

Cross Validation Project 3

To what extent do administrative and legal hurdles affect the effective number of parties?

Results

- Negative correlation: The red trend line slopes slightly downward, meaning that as administrative hurdles increase, the effective number of parties tends to decrease.
- Distribution/spread: There are some countries with a high number of parties despite many hurdles, the relationship is very weak, but overall, there are more countries with fewer parties when hurdles are high.
- Conclusion: Administrative and legal hurdles overall act to restrict party diversity, but the effect is not very pronounced in this dataset—other factors could also play an important role.

Cross Validation

- Grofman, B., et al. (1985). Rethinking Duverger's Law: Predicting the Effective Number of Political Parties.

Finds that stricter electoral laws and institutional barriers decrease party system fragmentation and the effective number of parties.

- British Journal of Political Science. (2024). Does Party-System Fragmentation Affect the Quality of Democracy?

Shows that high legal and administrative thresholds directly lower the number of effective parties and concentrate representation.

- SCIELO. (2024). Political Reform, Partisan Fragmentation and ... SCIELO. Illustrates that reducing administrative barriers increases the number of parties, while increased hurdles consolidate major party power.

Ist in ländern mit mehr direktdemokratischen Instrumenten die Zufriedenheit mit der demokratischen Regierung höher?

Results

- In Best DQ countries (especially Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and the Netherlands), the scores for "Trust in Government" are generally higher than in the Worst DQ countries.
- In Worst DQ countries (such as Turkey, Romania, South Africa, and Croatia), both the scores for direct democracy and trust in government are significantly lower.

- Switzerland stands out in particular: It shows high scores for both direct democratic instruments and trust in government.

Conclusion:

The graph suggests that in countries with more direct democratic instruments, trust in and satisfaction with the government are generally higher. The Best DQ countries, in particular, have noticeably higher trust scores than the Worst DQ countries, where both direct democracy and trust are low.

Cross Validation

- Freitag (2016): "Direct Democracy and Institutional Trust"

Shows that direct democracy can have a positive influence on trust in government when citizens perceive participation opportunities as meaningful.

- OECD Study (2023): "Participation strengthens trust in governments"

More citizen participation leads to greater trust in government, especially when political participation is perceived as effective.

- Uni Hohenheim Study (2022/2023): "Citizen Participation Increases Satisfaction with Democracy"

Political satisfaction increases with more opportunities for participation, especially at the state level. Demands for more direct democracy usually result from dissatisfaction.