

European Elections

candidate strategies and representation

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Interest and organization of our research

The most recent EU elections sparked some debate about the strategic candidacy of party secretaries in multiple electoral colleges, we analysed the dataset in search of its effectiveness and impact

Dataset: Italian European elections 2004 to 2019, Italian borders of administratives entities 2019

Source Dataset: Eligendo Open Data, ISTAT

Cleanup: Discrepancies between time of surveys and elections, missing data

Approach: What are the relevant questions to be answered? How can we arrange and show the data in an interesting way?

Breaking up the dataset: Given the complexity of the dataset, find how it can be broken up in meaningful parts

Conclusions: Can conclusions be drawn? What are they?

Brief introduction to EU elections



Questions

I

Party leaders

How do party leaders candidacy influence elections?

II

Strategies

What are some other strategic candidacies parties employ?

III

Representation

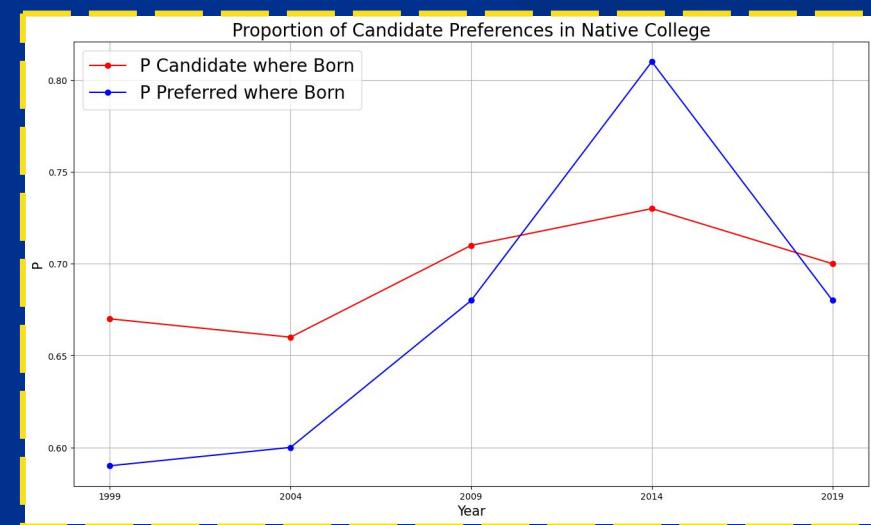
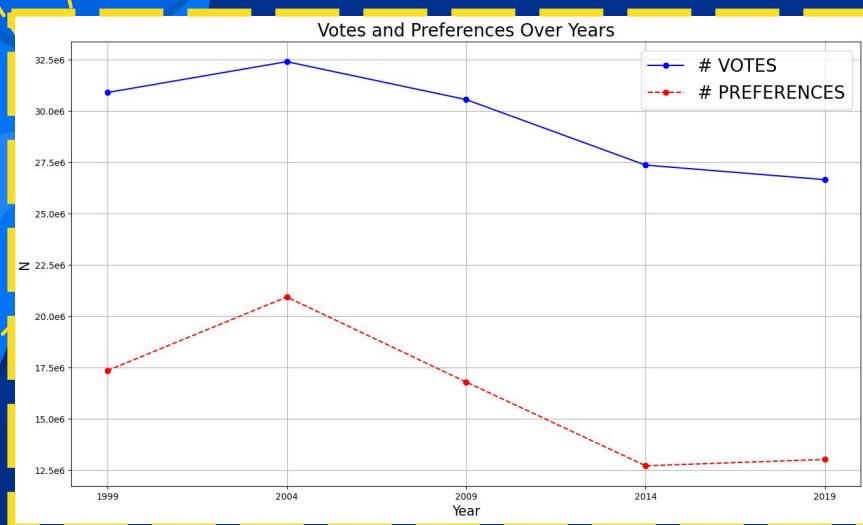
How do these strategies influence the representation of the voters?

IV

Why?

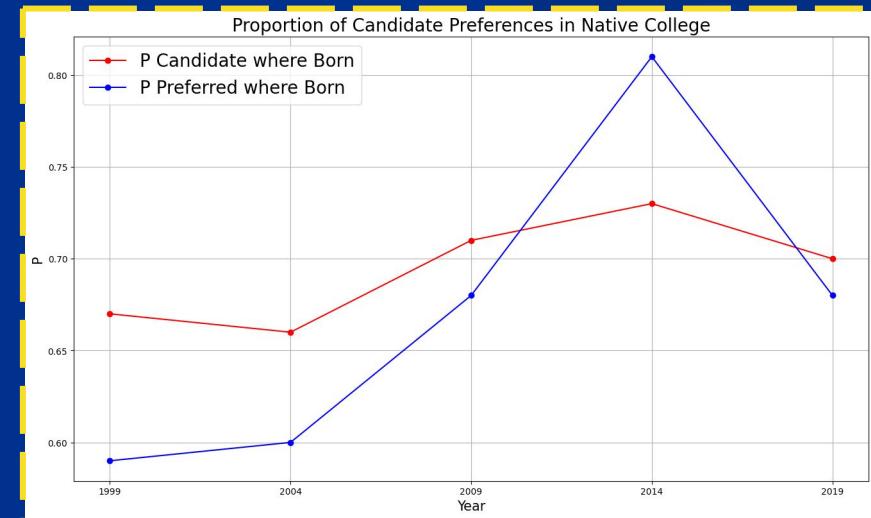
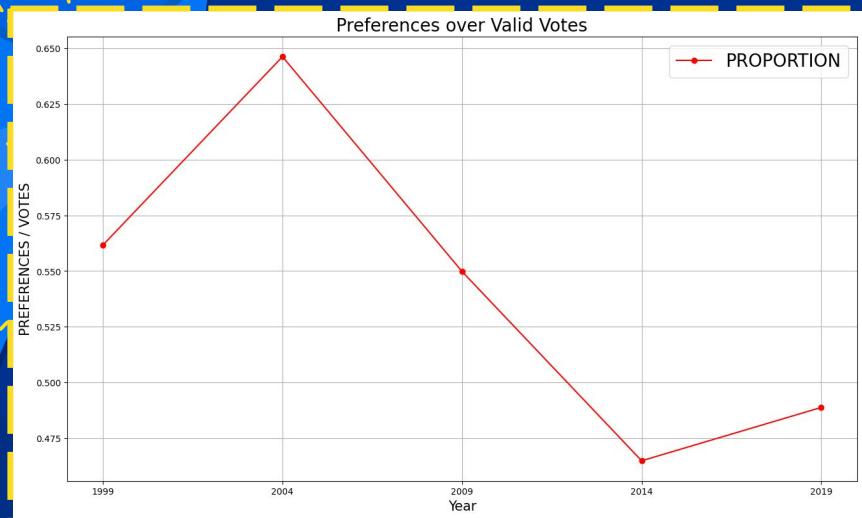
Is there any reason why parties act like this?

Time series of the dataset

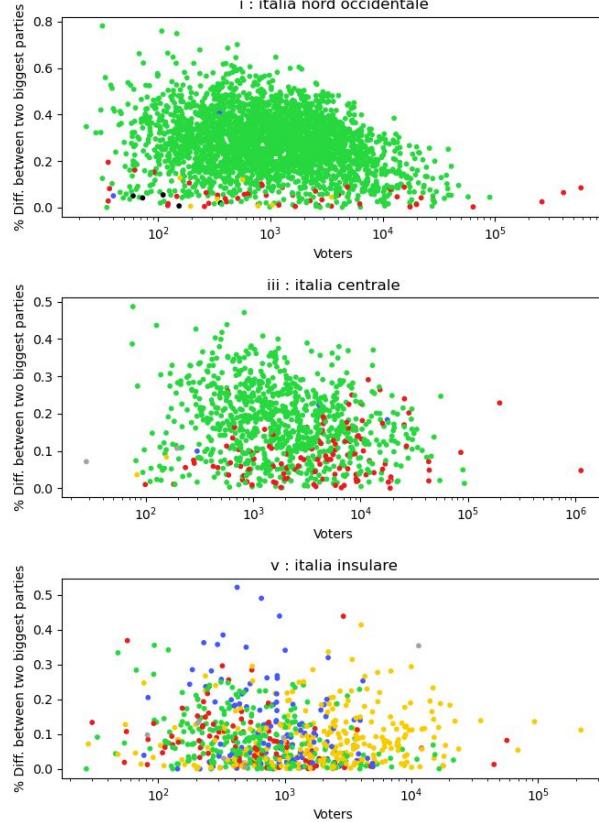


The number of candidate preferences has been on the decline, as has the overall voter turnout

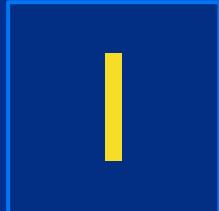
Time series of the dataset



2014 seems to have been a particularly interesting year for voter representation, keep it in the back of your mind

