

THE MOVE FROM ELECTORAL TO PROTEST POLITICS & DEMOCRATIC IMPLICATIONS



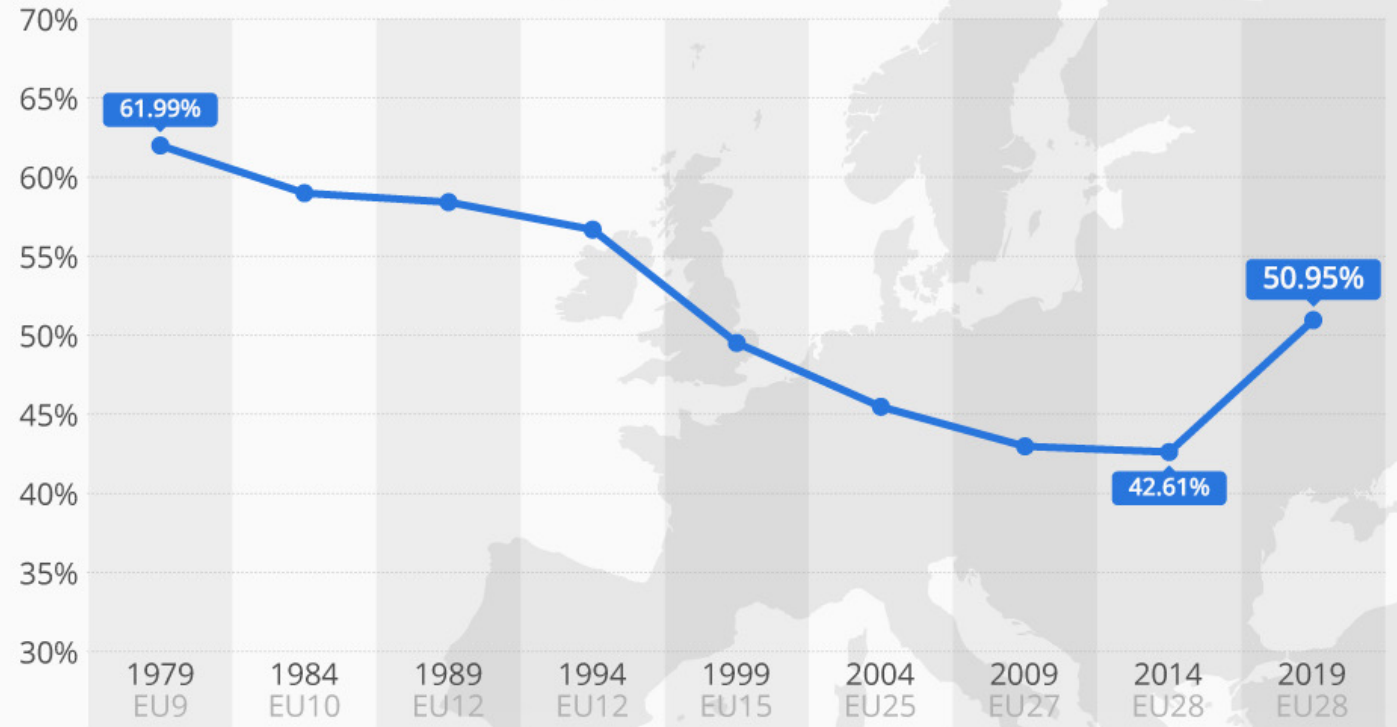
Jacqueline van Stekelenburg

TWO TRENDS

Declining turnout elections

European Election Turnout Reaches 20-Year High

Voter turnout in the European Parliament Elections from 1979 to 2019*



@StatistaCharts

* 2019 turnout is provisional. As of 8:30am CET on 27 May, 2019.

