

How to Create a Transnational Party System

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What is OPPR

- One of the four sub-observatories of EUDO, focusing on parties, elections and political representation in Europe
- Aims to study the evolving organisation of parties and the patterns of competition at EU level, as well as their changing role and representative capacity at national and sub-national levels.
- Seeks to become a reference point in the study of Europarties and party groups in the European Parliament, and is the ideal platform for large cross-national research projects on party politics

Activities

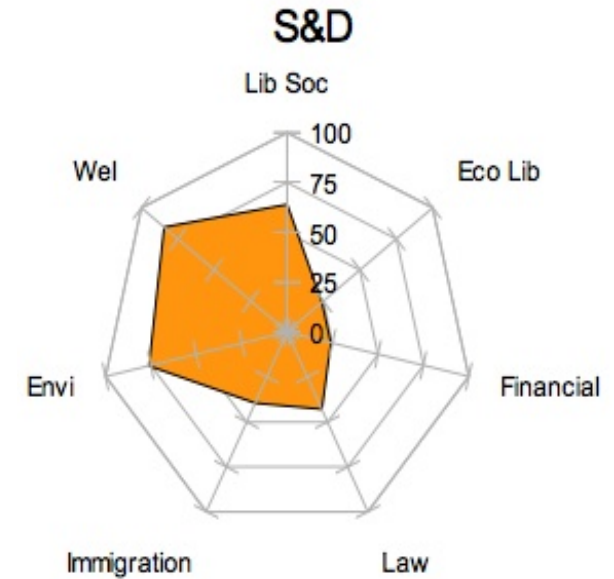
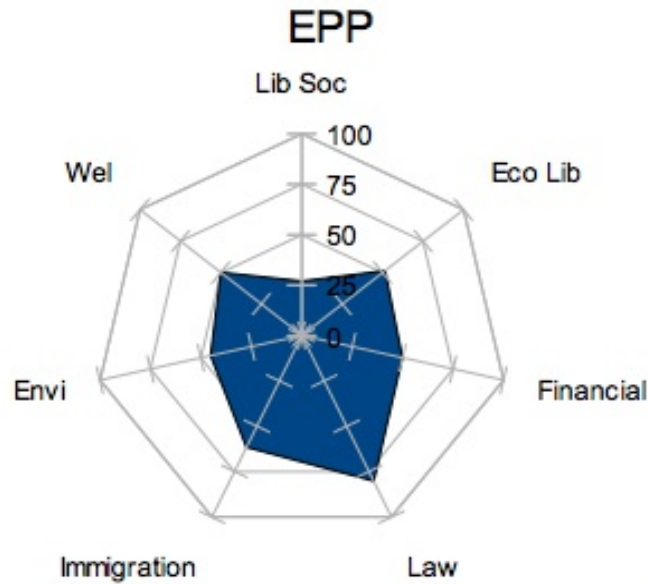
- **Research and data collection:** Main areas: party organization and membership in a multi-level polity, parties-civil society interaction
- **Contribution to the policy debate:** organisation of events where scholars and practitioners can interact and exchange ideas
- **Training:** organisation of a yearly summer school on political parties, advising of PhD students with an interest in party politics