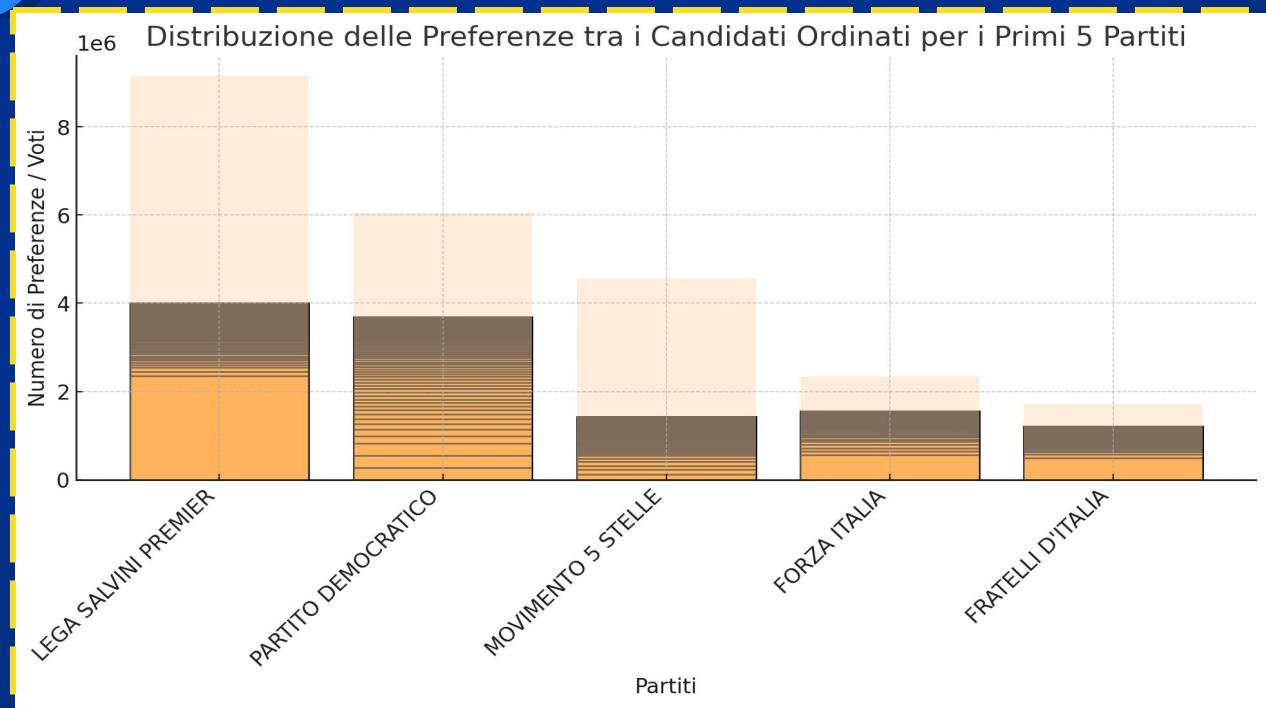


How are the votes
distributed?

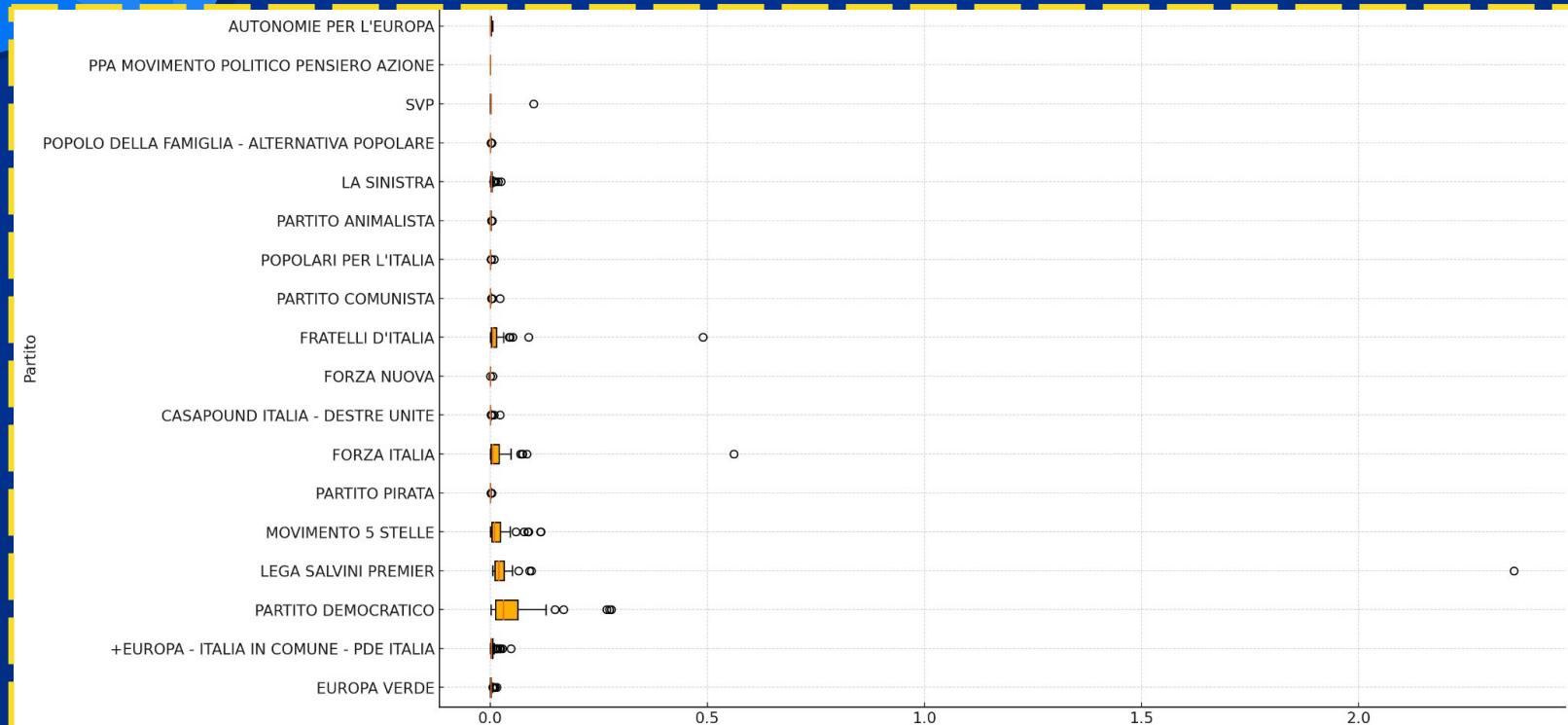


Do party leaders candidacy
influence elections?

