

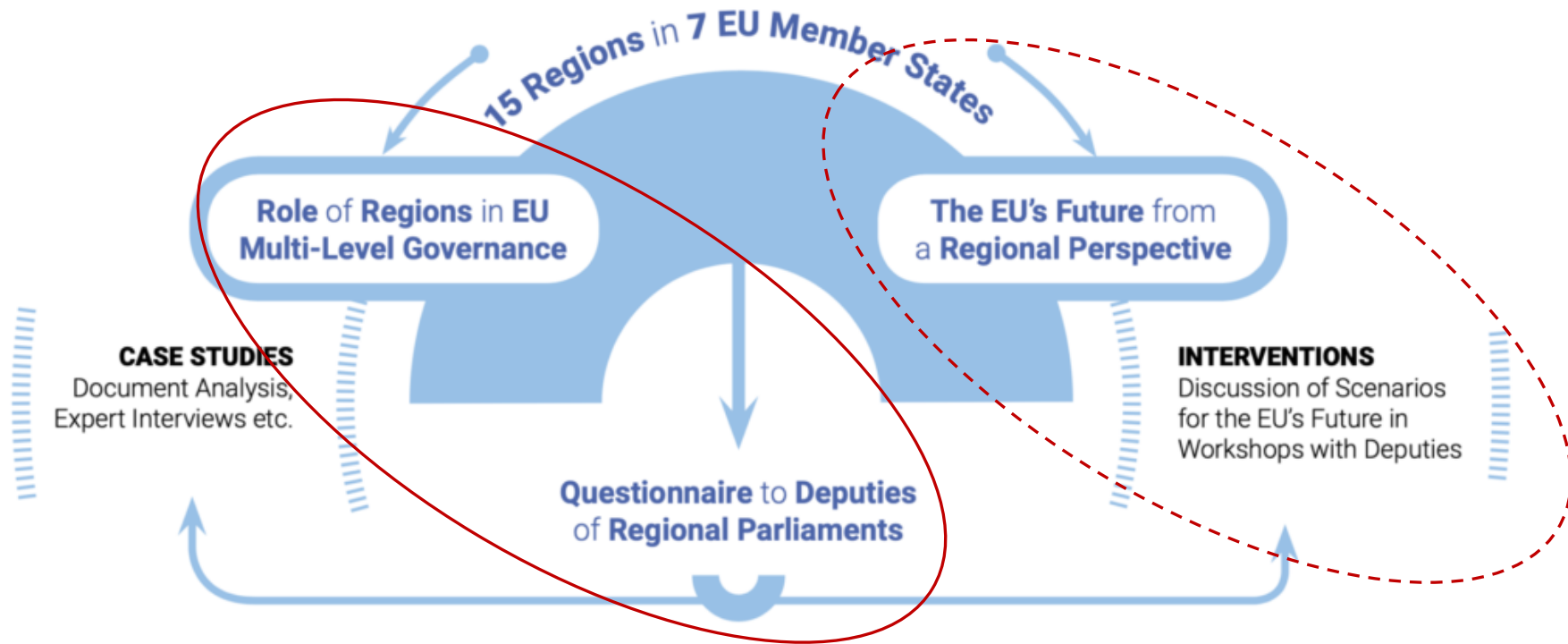
CIVEX COMMISSION, 16 FEB. 2021, THEMATIC DEBATE

