

Online Appendix

Table A.1. Descriptive statistics of the five dependent variables

VARIABLES	Mean	Stand. Dev.	Min	Max	N
Positive error	[0.53]	[0.50]	0	1	1057
Positive bias	[0.28]	[0.45]	0	1	931
Negative bias	[0.21]	[0.41]	0	1	931
Error	0.30	3.40	-22.61	22.60	1057
Accuracy	0.00	0.41	-2.15	1.87	1057

Table A.2. Impact of different party characteristics (incumbency, size, novelty and Euroscepticism) on the over-estimation in the polls (Logit regression)

VARIABLES	(1) errorpos	(2) errorpos	(3) errorpos	(4) errorpos
sample	0.001 (0.006)	0.003 (0.006)	0.001 (0.005)	0.001 (0.006)
time	-0.010 (0.040)	-0.007 (0.039)	-0.008 (0.038)	-0.009 (0.039)
cycle	-0.006*** (0.002)	-0.007*** (0.002)	-0.007*** (0.002)	-0.006*** (0.002)
turnout	0.004 (0.004)	0.006 (0.004)	0.005 (0.004)	0.004 (0.004)
contemporaneous	0.173 (0.147)	0.167 (0.147)	0.196 (0.149)	0.221 (0.150)
compulsory	0.686*** (0.169)	0.649*** (0.172)	0.624*** (0.171)	0.673*** (0.171)
government	0.317** (0.143)			
size		0.042*** (0.007)		
new			-0.417** (0.186)	
euroscepticism				-0.031 (0.032)
Constant	0.025 (0.204)	-0.429** (0.208)	0.166 (0.199)	0.210 (0.227)
Observations	931	925	929	931

Clustered standard errors in parentheses; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A.3. Impact of different party characteristics (incumbency, size, novelty and Euroscepticism) on an over-estimation in the polls bigger than the sample error (Logit regression)

VARIABLES	(1) biaspos	(2) biaspos	(3) biaspos	(4) biaspos
sample	0.018*** (0.006)	0.020*** (0.006)	0.017*** (0.006)	0.017*** (0.007)
time	0.083** (0.037)	0.099** (0.038)	0.089** (0.036)	0.073** (0.035)
cycle	0.001 (0.002)	0.002 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)
turnout	-0.007 (0.005)	-0.003 (0.006)	-0.005 (0.005)	-0.008 (0.005)
contemporaneous	0.407*** (0.157)	0.432** (0.180)	0.419*** (0.157)	0.624*** (0.176)
compulsory	0.316* (0.170)	0.246 (0.179)	0.271 (0.172)	0.252 (0.175)
government	0.679*** (0.163)			
size		0.048*** (0.008)		
new			-0.264 (0.242)	
euroscepticism				-0.171*** (0.042)
Constant	-1.519*** (0.242)	-2.168*** (0.312)	-1.321*** (0.248)	-0.733*** (0.266)
Observations	931	925	929	931

Clustered standard errors in parentheses; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A.4. Impact of different party characteristics (incumbency, size, novelty and Euroscepticism) on an under-estimation in the polls bigger than the sample error (Logit regression)

VARIABLES	(1) biasneg	(2) biasneg	(3) biasneg	(4) biasneg
sample	0.011** (0.005)	0.011* (0.006)	0.011** (0.005)	0.011** (0.005)
time	0.099** (0.048)	0.103** (0.048)	0.102** (0.048)	0.093* (0.048)
cycle	0.008** (0.003)	0.010*** (0.003)	0.008** (0.003)	0.008** (0.003)
turnout	-0.010 (0.006)	-0.011* (0.006)	-0.010 (0.006)	-0.011* (0.006)
contemporaneous	0.121 (0.228)	0.180 (0.226)	0.102 (0.230)	0.191 (0.228)
compulsory	-0.788*** (0.244)	-0.785*** (0.237)	-0.760*** (0.245)	-0.813*** (0.244)
government	0.019 (0.162)			
size		-0.031*** (0.009)		
new			0.175 (0.227)	
euroscepticism				-0.065 (0.044)
Constant	-1.543*** (0.336)	-1.331*** (0.326)	-1.590*** (0.333)	-1.298*** (0.360)
Observations	931	925	929	931

Clustered standard errors in parentheses; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A.5. Impact of different party characteristics (incumbency, size, novelty and Euroscepticism) on the difference between party prediction and actual result (OLS regression)