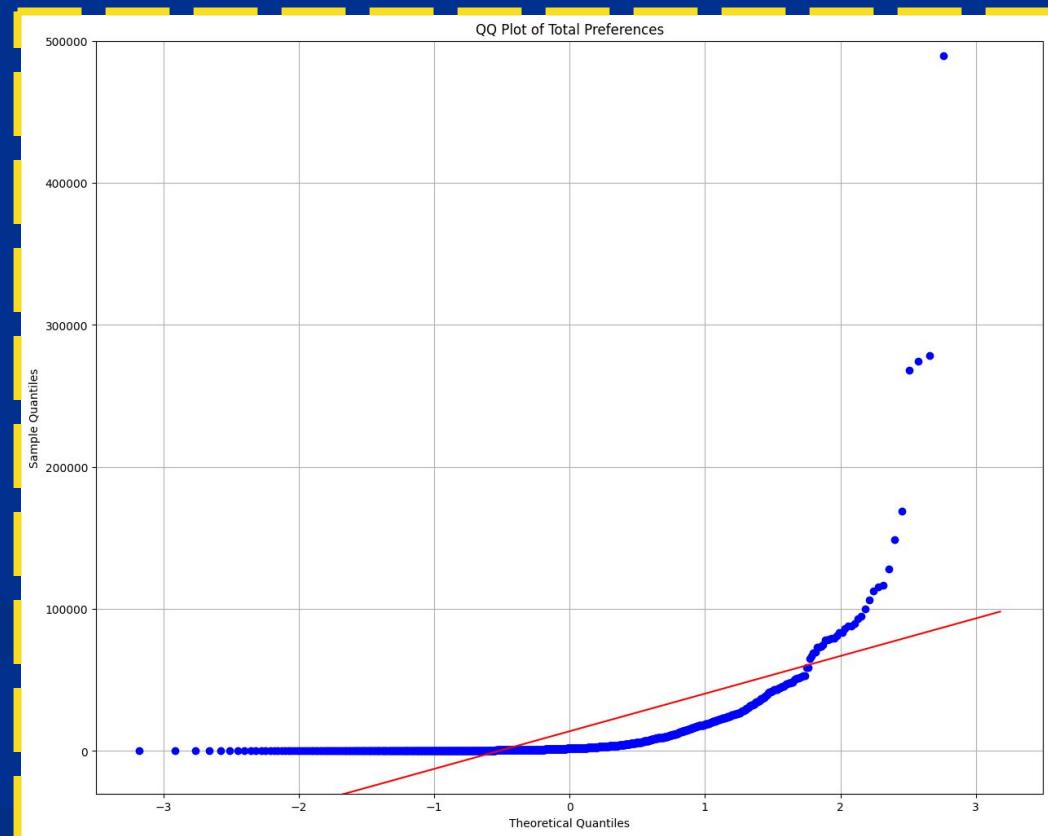
Distribution of preferences



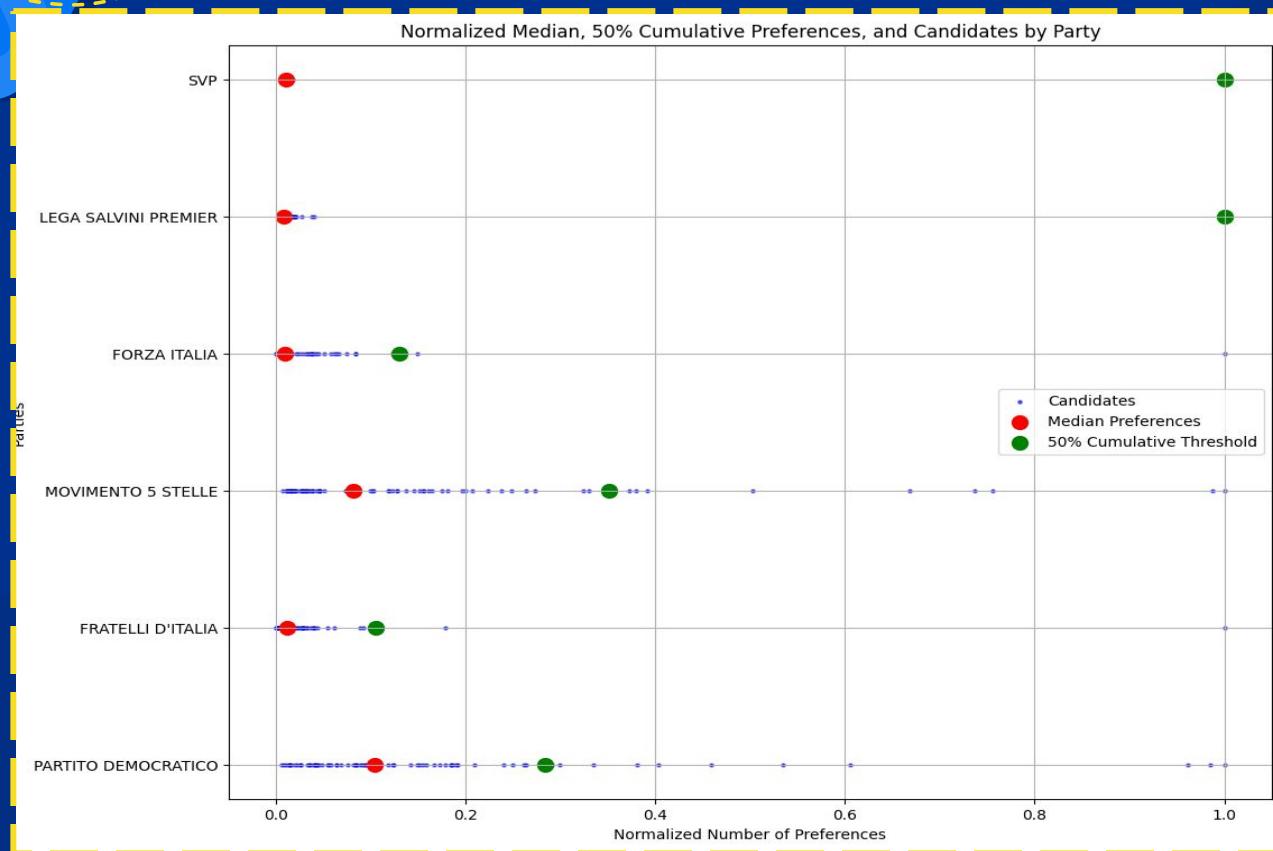
How are the preferences distributed ?



Preferences are distributed non normally



How are the preferences distributed ?



II

Other strategies
employed?

Towny candidates

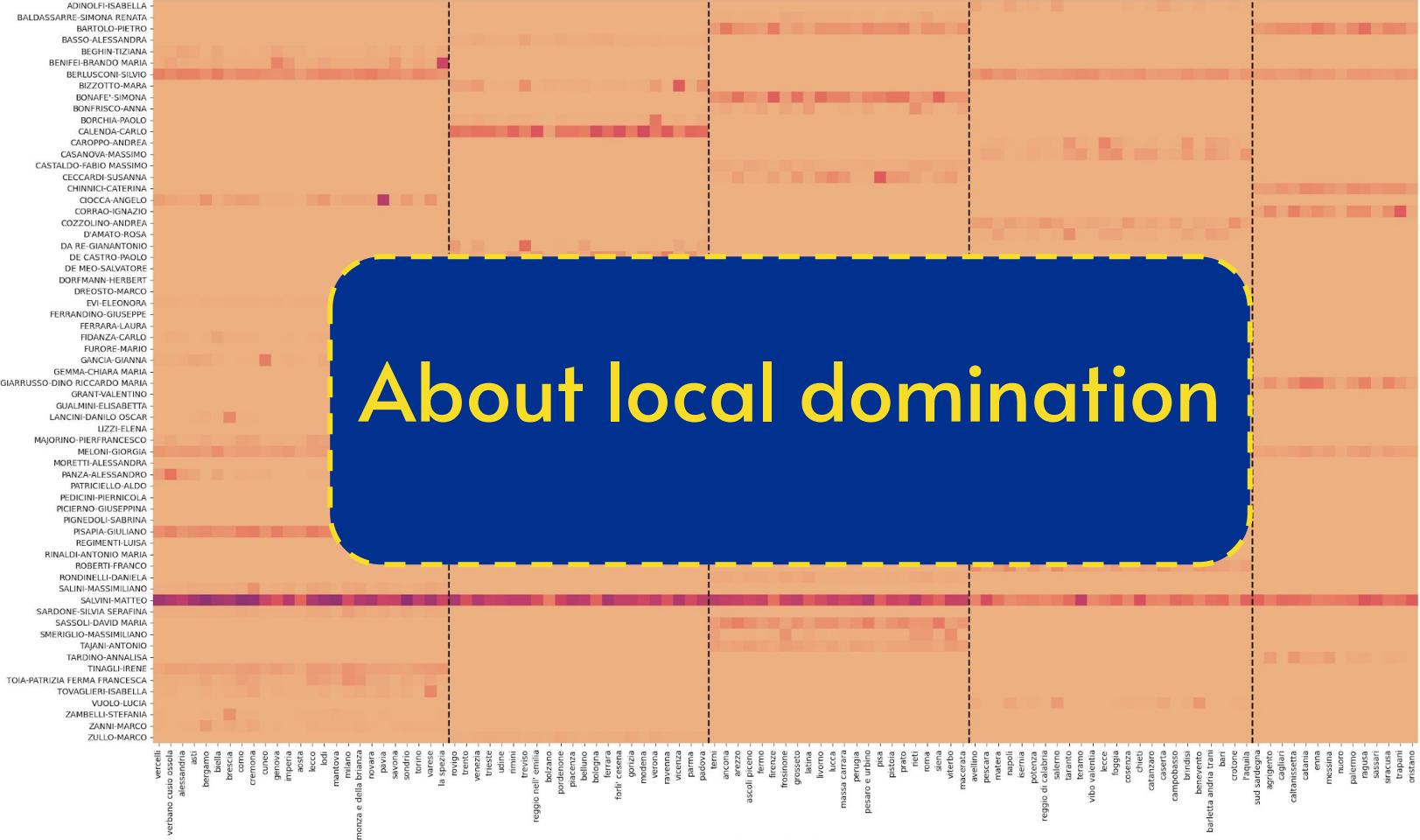
What if all those **minor candidates** were to gather support on a strictly **local level**, ensuring a base of **support for the party** while **not being elected** outright?

