

# What data on senators can tell us about representation in second chambers

presentation in the panel

“Representation, democratic culture and public perception”  
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1. Introduction: Overall Project
2. Representation in second chambers
  - 2.1. Question and expectations
  - 2.2. Data
  - 2.3. Findings
3. Conclusion

# 1. Introduction: Overall Project

- representation in second chambers: beyond different modes of (s)election - is representation being done differently?
- cases studied: France, Germany, Ireland, Poland (and Spain)
- reasoning case selection: direct election, indirect election, other selection

# 1. Introduction: Overall Project

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## four parts of the project

- members
- speeches
- law-making
- the public

# 1. Introduction: Overall Project

**part on members of second chambers with three components**

- **data on members:** socio-economic backgrounds, career paths (and committee choices)
- **survey of members** (questionnaire): What do members think of their representation? How do they describe and frame it?
- **institutional self-descriptions:** using as data protocols of the Association of European Senates

### Representational foci in the four cases

- France: territorial representation in a non-federal state
- Germany: territorial representation in a federal state
- Ireland: vocational representation
- Poland: national representation

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**Do different (ascribed) representational foci of second chambers result in different social backgrounds and career paths of their members?**

## 2.1. Question and expectations

(1) Members of second chambers with a territorial representation focus have a **background in local and/or regional politics** prior to their arrival in the second chamber, and so have **longer political experience** than members of chambers without a territorial representation focus.



## 2.1. Question and expectations

(2) Members of second chambers with no territorial focus are expected to have career-paths that are **less differentiated between a “national politics” pathway and a “regional politics” pathway** than in bicameral systems that focus on representing territories, therefore allowing for **less distinctive profiles between the memberships of both chambers.**

## 2.2. Data

- data on all members of the second chambers:
  - between 2014 and 2023 for France (N=615)
  - between 2015 and 2023 for Germany (N=382) and Poland (N=144)
  - between 2016 and 2023 for Ireland (N=97)

→ dates chosen based on dates of elections to the second chambers (to cover entire electoral terms)
- data collected:
  - social characteristics - name, gender, date of birth, educational and professional background
  - political careers - party affiliation, start and end-date of all elected mandates held (at the local, regional, national or European level)

## 2.3. Findings

### *Members of second chambers who have held a local mandate*

	<b>France</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>all</b>
<b>never had a local mandate</b>	10,5% (N=42)	44,2% (N=168)	33% (N=32)	36,8% (N=53)	29,3% (N=295)
<b>has/had a local mandate</b>	<b>89,5%</b> (N=357)	55,8% (N=212)	67% (N=65)	63,2% (N=91)	70,3% (N=725)
<b>total</b>	100% (N=399)	100% (N=380)	100% (N=97)	100% (N=144)	100% (N=1020)

