
Proposal for the first international workshop of EVS 2017

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Diversity in basic core political values are frequently debated in the context of widening and deepening of the European Union (EU). From a perspective of European integration, a gradual convergence in core political values across European countries would be beneficial in order to strengthen cohesion, increase legitimacy and ease decision making. Thus, the EU assumes an active role in promoting certain values, which may lead to their stronger support among EU member states. Additional sources of convergence might be the freedom of movement and the gradual equalization of the living standards across the EU. Based on EVS data, developments in public opinion with regard to 9 political value indicators among 9 EU countries are assessed since 1990. Our preliminary analysis reveals that the differences in core political values between these countries are considerable. The core political value of ‘socialism’ exhibited convergence between 1990 and 2017. Similarly, ‘progressivism’ values were converging across the EU until 2008 but following the financial crisis the disagreement on these values has reach a higher level than that in 1990. Data on ‘cosmopolitanism’ are limited to the period between 2008 and 2017, during which the countries have experiences a marginal convergence. With the release of the full EVS data we would be able to assess more conclusively the processes of change in country-level value diversity in the EU and offer explanations related to the role of the EU in promoting values and the effects of the financial, fiscal and refugee crises.