- Personalities
- Local candidates
- Member of a strong community

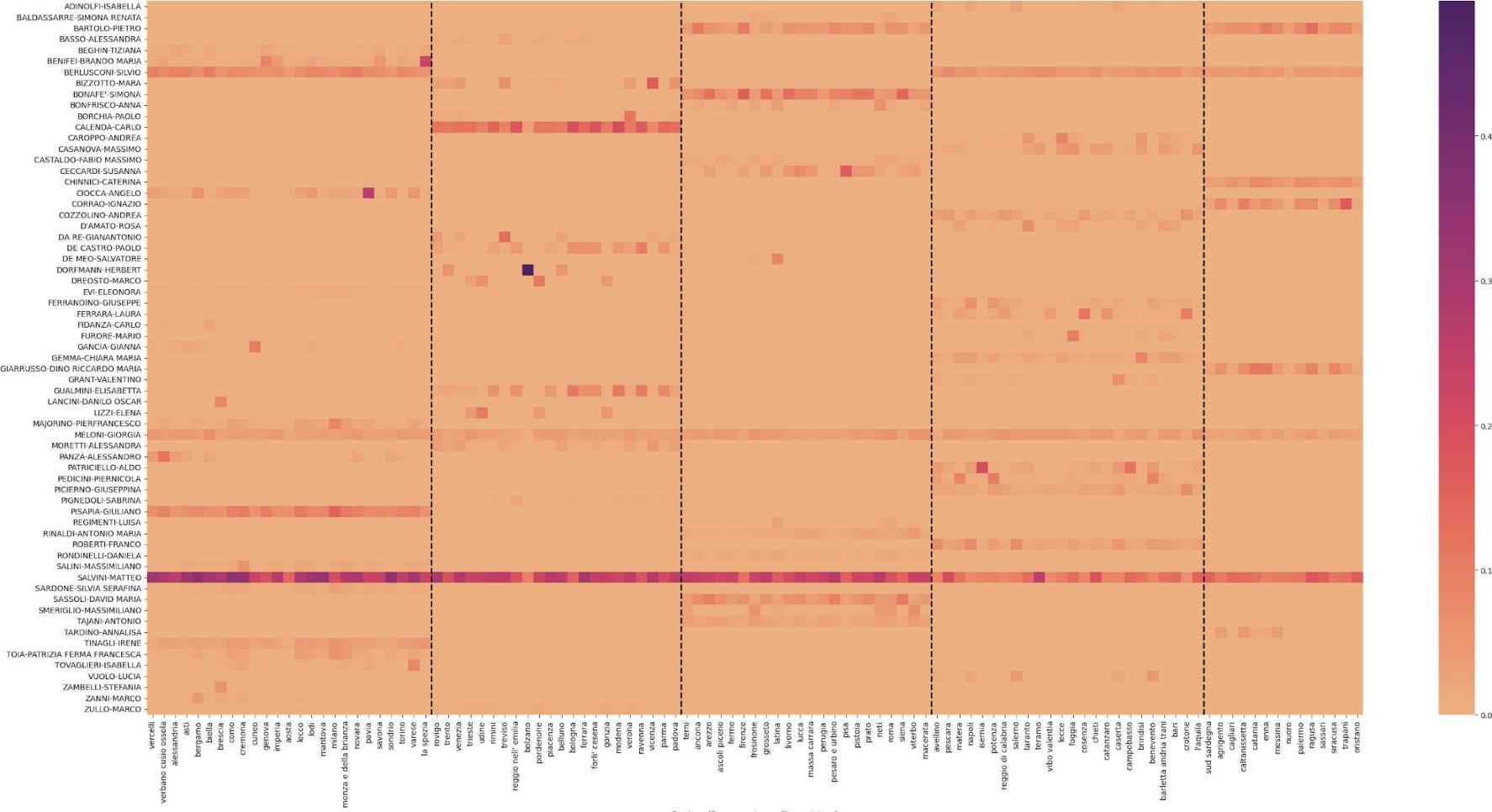
These Towny candidates would have to:

1. Win overwhelmingly in small areas (province level)
2. Must not be elected

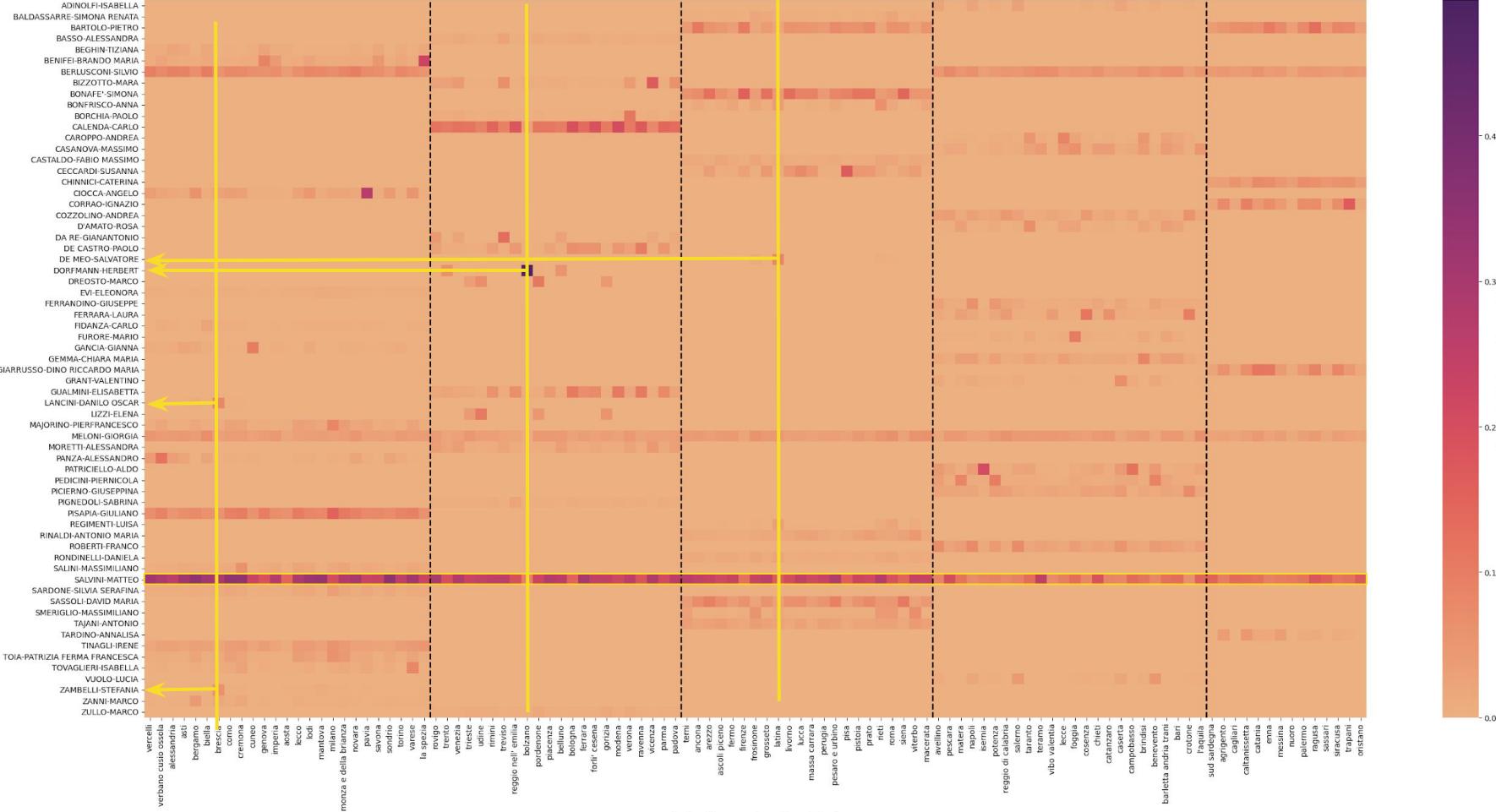
Percentuale di Preferenze (Normalizzate per Totale Preferenze per Provincia)

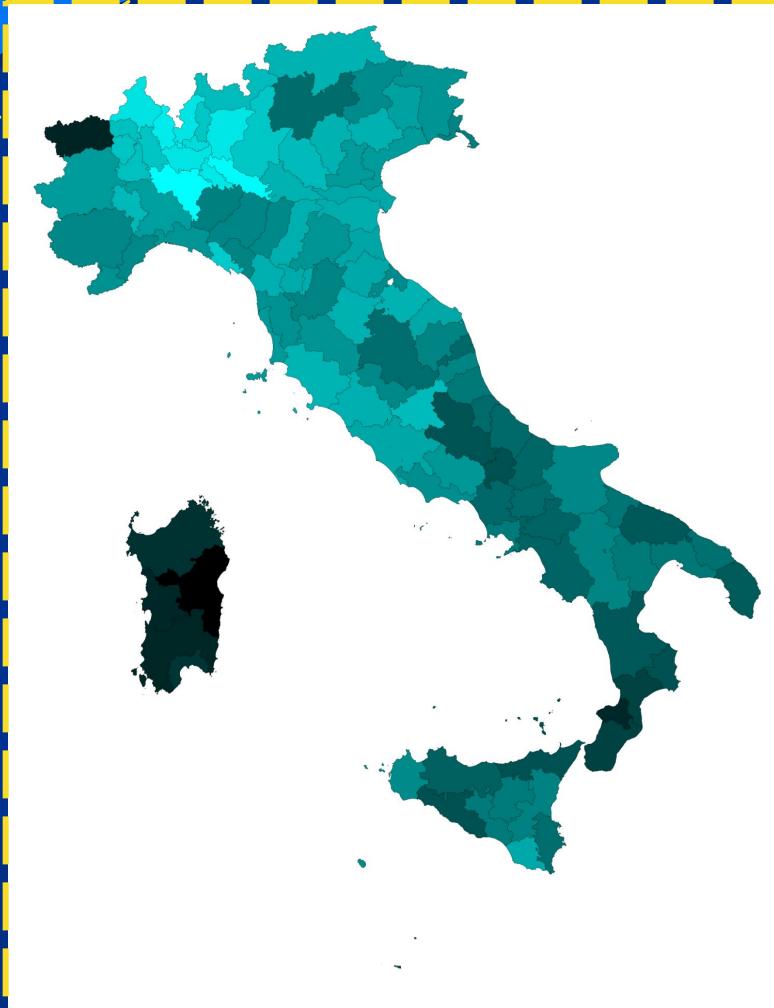


Percentuale di Preferenze (Normalizzate per Totale Preferenze per Provincia)



Percentuale di Preferenze (Normalizzate per Totale Preferenze per Provincia)





