

# Direct Democracy in Europe

Concept and Questions

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## Research question

Has direct democracy an effect on satisfaction with the way democracy works?

## Theory

Easton, Fuchs, etc. -> political support

## Hypotheses

H1: Direct democracy has a positive effect on individual satisfaction with democracy.

H2: The H1-effect is moderated by...

1. political apathy (Operationalization -> voters (compared to non-voters), problem: occasional voters can not be separated)
2. socio-economic status/income
3. political interest (problem: might be influenced by DD & ambiguously related to SWD -> "assertive citizens")
4. party identification

## Data & Operationalization

ESS - without Israel/Russia?, most recent data (2010 - 2016)

Method: MLA

1. Direct Democracy
  - IDEA Number of DD provisions (not usage) on national and local level
  - V-DEM Participatory component index
  - c2d Number of initiatives/referendums in the past on national level Regional level possible, but data incomplete & not systematically gathered & no controls
2. Controls
  - Level 1
    - Education, Age, Gender
    - Satisfaction with the economy
    - Household income
    - Unemployment
    - Possibly Post-materialism
  - Level 2 (Not all possible, maybe separate regressions)
    - GDP, bzw. GDP-Growth
    - Inflation
    - ENOP
    - Age of democracy
    - Unemployment rate
    - Dummy: former communist country
    - Dummy: east-west europe