

Pre-application

File number	462.19.327
Grant	NORFACE Democratic governance in a turbulent age
Applicant	Prof. C.H. Knutsen

Title

Agents and Dynamics of Democratic Erosion (ADDE)

Abstract

ADDE will study democratic erosion, which we define as processes of democratic decline that are i) gradual, ii) driven, at least partly, by incumbent leaders, and iii) occur in regimes that initially display high levels of democracy. The main objective of ADDE is obtaining new knowledge of what characterizes and causes (different paths of) democratic erosion. We focus on the agents that propel such processes, termed authoritarian entrepreneurs. These are typically chief executives or party leaders. We examine how certain structural factors may facilitate actions by such entrepreneurs that may erode democracy, focusing on economic inequalities and crises. Further, we study whether, and how, party organizations and citizen attitudes constrain or enable authoritarian entrepreneurs.

The outcome studied by ADDE is relevant to the call's emphasis on changing authorities of institutions and representation, while our explanatory variables pertain to politics of threat, inequality and redistribution, and shifting identities. ADDE is organized into four work packages, with participants from University of Oslo, PRIO, University of Gothenburg, University of Nottingham, and SWPS, Warsaw. The work involves conceptualizing and measuring democratic erosion, developing an explanatory theory to account for why it happens, and testing this theory by collecting and analysing new data at the micro-, meso- and macro-levels. By furthering our understanding of how and why democratic erosion happens, we hope to inform policy makers in European and other countries at risk on how to identify symptoms of democratic erosion and which strategies can help prevent such developments.

Planned start date 01-08-2020

Planned end date 31-07-2023

Co-applicants

Name	Date of birth	Organisation
Dr. FCB Casal-Bértoa		University of Nottingham
Dr. AL Lührmann		University of Gothenburg
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Organisation responsible for the application

University of Oslo
Department of Political Science

Implementing organisation

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Research fields

Code	Discipline	Main research field
44.20.00	Political science	

Keywords

-DEMOCRATIC EROSION
-DEMOCRATIC DECLINE
-POLITICAL PARTIES
-EXECUTIVES
-CITIZENS
-DEMOCRACY
-INEQUALITY
-CRISIS

Documents

In this pre-application, the following documents are attached:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Pre application form
- Budget

Confirm Pre application

With submitting this form via ISAAC I declare to have filled in this form completely and truthfully.



Applicant

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