

Public opinion and voting behaviour in a comparative perspective

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Website: <http://povb-ecpr.org/>

The ECPR Standing Group on *Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour in a Comparative Perspective* was established in 2008. A steering committee was elected at the business meeting during the Potsdam General Conference in September 2009.

The steering group sends out Newsletter to the members 2-4 times each year.

The steering group has initiated one section for each of the General Conferences in Potsdam and Reykjavik. Both of these sections have had the maximum number of panels (8). In 2011 the two co-convenors also were the section chairs and organised the section.

We have also endorsed other applications for sections at the General Conferences and applications for workshops at the Joint Sessions which have been within our field and which we have considered to have a high quality.

The steering group has initiated summer school courses within comparative studies of public opinion and voting behaviour for PhD students to be arranged at the Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Science Studies. The first course was held in the summer 2011 and we plan a new course in 2012. These courses are 10 ECTS courses and the evaluation form is an essay written within 2 months after the course. The courses have been financed by The Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship (CSDC) at McGill University in Montreal, the Training Network in Electronic Democracy (ELECDem) and the Department of Political Science at the University of Oslo.

A bibliographic database of journal articles on voting behaviour and related topics has been established. All journal articles on voting behaviour published between January 2009 and the summer 2011 in central political science journals are included. The database contains full bibliographic information and abstracts of around 850 articles.

Membership development: When the standing group was established we were supported by 180 scholars who then became members of the group. The number of members has gradually increased to 313 in October 2011. The members come from 39 different countries. Most of the members come from European countries, but there are also members from other parts of the world. A significant number comes from North America: USA is represented in the Standing Group with 19 members and Canada with 10 members.

Website: A website has been developed from the last month of 2008. The website has a lot of useful sections: It includes a) a catalogue of the members of the standing group; b) a list of publications, working papers and conference papers submitted by the members of the standing group c) a bibliographic database of journal articles on voting behaviour (available only to the registered members of the website) d) a forum about news, ideas, initiatives, call for papers and other related posts submitted by the members of the SG: e) a forum for posts related to job vacancies: f) our newsletters; and g) links to various resources (data, journals, associations, national election studies, conferences, etc.) The website enjoys significant traffic of new and returning visitors every month.¹

In the coming years the steering committee will continue with working on the themes that are mentioned above.

¹ Ioannis Andreadis in the steering group has worked out a report about the website and the membership development which is attached to this report. The steering group hopes that this report is distributed to the ECPR authorities.