Political Participation and Modes of Democracy: Finland in a Comparative Perspective

Political participation and Modes of Democracy: Finland in a Comparative Perspective was a research project of sixteen Finnish political scientists. The research group has conducted Finnish National Elections Studies 2003 (FNES 2003) and 2007 (FNES 2007). The National Election Study 2003 was conducted as part of the research project Elections and Representative Democracy in Finland, a project financed by the Research Council for Culture and Society in the Academy of Finland. The project published several books and about 60 scientific papers. The National Election Study 2007 was conducted as part of the ongoing research project Political Participation and Modes of Democracy, also financed by the Research Council for Culture and Society in the Academy of Finland.

The intention of the research group was
- to make Finnish research on political participation and electoral behaviour a permanent and regular activity,
- to encourage and instruct under-graduate and post-graduate students in studies on political participation,
- to analyse trends and changes in political participation in Finland,
- to analyse the functioning of Finnish democracy especially from the point of view citizen participation and citizen engagement in democratic culture and political institutions,
- to make extensive comparisons between Finland and other developed democracies, especially other Nordic countries.

In the research group, there were members from the University of Tampere, University of Helsinki, Åbo Akademi University, and University of Jyväskylä. The group consists of senior as well as junior scholars.

The project worked in cooperation with the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES). Both the National Election Study 2003 and the National Election Study 2007 included question modules of the CSES, module 2 in the FNES 2003, and module 3 in FNES 2007. Cooperation with the CSES gave good possibilities for cross-national comparisons.

The project was funded by the Research Council for Culture and Society in the Academy of Finland (project no 114851), Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD), Finnish Ministry of Justice, and the Swedish Literature Association in Finland.

The data collected by the project has been archived in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD2269 and FSD2316).

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