

Matrices and the European Parliament

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Abstract

Ever since its inception the European Parliament has been determined to install a unified method for its election. At present, European elections are an aggregate of 28 domestic elections that are conducted within the Union's Member States. However, there is a perfect way to amalgamate past diversity into prospective uniformity: double-proportionality. Double-proportional methods allow to represent two dimensions of the electorate, its partitioning into territorial districts (the Member States) as well as its division by political parties (at European level, which exists on the paper and need to make an appearance in real life). This approach leads us into the happy world of matrices, with Member States as rows and unionwide parties as columns. The lecture will develop theory and practice of translating a matrix of vote counts into a matrix of seat numbers in such a way that the side-conditions that are decreed by the Union's constitutional frame (TEU-Lisbon) are honored.

Keywords

European Parliament, elections, double-proportional methods.

Reference:

Pukelshiem, Friedrich (2014), *Proportional Representation - Apportionment Methods and Their Applications*. Springer.