**Discussed in meeting by Geert, look at before lunch next wednesday:**

[**https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Culture\_statistics\_-\_cultural\_participation#Cultural\_participation\_by\_age**](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Culture_statistics_-_cultural_participation#Cultural_participation_by_age)

[**The state of democracy in Europe – The Global State of Democracy 2023 (idea.int)**](https://www.idea.int/gsod/2023/chapters/europe/)

**Sites with datasets:**

* <https://datasetsearch.research.google.com/>
* <https://www.gigasheet.com/sample-data>
* <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets>
* <https://data.gov/>
* !! <https://careerfoundry.com/en/blog/data-analytics/where-to-find-free-datasets/>
* <https://www.tableau.com/learn/articles/free-public-data-sets>
* <https://chartio.com/learn/data-analytics/where-to-find-free-datasets/>
* <https://snap.stanford.edu/data/>
* <https://github.com/BuzzFeedNews>
* <https://www.gesis.org/en/research>

**Some extra datasets (not yet fully evaluated):**

* [Electoral and Parliamentary Data • European University Institute](https://www.eui.eu/Research/Library/ResearchGuides/Economics/Statistics/DataPortal/EED)
* [Democracy - december 2023 - - Eurobarometer survey](https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2966)

eurobarometer

* [Polarisation and the news media in Europe | Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism](https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/our-research/polarisation-and-news-media-europe)

Many people are concerned that the news media is exacerbating a polarisation of people's attitudes across Europe. This report reviews and summarises the recent available literature connecting polarisation and the news media. The key findings that emerge from this literature are as follows: Across Europe there is as yet little evidence to support the idea that increased exposure to news featuring like-minded or opposing views leads to the widespread polarisation of attitudes. Although some studies have found that both can strengthen the attitudes of a minority who already hold strong views. Most studies of news use on social media have failed to find evidence of echo chambers and/or 'filter bubbles', where people are over-exposed to like-minded views. Some studies even find evidence that it increases the likelihood of exposure to opposing views. The extent to which people self-select news sources in Europe based on their political preferences, as well as the extent to which news outlets produce partisan coverage, still varies greatly by country. In addition to differences between European countries, comparative research often tends to show that the United States of America has much higher levels of partisan news production, consumption and polarisation, making it difficult to generalise from these findings. There are large gaps in our understanding of the relationship between the news media and polarisation, particularly outside Western and Northern Europe, and particularly concerning our knowledge of new, more partisan digital-born news sources. This report was written for the European Parliament's Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA).

* [Longitudinal dataset of political issue-positions of 411 parties across 28 European countries (2009–2019) from voting advice applications EU profiler and euandi - ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352340920308623)
* [Ideology & Polarization Dashboard - EU Political Barometer](https://eupoliticalbarometer.uc3m.es/dashboard/ideology)

Maps of the political spectrum of Europe, dividing the countries in left and right using a methodology with data frorm social media, data until 2023.

* [GESIS-Suche: Dataset of ideological polarization in Western Europe](https://search.gesis.org/research_data/SDN-10.7802-2592?doi=10.7802/2592)
* [GESIS-Suche: Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt und Polarisierung (April/Mai 2023)](https://search.gesis.org/research_data/ZA8717)
* [GESIS-Suche: Value Conflicts in a Differentiated Europe: The Impact of Digital Media on Value Polarisation in Europe (ValCon)](https://search.gesis.org/research_data/ZA7747)
* [GESIS-Suche: Polarisierung von Politik und Gesellschaft](https://search.gesis.org/research_data/ZA6732)
* [Dataset of ideological polarization in Western Europe | CISE](https://cise.luiss.it/cise/dataset-of-ideological-polarization-in-western-europe/)

Description This dataset provides data on ideological polarization in Western Europe. It is based on parties’ left-right placement provided by several expert surveys. Then, it uses Dalton’s polarization index (2008) to calculate the polarization score in terms of votes and seats for each election. The dataset covers 20 Western European countries since 1945, for a total of 398 parliamentary elections and legislatures (Lower House). The dataset will be regularly updated to include the polarization scores of new elections and legislatures. How to cite this dataset? Emanuele, V. and Marino, B. (2023), ‘Dataset of ideological polarization in Western Europe’, Rome: Italian Center for Electoral Studies, https://doi.org/10.7802/2592. Downloads Dataset of ideological polarization in Western Europe Codebook and dataset information

* [Using open data to understand politics | data.europa.eu](https://data.europa.eu/en/publications/datastories/using-open-data-understand-politics)

Using open data to understand politics

* [A Database and Index for Political Polarization in the EU](https://ideas.repec.org/a/ebl/ecbull/eb-21-01168.html)

Downloadable! In many European countries, political parties at the extreme left or right of the political spectrum have gained votes in democratic elections. This process is widely referred to as growing political polarization. The IWP database for political polarization covers the parliamentary elections in the EU-27 countries and in the United Kingdom since 1990. It provides a systematic scheme of categorizing extreme political parties. Parties falling in the category of extreme are those that either reject or question liberal democratic systems, market-based economic principles and/or the European Union. The database allows to depict the political polarization trend in the EU-27, in different geographic sub-groups and individual member states (including the UK). The aggregated index as well as the sub-indices provide evidence for an increasing and persistent political polarization in the European Union.

