European Elections 2019
Lessons learned

Dimitar Dimitrov
CEC Member
Results Suggest Stable Structure of Preferences

2014
- CEDB – 6 seats
- BSP – 4 seats
- MRF (Minority Liberals) – 4 seats
- Ad-hoc Coalition – 2 seats
- Historic Right – 1 seat

2019
- CEDB – 6 seats
- BSP – 5 seats
- MRF (Minority Liberals) – 3 seats
- VMRO – 2 seat
- Historic Right – 1 seat
General Assessment of Trends

- No shift forwards Green and Liberal platforms
- Standard dominant cleavage “Left – Right”
- Liberal label claimed by minority party
- Green Environmentalist attached to the Historic right
Dominant Issue: Machine Voting

- By law: 3000 voting machines were installed at a random sample of total of 12000 polling places.
- Method of voting prescribed by law: touchscreen + receipt coupon, placed in a box.
- Using voting machine: voluntary choice.
- Traditional method of voting available at every polling station.
Mixed Effects

- Low level of interest in using machines: 27%
- Consequently high cost of ballots delivered by via machine: 30 euros compared to 35 eurocents for the rest of the delivered ballots
- Generally reliable in terms of technology though quite burdening in terms of organization and logistics
Conclusions

- Time factor
- Cost Factor
- No particular effect on the rate of invalid ballots
Conclusions

- The use of machines was canceled for the forthcoming elections
- Most likely will not be attempted again based on the prevailing attitudes among Bulgarian MPs