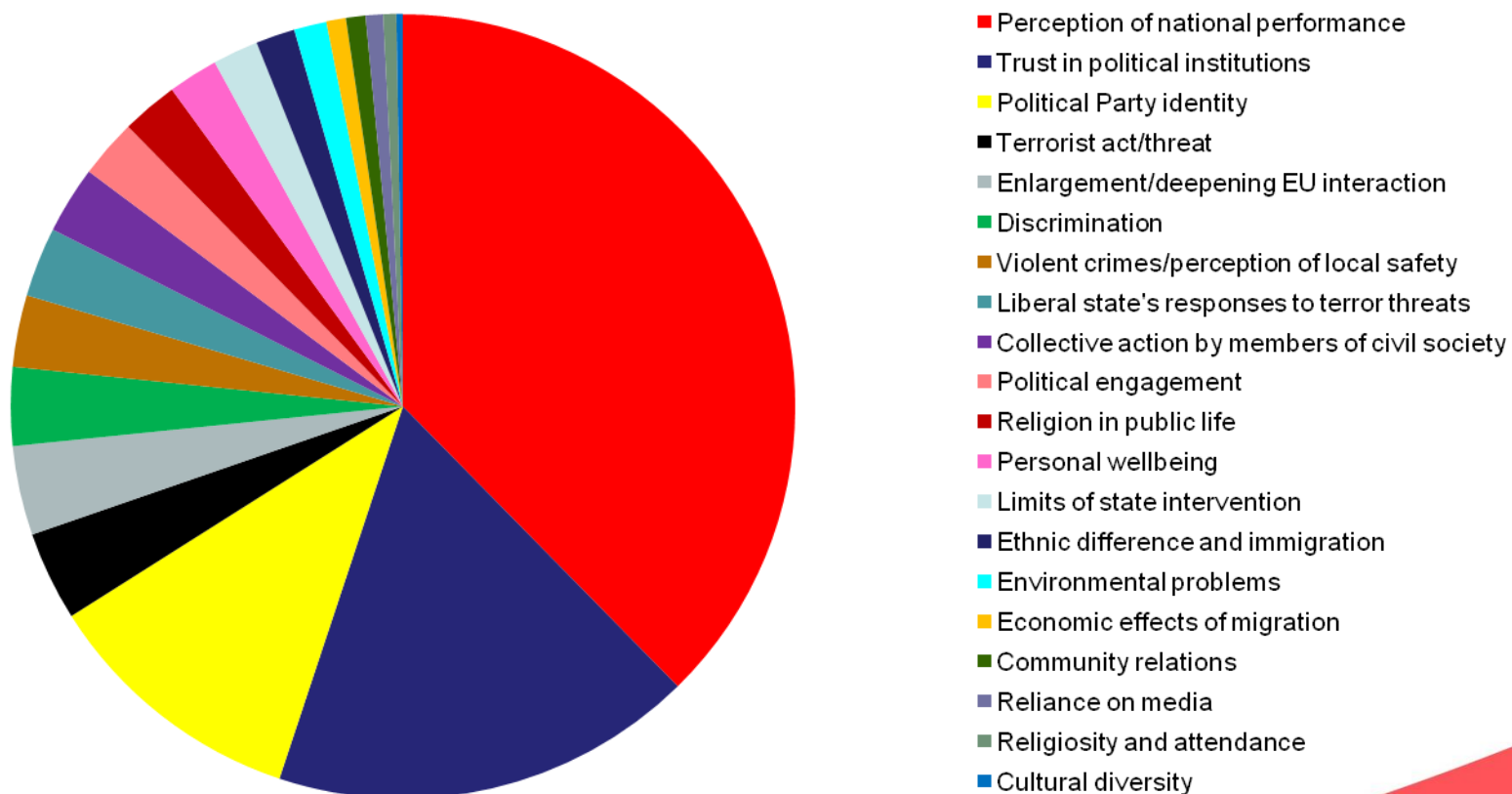


UK





# Total



## Results: database

- Country
- Issue
- Date
- Actor
- Party
- Value
- Headline
- Text claim
- (go back to newspaper article)

Country	Issuefield	Neg	Neu	Pos	Diff
Spain	Perception of national performance	16	0	7	-9
	Political Party identity	13	0	8	-5
	Liberal state's responses to terror threats	12	5	4	-8
Greece	Perception of national performance	82	13	60	-22
	Enlargement/deepening EU interaction	6	2	14	8
	Violent crimes/perception of local safety	1	3	9	8
Lithuania	Perception of national performance	33	1	7	-26
	Trust in political institutions	28	1	5	-23
	Community relations	6	0	2	-4
Netherlands	Perception of national performance	15	4	6	-9
	Political Party identity	13	5	4	-9
	Trust in political institutions	7	3	0	-7
Poland	Political Party identity	44	2	33	-11
	Trust in political institutions	31	3	30	-1
	Perception of national performance	15	0	15	0
Portugal	Perception of national performance	35	35	10	-25
	Trust in political institutions	13	14	10	-3
	Violent crimes/perception of local safety	0	1	6	6
Slovakia	Perception of national performance	33	1	12	-21
	Trust in political institutions	25	3	10	-15
	Personal wellbeing	3	3	0	-3
UK	Perception of national performance	15	2	3	-12
	Terrorist act/threat	1	8	9	8
	Discrimination	2	0	10	8

# Analysis

- Country information: major events
- Relate major events to questionnaire answers
- Spot major changes in answer patterns in questionnaire and relate to events
- Day to day track of events

# Advantages

- Objective
  - Claim is in newspaper
  - Irrespective judgment journalist/coder
- Standardized
- Reproducible
- Link to questionnaire
- Compare countries, periods (within or across fieldwork)
- Analysis (multilevel, time series)
- Hypotheses
- (Coding at any time)

# Problems/disadvantages

## ■ Availability

- LexisNexis
- Paper newspapers

## ■ Which newspaper?

## ■ Training (exercises) essential

## ■ Burden

- 1 to 2 hours per day (8 claims per day)
- Training effect

# Future

- Sample days or claims
  - (as sample persons in ESS)
- One day per week?
- One day per week entire year?
  - Changes in climate as background to ESS “weather”