

Abstract

Populism has been a widespread issue since the 20th century. Scientific work that has dealt with this political approach in the past is concentrated mainly on influential countries, whereas smaller countries do not receive much attention. Therefore, we investigate the two Slovak latest parliamentary elections taking place in 2016 and 2020 using the data on the county level. As far as one of the Slovak problems are regional disparities, this paper aims to find the key characteristics of the counties that influence the support of populist parties voting. In the first place, we introduce the OLS estimation with the heteroskedasticity standard errors, given that heteroskedasticity is detected in most of our models by the Breusch-Pagan test. We find out a positive effect of unemployment and religious people on voting for populist parties. On the contrary, skilled workers and Hungarians minorities are opposed to voting for such parties. Furthermore, we merge the dataset to create two-period panel data and apply pooled analysis and first-differencing to examine the changes over the years. However, we do not reveal any significant changes between 2016 and 2020.

Keywords

populism, populist political parties, vote share, voting behaviour, Slovakia, ordinary least squares method, pooled analysis, first-differencing

Title

Do less developed regions vote populist political parties? The case of Slovakia

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