

European Elections

candidate strategies and representation

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Interest and organization of our research

The most recent EU elections sparked some debate about the strategic candidacy of party secretaries in multiple electoral colleges, we analysed the dataset in search of its effectiveness and impact

Dataset: Italian European elections 2004 to 2019, Italian borders of administrative entities 2019

Source Dataset: Eligendo Open Data, ISTAT

Cleanup: Discrepancies between time of surveys and elections, missing data

Approach: What are the relevant questions to be answered? How can we arrange and show the data in an interesting way?

Breaking up the dataset: Given the complexity of the dataset, find how it can be broken up in meaningful parts

Conclusions: Can conclusions be drawn? What are they?

Brief introduction to EU elections



Questions

I

Party leaders

How do party leaders candidacy influence elections?

II

Strategies

What are some other strategic candidacies parties employ?

III

Representation

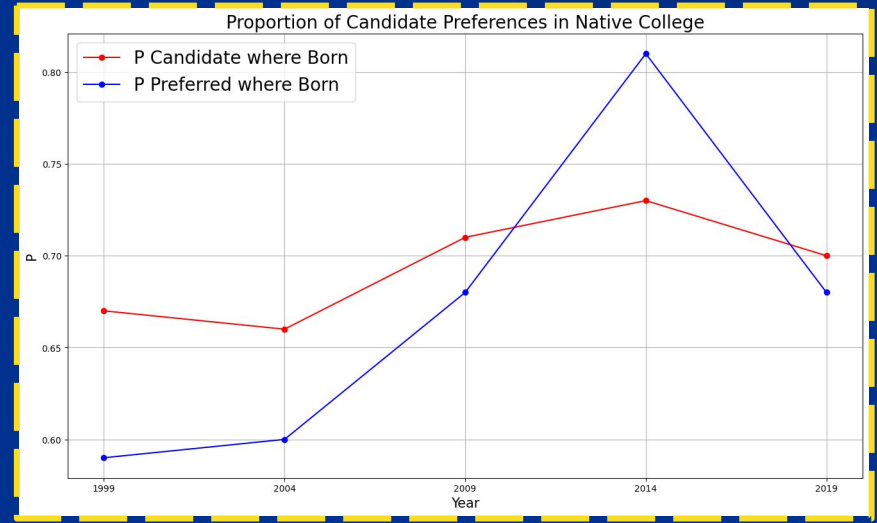
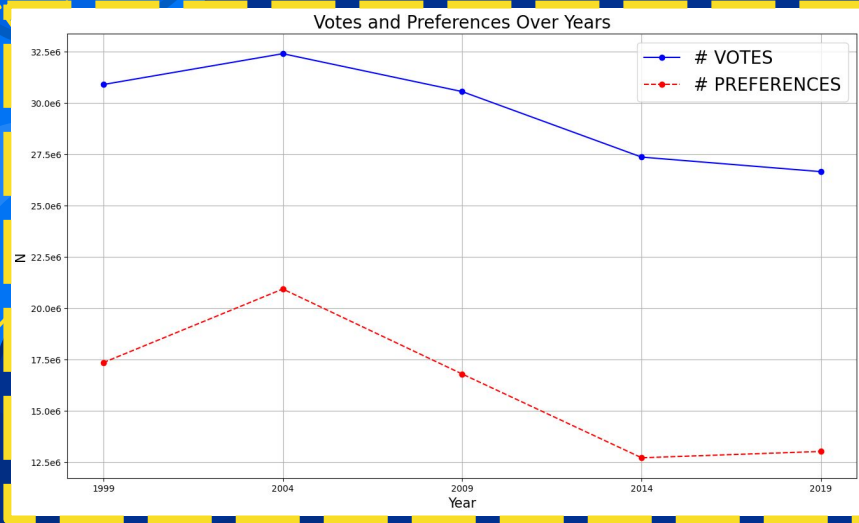
How do these strategies influence the representation of the voters?

IV

Why?

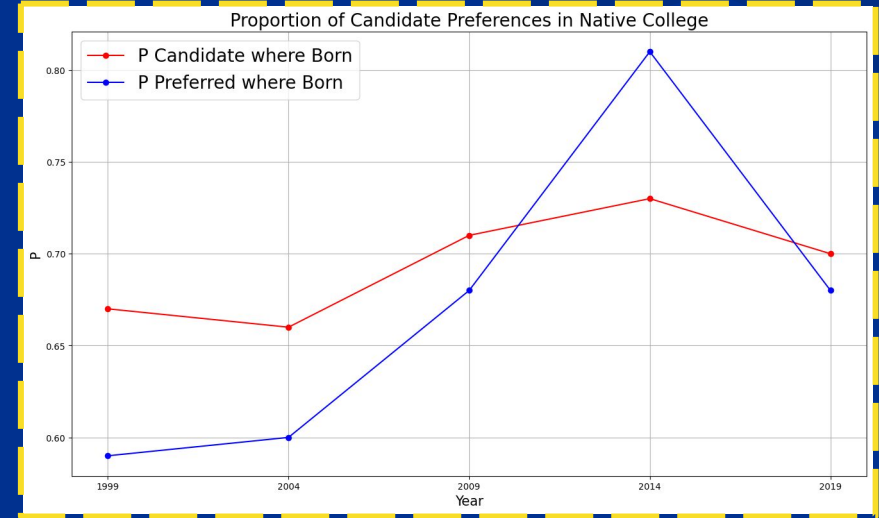
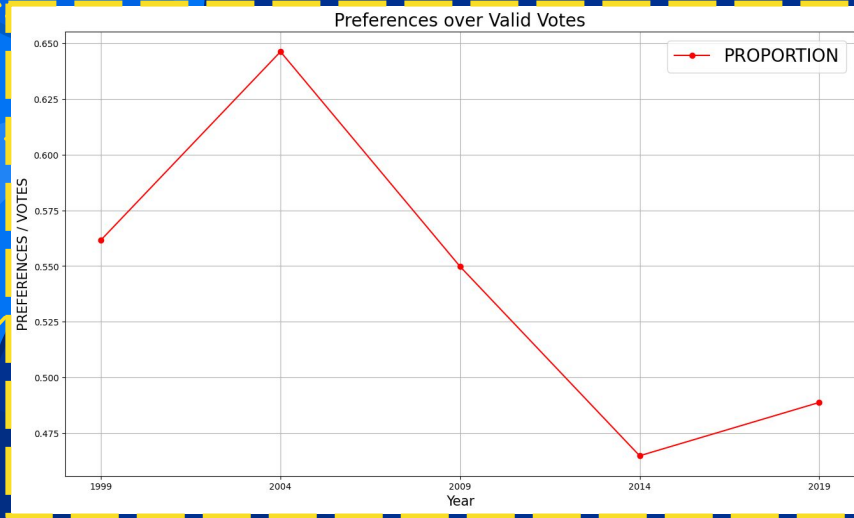
Is there any reason why parties act like this?