VARIABLES	(1) error	(2) error	(3) error	(4) error
sample	-0.004 (0.005)	-0.001 (0.005)	-0.004 (0.005)	-0.004 (0.005)
time	0.081* (0.047)	0.093** (0.043)	0.085* (0.045)	0.085* (0.046)
cycle	0.001 (0.002)	0.000 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)
turnout	-0.008 (0.006)	-0.004 (0.005)	-0.008 (0.005)	-0.009 (0.005)
contemporaneous	-0.278** (0.126)	-0.308*** (0.107)	-0.229* (0.120)	-0.218* (0.123)
compulsory	0.982*** (0.115)	0.880*** (0.094)	0.933*** (0.117)	0.968*** (0.110)
government	0.551* (0.286)			
size		0.075*** (0.012)		
new			-0.292 (0.242)	
euroscepticism				-0.032 (0.052)
Constant	0.385 (0.279)	-0.457 (0.270)	0.565** (0.268)	0.618* (0.344)
Observations	931	925	929	931

Clustered standard errors in parentheses; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A.6. Impact of different party characteristics (incumbency, size, novelty and Euroscepticism) on the party accuracy of the prediction (OLS regression)

VARIABLES	(1) accuracy	(2) accuracy	(3) accuracy	(4) accuracy
sample	-0.001* (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.002** (0.001)	-0.002** (0.001)
time	0.000 (0.009)	0.002 (0.009)	0.002 (0.009)	0.000 (0.009)
cycle	-0.002*** (0.000)	-0.002*** (0.000)	-0.002*** (0.000)	-0.002*** (0.000)
turnout	0.001 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)
contemporaneous	0.072** (0.031)	0.069** (0.033)	0.075** (0.033)	0.092** (0.036)
compulsory	0.099*** (0.029)	0.099*** (0.029)	0.094*** (0.029)	0.094*** (0.031)
government	0.093*** (0.027)			
size		0.005*** (0.001)		
new			-0.031 (0.055)	
euroscepticism				-0.014* (0.007)
Constant	0.022 (0.042)	0.012 (0.045)	0.045 (0.045)	0.096* (0.054)
Observations	931	925	929	931

Clustered standard errors in parentheses; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A.7. Impact of incumbency on the error and party accuracy of the prediction at different moments of the electoral cycle (OLS regression)

VARIABLES	(1) error	(2) accuracy
sample	-0.002 (0.005)	-0.002** (0.001)
time	0.076 (0.048)	0.000 (0.009)
turnout	-0.005 (0.006)	0.001 (0.001)
contemporaneous	-0.367** (0.142)	0.069** (0.031)
compulsory	0.924*** (0.126)	0.102*** (0.028)
government	-1.796 (1.438)	0.142 (0.125)
cycle	-0.011 (0.016)	-0.002 (0.003)
government*cycle	0.106* (0.060)	-0.000 (0.005)
cycle*cycle	0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)
government*cycle*cycle	-0.001* (0.001)	-0.000 (0.000)
Constant	0.590 (0.442)	0.012 (0.095)
Observations	931	931

Clustered standard errors in parentheses; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A.8. Alternative operationalization of the novelty of a political party

	New for European elections	Just one previous general election	Four point-scale of newness
Positive error (logit)	0.032 (0.181)	-0.122 (0.186)	-0.064 (0.071)
Positive bias (logit)	-0.082 (0.184)	-0.113 (0.200)	-0.062 (0.079)
Negative bias (logit)	-0.033 (0.227)	0.100 (0.229)	0.034 (0.089)
Error (OLS)	-0.193 (0.268)	0.060 (0.269)	-0.057 (0.101)
Accuracy (OLS)	0.004 (0.048)	-0.019 (0.044)	-0.057 (0.101)

Constant and control variables not reported; Clustered standard errors in parentheses, *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A.9. Robustness check for nonlinear association with the size variable

	Log size	Squared size
Positive error (logit)	0.407*** (0.080)	0.001*** (0.000)
Positive bias (logit)	0.615*** (0.124)	0.001*** (0.000)
Negative bias (logit)	-0.297*** (0.088)	-0.001*** (0.000)
Error (OLS)	0.752*** (0.127)	0.002*** (0.000)
Accuracy (OLS)	0.052*** (0.015)	0.0001*** (0.000)
Observations	765	925

Constant and control variables not reported; Clustered standard errors in parentheses, *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

NB. Since the log of zero is not defined, all the models of the first column exclude new parties, i.e. those that had no votes in the preceding general election