Source: European Parliament

statista

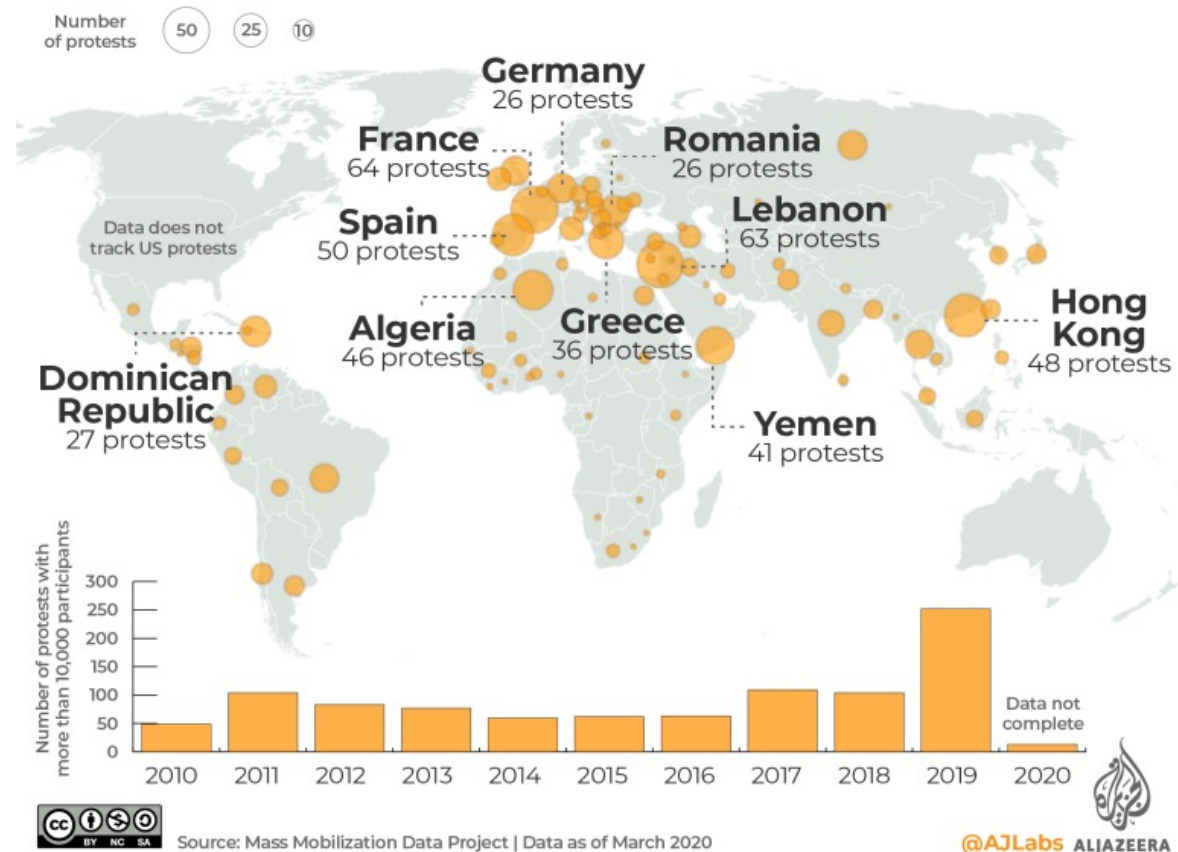
TWO TRENDS

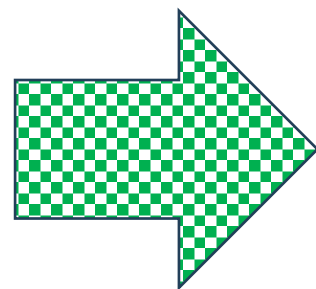
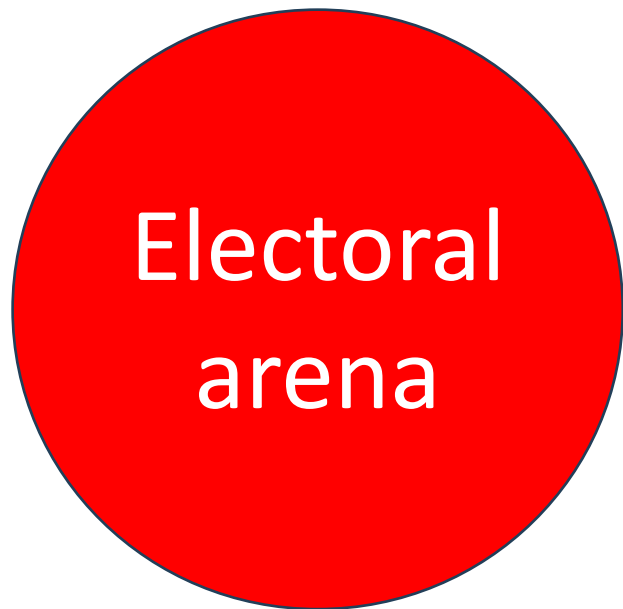
- Protests on the rise

PROTESTS

Protests on the rise

Between **2010 and 2020**, there were at least **900 protests** around the world with more than **10,000 participants**.