**Conference on the Future of Europe: prospects for strengthening the
CoR in the EU institutional framework**

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Research design



Survey among regional MPs

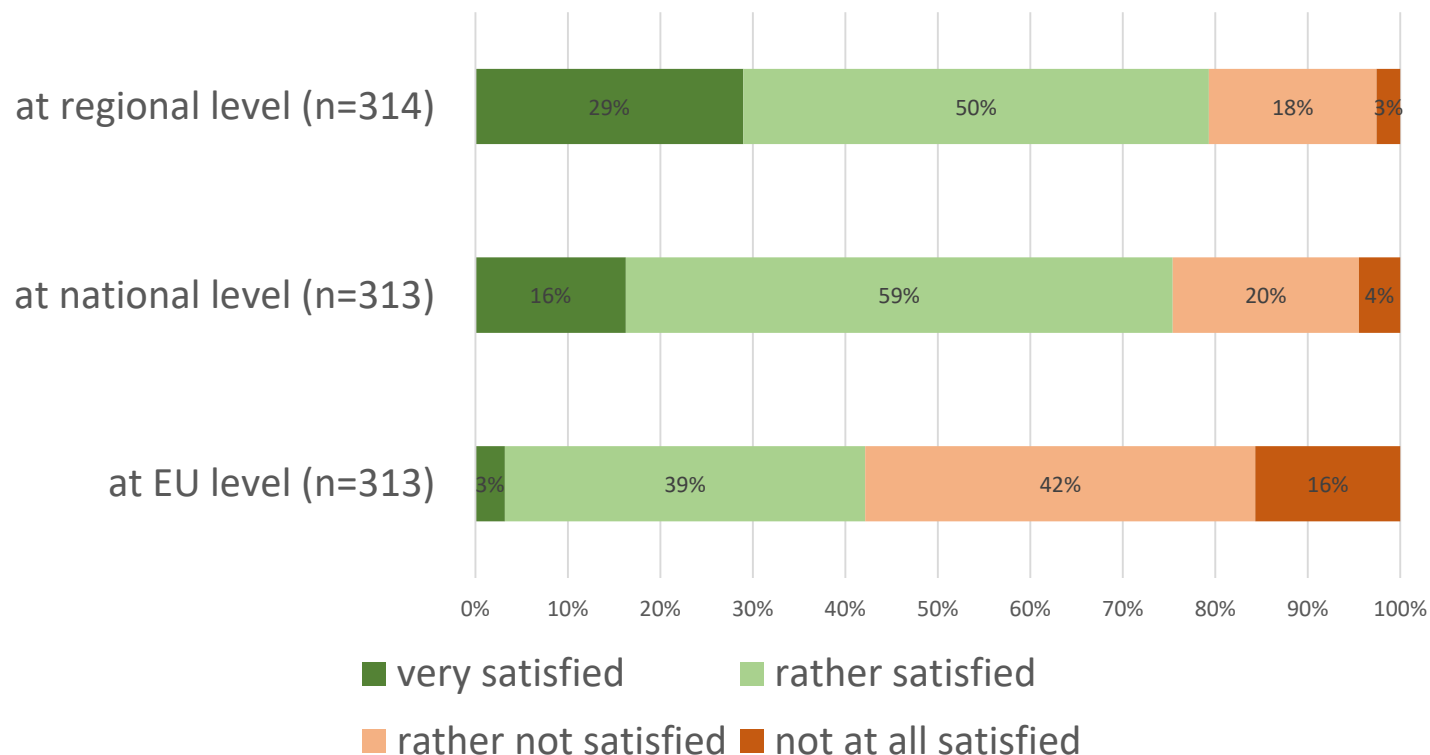
- Regional MPs from different EU member states
- Today: preliminary findings from **survey in Germany** (all 16 Landtage/regional parliaments; response rate 13-20%)
- Similar survey will be conducted in Austria, Spain, Poland

Workshops with regional MPs

- Workshops so far in AT, DE, ES, BE
- Topic: *The future of Europe from a regional perspective*
- Three issues: EU institutional architecture, division of competences, role of regions in MLG
- ***No representative group!***

