

The Correlation between Attitudes towards Immigrants and Voting Behavior

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Introduction

It is not unheard that one's party preference are highly associated with one's opinions on certain issues. Parties that are on the right end of the spectrum are more likely to be anti-immigrants while parties that are on the left end of the spectrum tend to have more open policy on immigrants. As a result, it will be reasonably to assume that if an individual has negative view on immigrants is more likely to support a party whose ideology aligns with this and vice versa.

In this study, I will investigate the correlation between individuals' views on immigrants and their voting behavior with a focus on Finnish population. The hypothesis is formulated as follows,

Do peopel who have more negative views on immigrants more likely to vote for praties that are right-leaning?

The data being used in this study is from round 11 (2023/24) of European Social Suvery (ESS).

link to find the list of variables in this data set <https://ess.sikt.no/en/datafile/242aaa39-3bbb-40f5-98bf-bfb1ce53d8ef>

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics on Voter Attributes

		NCP (N=255)		SDP (N=290)		TF (N=175)		Other (N=445)	
		Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
Age		55.8	18.1	59.4	17.6	50.3	16.4	52.0	18.2
Opinions on Immigrants		6.9	1.9	6.9	1.9	4.8	2.1	7.1	1.8
		N	Pct.	N	Pct.	N	Pct.	N	Pct.
Sex	Male	128	50.2	135	46.6	115	65.7	191	42.9
	Female	127	49.8	155	53.4	60	34.3	254	57.1
	No answer	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Higher Education	0	107	42.0	192	66.2	126	72.0	218	49.0
	1	148	58.0	98	33.8	49	28.0	227	51.0

Source: European Social Survey Round 11

Higher values in "Opinion on Immigrants" suggest more positive views.