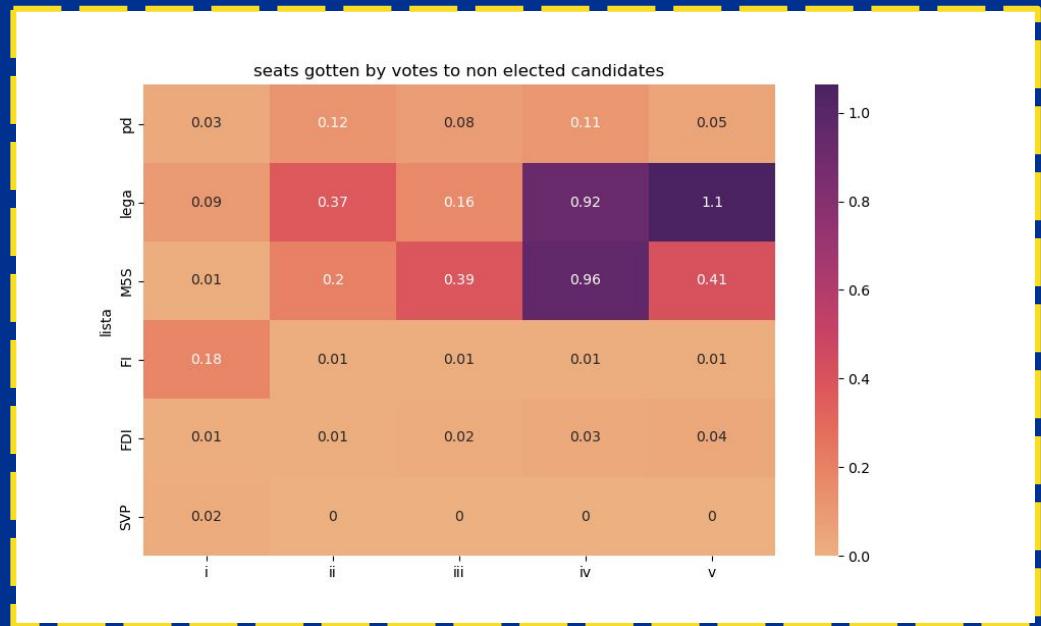
Preferences expressed to non elected candidates

The only place for these towny candidates to get large wins is very few places.

Sardinia had the highest preferences votes ratio (96%) but spread out its preferences between many candidates

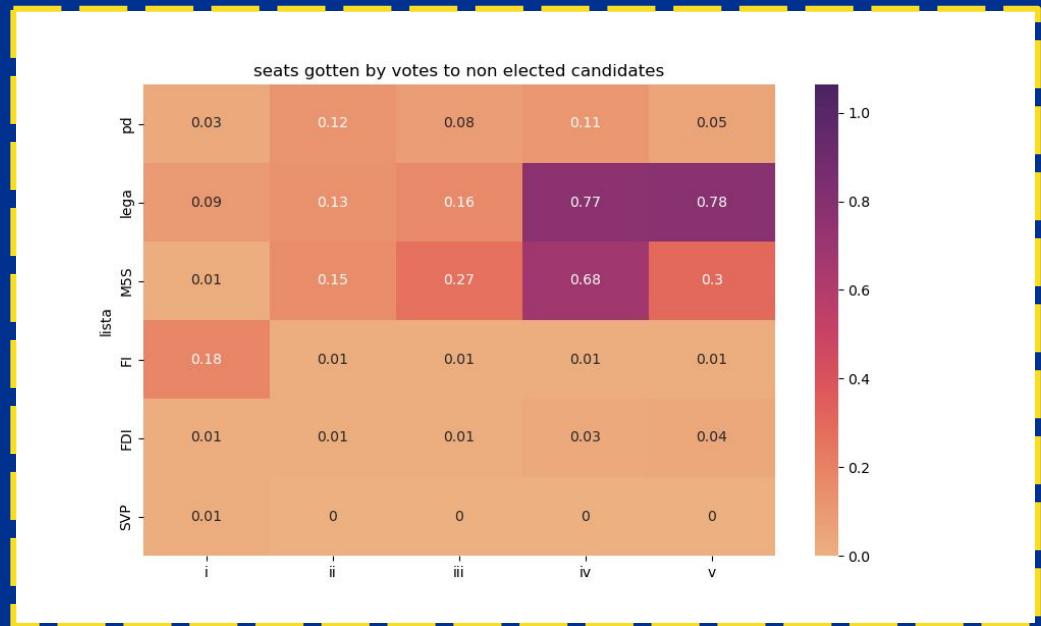
About the significance

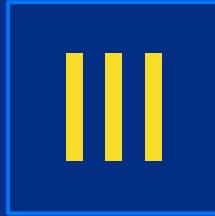
Amongst candidates which didn't get a seat:
we calculated the upper bound of votes they got, thus the number of seats per college contributed to the party



About the significance

And then we subtract the actual eu parliamentarians:
We reduce the impact of party
secretaries present in every
college blocking other
candidates

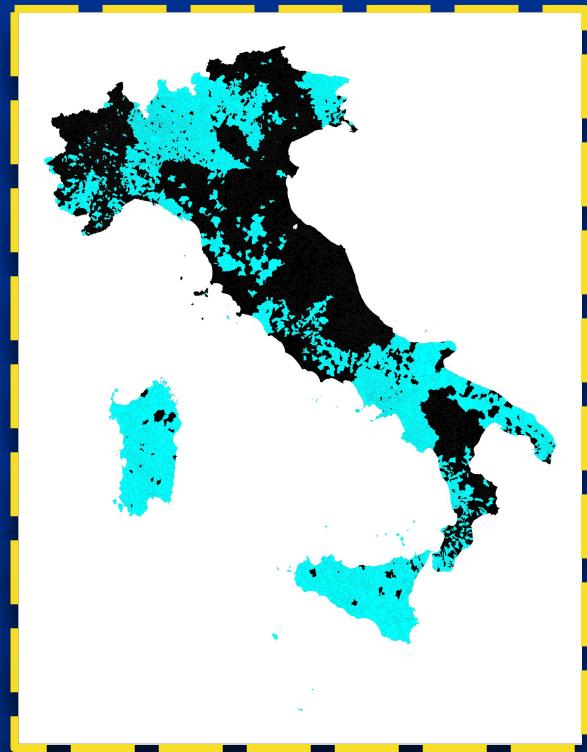




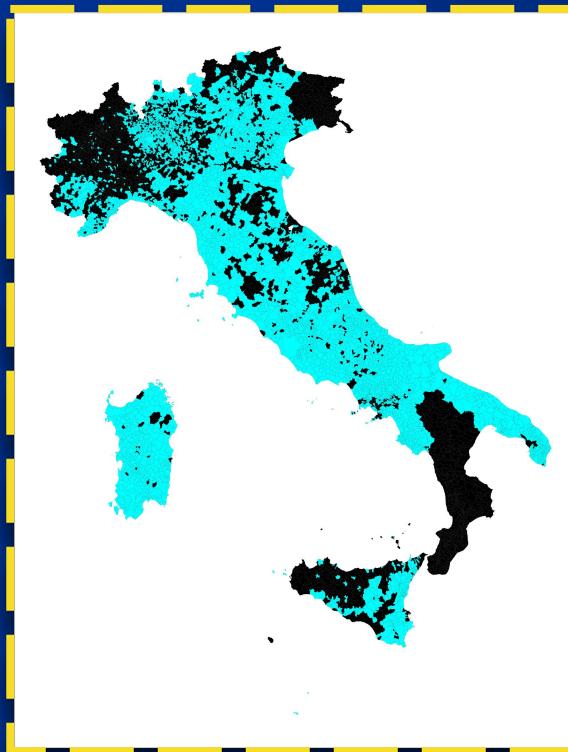
How do these strategies impact representation?