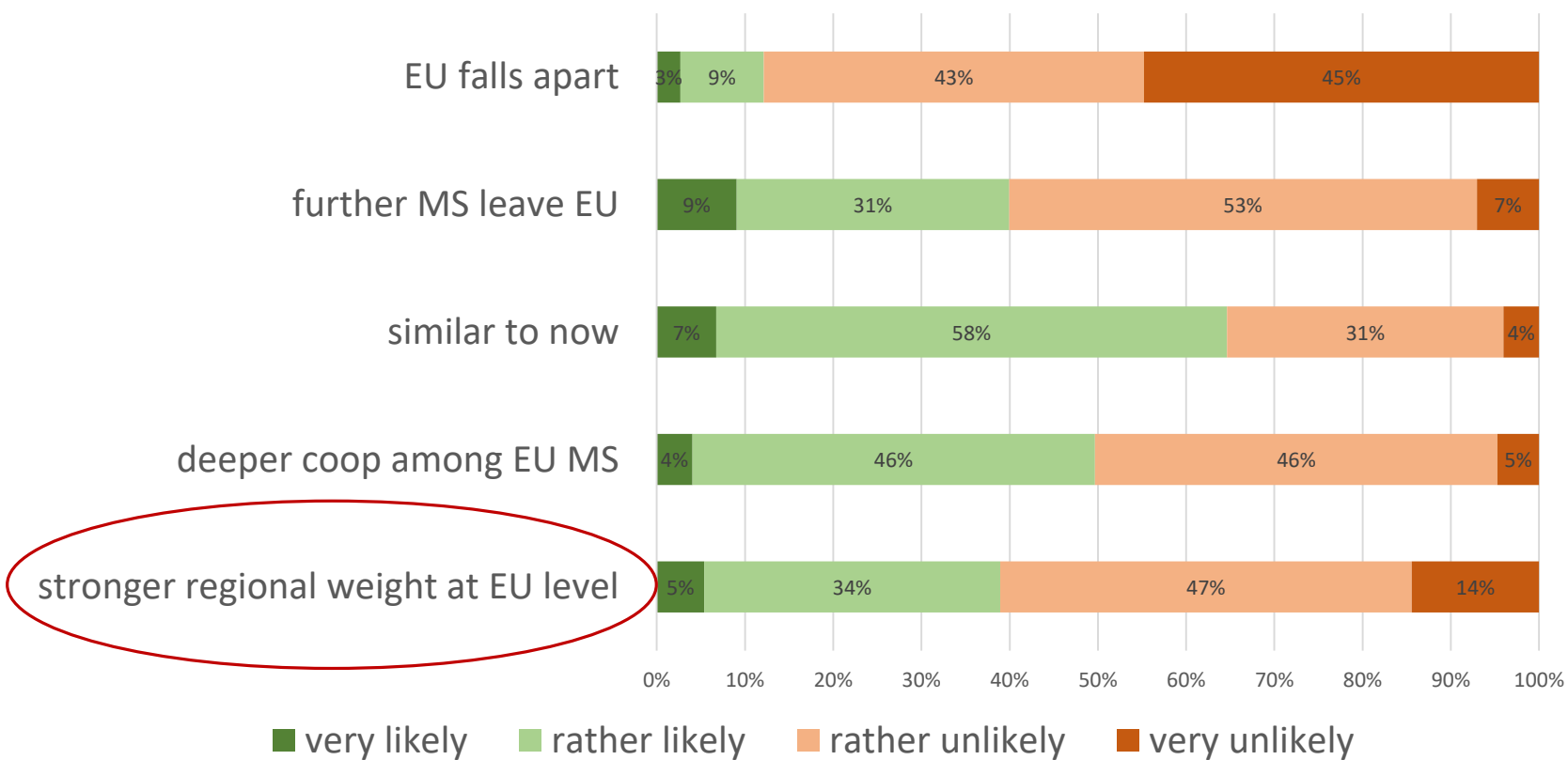


Satisfaction with democracy



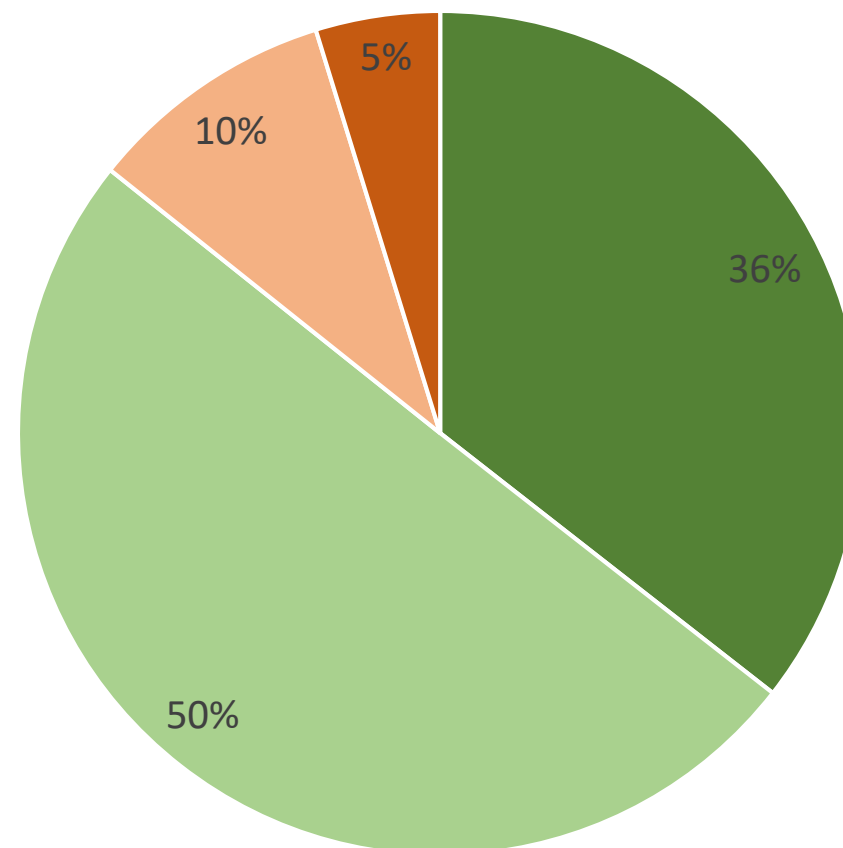
- ▶ Deep concerns about the current functioning of the EU
- ▶ Concerns regard both democratic functioning & effectiveness

