



Towards The Europeanization of Parties and Electorates? An Analysis of the First European Parliamentary Elections In The New Member States

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This paper provides an analytical assessment of the outcome of the first European Parliamentary (EP) elections in the new post-communist member states of the European Union. In so doing, the paper will address three specific questions: a) why did particular European party groups perform better in some of the new member states than in others; b) why the level of voter turnout was so much lower in the new member states than in the established members; and c) what accounts for different rates of voter turnout across the new member states? The answers to these questions will provide an insight into the cross-national variance in the process of Europeanization that takes place among national electorates and party systems in the post-communist member states of the European Union.