Most voted person also born in region

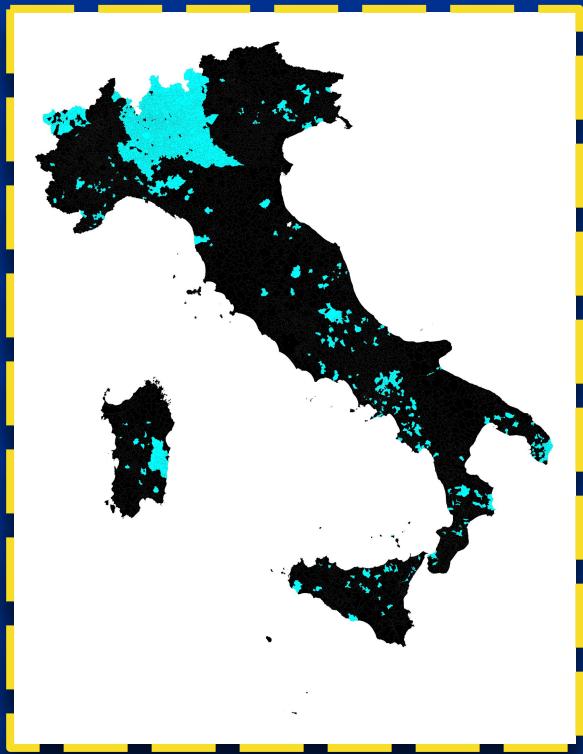
Partito Democratico



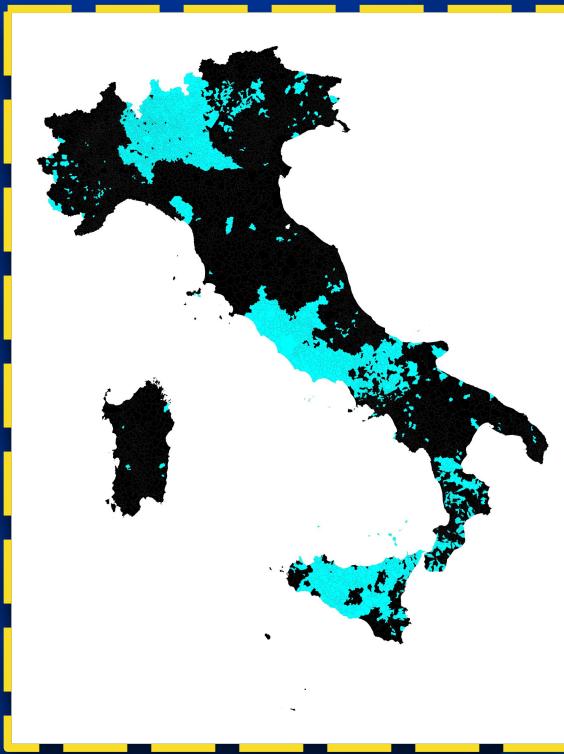
Movimento 5 stelle



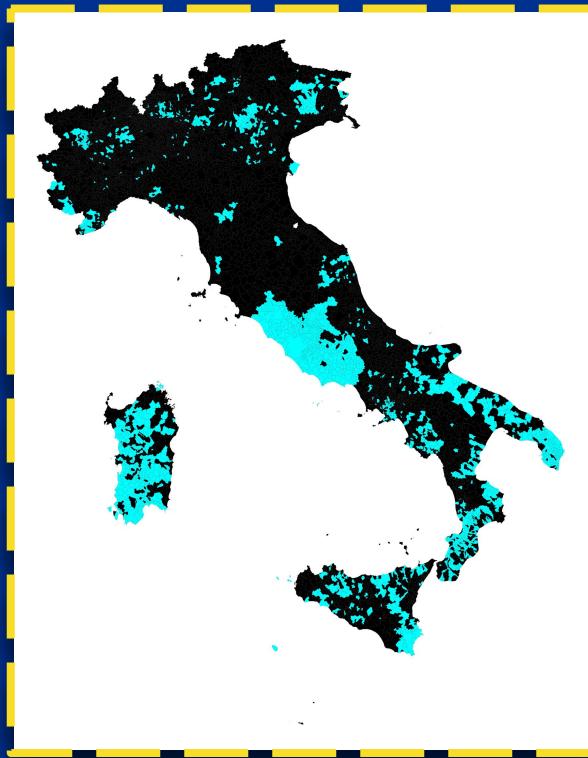
Lega Salvini Premier



Forza Italia

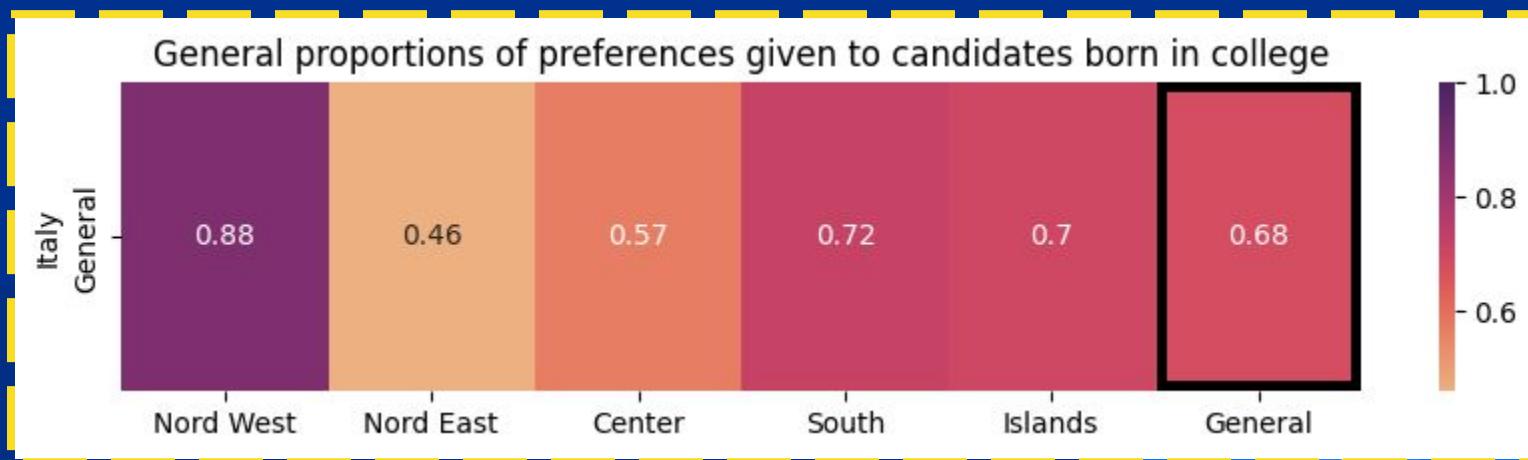


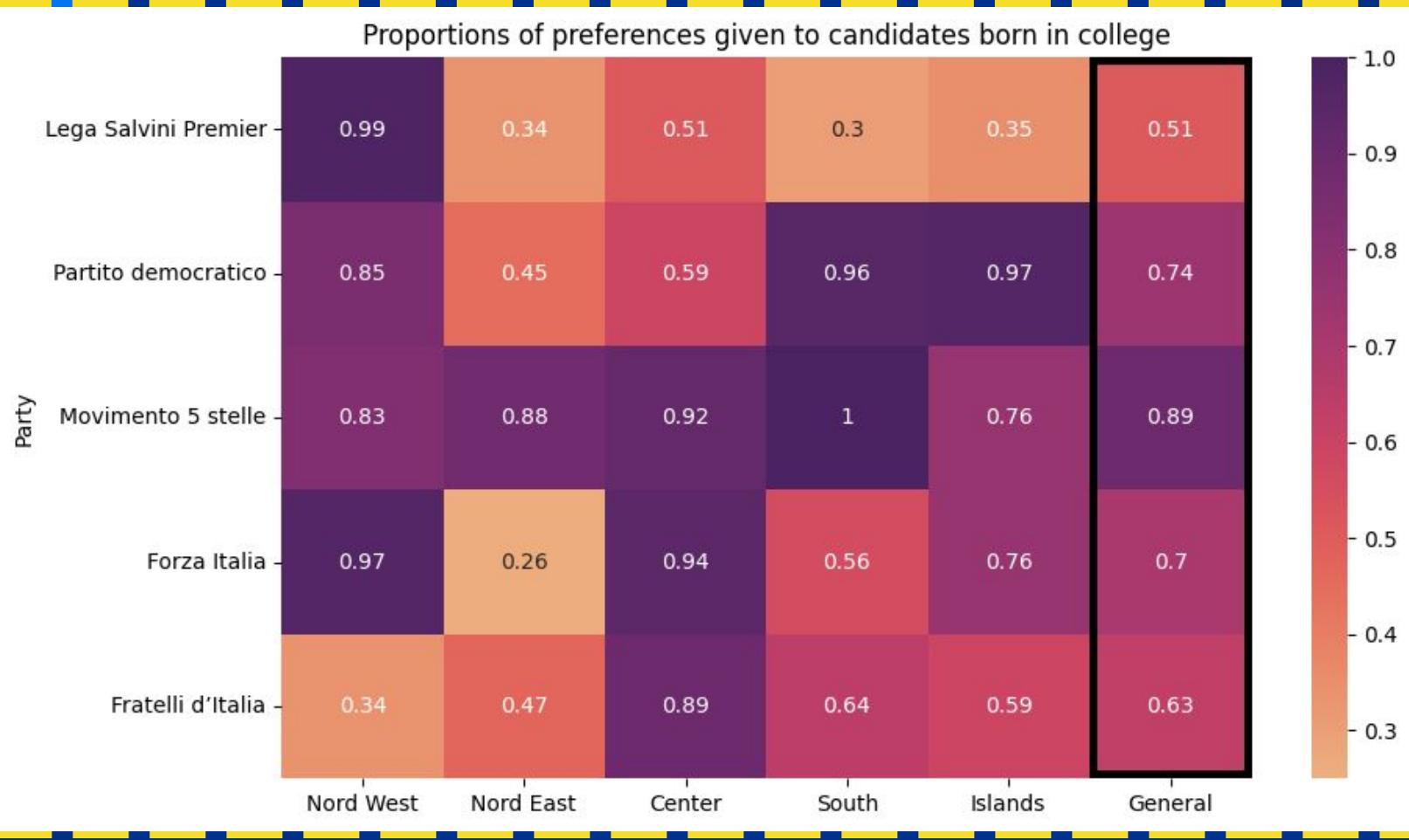
Fratelli D'Italia

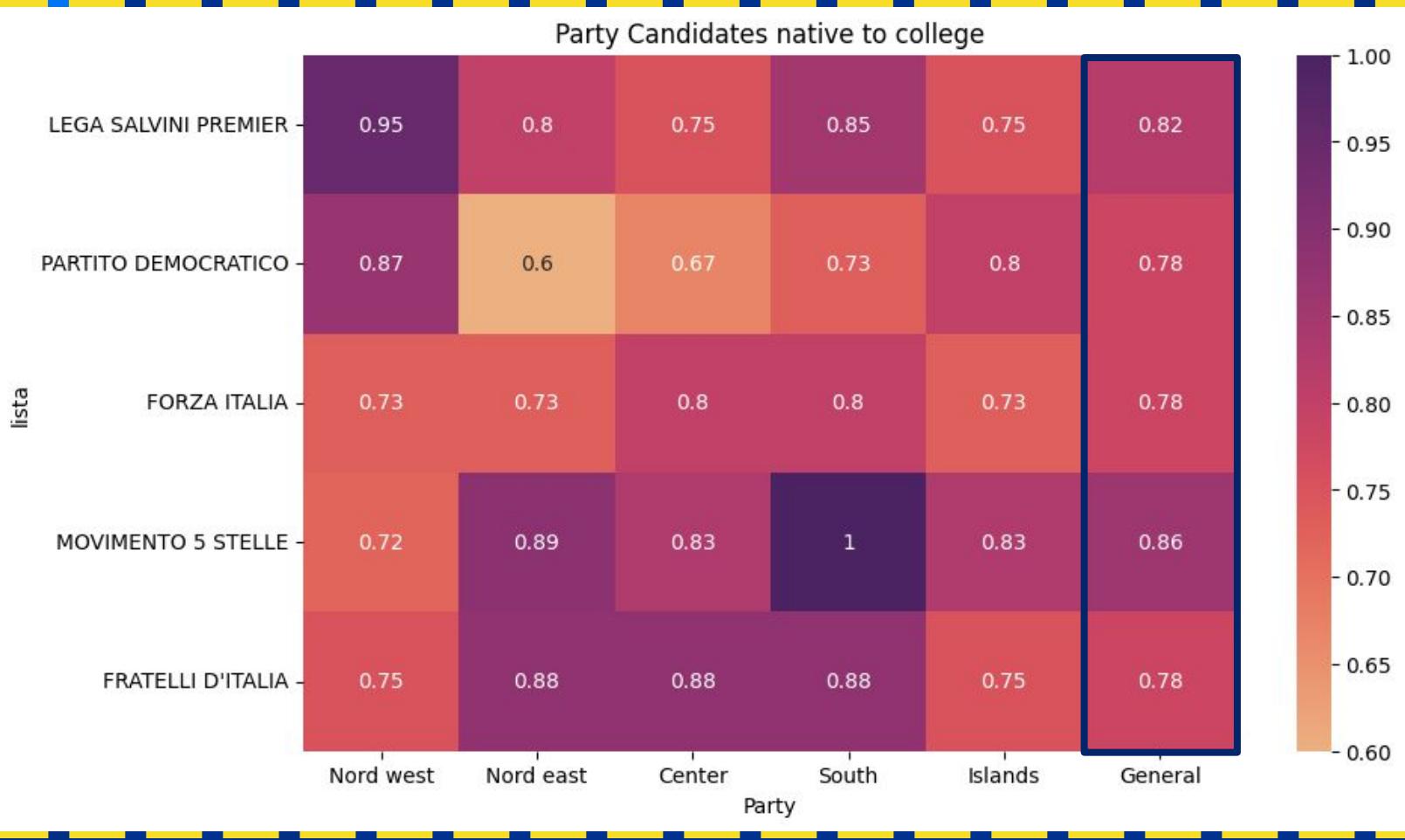


Less representation problem

- Having party leaders as candidates **thwarts accurate representation** as less preferences will decide the inner party ranking, as some **party leaders cater preferences toward themselves**.
