

Preface

This guide for the content analysis of party statutes for measuring intra-party democracy (IPD), was developed in the context of the research project “Europarties Heading East: The Influence of Europarties on Central and Eastern European Partner Parties” conducted at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), at the University of Mannheim and funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).¹ The project studies the interactions between the two largest and most powerful Europarties, the Party of European Socialists (PES) and the European People’s Party (EPP), with Central and Eastern European partner-parties from Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania. It focuses on the Eastern enlargement of these Europarties, namely on the process of integration of Central and Eastern European parties into the Europarties and the influence which is exerted by the latter on the former in this process. The coding scheme developed in the framework of this project is a theoretically derived instrument that includes questions (items) meant to measure a wide range of indicators for IPD. However, the main categories and sub-categories of the coding scheme are not limited to the specificities of Central and Eastern European parties and can thus be used to analyze the level of IPD of any political party across the world. In essence, this book presents a universally applicable integrated approach to measuring the level of IPD through deductive and standardized content analysis of party statutes.

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Finally, it should be stated that this book was written under the aegis of Benjamin von dem Berge who also coordinated the data collection in Central and Eastern Europe within the MZES research project “Europarties Heading East”.

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The Authors

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von dem Berge, B.; Poguntke, Th.; Obert, P.; Tipei, D.

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