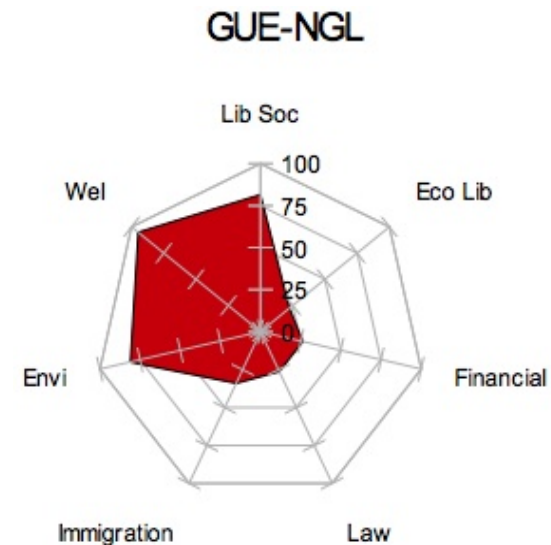
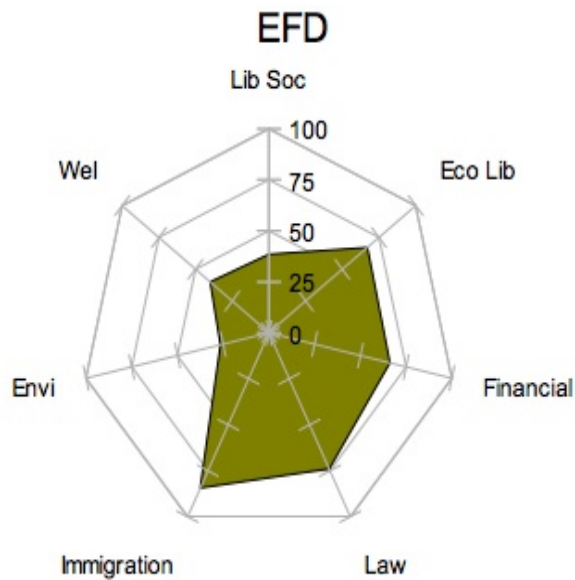
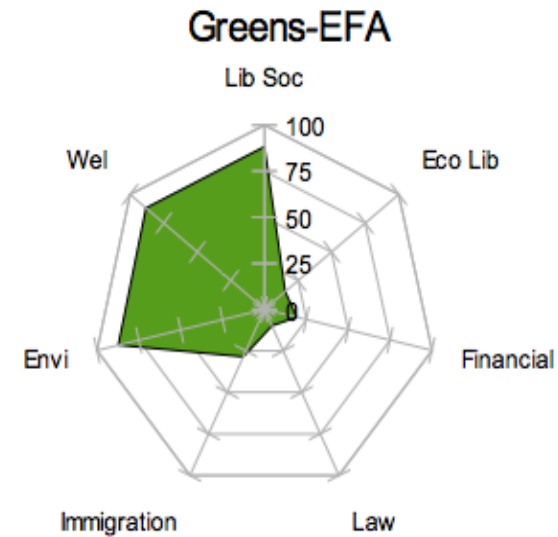
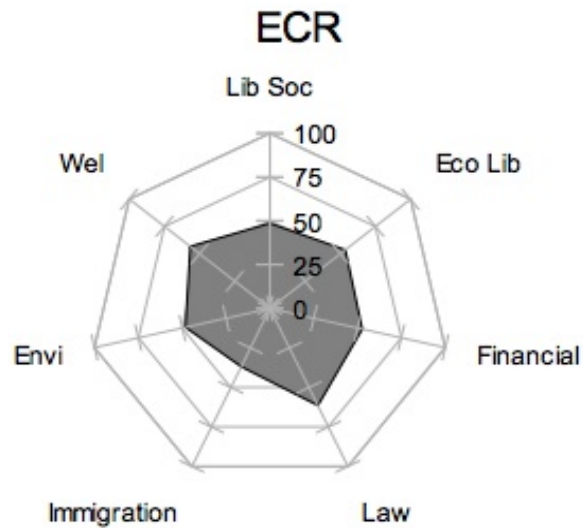
Research on Transnational Party System

- In November 2009, OPPR was awarded a tender from the European Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee, to produce a report on the "Development of a Transnational Party System in Europe".
- The report, currently in the process of finalisation, analyses the factors that could affect the development of a full-fledged party system at EU level

Research on Transnational Party System

- The report is composed of 4 parts, each one addressing a structural feature of the EU party system:
 1. Homogeneity in ideological positioning
 2. Practices of candidates selection
 3. Political cultures and party organization
 4. Convergence in party financing and electoral laws





Transnational Parties vs. Transnational Party System

- A party system is not only made of the parties it includes, but also by their interactions and the constraints that these impose on the parties themselves
- Parties usually emerge before party systems (new democracies)
- Belgium: plenty of parties but no polity-level system of parties
- Incentives have to be created to generate political interaction between parties at EU level

For further information

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