Time series of the dataset

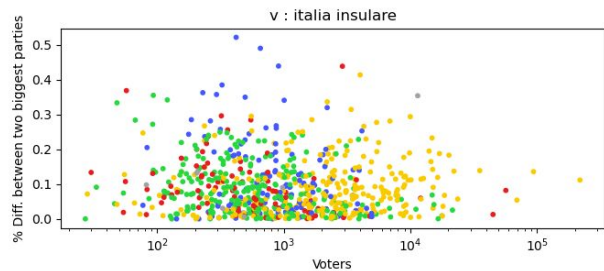
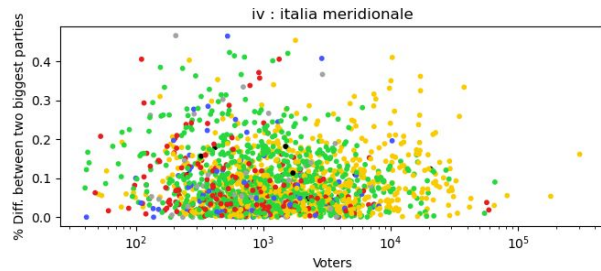
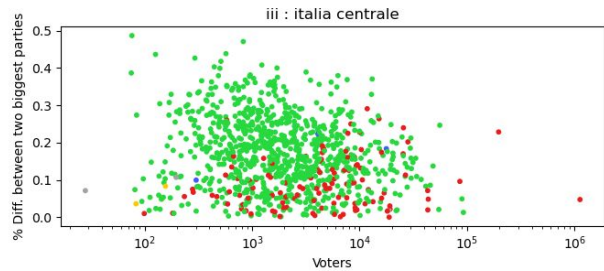
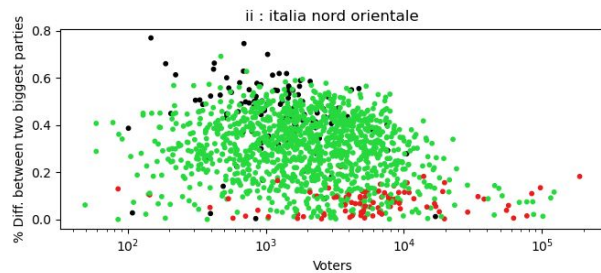
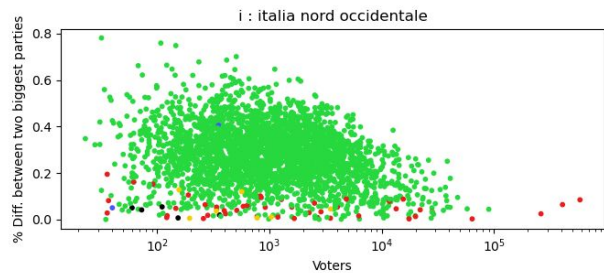


The number of candidate preferences has been on the decline, as has the overall voter turnout

Time series of the dataset



2014 seems to have been a particularly interesting year for voter representation, keep it in the back of your mind



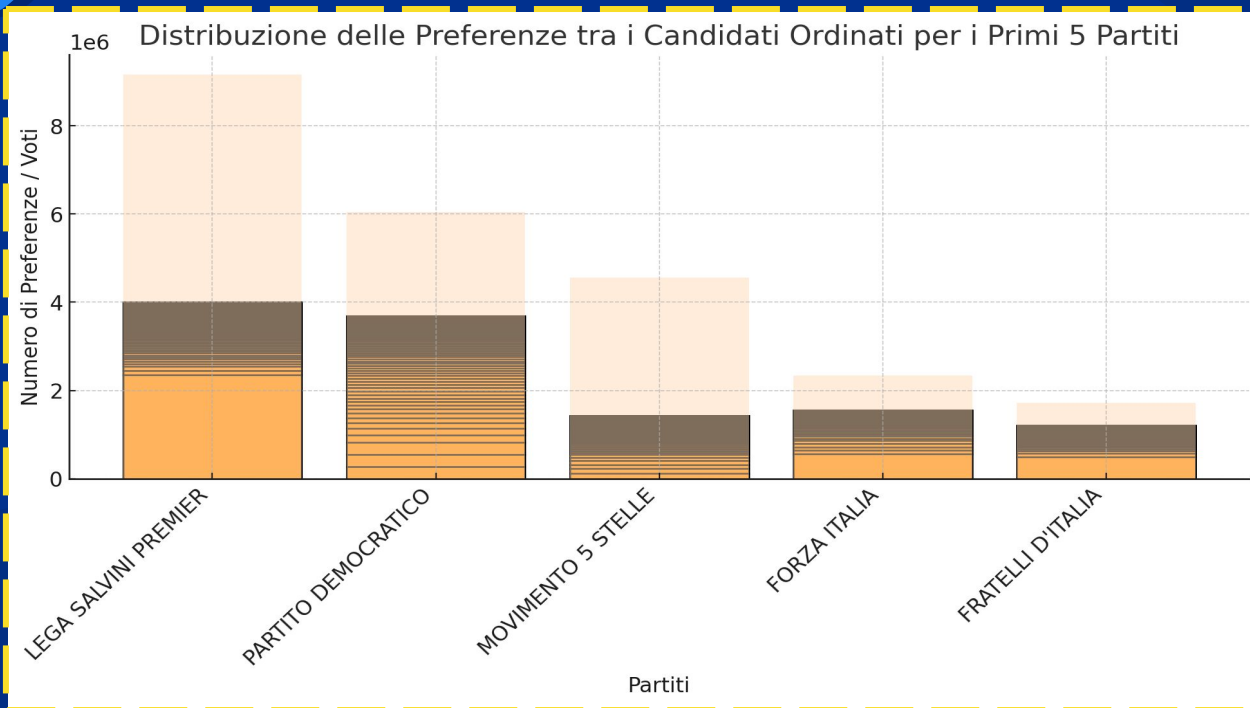
How are the votes
distributed?



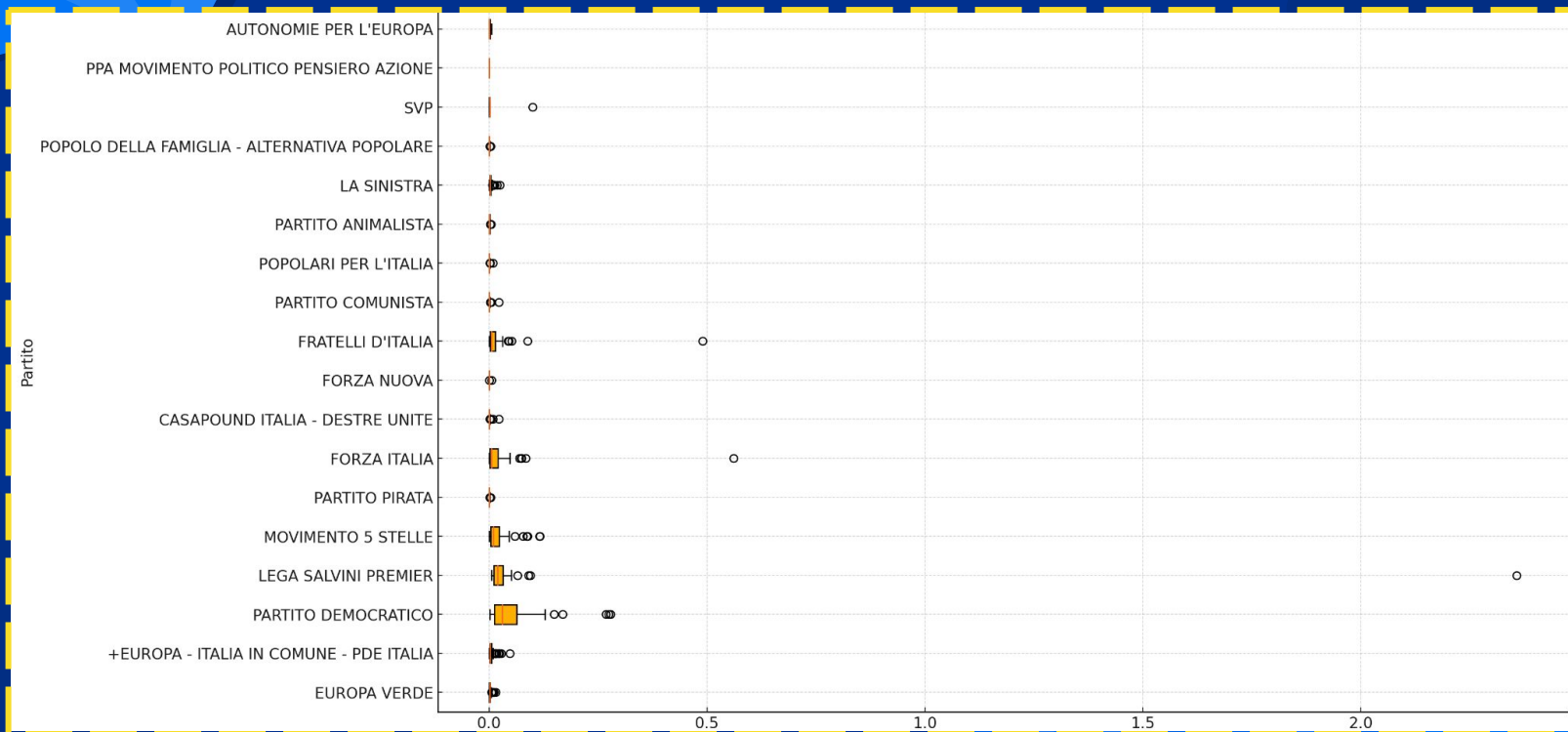
I

Do party leaders candidacy
influence elections?

