

Examining intraparlimentary volatility in the European countries. A critical system analysis perspective

Many of voters reasonably expect that elected parliaments will reflect the distribution of political preferences of the citizens. In each case, however, the deformation of the will of the voters is inevitable. On the one hand it can be caused by some elements of the electoral system, on the other hand (during the parliamentary term) by the behavior of some deputies who make – if there is a legal possibility – the changes in their party affiliation (so called *party-switching*) or who lose their mandate and are replaced by the other deputies. Such an intraparlimentary volatility can not only deform the political will of citizens (voters vote for candidate X placed on the party list Y, and during the parliamentary term the deputy X becomes a member of the party Z, which is often ideologically far away from the group Y), but can also cause deeper transformation of the party system. It can result in the need of the coalition agreements' renegotiation, parliamentary alliances changes, reconstruction of the government, or even of the change of the government or the early dissolution of parliament.

The aim of the project is to examine which of the factors influence on the likelihood of the phenomenon of *intraparlimentary volatility*. We will focus on the 3 full terms of the following parliaments: Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Czech Republic.

Twelve hypotheses will be verified in the project. Among others, we want to verify how the quality of democracy could influence on the intraparlimentary volatility. We want to know if it is easier for the deputies to change the party affiliation in the concentrated or multi-party systems – we suppose that the inter-party mobility is lower in the last one. We want to show whether the intensity of the intraparlimentary volatility decreases during the other elections organized along the parliamentary term (i.e. local, presidential and European elections) – we suppose that during the election campaign members of parliaments will be less likely to switch party affiliation because the parties take care if its cohesion and unity, especially in this period. Comparing different parliaments, we want to show that the factor influencing on the intraparlimentary volatility is the size of parliament.

The results of our project will be popularized in scientific journals. We also plan to publish the English-language monograph as the summary of the project. We hope that the results and conclusions will be useful not only for politicians and / or legislators, but also for citizens who through a simple scientific tool will be able to examine how deep is the political will of citizens in the party systems deformed.