

Querying  
the  
**MIGRATION-POPULISM NEXUS**  
towards effective ways of navigating the problem –  
Poland & Greece in focus

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V4 EUROPE – ***PIECES OF POPULISM IN EUROPE***

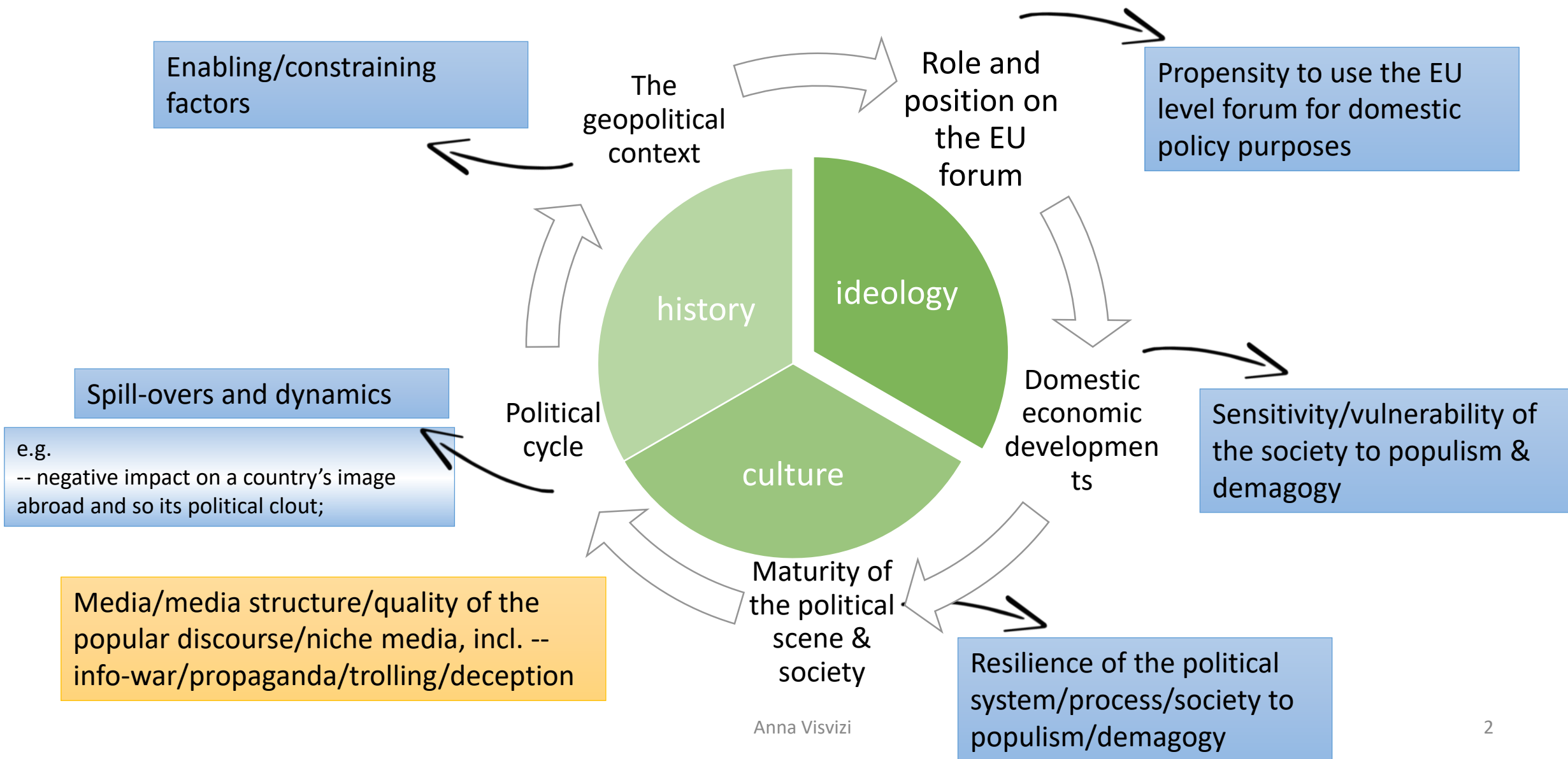
***AND HOW TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE***