* [GESIS-Suche: Dataset of ideological polarization in Western Europe](https://search.gesis.org/research_data/SDN-10.7802-2592)
* [Internet use: participating in social networks [percentage of individuals] processed Eurostat data [CEEMID indicator]](https://zenodo.org/records/3754574)

The indicator 'Internet use: participating in social networks (creating user profile, posting messages or other contributions to facebook, twitter, etc.) [percentage of individuals]' from the Eurostat statistical product Individuals who used the internet, frequency of use and activities. - NUTS2013 regional codes are recoded to NUTS2016 - missing data is handled with last observation carry forward, next observation carry back, linear interpolation -NUTS2 areas are imputed when only NUTS1 level data is available. The original dataset is available here: https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=isoc\_r\_iuse\_i&lang=en More about CEEMID: www.ceemid.eu Get in touch: danielantal.eu/#contact

* [Internet users in Europe | Statista](https://www-statista-com.kuleuven.e-bronnen.be/topics/3853/internet-usage-in-europe/#topicOverview)
* [European Union - Individuals using the internet for participating in social networks - 2024 Data 2025 Forecast 2011-2023 Historical](https://tradingeconomics.com/european-union/individuals-using-the-internet-for-participating-in-social-networks-eurostat-data.html)

European Union - Individuals using the internet for participating in social networks was 59.18% in December of 2023, according to the EUROSTAT. Trading Economics provides the current actual value, an historical data chart and related indicators for European Union - Individuals using the internet for participating in social networks - last updated from the [EUROSTAT](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat) on March of 2024. Historically, European Union - Individuals using the internet for participating in social networks reached a record high of 59.18% in December of 2023 and a record low of 36.08% in December of 2011.

* [Social Media User Statistics: How Many People Use Social Media?](https://www.searchlogistics.com/learn/statistics/social-media-user-statistics/)

I’ve compiled a list of the latest social media user statistics showing just how big social media has become and where it’s likely to go in the future.

* [Social contacts and social participation; young people aged 15 to 25 years - Dataset - CKAN MobiDataLab](https://ckan.mobidatalab.eu/dataset/40537-sociale-contacten-en-maatschappelijke-participatie-jongeren-15-tot-25-jaar)

This table contains information about the participation in social activities and social participation of persons aged 15 to 25 years. Social activities involve contacts with family and friends and...

* [Social contacts and social participation; young people, 2012-2021 - Dataset - CKAN MobiDataLab](https://ckan.mobidatalab.eu/dataset/5112-sociale-contacten-en-maatschappelijke-participatie-jongeren-15-tot-25-jaar)
* This table contains information about the participation in social activities and social participation of persons aged 15 to 25 years. Social activities involve contacts with family and friends and...
* [Social contacts and social participation 2012-2021 - Dataset - CKAN MobiDataLab](https://ckan.mobidatalab.eu/dataset/668-sociale-contacten-en-maatschappelijke-participatie)

This table contains information about the participation in social activities and social participation of persons aged 15 and older. Social activities involve contacts with family, friends and...

* [Social media usage in Western Europe - Statistics & Facts | Statista](https://www-statista-com.kuleuven.e-bronnen.be/topics/4106/social-media-usage-in-europe/#topicOverview)
* [Global State of Democracy Indices | The Global State of Democracy](https://www.idea.int/democracytracker/gsod-indices)

The Global State of Democracy Indices (GSoD Indices) measure democratic trends at the country, regional and global levels across a broad range of indicators democratic performance across the years 1975–2022. They do not provide a single index of democracy. They include data for 174 countries across the globe. The GSoD Indices are based on 157 individual indicators devised by various scholars and organizations.

* [Frontiers | Voting Patterns in Western European Countries. Class-Party Family Alignments and Their Mediation by Political Values](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpos.2022.871129/full#SM1)

This article investigates voters' preferences for party families in Western European countries' general elections in the 2000s. According to the realignment literature, “traditional” class voting patterns have been replaced by new class-party alignments: upper-middle employee classes joined the electoral bases of left parties, whereas radical right actors introduced in the electoral competition of the most deprived strata of the population, labeled “left behind”. This article aims to answer to the research questions: do social class and political values affect voting behavior in Western European general elections? Which direction are these variables associated with the preference of party families? The first section outlines the theoretical framework, accounting for the “societal modernization” processes, which have been affecting Western societies since the late 1960s. Among the “traditional” cleavages, the literature assumes the realignment of class voting patterns, as well as alignments between value orientations and political preferences. Indeed, class-party alignments are mediated by the political supply's mobilization of voters according to their value orientations. Such appeals differ among party families, partly explaining why specific classes constitute their electoral bases or contested stronghold. The theoretical framework hypothesizes political values as clustered in three ideologies (social and economic conservatism-liberalism, and authoritarianism-libertarian...

