DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

Table 2 below presents the descriptive statistics for the key variables used in the analysis, as well as the demographic, attitudinal and institutional controls.[1] All of my results have been weighted using a variable created by the Eurobarometer survey administrators. The weighted average for institutional trust across the sample is approximately 38 percent. The key independent variable, which indicates whether a European country has a voting age below 18, shows that, as expected, there is only a small proportion of countries in the sample that have a voting age set below 18, i.e. only 6 percent.

The demographic factors show that females comprise 47 percent of the sample, with an average age of 23 years, ranging from 15 to 29 years. Regarding educational attainment, 8 percent of individuals report having no education, 26 percent have completed high school, and 23 percent hold a university degree. A significant portion of the sample, 42 percent, are still in the educational process. In terms of attitudinal factors, the average political ideology score is 5.25 on a scale from 1 to 10, indicating a relatively centrist political orientation for the sample. For the institutional factors, the average government performance score is 1.14, and the average corruption perception score is 65.58, indicating moderate levels of government effectiveness and perceived corruption across the countries in the sample.

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[1] Missing data in this table were handled using listwise deletion. This method resulted in the exclusion of any cases with missing values in the trust variables (Institutional Trust, Trust in Government, Trust in Parliament, Trust in Political Parties), female, education variables (No Education, High School Degree, University Degree), and the political ideology variable. In total, these variables yielded 217,154 missing values, accounting for approximately 1.16 percent of the total number of data points in the dataset. As a result, only complete cases were included in the analysis.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics for Dependent, Key Independent and Control Variables

	SAMPLE SIZE (N)	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
DEPENDENT VARIABLES					
Institutional Trust	100,379	.38	.43	0	1
KEY INDEPENDENT VARIABLE					
Voting Age Below 18	100,379	.06	.24	0	1
DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS					
Female (%)	100,379	47%	50%	0	1
Age, mean	100,379	23	4.03	15	29
No Education (%)	100,379	8%	28%	0	1
High School Degree (%)	100,379	26%	44%	0	1
University Degree (%)	100,379	23%	42%	0	1
Still Studying (%)	100,379	42%	49%	0	1
ATTITUDINAL FACTORS					
Political Ideology	100,379	5.25	2.09	1	10
INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS					
Government Performance	100,379	1.14	.59	-.36	2.35
Corruption	100,379	65.58	16.87	29	97

Note. Descriptive statistics for the dependent variable, institutional trust, and the key independent variable (voting age below 18), as well as demographic, attitudinal, and institutional controls. The scale for political ideology ranges from 1 (most left) to 10 (most right). Government performance is measured on a scale from -2.5 (worst performance) to 2.5 (best performance). Corruption perception is based on a scale from 0 (most corrupt) to 100 (least corrupt).

Since the focus of the analysis are countries where the voting age is below 18, Table 3 presents comparative statistics for countries with a voting age below 18 and those with a voting age of 18, showing differences in institutional trust, but also in demographic, attitudinal and institutional factors. In line with existing literature, countries with a voting age below 18 report higher levels of institutional trust. The demographic factors show that the respondents of countries with a voting age below 18 and those with a voting age at 18 are quite similar. For example, there are minimal differences in the proportions of females, the average age, and educational attainment between the two groups, suggesting that the two groups of countries are relatively balanced in terms of key demographic factors. Political ideology scores are lower in countries with a voting age below 18, indicating a more left-leaning orientation. These findings in Table 3 also suggest that countries with a voting age below 18 have more favorable evaluations of government performance, as well as a lower level of corruption.

Table 3. Comparative Statistics by Countries with Voting Ages Below 18 vs. at 18

	SAMPLE SIZE (N)	VOTING AGE BELOW 18	VOTING AGE AT 18	DIFFERENCE	STANDARD ERROR
DEPENDENT VARIABLES					
Institutional Trust	100,379	.47	.37***	.1***	.006
DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS					
Female (%)	100,379	47%	47%	-.3%	.01
Age	100,379	23	23***	.44***	.05
No Education (%)	100,379	12%	8% ***	4% ***	.01
High School Degree (%)	100,379	26%	26% ***	-.1%	.01
University Degree (%)	100,379	23%	23% ***	.1%	.01
Still Studying (%)	100,379	40%	43% ***	-3% ***	.01
ATTITUDINAL FACTORS					
Political Ideology	100,379	5.02	5.27***	-.25***	.05
INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS					
Government Performance	100,379	1.19	1.14***	.05***	.01
Corruption	100,379	68.34	65.4***	2.94***	.29

Note. This table compares statistics for countries with a voting age below 18 versus those with a voting age at 18. Differences in means are reported for each variable, along with standard errors. Government performance is on a -2.5 to 2.5 scale, and corruption is measured on a 0 to 100 scale.