Dichotomies such as <<civic – ethnic>> or <<West and East>> are expressing a long history of theoretical debates on nationalisms (e.g. Kohn, 1944, 1965; Schopflin, 1996). Smith (1986, 1991) for instance argues the former divide is a valid and useful dichotomy and suggest that entire nations are of civic or ethnic type. Jones and Smith (2001a, 2001b) find evidence of an ascriptive (resembling ethnic) and voluntarist (resembling civic) divide of identity. On the other hand, Schulman (2002), suggests a three-folded reality: civic, ethnic and cultural (see also Janmaat, 2006) and argues that a civic-West and ethnic-Est dichotomy is just an oversimplified view of the empirical reality. Although far from the viewpoint that entire nations are either of civic or ethnic types, this paper acknowledges that some Herderian or Renanian tendencies exist across and within countries and adopts three goals. Firstly, it investigates whether the last decade of increasing populist nationalist rhetoric, that we find in most EU states, is grounded on new attitudes reflecting the above divides. Secondly, assuming that the boundaries between these dimensions are rather blurred, it will seek to construct an indicator capturing the differences between the most salient measures of civic versus ethnic criteria. Thirdly, it considers Hobsbawm (1991: 164) suggestion that all states are officially nations and virtually all states seek to keep out foreigners and will search for evidences of different links with tolerance toward strangers/attitudes towards immigrants while controlling for the most common confounders. EVS2017 data will be used to explore if, how and in which countries these (civic/ethnic) divides holds true and if and what dynamics and links exists. Cluster and SEM will be employed. Data from previous EVS waves are also employed as additional source for exploring the first research question. The paper will add new insights to previous studies (Heath and Tilley, 2005; Byrne and Dixon, 2013; McAllister, 2016) providing mixed (positive, neutral, negative) evidence of the relations of civic / ethnic (and cultural) emphasis of national identity and attitudes toward immigrants.

References