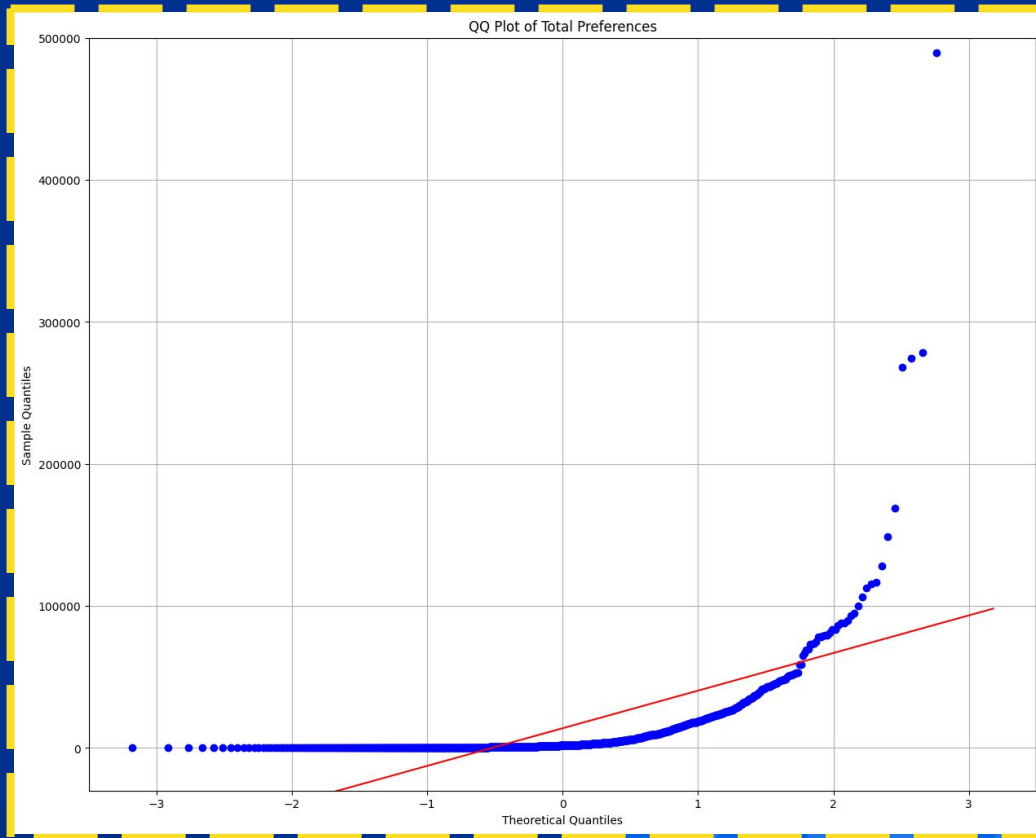
Distribution of preferences



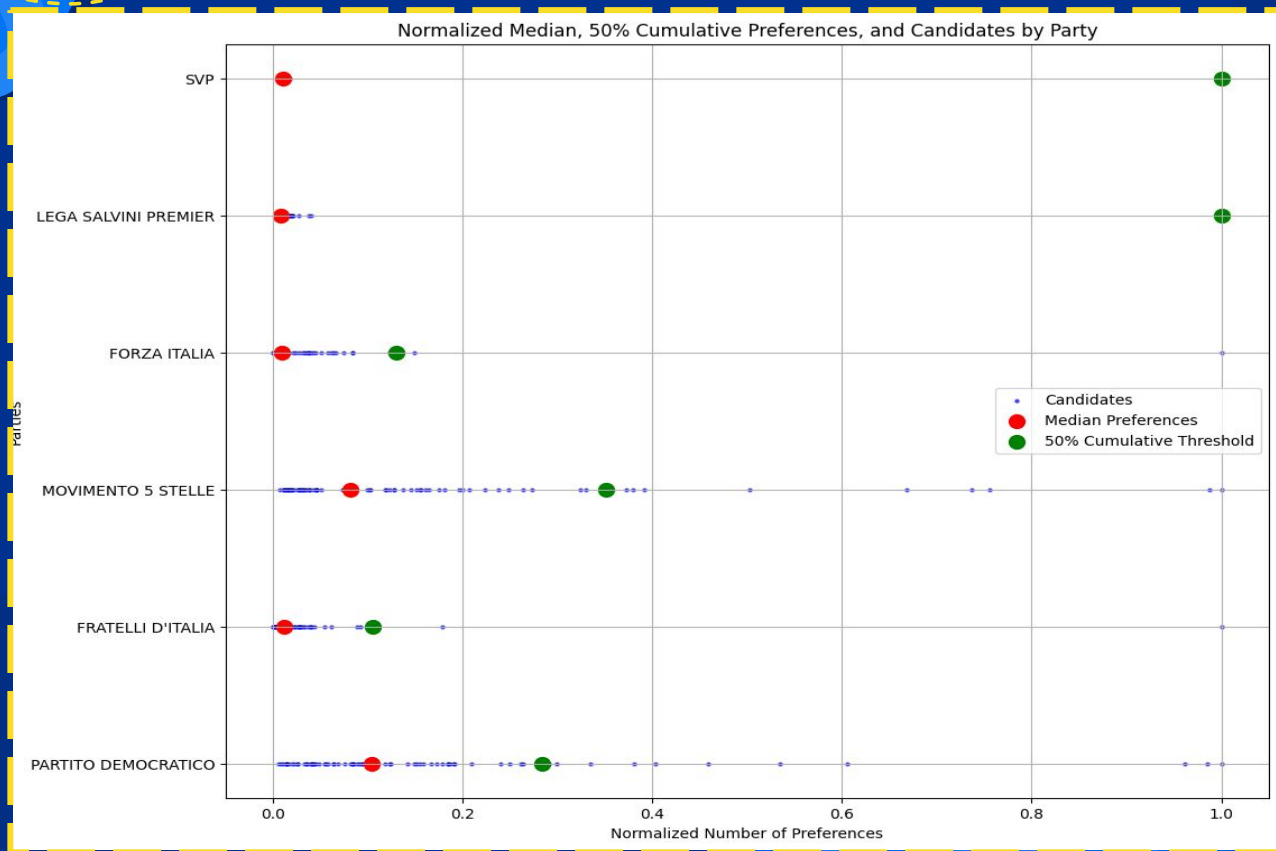
How are the preferences distributed ?

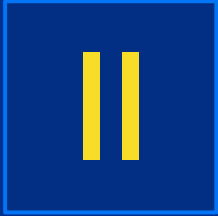


Preferences are distributed non normally



How are the preferences distributed ?





II

Other strategies
employed?

Towny candidates

What if all those **minor candidates** were to gather support on a strictly **local level**, ensuring a base of **support for the party** while **not being elected** outright?