EU in 10 years: Likelihood of scenarios (n=297-98)

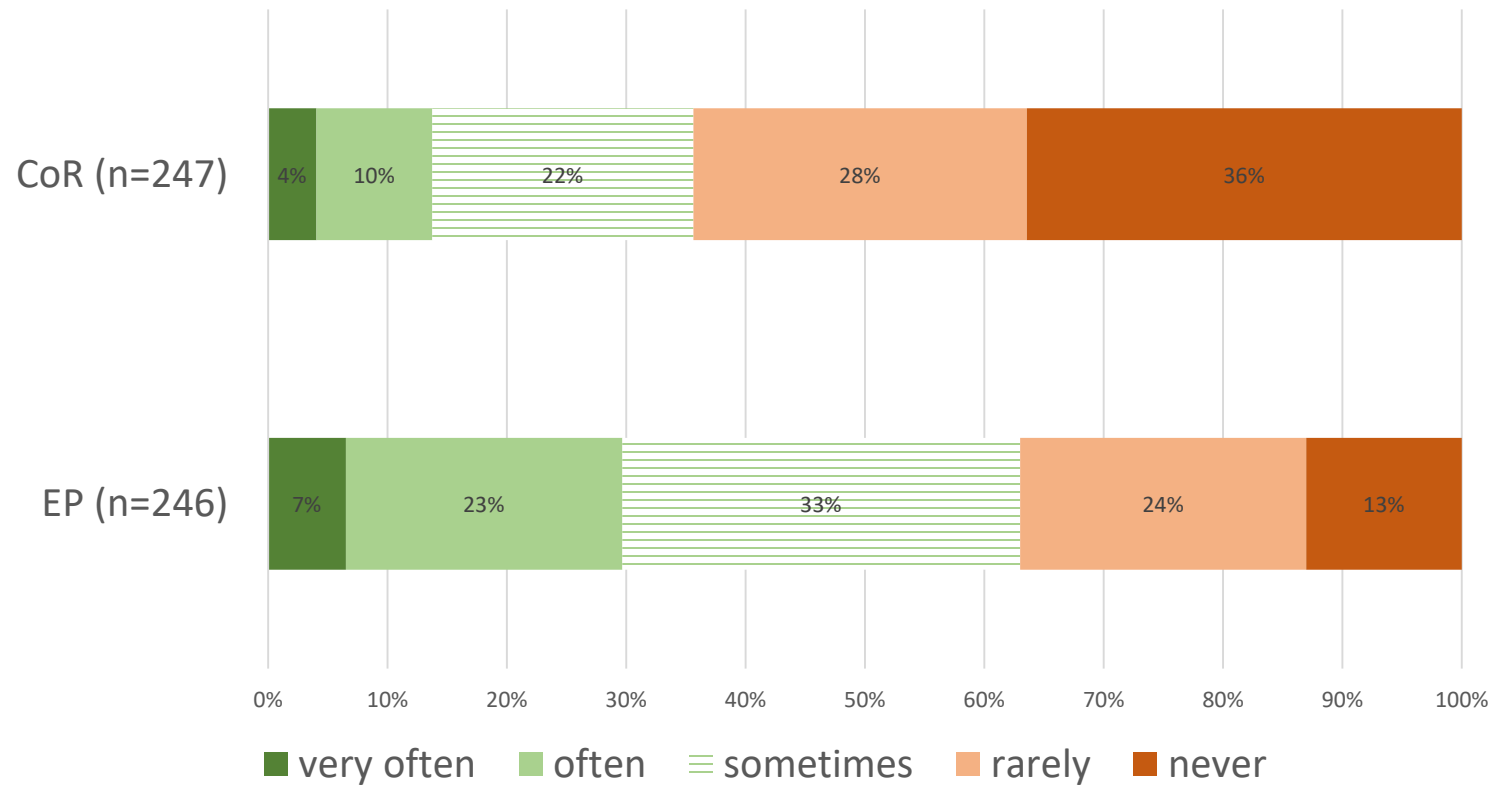


Regions should take the issue of Europe more seriously in their political work (n=315)

