

Research on Czech Political Parties Conducted Among Experts (2013)

The expert survey on Czech parties' policy positions was fielded following the Lower Chamber Elections of October 25-26, 2013. The online survey fieldwork was conducted between November 11, 2013 and January 31, 2014. This survey was implemented using the LimeSurvey v.2.0 online (open source) surveying software platform with a sample of 209 'experts' defined as academics involved in teaching politics or undertaking research on Czech parties and elections. The expert respondents were sent 3 email reminders during late November, December 2013, and January 2014. For the expert survey, the response rate was about 25% for fully completed questionnaires and about 44% for incomplete questionnaires.

The research team for this project consisted of the following institutions and researchers.

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University

PhDr. Roman Chytilek, Ph.D. (chytilek@fss.muni.cz)

Mgr. Otto Eibl, Ph.D. (eibl@fss.muni.cz)

Mgr. Vlastimil Havlík, Ph.D. (havlik@fss.muni.cz)

Department of Sociology of Politics, Institute of Sociology AS CR, vvi

PhDr. Lukáš Linek, Ph.D. (Lukas.linek@soc.cas.cz)

Pat Lyons, BA, MA, Ph.D. (pat.lyons@soc.cas.cz)

The research team fielded 38 scales, the majority of which replicate the Laver and Benoit (2006)* items. The survey was implemented using LimeSurvey and so the research team also measured the times of responses because this might be useful for evaluating data quality; and it did not involve any additional burden on the respondents.

For the 38 issue position scales each respondent was asked to locate each of 8 parties examined on the scale from 1 to 20. For each issue position scale there was a corresponding issue importance dimensions that also had a 1 to 20-point scale that measured how important the respondent thought each issue was for all of the parties examined.

Parties Examined:

1. Social Democratic Party (ČSSD): centre-left, pro-EU
2. Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM): leftist, anti-EU
3. Tradition Responsibility Prosperity (TOP 09): centre-right, fiscally conservative, pro-EU
4. Civic Democrats (ODS): right, liberal, Eurosceptic
5. Yes 2011 (ANO 2011): right, liberal, populist
6. Tomio Okamura's Dawn of Direct Democracy (Usvít): right, populist, anti-EU
7. Christian Democrats (KDU-ČSL): right, social conservative, pro-EU
8. Green Party (SZ): ecology, social liberal, pro-EU

As an informal experiment, the research team also fielded the same survey to non-experts or citizens interested in politics using social networks (Facebook) and the institutes website to recruit respondents. This was a completely separate survey and did not interfere in any way with the main study. A total of 95 individuals responded to this survey. The main purpose of this informal research was to see if the experts' scores are significantly different of 'well-

informed' (non-academic) citizens. This survey research revealed that many non-experts started the online survey relative few completed it - the completion rate was about 11%. In contrast, the completion rate for experts was about 25%. This differential suggests that experts have more 'patience' in completing a set of party policy items that took about 30 minutes to complete.

Each data file contains both complete and incomplete questionnaires. There is a 'complete' (Komplet) variable allowing a researcher to select only those who answered all questions should this be required. In the combined 'expert' and 'non-expert' there is also a variable who were the different type of respondents. All timing variable data is in seconds and represents LimeSurveys' measurement of how long it took a respondent to complete a position or importance question for all 8 parties. In our survey, this represent the opening and closing of a specific webpage. There are thus 38 timing variables: one for each scale. From this timing data it is obvious that some respondents informally suspended the survey for a few hours. Please find attached the following files.

- 1) Czech Expert Survey Dataset (2013) in Czech & English
- 2) Czech Non-expert Survey Dataset (2013) in Czech & English
- 3) Combined Czech Expert and Non-expert Datasets (2013) in Czech & English
- 4) Common Expert and Non-Expert Questionnaire in Czech & English

These SPSS datasets are labelled in Czech and English. As noted above, all 3 datasets contain 'timing' data: that is, how long it took each respondent to complete a specific policy or importance question for all 8 parties.

The data from this research was used in the following publication:

Lyons, P. (2017). *Political Knowledge in the Czech Republic*. Prague: Institute of Sociology, pp. 382-392. This book is freely available for download as a pdf at <http://www.soc.cas.cz/en/publication/political-knowledge-czech-republic>

* Laver, M. and K. Benoit. 2006. *Party Policies in Modern Democracies*. London: Routledge.