- Personalities
- Local candidates
- Member of a strong community

These Towny candidates would have to:

1. Win overwhelmingly in small areas (province level)
2. Must not be elected

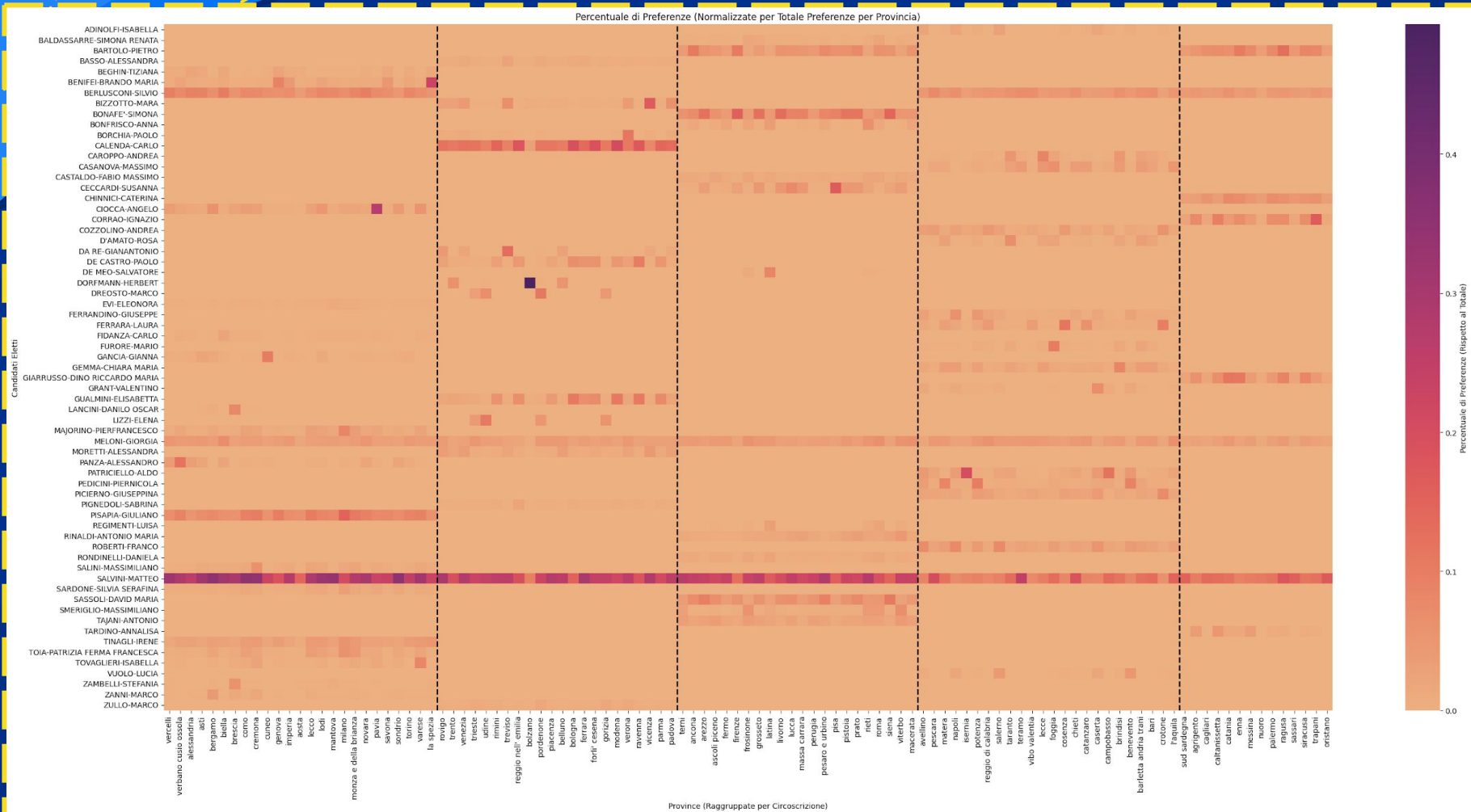
Percentuale di Preferenze (Normalizzate per Totale Preferenze per Provincia)

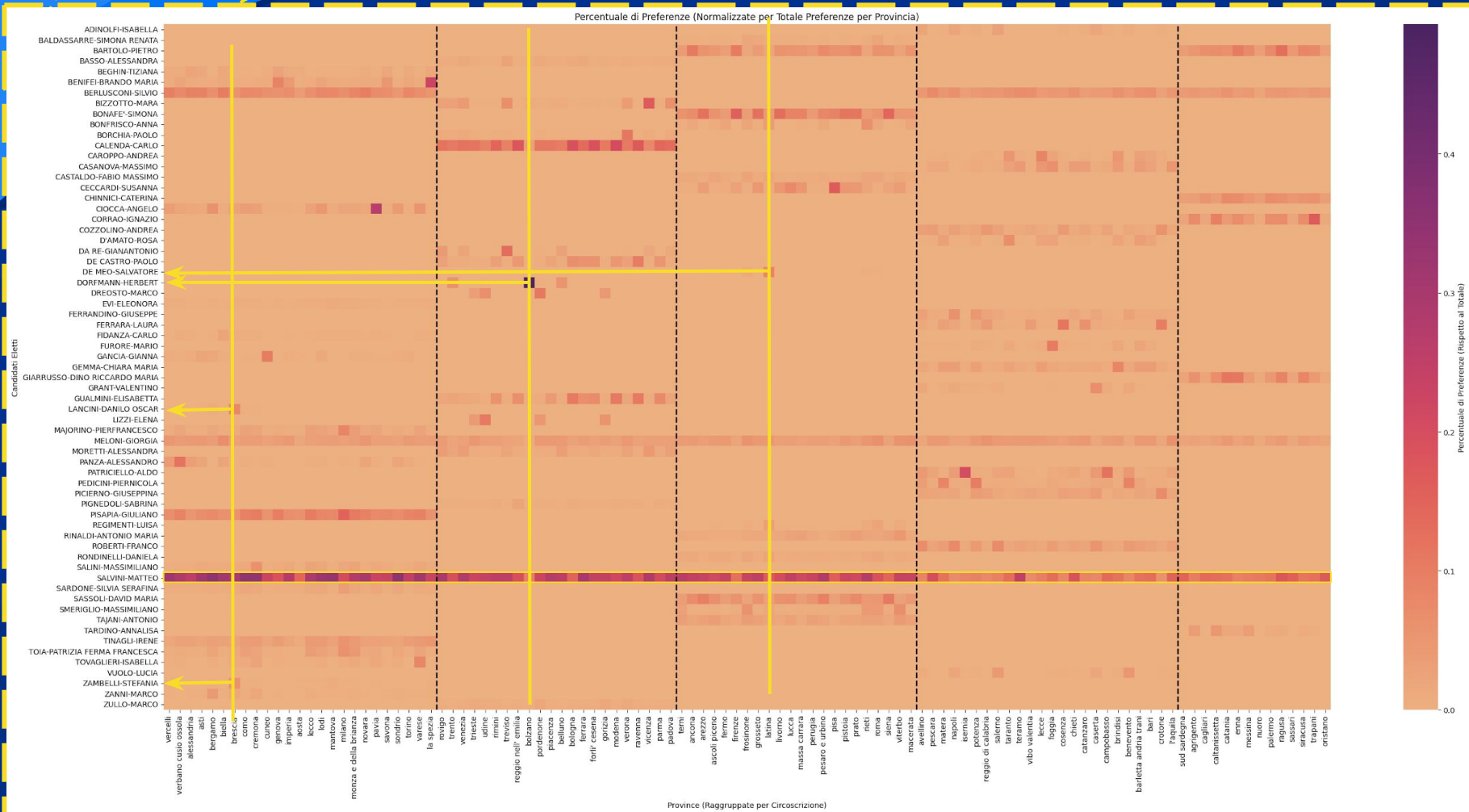
About local domination

Percentuale di Preferenze (Rispetto al Totale)

Candidati Eletti

Province (Raggruppate per Circoscrizione)