Should we worry?
I think we should

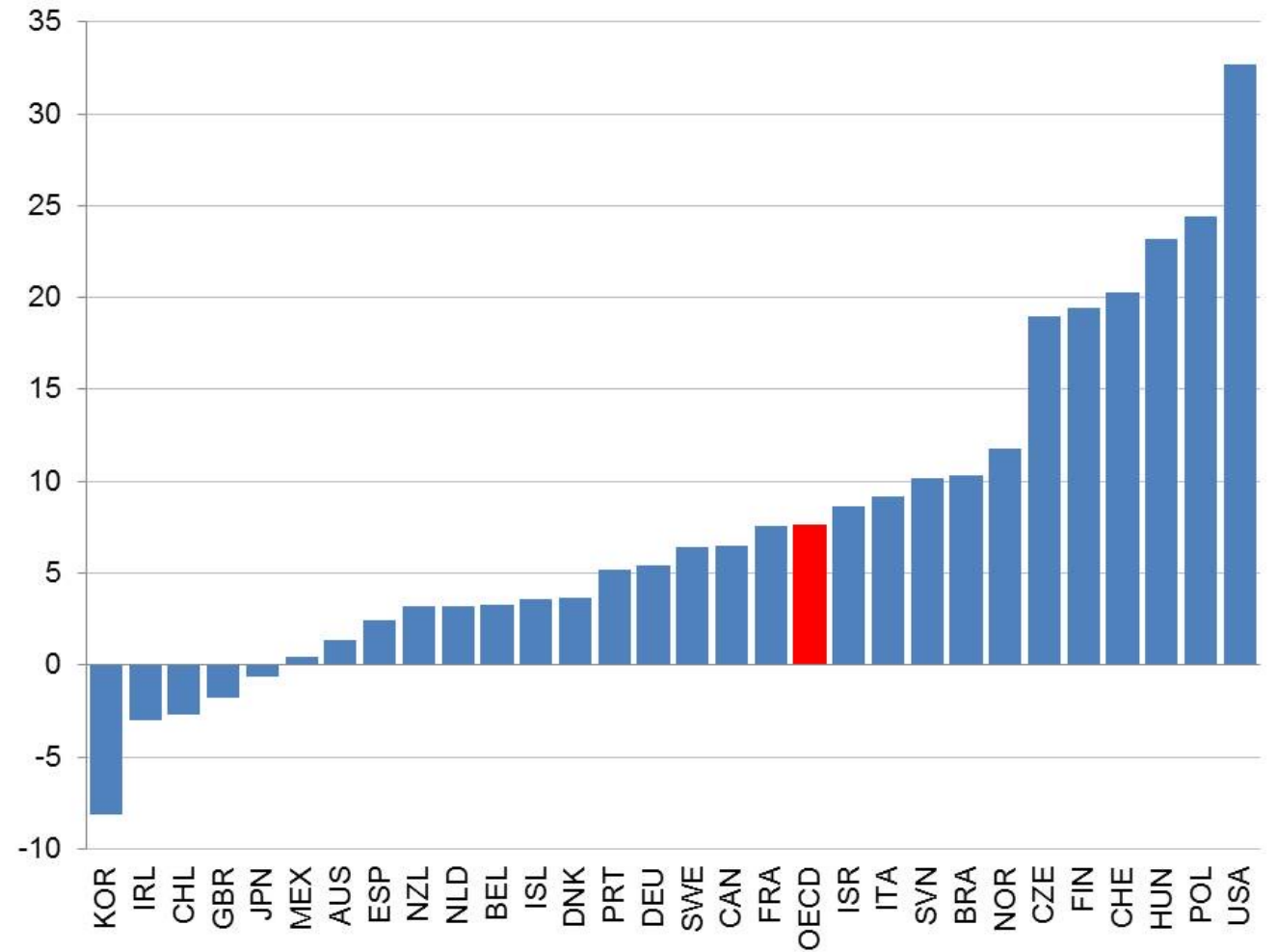
DEMOCRATIC OUTCOMES

- Representativity
- Responsivity
- Accountability



