

Populism's Roots: Economic and Cultural Explanations in Democracies of Europe (PRECEDE)

Initiative: Herausforderungen für Europa

Bewilligung: 27.01.2021

Laufzeit: 1 Jahre 6 Monate

This study charts citizens' psychological and social well-being (anxieties), economic precarity, their trust in government, health authorities and democratic institutions under the impact the pandemic has had on their political beliefs and issue stances. This longitudinal and cross-national dataset also allows for gauging within-person change of political trust and policy stances due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will reveal to what extent opinions have polarised due to aspects of economic precarity caused by the consequences of the pandemic. The key impact will be to highlight the immediate and long-term processes of polarisation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic for policymakers, the media and the public. Also the project intends to develop roadmaps for strategies to be used as a means of mitigating polarisation and distrust.

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