- Accurate representation in the eu parliament goes down further when those party leader that got the majority of preferences **waive their right to become a parliamentarian**.
- 76 people effectively became parliamentarians for that legislation, with only **5,260,036** preferences in total, with **27,780,855** total voters in this election



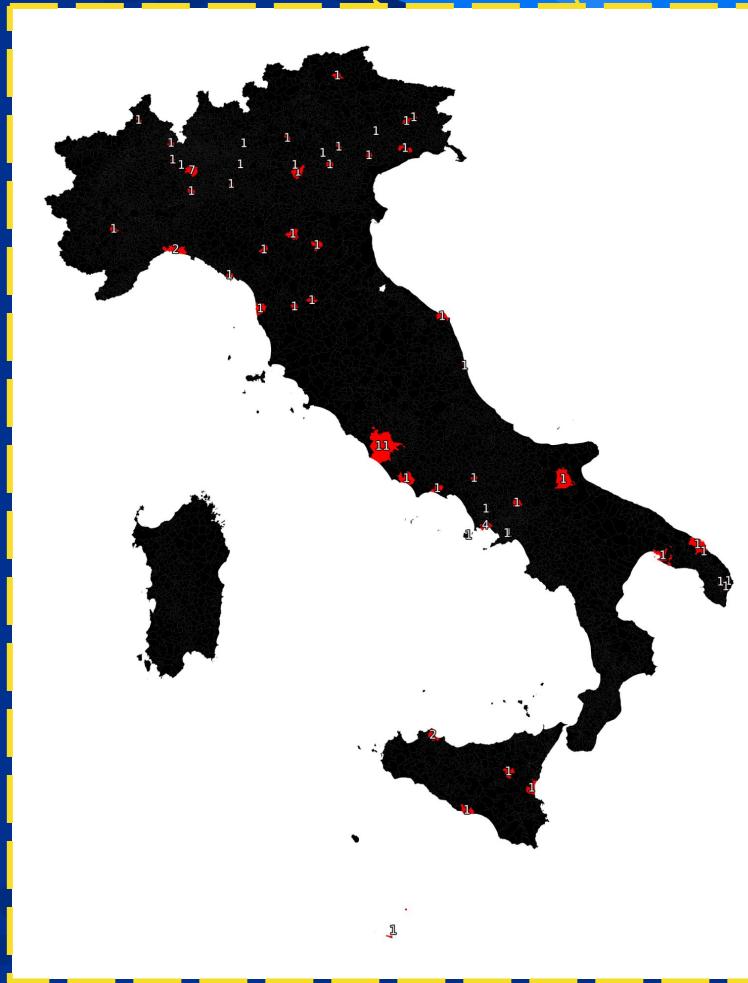


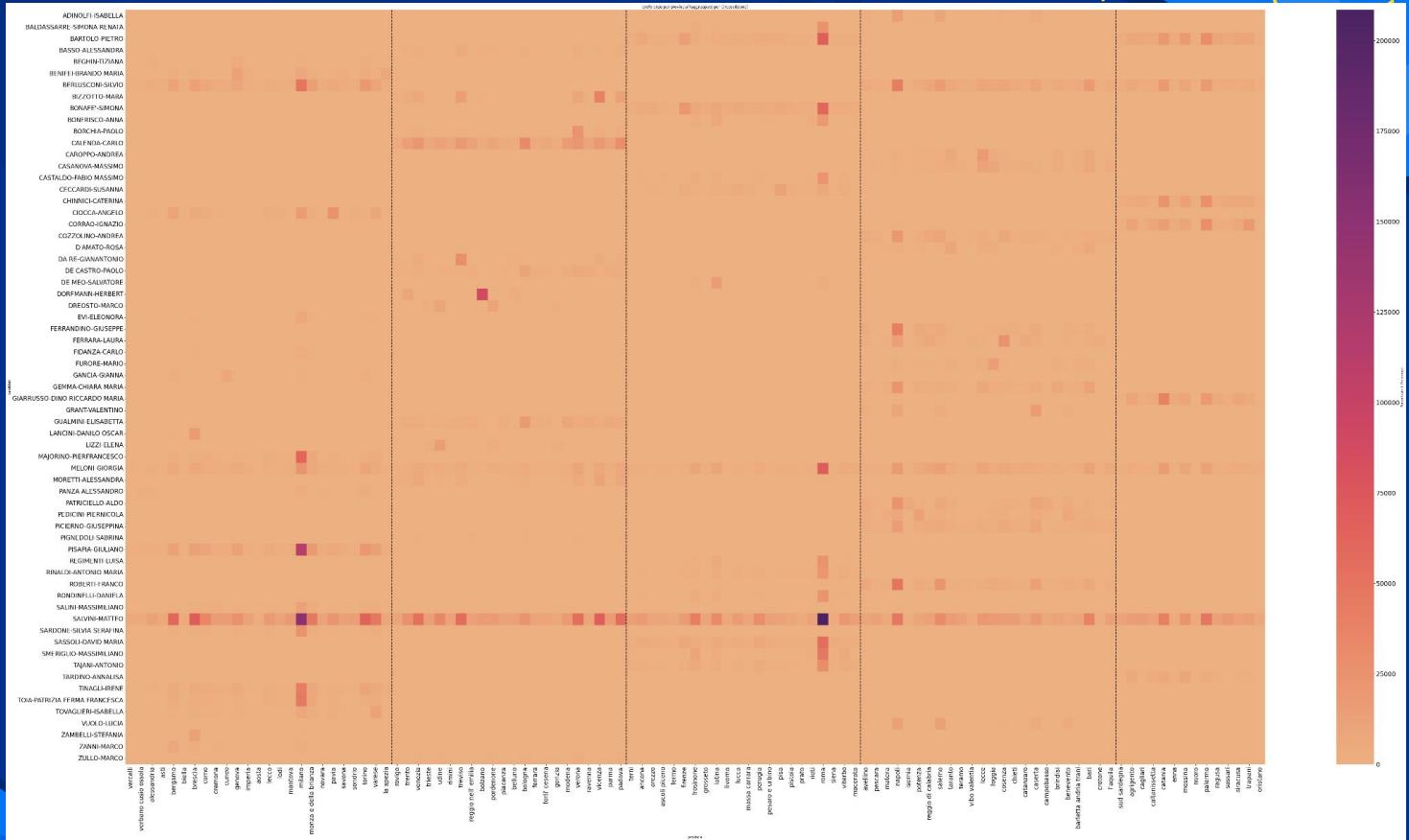






Where do the euro parliamentarians come from?