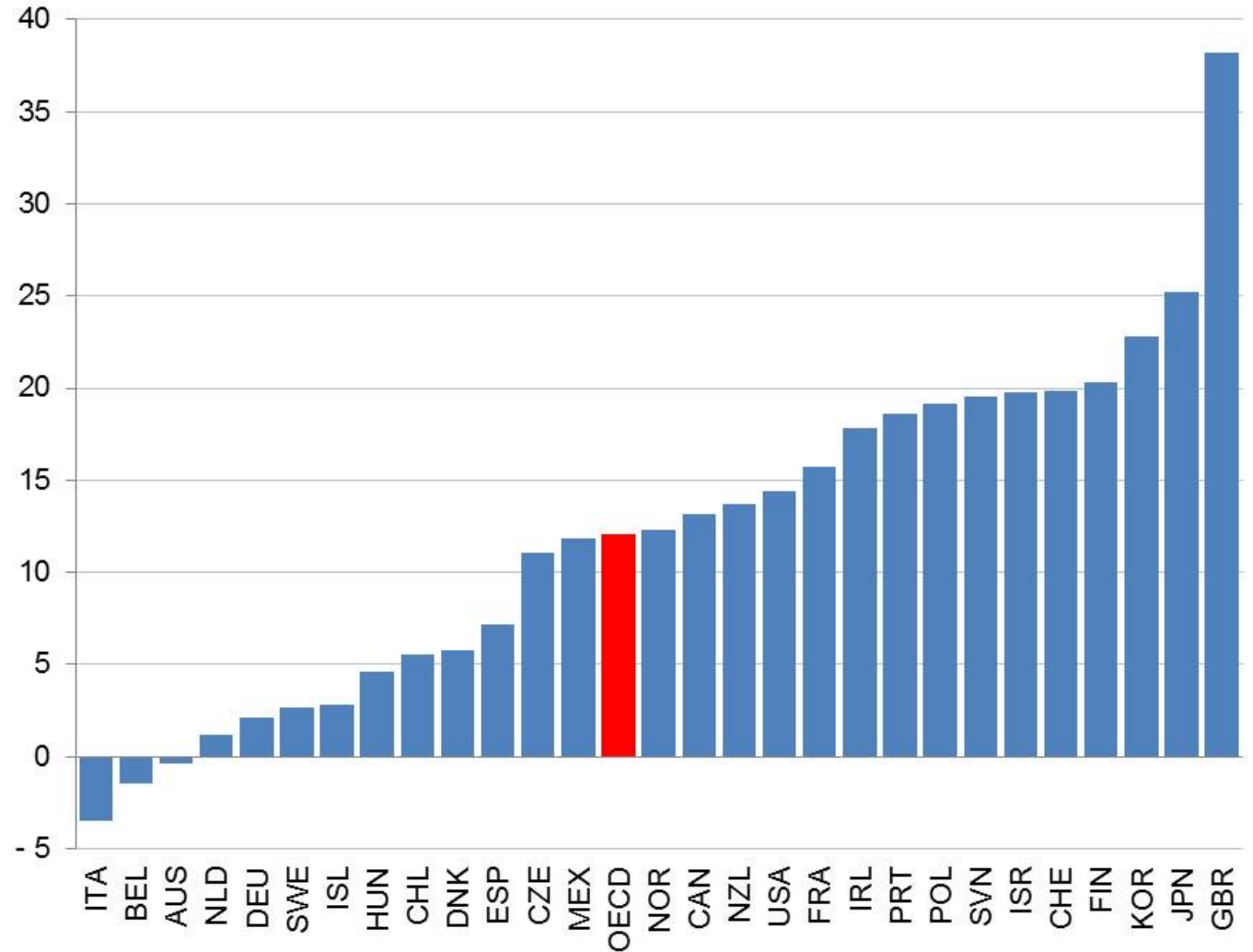
ELECTORAL ARENA

Difference in voting rates between 'high' and 'low' educated people (percentage points)



