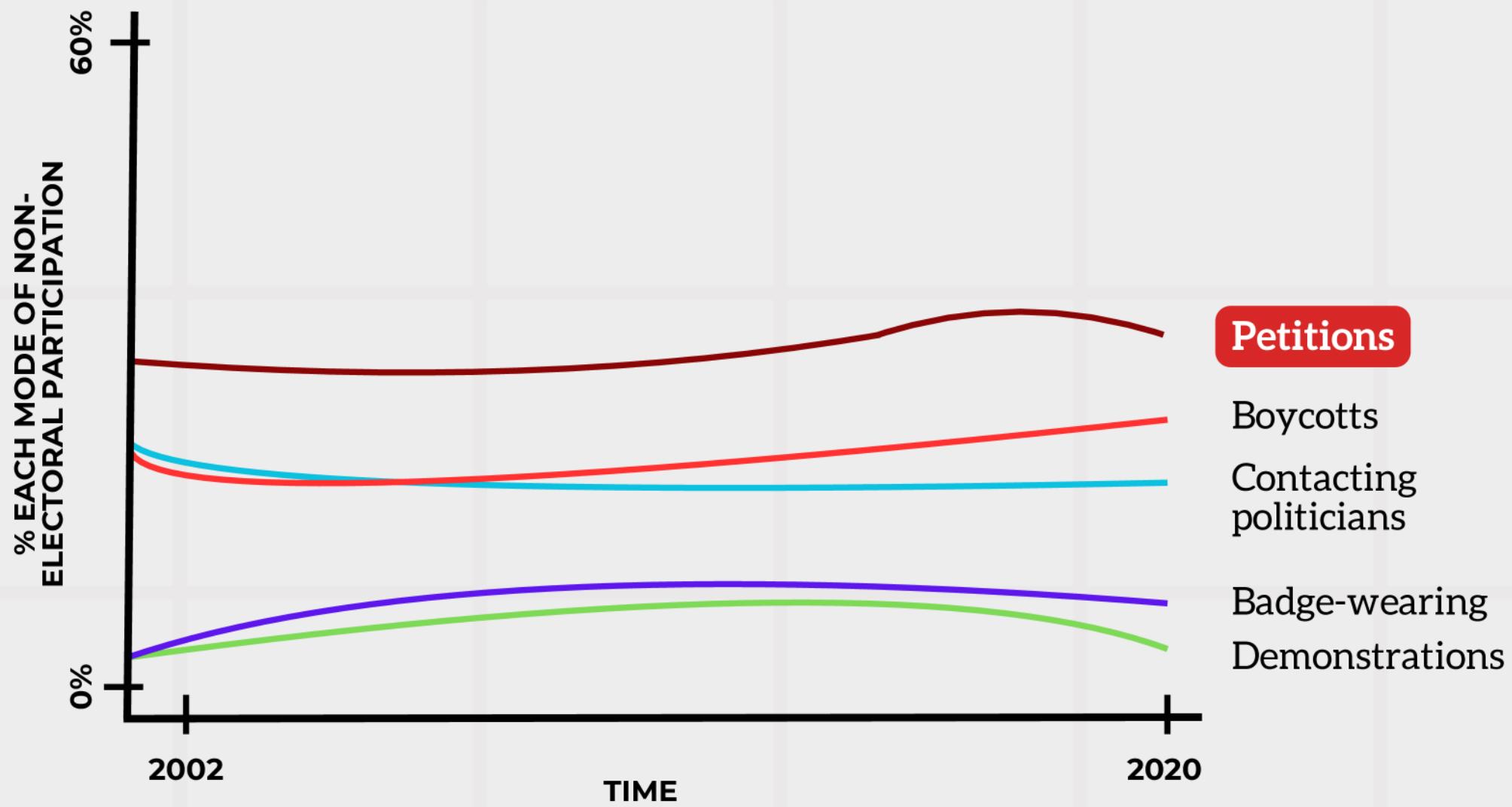


OVERALL IN EUROPE, SIGNING PETITIONS IS THE MOST COMMON FORM OF NON- ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION*



