**The concept of “regime support”:**

Easton (1975) on “political support”: [A Re-Assessment of the Concept of Political Support (uio.no)](https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uio.no/stable/pdf/193437.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Aa3250ef0200f994814127b15a9aedd42&ab_segments=&origin=&initiator=&acceptTC=1)

(Also Lindberg and Scheingold (1970) on utilitarian (cost-benefit concerned) and affective (emotional responses and vague ideals) support).

Example for use on EU support ([Mapping EU attitudes: Conceptual and empirical dimensions of Euroscepticism and EU support (uio.no)](https://journals-sagepub-com.ezproxy.uio.no/doi/pdf/10.1177/1465116510395411?casa_token=J9iwyAYJ-LwAAAAA%3ActnpixSpAIpf4DJnBjLyjyWABkYwkK5RonzuUyXoNB00HIg9rkNHZOzNR-Wp7BwgLugQszREcoTI&) ): “Affective/diffuse attitudes include emotional responses, identity-related factors and perceived threats to the nation. The perceived benefits of EU membership (including in terms of protecting the environment or securing peace), evaluations of the functioning of the Union and matters of strengthening European integration are considered as utilitarian, specific modes of support.”

Easton (1975) differentiates two modes of support (specific and diffuse) on one dimension and three different objects of political support (the community, the regime and the authorities) on the second dimension.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Diffuse support | Specific support |
| Directed at fundamental aspects of the political system such as constitutional order and political institutions.  Tends to be more durable and stable because it derives from deep-seated political values and attachments, typically cultivated during early political socialization.  Includes emotional responses, identity-related factors and perceived threats to the nation. | Specific support is directed at the officeholders themselves (political authorities) and is closely related to questions of performance and outputs.  Tends to be more in synch with the political ebb and flow and prone to short-term fluctuations as it depends on perceptions and evaluations of performance and policy outputs. |

[Full article: Support for Democracy in Times of Crisis: Diffuse and Specific Regime Support in Portugal and Greece (uio.no)](https://www-tandfonline-com.ezproxy.uio.no/doi/full/10.1080/13608746.2014.975770?casa_token=RdXaOOPnMIMAAAAA%3A2GRnyJfzxLNQh99ayna8JsdZLxIUkHF6X5zGz4ICyQd6MW4gMMhejCtjoCMORx85D3UW0l5W3AurbtA)

Within the “specific support” concept we have the following dimensions:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Support** | **Trust** |
| Rational | Oppose – Neither oppose nor support – Support  ~~Critique – Neither critique nor praise – Praise~~ | Distrust – Neither distrust nor trust– Trust  ~~Skeptic – Neither skeptic nor approve – Approve~~  Incompetent – Neither incompetent nor competent – Competent |
| Emotional | Negative – Neutral – Positive | Hostile – Indifferent – Favorable |