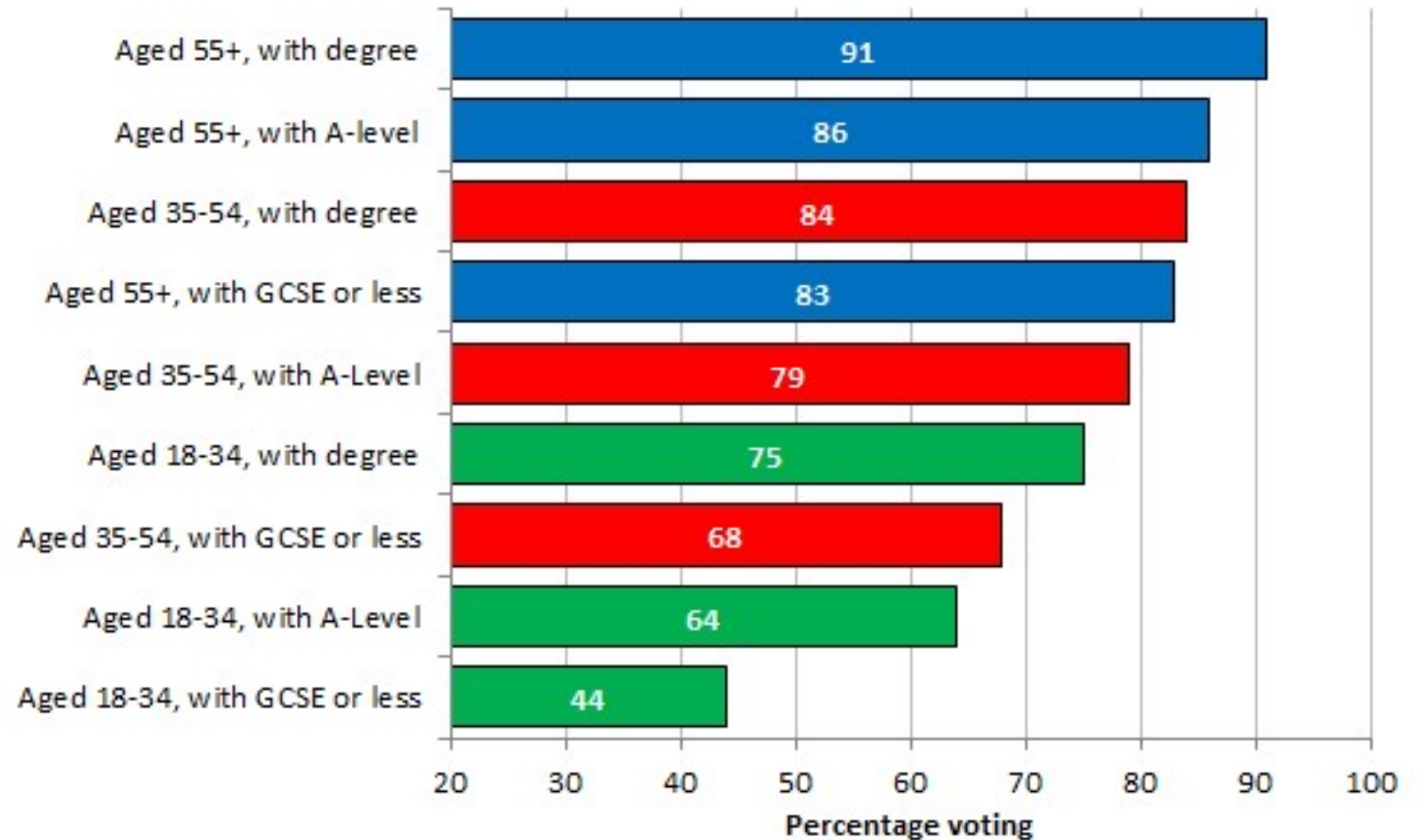
ELECTORAL ARENA

Difference in voting rates between those 55+ years old and those 16-35 years old (percentage points), most recent general election

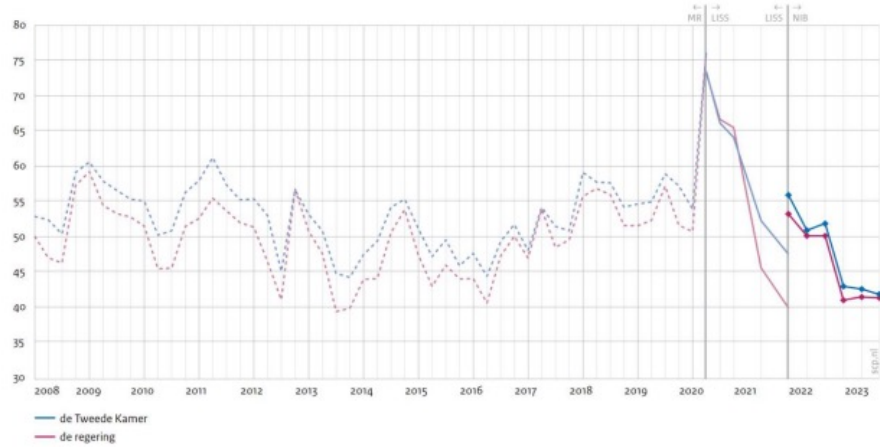


ELECTORAL ARENA

Turnout in 2020 UK general election by age group and highest level of educational attainment



Figuur 1.2 **Vertrouwen** in de Tweede Kamer en de regering, bevolking van 18+, 2008-voorjaar 2023 (in procenten)^a

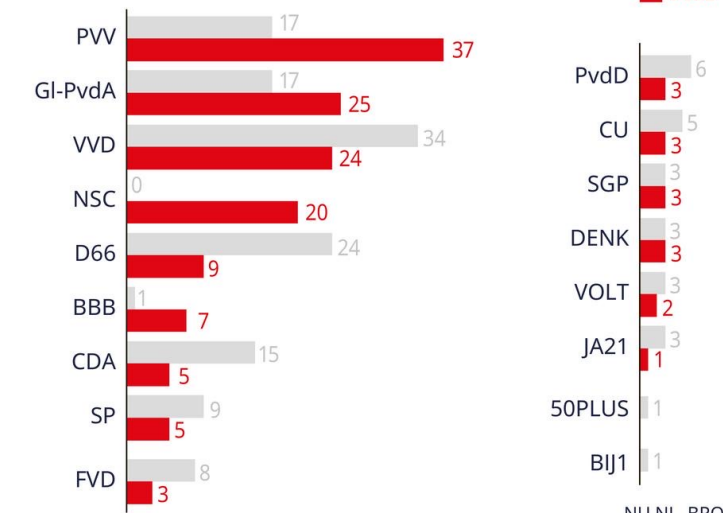


a Weergegeven is het aandeel dat een score 6-10 geeft op een schaal van 1 (geen **vertrouwen**) tot 10 (alle **vertrouwen**). De gegevens zijn afkomstig van COB-metingen door MarketResponse (MR), in het LISS-panel (LISS) en in de enquête Nederland in Beeld (NIB).