Thursday, 8 June 2017

Kaptár, 1065 Budapest, Révay köz 4., Hungary

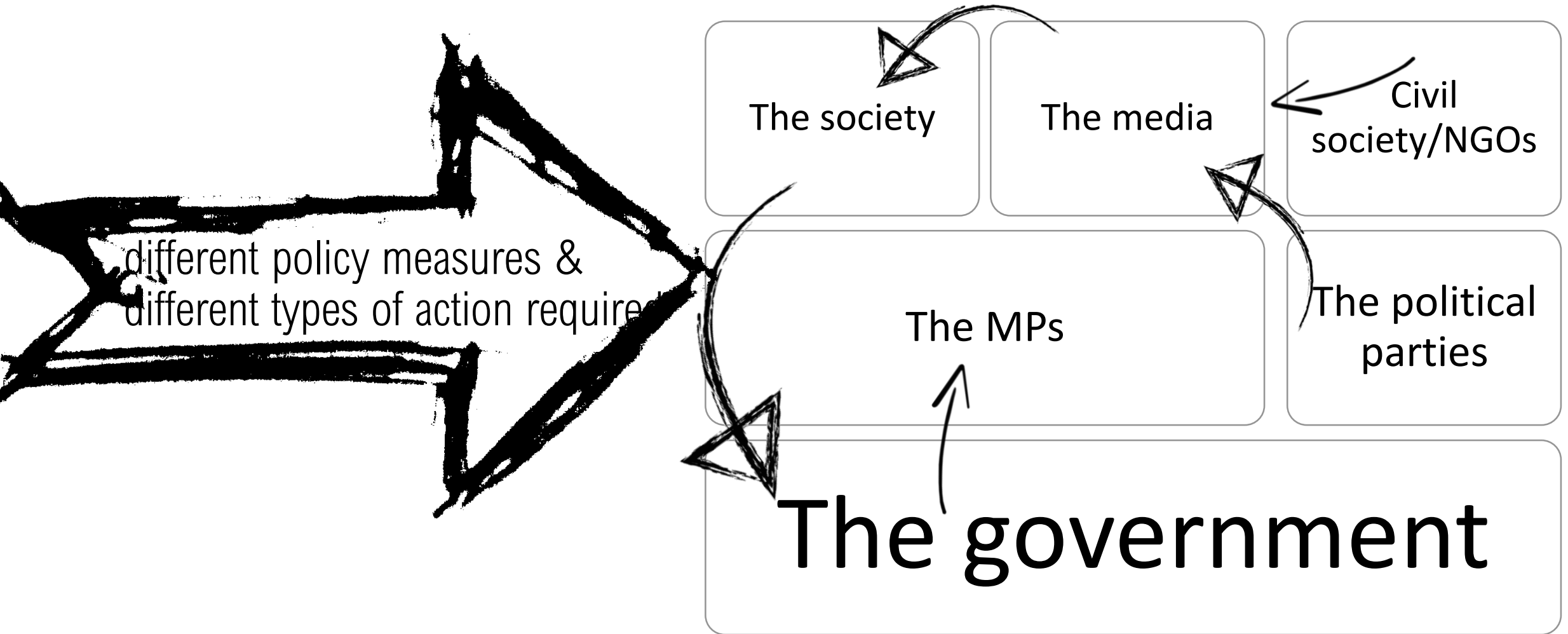
# what drives the MIGRATION-POPULISM NEXUS?