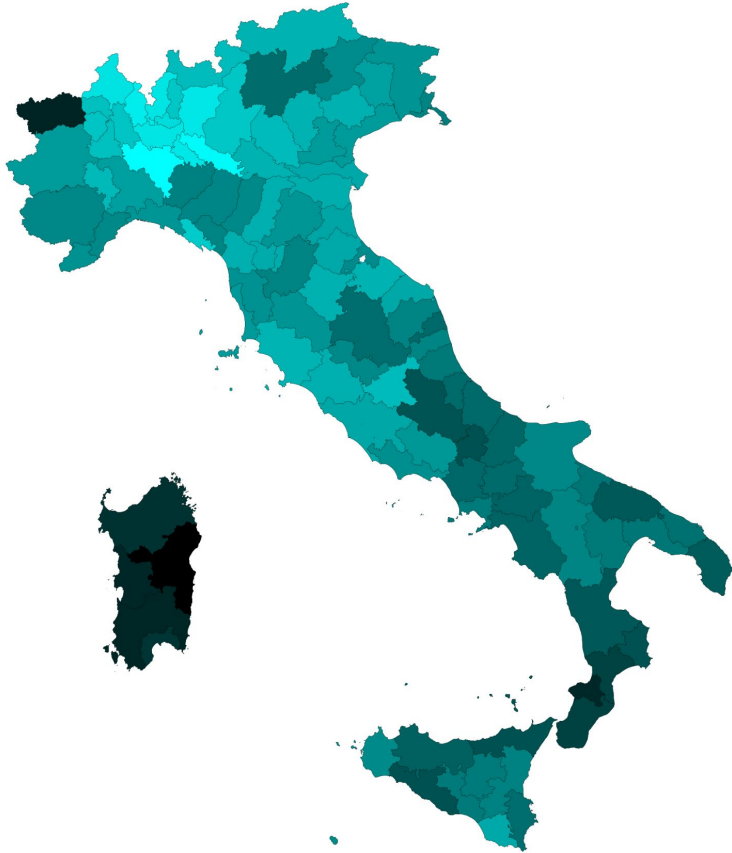


Province (Raggruppate per Circoscrizione)

Preferences expressed to non elected candidates

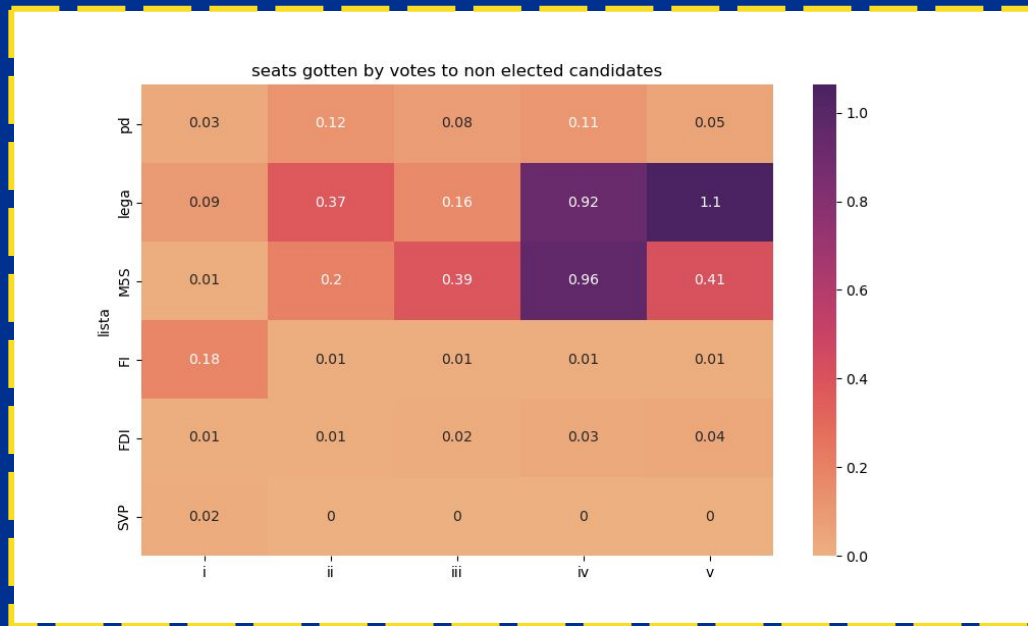
The only place for these towny candidates to get large wins is very few places.

Sardinia had the highest preferences votes ratio (96%) but spread out its preferences between many candidates



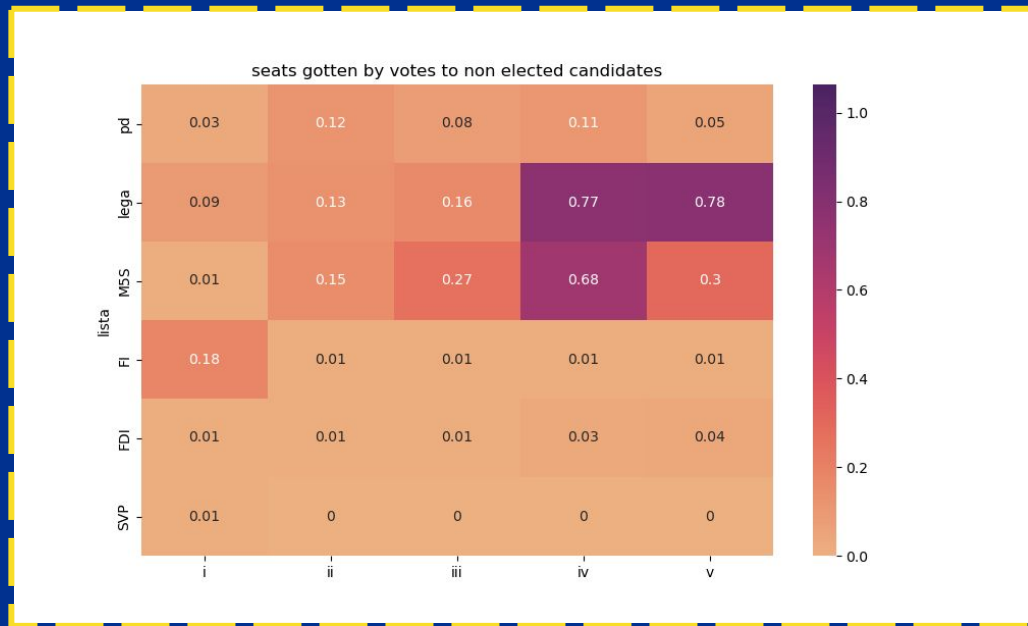
About the significance

Amongst candidates which didn't get a seat:
we calculated the upper bound
of votes they got, thus the
number of seats per college
contributed to the party



About the significance

And then we subtract the actual eu parliamentarians:
We reduce the impact of party secretaries present in every college blocking other candidates