Bron: COB 2008/h-2021/q; NIB juli 2021-juni 2023

Zetels Tweede Kamer

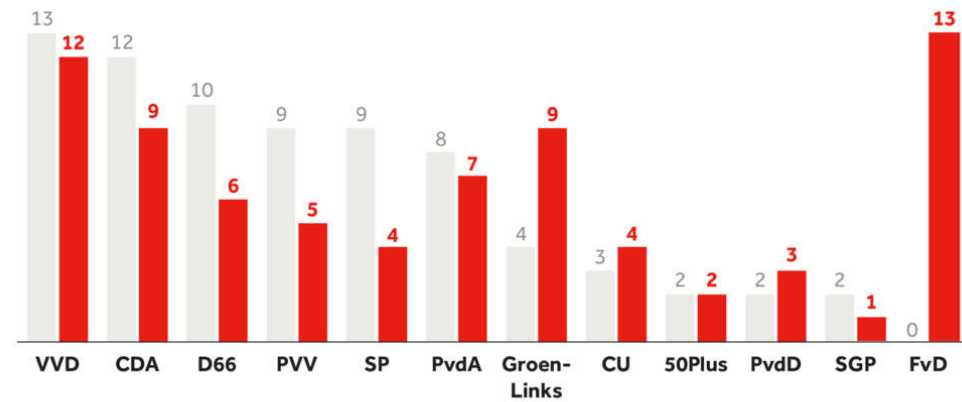
Definitieve uitslag



NU.NL, BRON: KIESRAAD

Voorlopige zetelverdeling Eerste Kamer

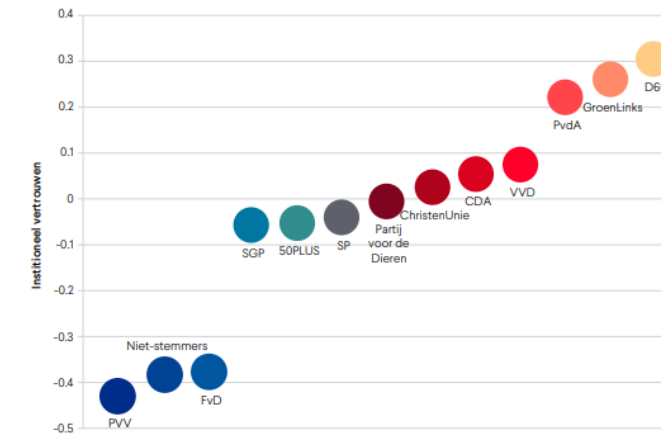
● Zetels 2015 ● Zetels 2019



bron: ANP

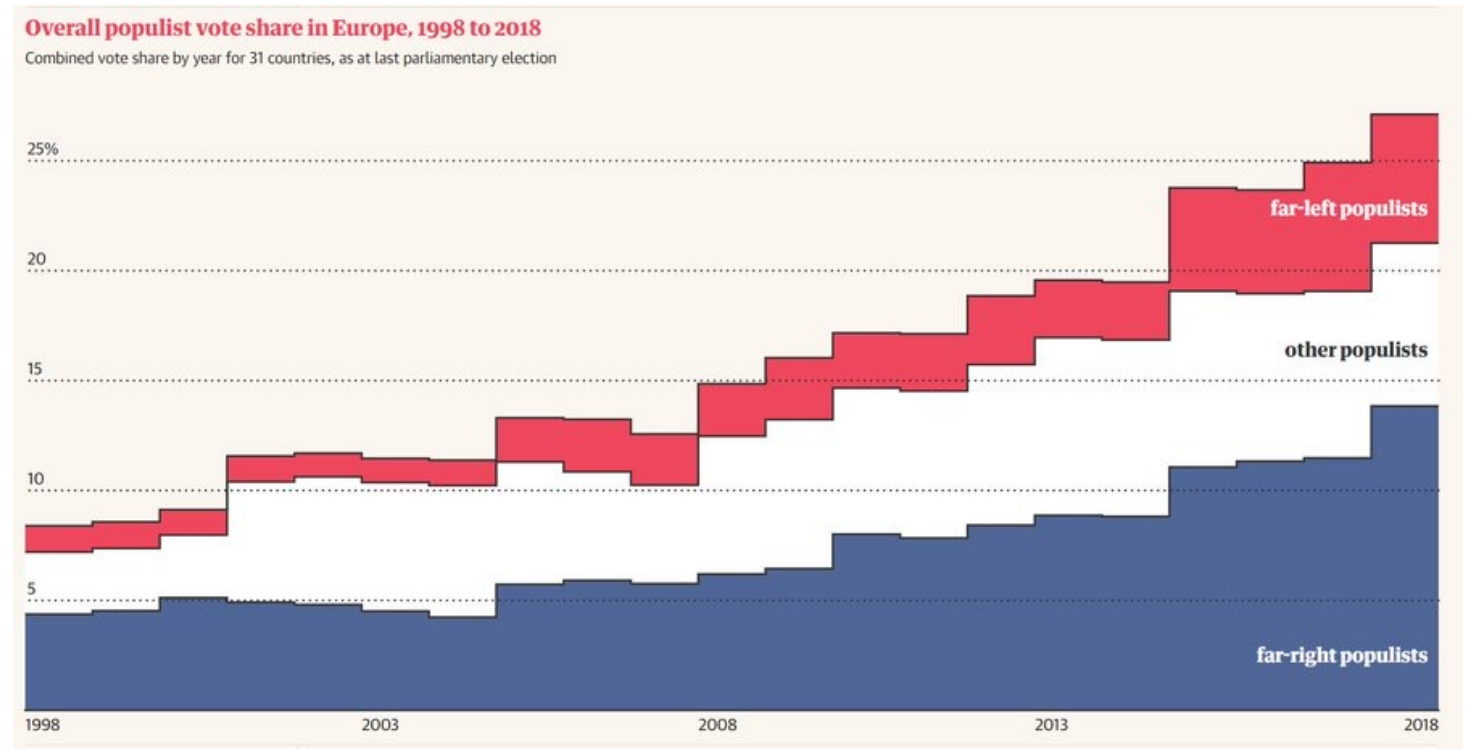
December 2020

-0.43 0.33



ELECTORAL ARENA

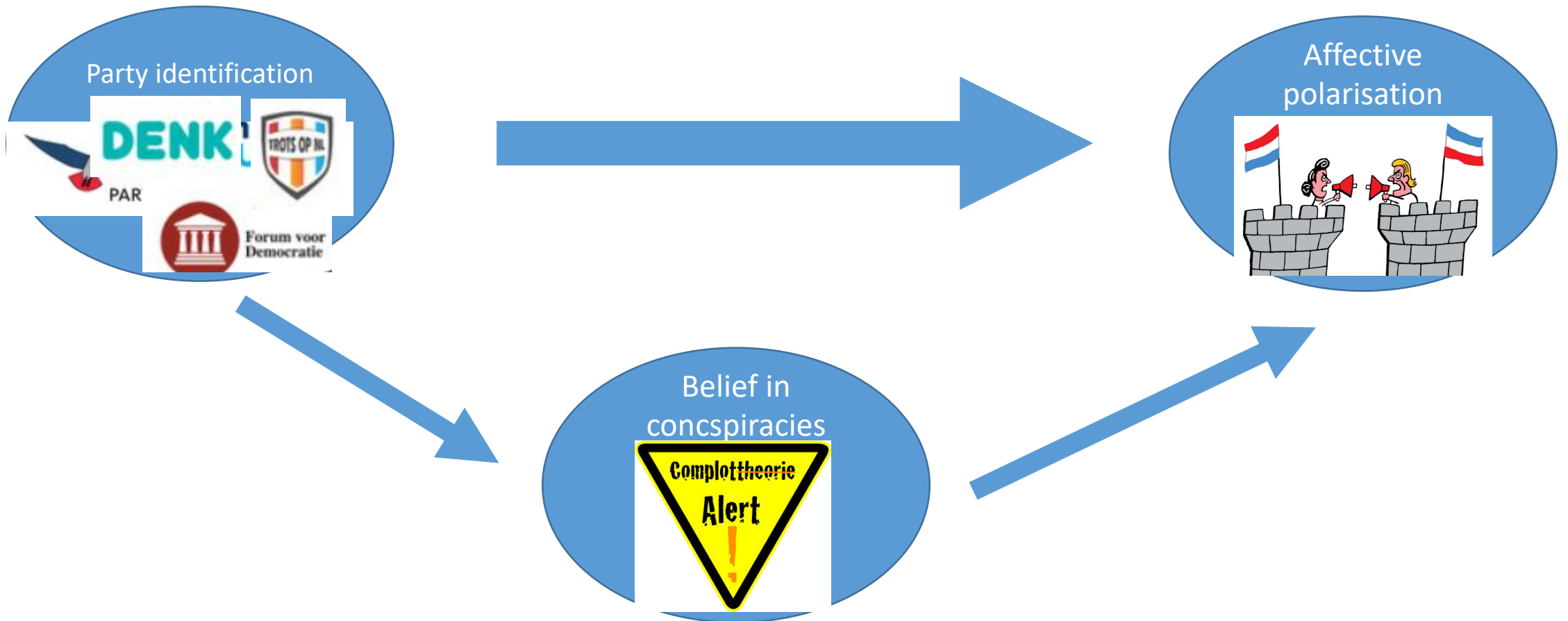
Overall populist vote share in Europe

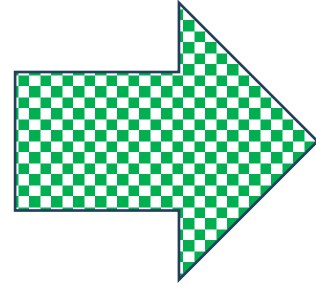
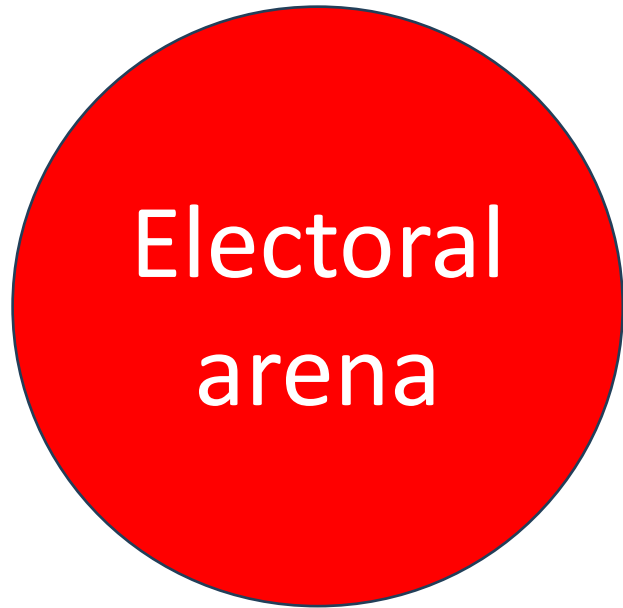


DO POPULISTIC PARTIES STEER POLARISATION? (RESMA STUDENTE SARAH SRAMOTA)



DO POPULISTIC PARTIES STEER POLARISATION? (RESMA STUDENTE SARAH SRAMOTA)

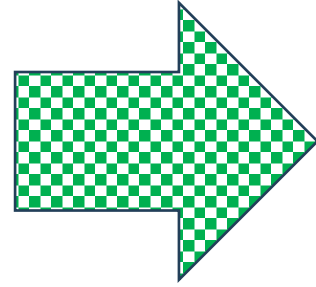
