

# Electoral turnout at the European Parliamentary elections

## Dimension - Institutional Arrangements

Associated Key Factor:

### Legitimacy

#### Data Source:

European Parliament

[http://www3.europarl.eu.int/election/results/en/maps\\_en.htm](http://www3.europarl.eu.int/election/results/en/maps_en.htm)

[www.europarl.eu.int/](http://www.europarl.eu.int/)

#### General Availability:

Reporting unit: Voter

Reporting level: EU Member States

Reporting period: regularly

Data available from 1979 to 1999

#### Availability by country:

1981 - 1999: Greece

1984 - 1999: Belgium

1984 - 1999: Germany

1984 - 1999: Denmark

1984 - 1984: France

1984 - 1999: Ireland

1984 - 1999: Italy

1984 - 1999: Luxembourg

1984 - 1999: Netherlands

1984 - 1999: United Kingdom

1987 - 1999: Spain

1987 - 1999: Portugal

1989 - 1999: France

1995 - 1999: Sweden

1996 - 1999: Austria

1996 - 1999: Finland

2005 - 2005: EU-15

2005 - 2005: Member States (EU-15)

### The indicator:

As in the indicator. Reference population is the population of eligible voters. This includes citizens of other EU Member States.

### Description

The comparison of the electoral turnout at the national elections with that of the European Parliamentary elections says something about the legitimacy of the European Parliament which is a key European institution.

### How is it measured?

Number of valid votes as a ratio of number of eligible voters.

### What are the advantages of the indicator?

Easily derived indicator which is a standard for the analysis of political processes.

### What are the disadvantages of the Indicator?

The data for four European Union countries, namely, Belgium, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg is skewed by the fact that voting is compulsory in these countries.

### What is the policy relevance of the indicator?

Electoral turnout in European Parliament elections says something about the legitimacy of the European Parliament and the European Union more generally. Low turnouts in the last years have been interpreted as indicative of a low EU legitimacy. This in turn makes the implementation of policies at EU level more difficult.

### The Indicator is relevant for the following pathways of the FORESIGHT FOR TRANSPORT exercise:

	Transport Impact	External Determining Variable	Intermediate Variable	Contextual Information
Greater power for European level of decision making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
More openness and participation in decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>