



ABSTRACT

Title: Economic determinants or personal attitudes? Factors explaining the European regional backlash.

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Abstract: (*minimum 300 words*)

A new wave of social discontent is challenging the European Union (EU). Multiple causes have been raised to explain this current and new wave of social misalignment with the European integration process. Going from economic-decline and inequality explanations to perceptions and cultural values theories, several works have put their efforts in disentangling the determinants leading this current discontent. Up to now the debate is far from being closed, but what is clear is that this social discontent presents a spatial pattern in which lagging-behind regions become the geographical source of this trend.

The aim of this paper is to analyse the regional factors and possible spatial consequences of this prominent political wave that is challenging the EU integration process, with a special focus on regional differences and urban-rural dichotomies.

We resort to two complementary and detailed databases to perform this innovative analysis. The first one collects data on recent electoral results of euro-sceptical political parties at the municipality level. The second one relies on the European Social Survey and attends to individual perceptions and values at the regional level.

Then, we take use of partial least square techniques to assess the factors leading voting patterns in the UE. Our hypothesis considers that, once economic factors are controlled for, personal attitudes and perceptions drive the electoral shift toward euro-sceptical parties.

Keywords: *European Union, regional, discontent*

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