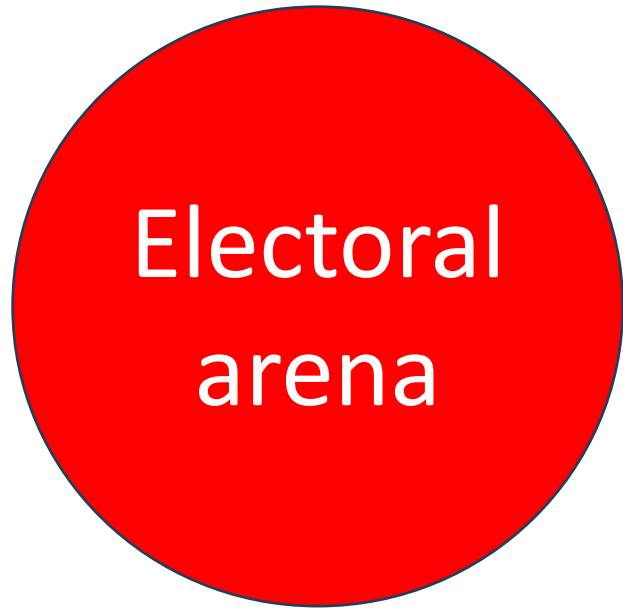




Trends electoral arena

- lower educated and young underrepresented in the electoral arena
- populist voting increases
- trust in politics declines, especially for voters populist parties
- affective polarization increases, especially for voters populist parties

Move to the protest arena?



Move to the protest arena?

- 1) Indeed protests are on the rise: more protests than ever!
- 2) EU youngsters find protest more effective than voting
- 3) Lower educated under-, higher educated are overrepresented in the protest arena
- 4) Hence: biased representation
 - 1) young from electoral to protest arena
 - 2) Higher educated represented in electoral *and* protest arena
 - 3) Lower educated leave politics altogether



But there is more to democratic outcomes of protest participation

Responsivity of authorities

1) Facilitate vs Repression of protest:

1) Systematic bias

2) AMNESTY: marginal groups encounter more repression and higher barriers

2) And how do authorities react, or absorb, to the claims voiced in the protest?

1) Do they Neglect, Repress or Absorb them?

Move from electoral to protest politics. Looming new democratic deficits?

- **EU Youth have more faith in protest than electoral politics**
 - BUT: are their voices fair and democratic absorbed
 - Are democratic checks and balances equally in place (type of government, type of democratic)?



DEMOCRATIC OUTCOMES

- Representativity
- Responsivity
- Accountability