

Analysis and Comparison of Greek Parliamentary Electoral Systems of the Period 1974-1996

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Abstract

The most fundamental element of representative democracy is the Electoral System, as it translates vote totals into parliamentary seats. An important topic is the choice of the electoral system, which will be applied in an election, because parliamentary seats allocated to political parties differ when a different system is used.

In the present paper we focus attention on the Greek parliamentary electoral systems of the period 1974-1996. Our aim is to analyse statistically these electoral systems and compare them by using measures of disproportionality. We also examine the behaviour of electoral systems when one or more electoral parameters change. Sensitivity analysis is performed in order to find out which percentages of total votes give majority of parliamentary seats to a party, for the six electoral systems used in Greek elections in the period under study.

Keywords: Electoral systems, measures of disproportionality, sensitivity analysis.