## the interlocking dimensions of the external and domestic context



# Querying the migration-populism nexus:

- several levels of analysis
- several dimensions of the challenge



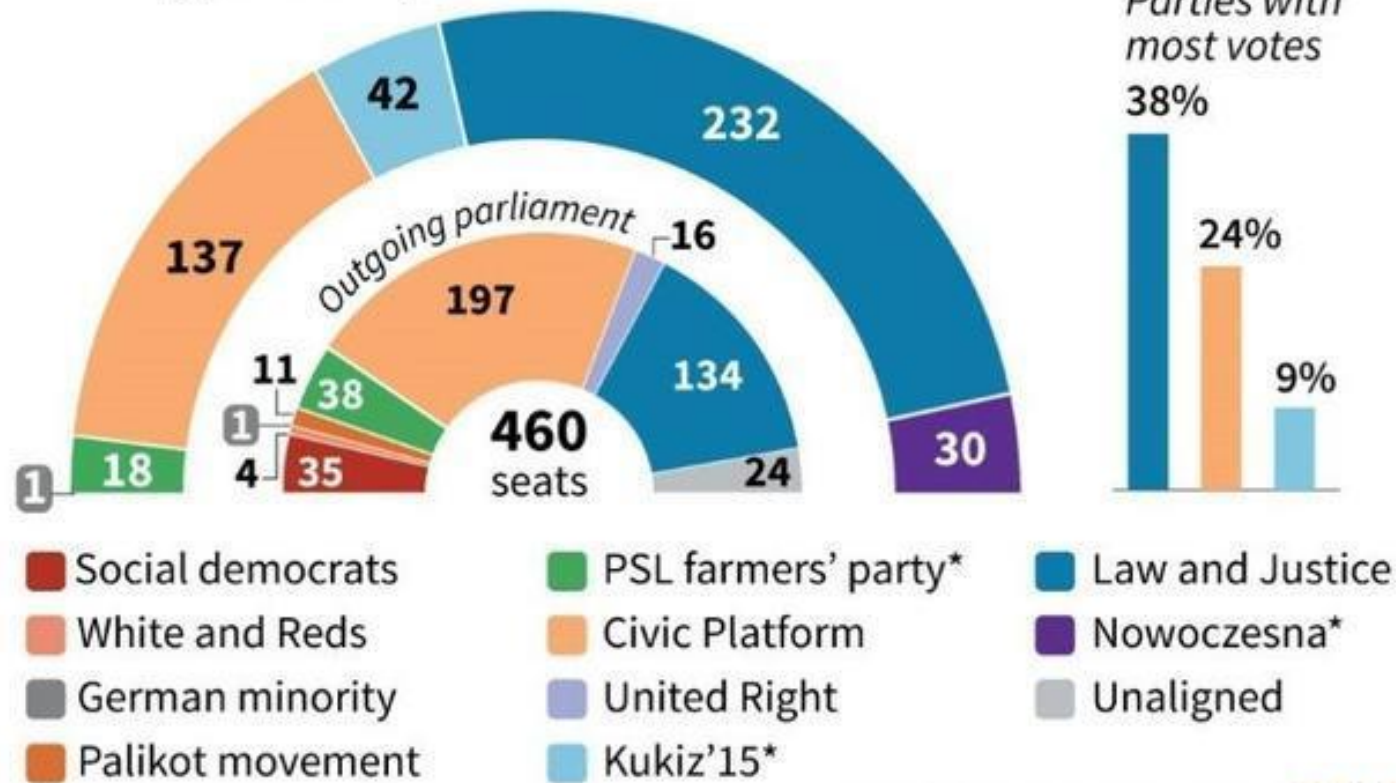
# The Domestic scene

## Key political parties & their stance towards migration

### Polish general election

Euro-sceptic conservatives heading for absolute majority

*Incoming parliament, near-final results*



Source: IPSOS poll

\*No seats in outgoing parliament **AFP**

# The Domestic scene

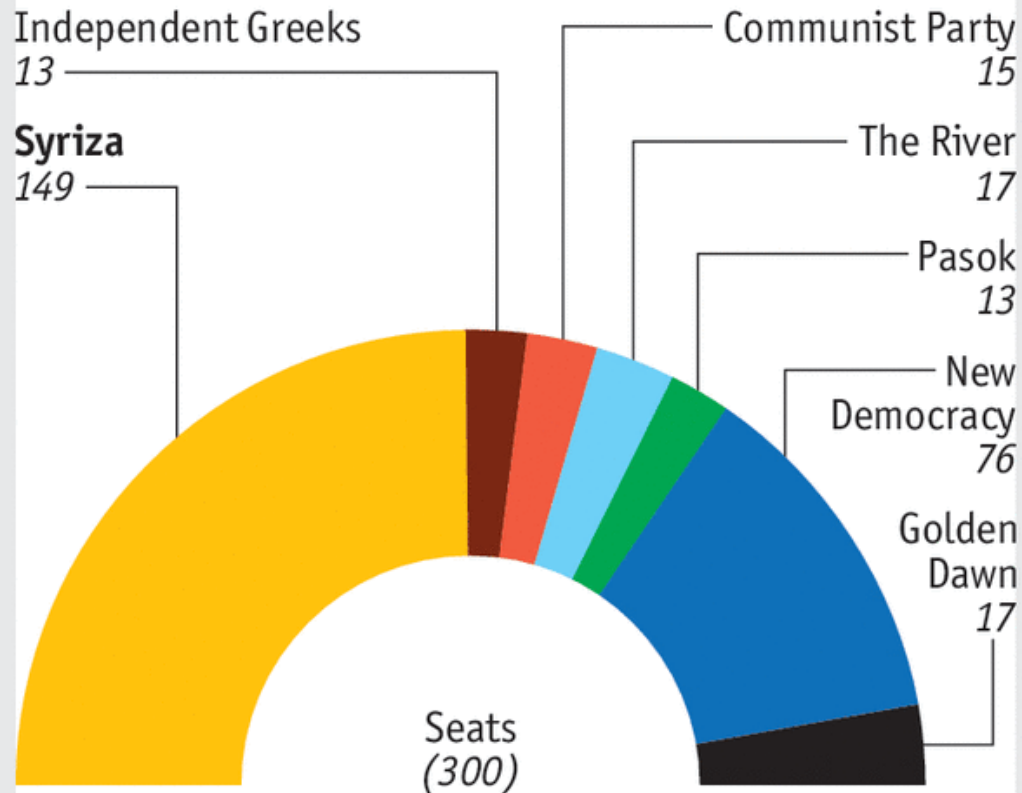
## Key political parties & their stance towards migration

