

PaCE – Populism and Civic Engagement

A fine-grained, context-sensitive and forward looking response to the negative consequences associated with populist politics

Aim



The Populism and Civic Engagement project (PACE) aims to **understand** and **address** the negative tendencies associated with populist politics, to **build** upon the lessons of **positive examples**, and hence play a part in **constructing** a firmer **democratic and institutional foundation** for the citizens of Europe.

Project Partners



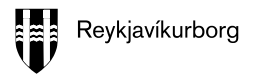
Centre for Liberal Strategies Foundation



Citizens Foundation



City of Reykjavik



Democratic Society



Manchester Metropolitan University



Paris-Lodron University



Technical University of Dresden



Trilateral Research



University of Helsinki





Historical growth and political consequences

Trace the historical growth and political consequences for the EU project and democracy in illiberal, nativist, and antidemocratic populist parties.



General and specific causes

Study the general and the specific causes of the three modes of populism in European democracies.



Policy-oriented responses

Study, propose and test policy-oriented responses to each of the three forms of populism.



Strengthening democratic values and practices

Identify strategies for strengthening democratic values and practices, taking into account the role played by both traditional and social media and public opinion.



Engage with stakeholders

Engage with stakeholders, especially groups under-represented in public affairs, particularly younger citizens, schools and local communities, in new forms of democratic engagement appropriate in our digital age.



Populism



Nativism



Postwar democracies with a liberal tradition in Europe and the Americas

Geographical reference

Contemporary European nations, all of them liberal democracies

Populist parties stand on either left or right

Ideological stance

Nativist parties typically stand on the right

Irreconcilably split in just two parts, “the people” and the “elites”

View of society

A homogenous national entity imperiled by alien minorities and cultures

Aim at general political change: promote illiberal democracy

Political goals

Aim at specific policy changes: promote liberal democracy for the natives

Political polarization, patronage politics when in office

Chief political methods

Mostly programmatic appeals for gaining certain issue ownership

Charismatic and extraordinary, predominantly male

Leadership characteristics

Ordinary non-charismatic, often collective, with a good share of women

Relatively strong and cohesive parties under single leader authority

Party organization

Weak party organizations, intense infighting, often prone to premature death

Populists have won office in many countries, often singlehandedly

Power capture

Europe’s nativists win office rarely, most typically as junior coalition partners

Strong staying power with high potential of radical political transformation

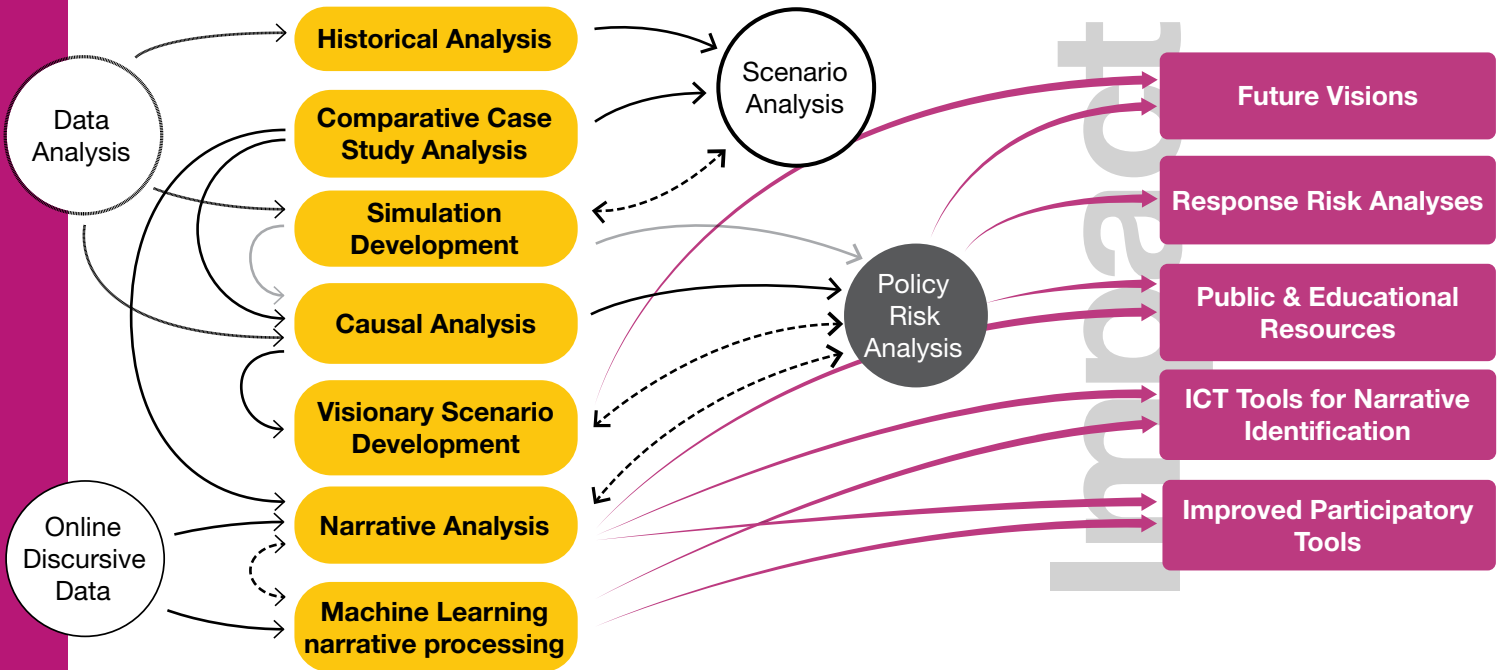
Performance in office

Weak staying power with some potential of own policy implementation

In populism, officials must serve voters irrespective of institutions and liberal principles

Core democratic idea

In nativism, officials use liberal institutions to serve native voters while fending off alien ones



Engagement, Dissemination and Ethics

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