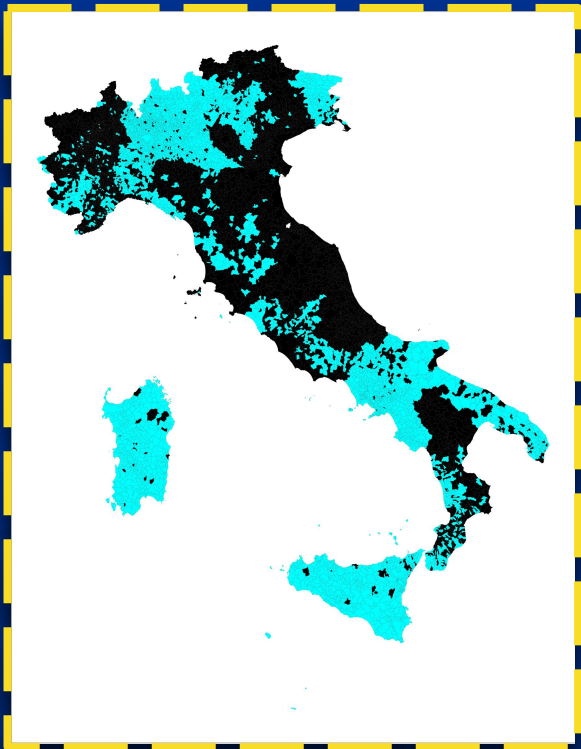


III

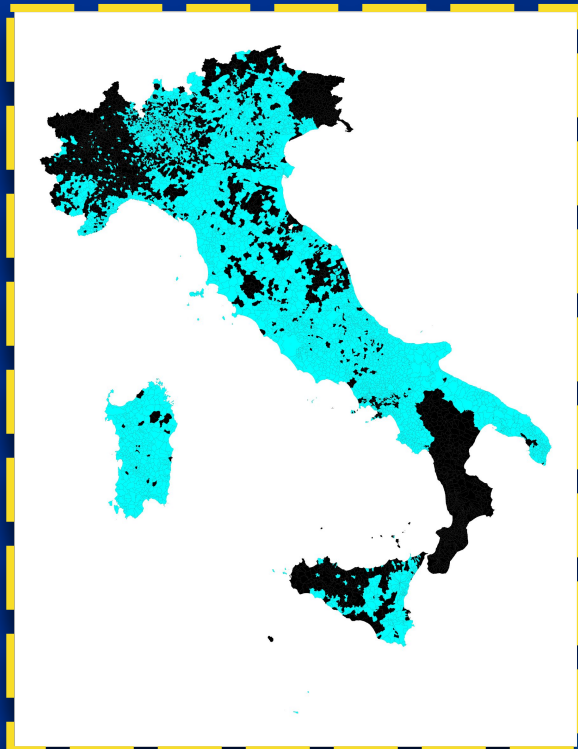
How do these strategies
impact representation?