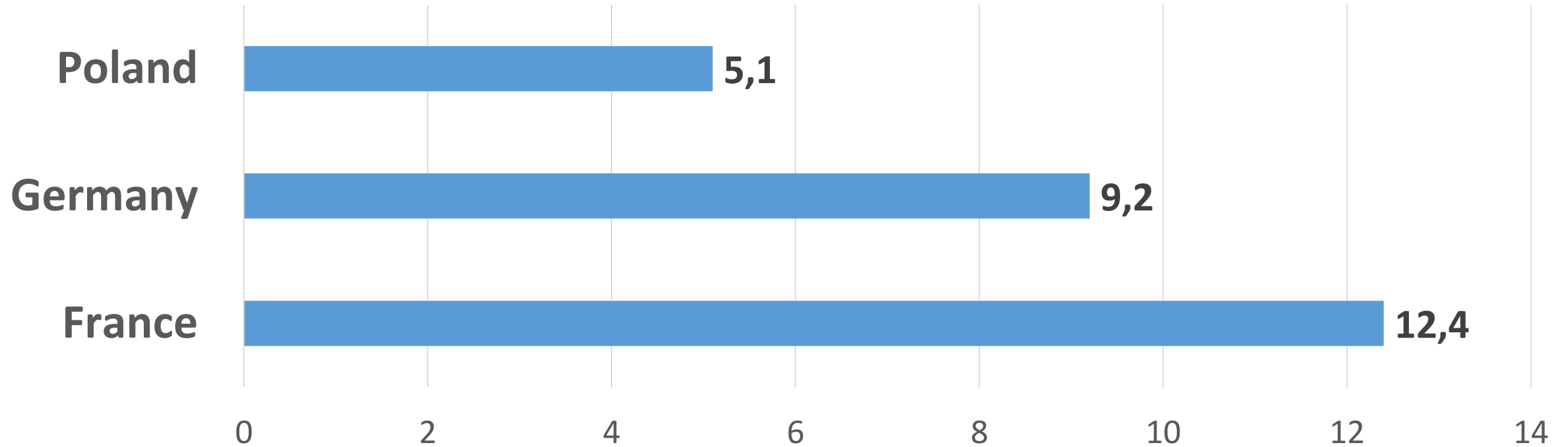
## 2.3. Findings

### *Members of second chambers who have held a regional mandate*

	<b>France</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>all</b>
<b>never had a regional mandate</b>	41,4% (N=165)	34,3% (N=131)	64,6% (N=93)	42,1% (N=389)
<b>has/had a regional mandate</b>	<b>58,6%</b> (N=234)	<b>65,7%</b> (N=251)	35,4% (N=51)	57,9% (N=536)
<b>total</b>	100% (N=399)	100% (N=382)	100% (N=144)	100% (N=925)

## 2.3. Findings

*Average length in time (years) between first election at regional level and first entering second chamber*



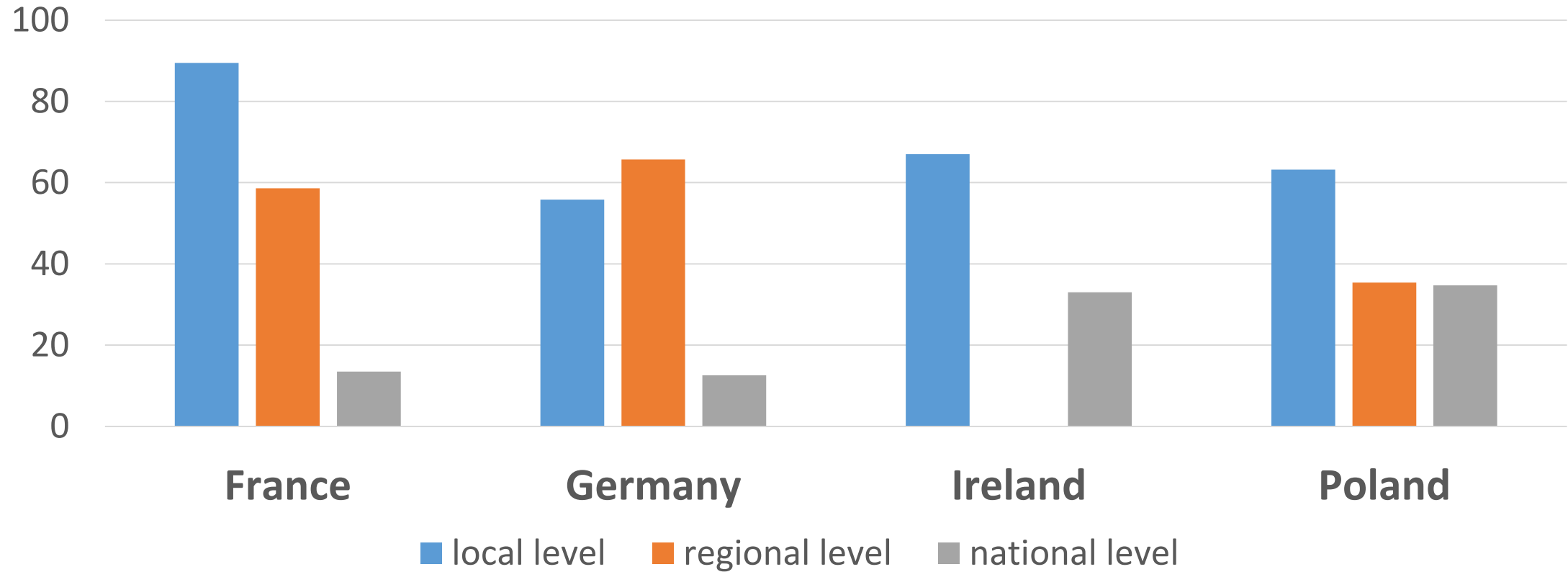
## 2.3. Findings

### *Members of second chambers who have held a mandate in the 1st chamber*

	France	Germany	Ireland	Poland	all
never had a 1st chamber mandate	86,5% (N=345)	87,4% (N=334)	67% (N=65)	65,3% (N=94)	82% (N=295)
has/had a 1st chamber mandate	13,5% (N=54)	12,6% (N=48)	<b>33%</b> (N=32)	<b>34,7%</b> (N=50)	18% (N=725)
total	100% (N=399)	100% (N=380)	100% (N=97)	100% (N=144)	100% (N=1020)

## 2.3. Findings

*Mandate experience of members of second chambers*



# 3. Conclusion

- distinct career paths:
  - more regional-based in France and Germany
  - more interchange between first and second chamber in Ireland and Poland
  - more differentiated career paths in France and Germany for first and second chamber than in Ireland and Poland
- findings need to be put in relation to self-perception which will be done once the results of the questionnaire are in
- also data on committee choices will help to understand possible different representational foci



# Thanks for your attention.

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