

PaCE – Populism and Civic Engagement

A fine-grained, context-sensitive and forward looking response to the negative consequences associated with populist politics

Aim

The Populism and Civic Engagement project (PACE) aims to **understand** and **address** the negative tendencies associated with populist politics, to **build** upon the lessons of **positive examples**, and hence play a part in **constructing** a firmer **democratic and institutional foundation** for the citizens of Europe.

Project Partners

- Centre for Liberal Strategies Foundation
- Citizens Foundation
- City of Reykjavik
- Democratic Society
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Paris-Lodron University
- Technical University of Dresden
- Trilateral Research
- University of Helsinki

Objectives



Historical growth and political consequences

Trace the historical growth and political consequences for the EU project and democracy in illiberal, nativist, and antidemocratic populist parties.



General and specific causes

Study the general and the specific causes of the three modes of populism in European democracies.



Policy-oriented responses

Study, propose and test policy-oriented responses to each of the three forms of populism.



Strengthening democratic values and practices

Identify strategies for strengthening democratic values and practices, taking into account the role played by both traditional and social media and public opinion.



Engage with stakeholders

Engage with stakeholders, especially groups under-represented in public affairs, particularly younger citizens, schools and local communities, in new forms of democratic engagement appropriate in our digital age.

Populism

1 Postwar democracies with a liberal tradition in Europe and the Americas

2 Populist parties stand on either left or right

3 Irreconcilably split in just two parts, "the people" and the "elites"

4 Aim at general political change: promote illiberal democracy

5 Political polarization, patronage politics when in office

6 Charismatic and extraordinary, predominantly male

7 Relatively strong and cohesive parties under single leader authority

8 Populists have won office in many countries, often singlehandedly

9 Strong staying power with high potential of radical political transformation

10 In populism, officials must serve voters irrespective of institutions and liberal principles

Nativism

1 Contemporary European nations, all of them liberal democracies

2 Nativist parties typically stand on the right

3 A homogenous national entity imperiled by alien minorities and cultures

4 Aim at specific policy changes: promote liberal democracy for the natives

5 Mostly programmatic appeals for gaining certain issue ownership

6 Ordinary non-charismatic, often collective, with a good share of women

7 Weak party organizations, intense infighting, often prone to premature death

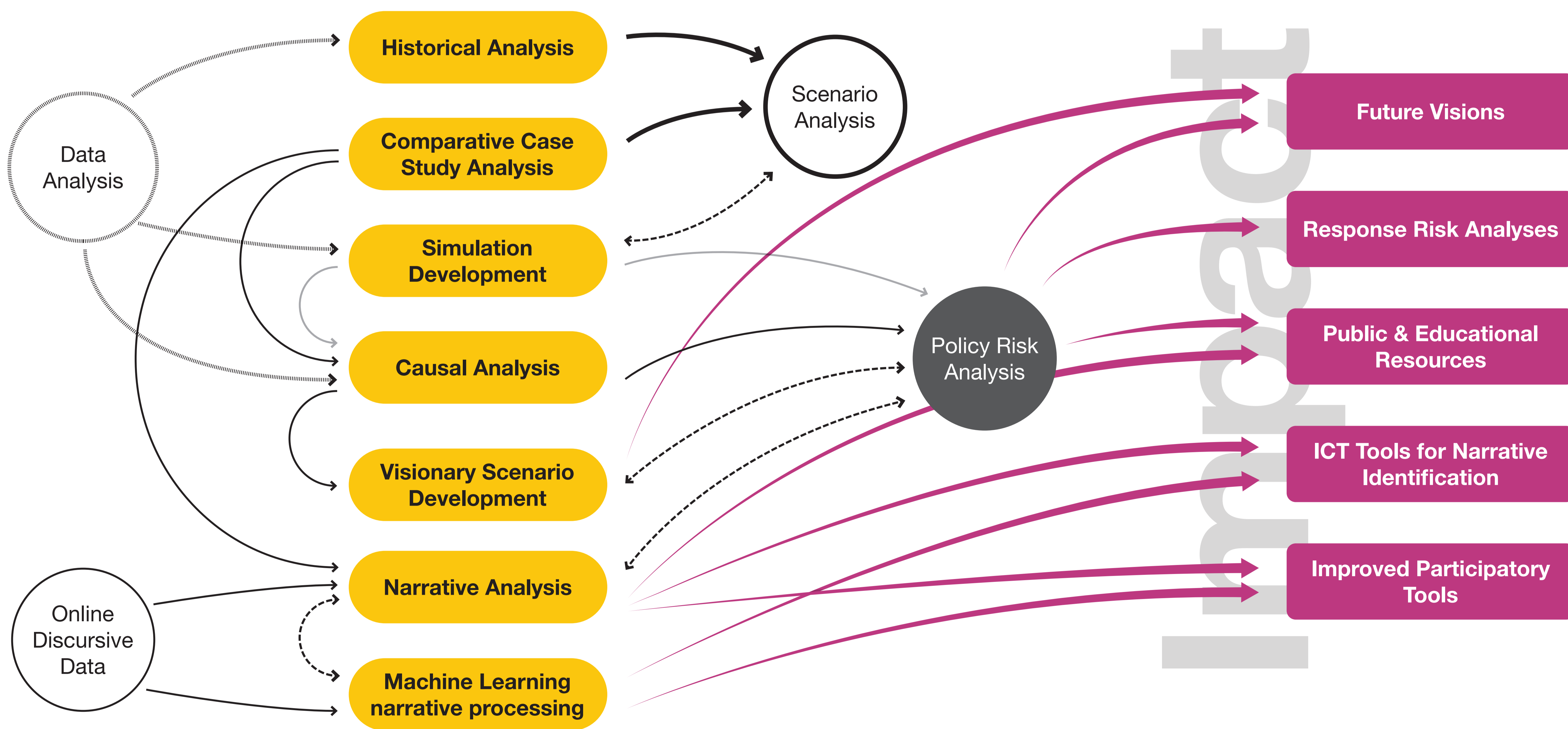
8 Europe's nativists win office rarely, most typically as junior coalition partners

9 Weak staying power with some potential of own policy implementation

10 In nativism, officials use liberal institutions to serve native voters while fending off alien ones

Populism vs. Nativism

Research



Engagement, Dissemination and Ethics

1. Based on original research by PaCE partner Takis S. Pappas, University of Helsinki. For a fuller view, see http://popandce.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PaCE_Populism-vs.-Nativism_Infographic.pdf