* [ESS Data Portal | European Social Survey](https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/data-portal)
* [Culture statistics - cultural participation - Statistics Explained](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Culture_statistics_-_cultural_participation#Cultural_participation_by_age)

Data on cultural participation EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) covering the population aged 16 years or more.

* [Statistics | Eurostat](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/explore/all/popul?lang=en&display=list&sort=category)

Jacob Proposal:

* In “The State of Democracy” data, there is some information on Fake News and Disinformation in Europe. Statista has has some other interesting data on this (Link here, accessible through Limo: [Fake news in Europe | Statista](https://www.statista.com/study/68765/fake-news-in-europe/)). Building off Geert’s original idea, perhaps we can start by looking at the relationship between social media engagement and democracy in Europe, then see if this correlates with Fake News/Disinformation statistics. For instance, do countries with high cultural participation rates (i.e., high democracy) have robust social media infrastructures or high rates of social media engagement? And are these countries more likely to be targeted by disinformation campaigns or not? I could imagine a situation in which a country has high rates of cultural engagement, high rates of social media engagement, and relatively low rates of Fake News/Disinformation. The question would then be “Why?”
* Obvious questions:
  + How do we evaluate Democracy?
    - Cultural Participation rates above seem good.
    - I still think voter turnout rates could be interesting. Only a few countries in EU (according to Wiki, only Belgium, Luxemburg, and Liechtenstein) have compulsory voting. In terms of disinformation, this could also be interesting (i.e., are countries with higher voter turnout percentages more likely to experience fake news?) . Here is an interesting site with voter turnout data for each country: [Voter Turnout Database | International IDEA](https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/voter-turnout-database)
    - Lastly, Perhaps looking at access to news is another good way to evaluate Democracy. Reporters without Borders ([2023 World Press Freedom Index – journalism threatened by fake content industry | RSF](https://rsf.org/en/2023-world-press-freedom-index-journalism-threatened-fake-content-industry?year=2023&data_type=general)) have some really interesting data/visualizations on Press Freedom. We could look just at the information surrounding Europe for this.
  + How do we Evaluate Social Media Engagement?
    - Statista has a report on “Number of monthly active mobile social media users in Europe as of January 2021, by country” but perhaps that is already too dated?
    - There is also some data on total internet users, but that seems a little too broad
  + Fake News/Disinformation
    - Datasets mentioned above

Julie proposal:

Cultural participation plays a vital role in shaping European societal cohesion, individual well-being, and cultural development. However, the factors influencing cultural participation are multifaceted, spanning across socio-demographic, economic, and political dimensions. In this proposal, we evaluate cultural participation dynamics in the context of political regime, age, income, and other relevant variables, building on datasets discussing European subjects.   
  
Question:

* Social media is quite interesting but will we find adequate data specific enough to combine it with other parameters on cultural participation?

Data on **cultural participation:**

Participation in any cultural or sport activities in the last 12 months by **sex, age and educational attainment level**

<https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/cd3dzkphrj11fwo23q6qa?locale=en>

Participation in any cultural or sport activities in the last 12 months by **income quintile, household type and degree of urbanisation**

<https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/liedp38s1caerhrpqbq?locale=en>

**Frequency** of participation in cultural or sport activities in the last 12 months by sex, age, educational attainment level and activity type

<https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/sobu0hvbbun7o8l3vxrxfq?locale=en>

Reasons of **non-participation** in cultural or sport activities in the last 12 months by sex, age, educational attainment level and activity type

<https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/3twd4dm4ivggieck2lq2a?locale=en>

Older, similar datasets:

* <https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/izyffmunrhobzdoratsm2a?locale=en>
* <https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/kaou1yphecwnh2yn19ukag?locale=en>
* <https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/z4nl6xovyjiocsgd4ulmq?locale=en>
* <https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/ouvomk3ldofzdjdg4s9bg?locale=en>

Data on **population structure & age/ European countries**

Population structure and ageing  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Population_structure_and_ageing&stable=1>

Data on **income:**

Relative median income ratio (60+)

<https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/vjyqfdcuhsliu03z4mugoa?locale=en>  
  
Inequality of income distribution:

<https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/6lghmjcpw6t20inenvzeoa?locale=en>

Income quintile share ratio (S80/S20) by sex:

<https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/y8mgn2mkrkge2tmmfmr0a?locale=en>

Data on **democracy**:

Special Eurobarometer 507 : Democracy in the EU

<https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/s2263_94_1_507_eng?locale=en>

Includes the world's most comprehensive and detailed democracy ratings. The latest version of the dataset and associated reference documents can be downloaded free of charge below.

<https://www.v-dem.net/data/the-v-dem-dataset/>