This illustration is inspired by Alexandros-Christos Gkotinakos and Eftichia Teperoglou's graph, "Trends in Non-Electoral Participation 2002-2022", in Deliverable D3.2 of the ActEU Project

***But national variation persists!**



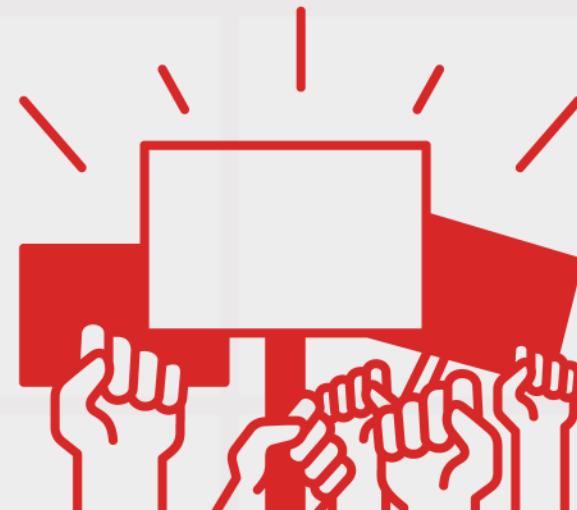
How are citizens engaging in politics in Europe?

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

DIVERSE MODES OF ENGAGEMENT



Political participation in Europe is not only confined to voting



Over the last two decades, non-electoral participation has evolved



Petition-signing and boycotting have steadily increased in a number of European countries

KEY TAKEAWAY

Patterns of non-electoral political engagement are influenced by historical, cultural, and institutional differences

NATIONAL DIFFERENCES

DIFFERENT PARTICIPATION PATTERNS

Political engagement is not the same in every country - participation patterns differ significantly across Europe!

For example



National trends in demonstrations can be clustered based on the level of similarity

HIGHEST LEVELS OF DEMONSTRATIONS



AVERAGE LEVELS OF DEMONSTRATIONS



LOWEST LEVELS OF DEMONSTRATIONS



This illustration is inspired by Alexandros-Christos Gkotinakos and Eftichia Teperoglou's graph, "Trends in Participation in Demonstrations 2002-2022, by country", in Deliverable D3.2 of the ActEU Project

Participation in demonstrations in European countries declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly due to lockdown restrictions

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

WHAT DRIVES NON-ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION?



Boycotting is often linked to political frustration and negatively correlated with political trust



Petition-signing does not always indicate dissatisfaction. In some national contexts, it is associated with higher political trust

KEY TAKEAWAY

Declining political trust is not the only reason behind the surge of non-electoral participation, and its influence varies based on time periods and national contexts

WHAT NEXT?

HOW CAN WE FOSTER POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT?



International institutions **should push for stronger protections of freedoms of association, assembly, and expression** to prevent political mistrust and disengagement

The EU must actively **enforce compliance with its democratic principles and legal commitments**, particularly in light of reports from EU institutions highlighting the **rising challenges facing civil society and human rights organisations** to exercise peaceful protest



WHAT NEXT?

HOW CAN WE STRENGTHEN RESEARCH ON AND FUNDING FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION?



Public funding to civil society organisations must be **allocated in a politically neutral manner**. Biased funding distribution can undermine trust in institutions and discourage active civic participation

Cross-national surveys, such as the European Social Survey and Eurobarometer, should **enhance data collection** and **differentiate between issue-driven participation** and their links to political trust and dissatisfaction to ensure cross-national data do not lack sufficient depth





WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read the full report on the ActEU project website, and be sure to reshare using the hashtag #ActEU

Visit acteu.org today!

This infographic has been produced by the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) from the data and arguments included in the publication **“Report on changing patterns of citizens’ political participation”**, an ActEU research output authored by Carles Pamies, Laura Morales, Chiao Li, Alexandros Christos Gkotinakos, Eftichia Teperoglou, Wit Hubert & Mikołaj Cześnik, published in Open Access in 2024 on Zenodo

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