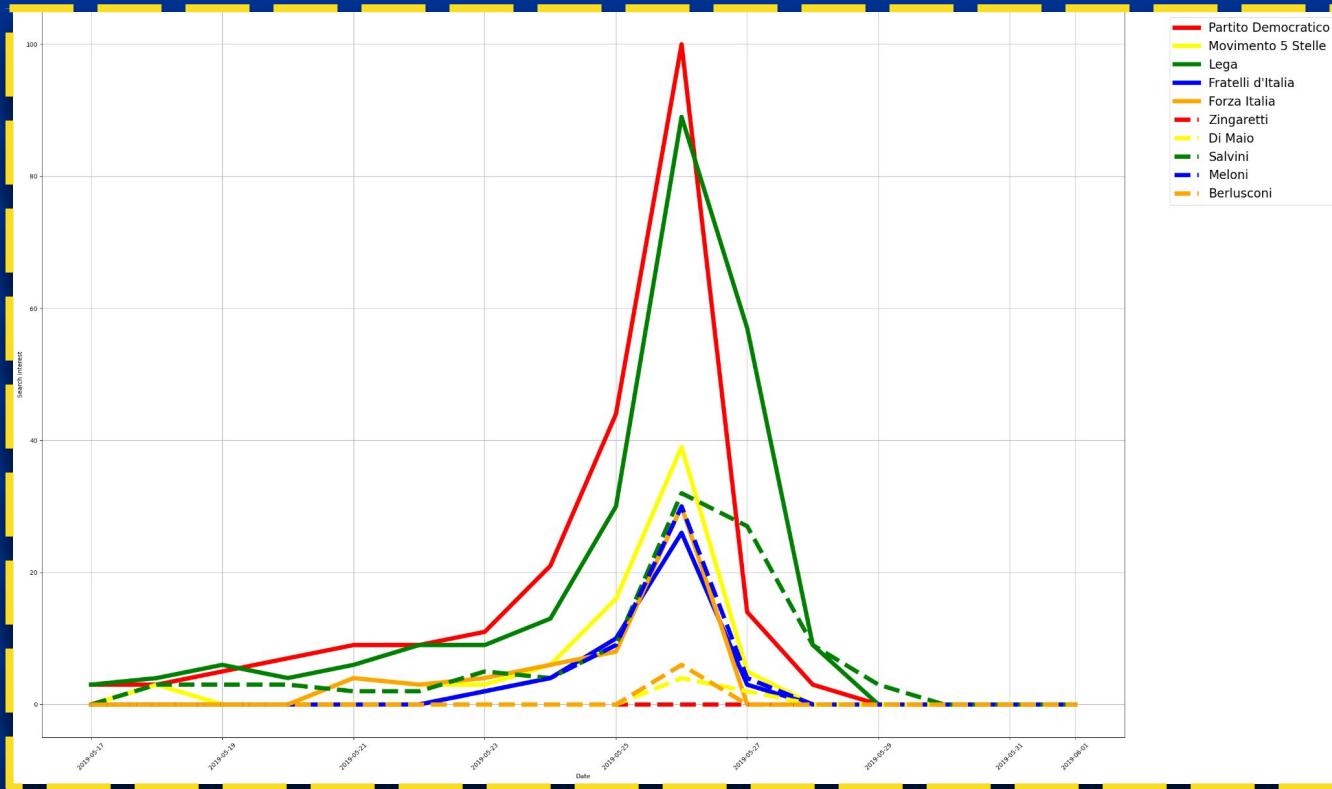




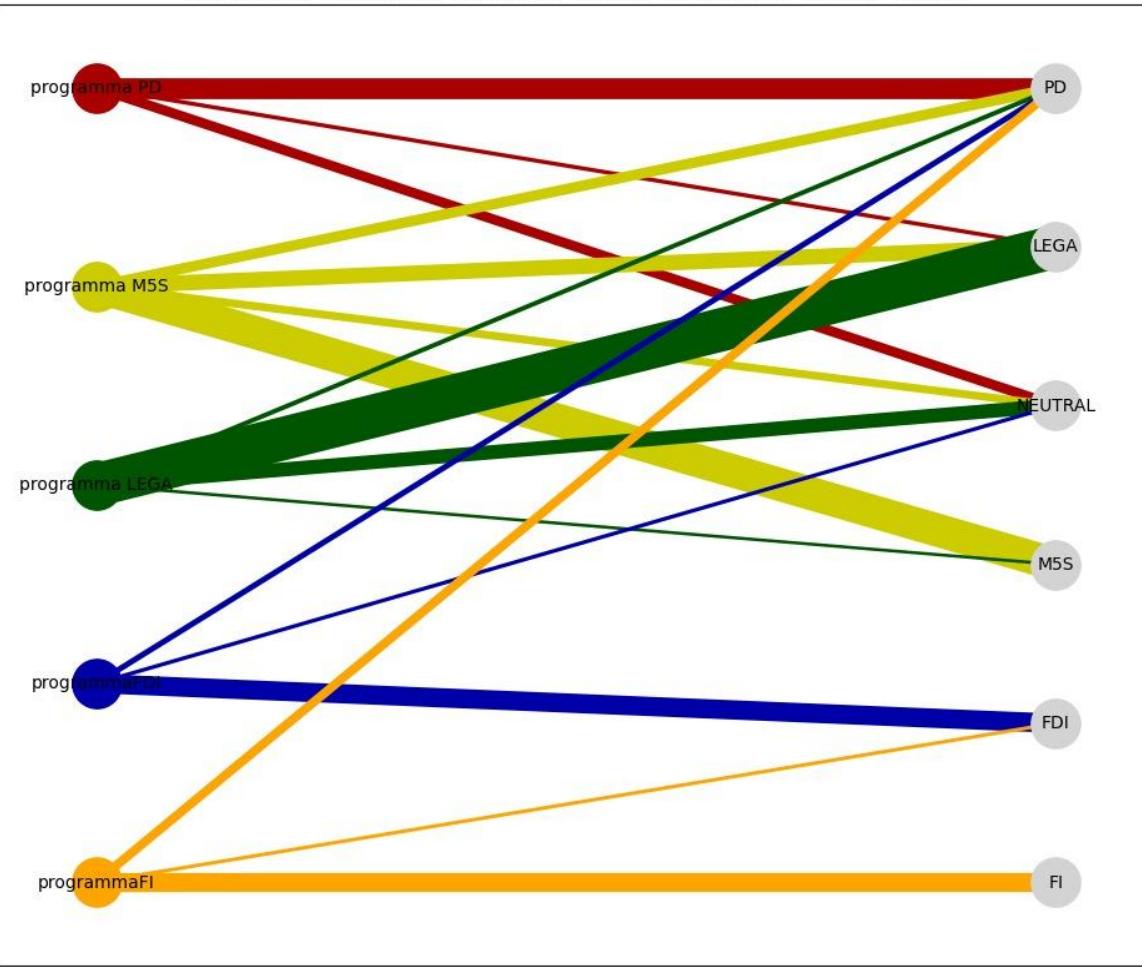
IV

Could there be any reason
why some parties use
this strategy?

Search analysis for party (or leader) program



Enhanced Weighted Bipartite Graph with Color-Coded Edges



Conclusions

How do party leaders candidacy influence elections?

By receiving significantly more votes than other candidates from their party, party leaders secure a seat in parliament even for minor candidates who have a smaller local voter base in a given college.
This is particularly common in right-wing parties.

What are some other strategic candidacies parties employ?

The strategy of fielding token candidates from specific constituencies or regions does not appear to have a significant impact on election outcomes, as demonstrated by the data.

How do these strategies influence the representation of the voters?

They negatively impact voter representation, especially for right-wing parties, as they allow parties to avoid running local politicians. This undermines regional or provincial representation, particularly in southern Italy.

Why are these tactics used?

It is difficult to gauge the efficacy of a party leader's candidacy, however some data suggests that voters might have an interest in personas when searching for information about elections. But there are several variables at play which are outside of our dataset, and in general difficult to quantify



THANK YOU!

Comuni Clustering Based on Modularity Class