Most voted person also born in region

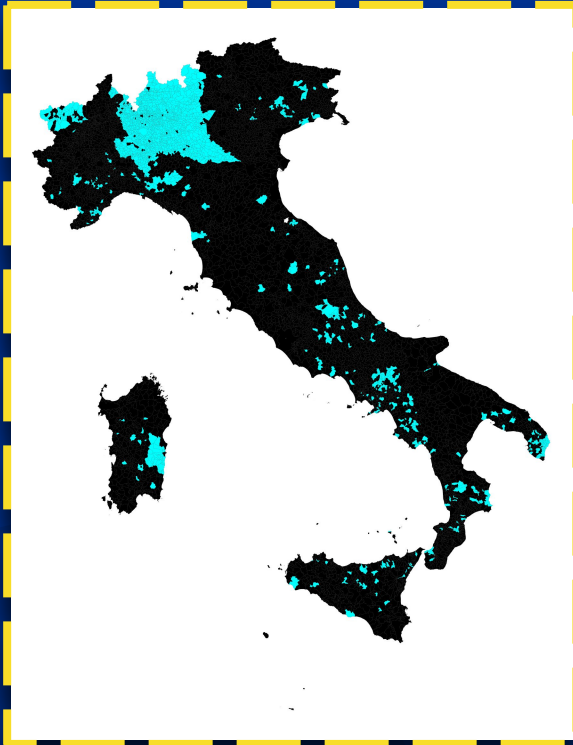
Partito Democratico



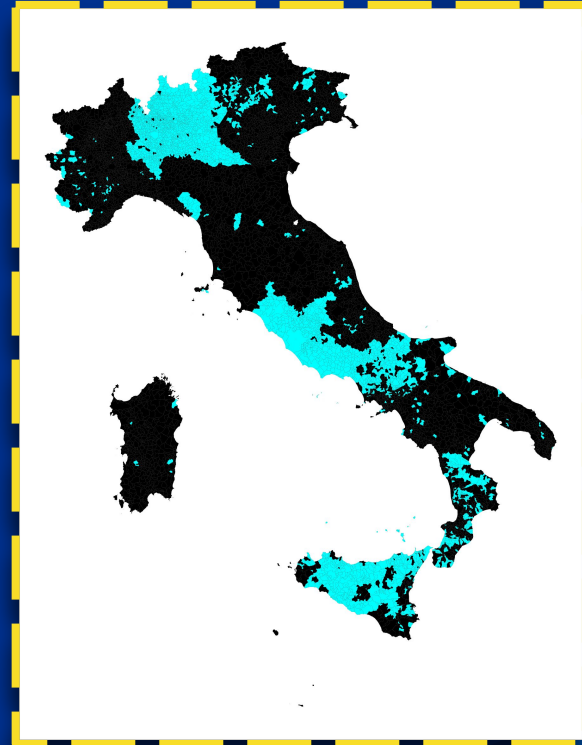
Movimento 5 stelle



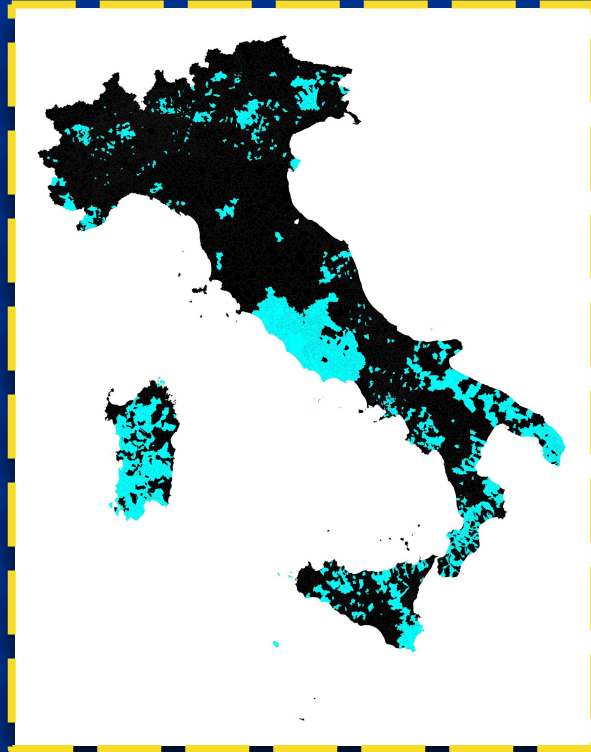
Lega Salvini Premier



Forza Italia

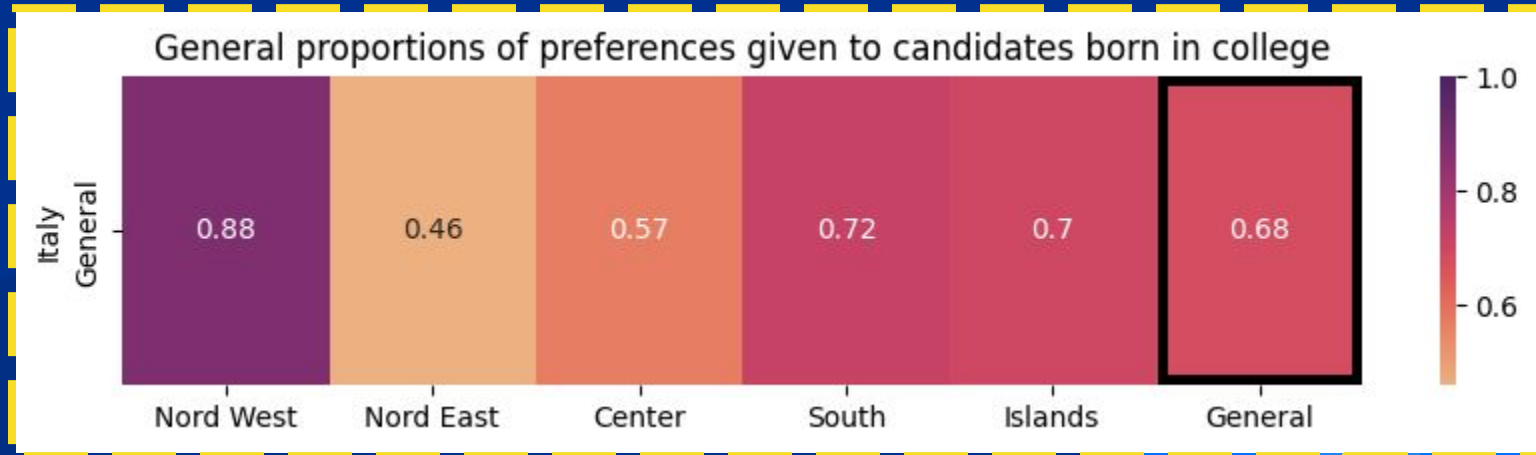


Fratelli D'Italia

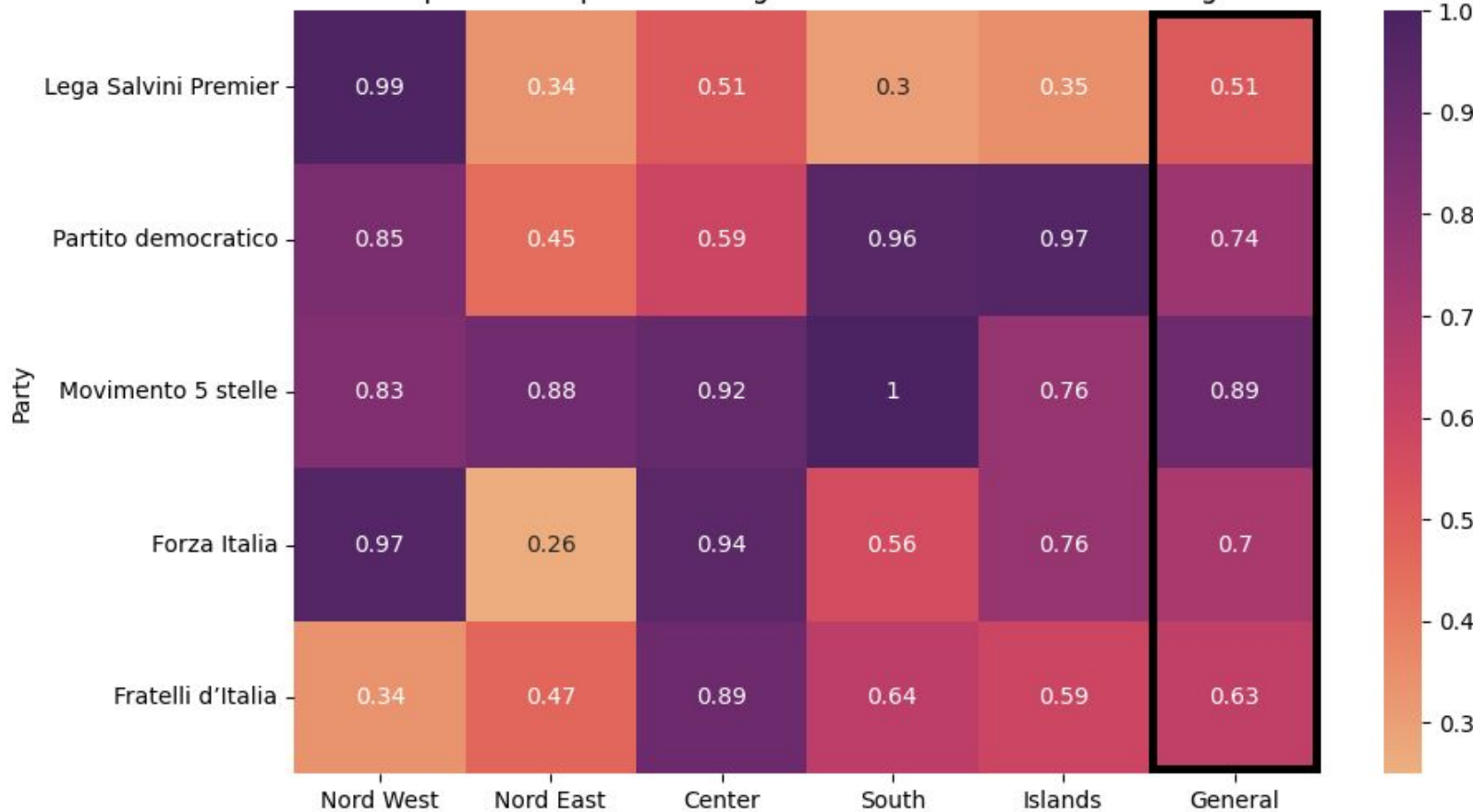


Less representation problem

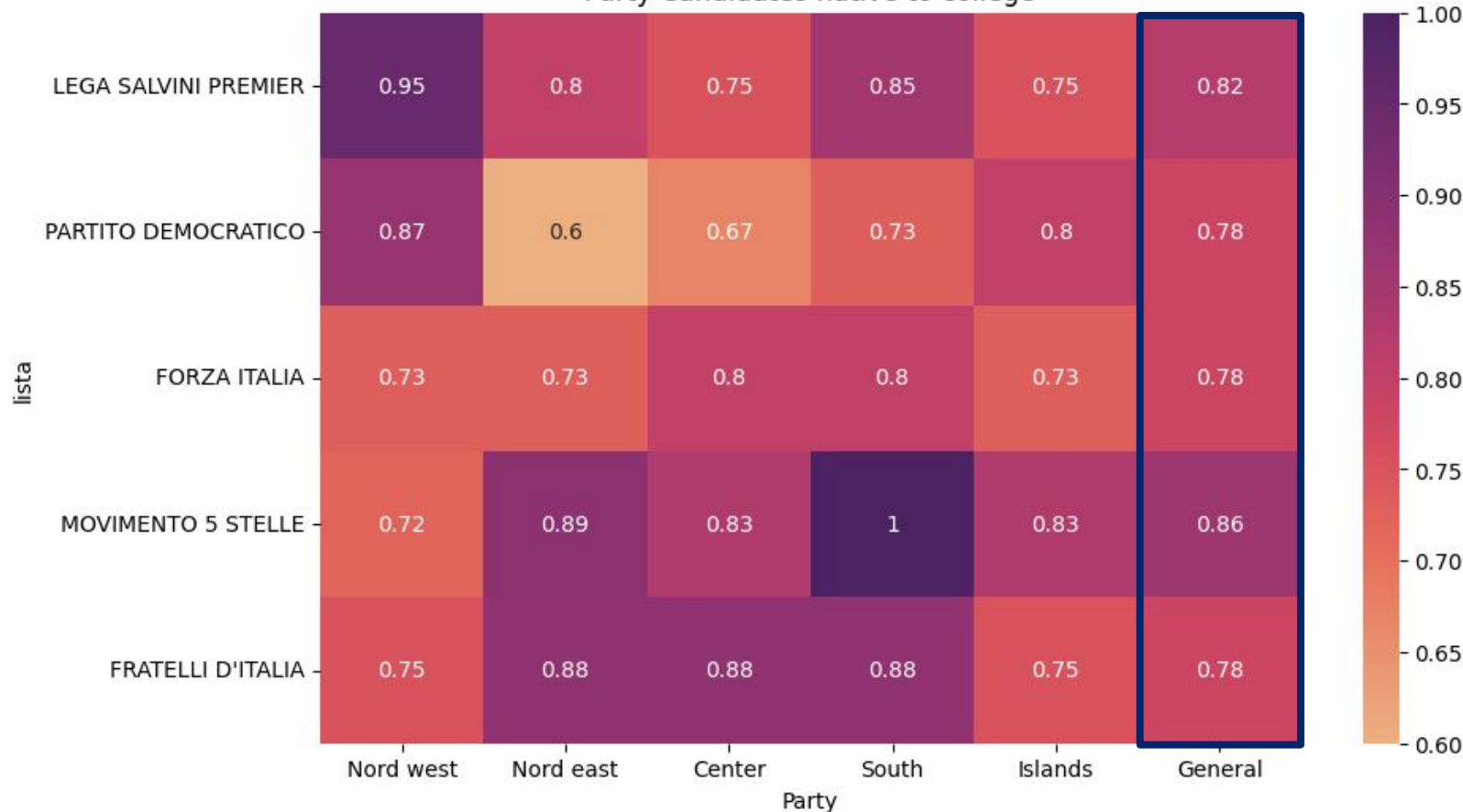
- Having party leaders as candidates **thwarts accurate representation** as less preferences will decide the inner party ranking, as some **party leaders cater preferences toward themselves**.
- Accurate representation in the eu parliament goes down further when those party leader that got the majority of preferences **waive their right to become a parliamentarian**.
- 76 people effectively became parliamentarians for that legislation, with only **5,260,036** preferences in total, with **27,780,855** total voters in this election