- very much agree
- rather agree
- rather disagree
- very much disagree

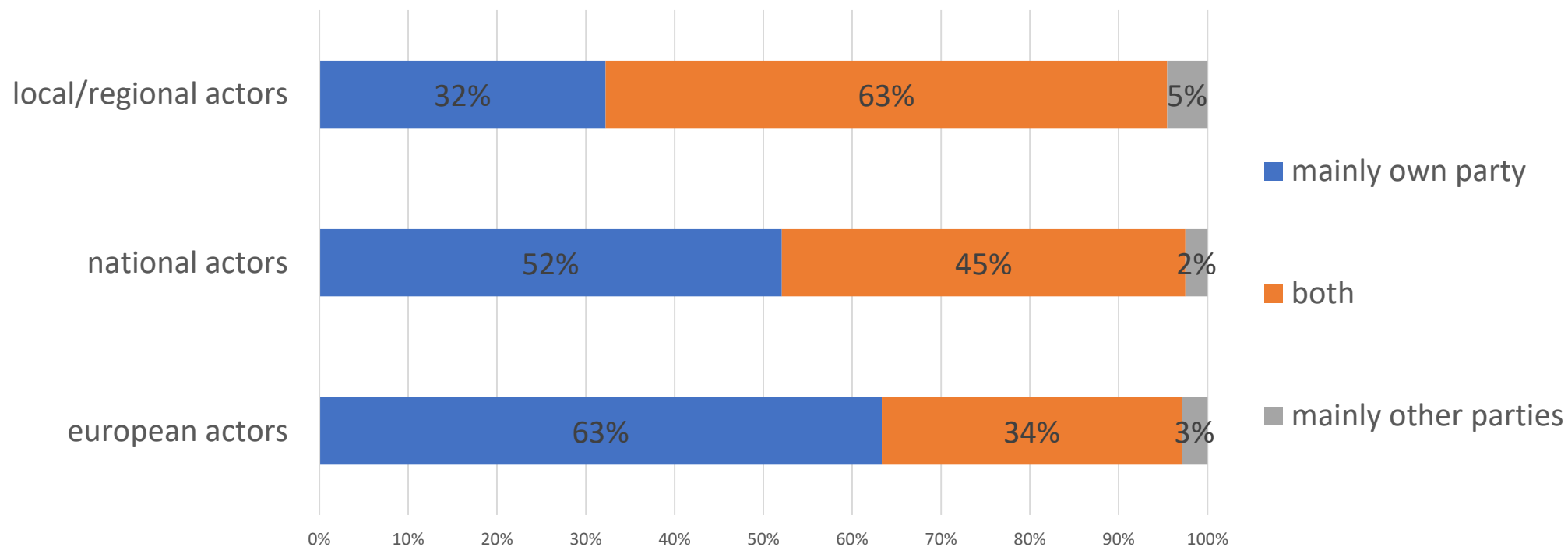


Frequency of regional MPs' contacts on EU affairs



- ▶ Regional MPs have also more contact (compared to CoR) with unions, media, and CSOs
- ▶ Most contact with regional government

Contacts on EU affairs with actors from different political levels (n=240-42)





The Conference on the Future of Europe

Context of the Conference & lessons from previous research

- Political will by EU institutional actors?
- Policy-first approach?
- Direct citizens involvement: citizen *input* versus citizen *empowerment* (Warren 2009)
- Challenges of MLG for key democratic elements like transparency & accountability

Outlook: Conference & CoR

- Role for the CoR?
- Direct citizens involvement?
- Institutional reform & true participatory dimension at EU level: long-term objectives

Thank you for your attention!

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Sources :

- European Policy Centre & The Democratic Society (2018): The European Citizens' Consultations. Evaluation Report, available at https://wms.flexious.be/editor/plugins/imagemanager/content/2140/PDF/2018/The_european_citizens_consultations.pdf, accessed 12/10/2020.
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- Papadopoulos, Y. (2010): Accountability and Multilevel Governance: More Accountability, Less Democracy? *West European Politics*, Vol. 33(5), p. 1030-49.
- Warren, M. E. (2009): Citizen Participation and Democratic Deficits: Considerations from the Perspective of Democratic Theory, in: J. DeBardeleben & J.H. Pammett (eds): *Activating the citizen. Dilemmas of Participation in Europe and Canada*, p. 17-40.