### Greek parliament

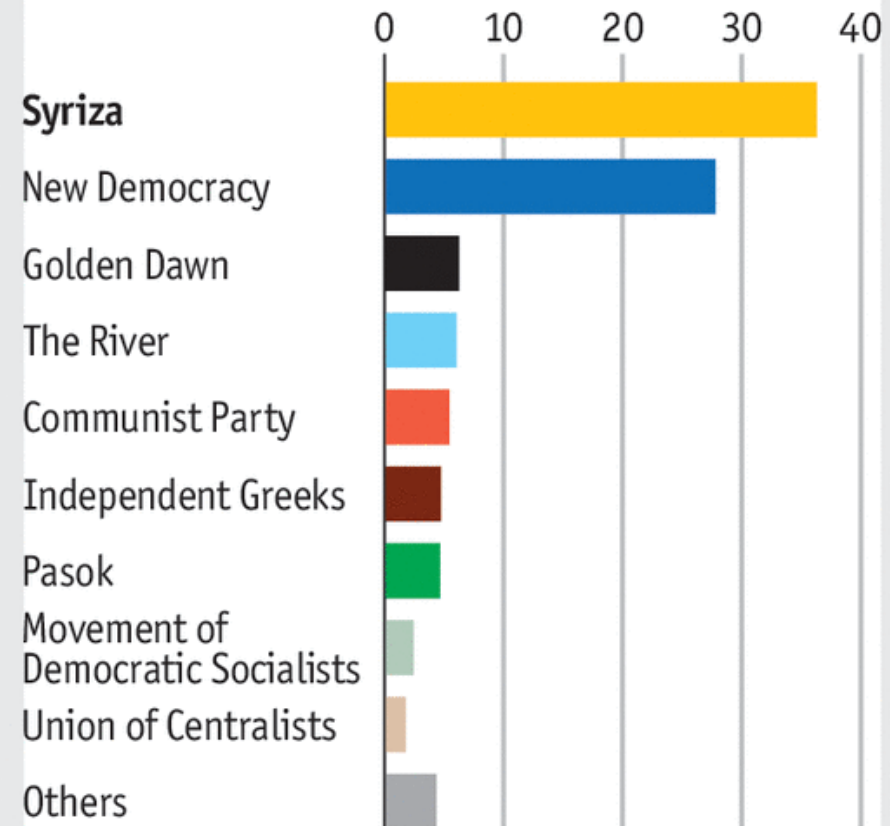
January 2015



Seats



Percent of vote



Sources: Electograph.com

Stance towards migration	Poland: name of the party	Greece: name of the party	Stance towards migration
-	Law & Justice (PiS)	SYRIZA	+
+/-	Civic Platform	Independent Greeks	-/+
-	Kukiz 15	New Democracy	-/+
+	The Modern (Nowoczesna)	The River (POTAMI)	-/+
0	PSL Farmer's Party	Communist Party (KKE)	0
		PASOK	-/+
		Golden Dawn	-

# Zooming-in & outstanding questions

- Are there historical and/or cultural reasons explaining the differences why migration is used as a resource of political competition?
  - PiS
  - SYRIZA
  - Golden Dawn
- What's the role of ideology in shaping the populism-migration nexus?
  - PiS
  - SYRIZA
  - Golden Dawn
- Can the migration-populism nexus be instrumenalized in a positive manner?
  - Civic Platform
  - Nowoczesna (the Modern)
  - SYRIZA, ND, POTAMI

# Ways of addressing the problem/outstanding problems

## POLAND

- Tremendous work done by civil society actors

### OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS & CHALLENGES

Political scene still in search of a new identity

**Externalization** of the problem bears negative implications for the country's image and political clout, e.g. at the EU forum

## GREECE

- Containment
- Silencing
- Tacit consensus: a democratic caucus

Anti-migrant rhetoric likely to re-surface driven by the political cycle

Societies increasingly vulnerable

Political scene fragmented, conditioned by external factors



# Looking ahead: tentative suggestions for Poland

- At the conceptual level:
  - it is important to introduce a clear distinction between populism and demagogy;
  - i.e. frequently, devoid of an immediate political gain, references/critical stance to migration are representative of demagogy rather than of populism;
- At the empirical level:
  - greater emphasis on migration as a socially (unavoidable) phenomenon that concerns all of us;
  - examples of successful projects (
    - ALIEN/Erasmus+ Project <https://alien.pja.edu.pl/index.html/> →incl. a.o. Warsaw School of Economics
    - EUMIGRO/Jean Monnet Module [www.eumigro.eu](http://www.eumigro.eu)
- At the political level:
  - it is necessary that all political parties get together and engage in true dialogue on migration;
  - if not, migration is bound to remain a resource of political competition at home and so the populism-migration nexus will thrive;
  - consider the strategies of containment and silencing, successfully employed in Greece;
  - consider domestic alternatives to bringing the notion of migration to EU level discourses;

# Thank you for your attention

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