Proportions of preferences given to candidates born in college



Party Candidates native to college



LEGA SALVINI PREMIER

MATTEO SALVINI

MARA BIZZOTTO

ANGELO CIOCCA

MASSIMO CASANOVA

ANDREA CAROPPO

SUSANNA CECILIO

MATTEO MARIA SCIALOJA

GIULIA GIANNINI GIANFRANCO

GIAMANTONIO DA RE

LUCIA VUOLO

ANNA BONFIGLIO

PAOLO BORCHIA

VALENTINO GRANT

GIULIA GIANNINI GIANFRANCO

LUISA REGIMENTI

ALESSANDRA BRACCIO

ELENA LIZZI

ANNALEISA TRACENO

MARCO CROSTO

GIULIA GIANNINI GIANFRANCO

ISABELLA TONAGLIO

GIULIA GIANNINI GIANFRANCO

MARCO CROSTO

PARTITO DEMOCRATICO

CARLO CALENDÀ

PIETRO BAROLO

GIULIANO PISAPIA

SIMONA BONAFIGLI

CATERINA CHINNICI

IRENE TINAGLI

PIERFRANCESCO MAJORINO

FRANCO ROBERTI

GIUSEPPE FERRANDINO

ELISABETTA GUALMINI

GIUSEPPINA PICCERNO

ANDREA COZZOLINO

MASSIMILIANO SMERGILIO

BIANCO MARIA BENFETI

DAVID MARIA SASSOLI

PIRELLA FERMA FRANCISCA TOTA

PAOLO DE CASTRO

ALESSANDRA MORETTI

FORZA ITALIA

SILVIO BERLUSCONI

ALDO PATRICIELLO

ANTONIO TAJANI

MASSIMILIANO SALARI

MARCO CROSTO

MOVIMENTO 5 STELLE

DINO RICCARDO MARIA GIARRELLI

IGNAZIO CORRAO

CHIARA MARIA GEMMA

LAURA FERRARA

PIRELLA FERMA FRANCISCA TOTA

ROSALBA DIAMATO

PIRELLA FERMA FRANCISCA TOTA

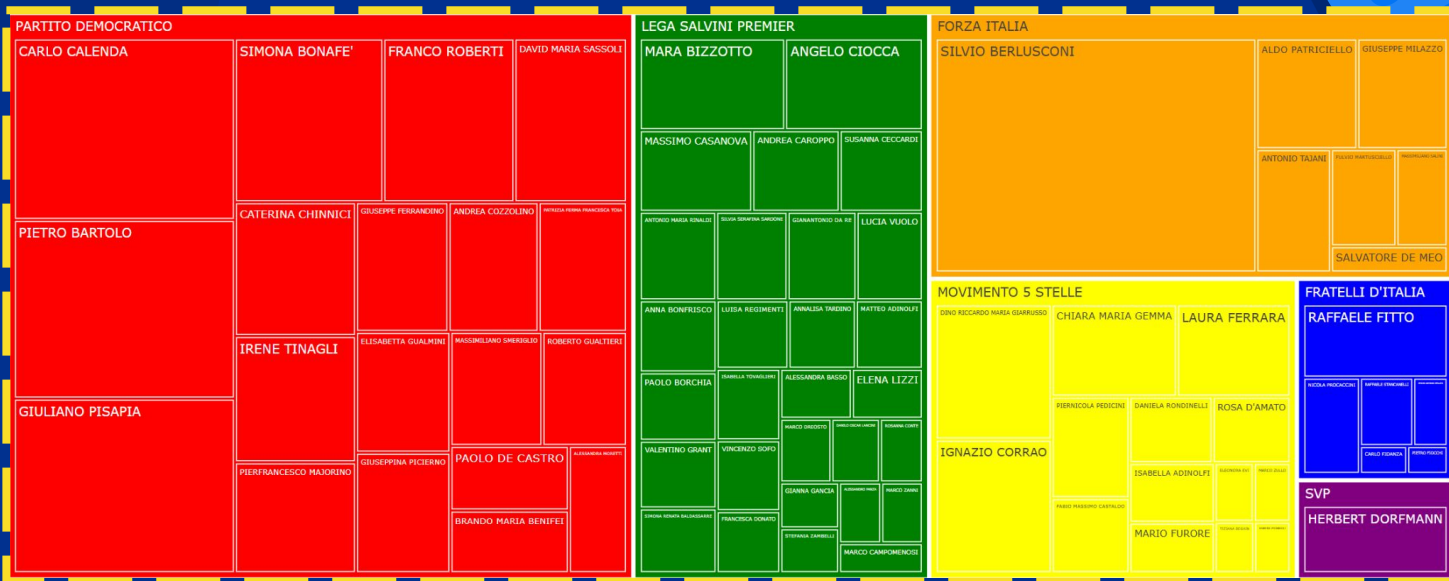
MARIO FUREORE

FRATELLI D'ITALIA

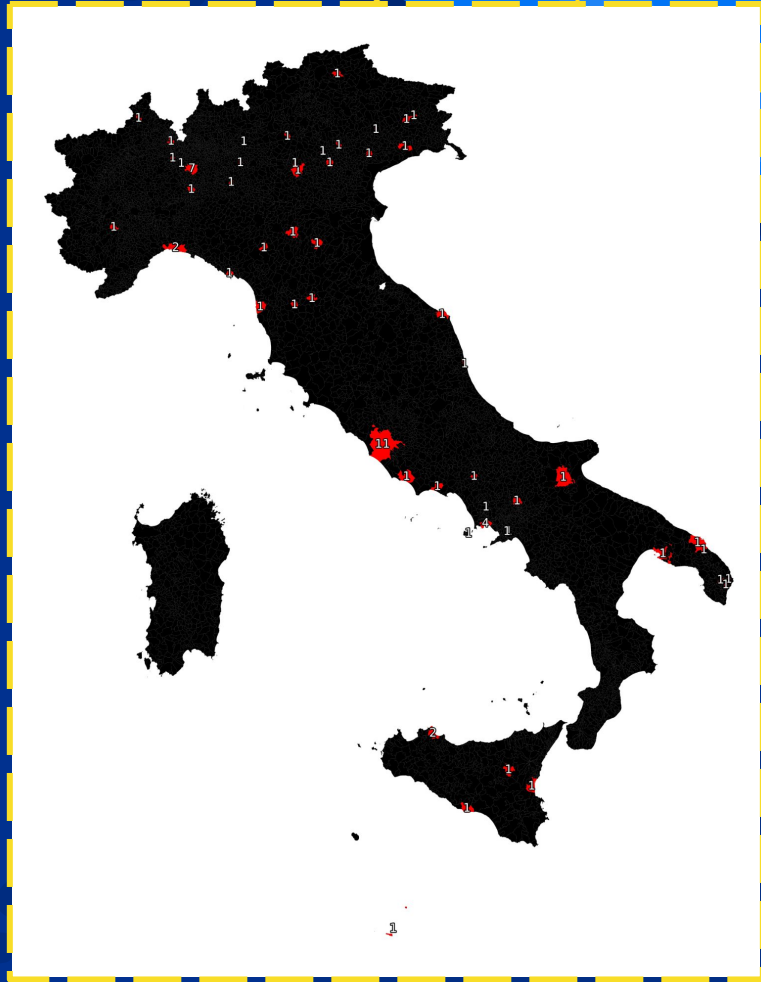
GIORGIA MELONI

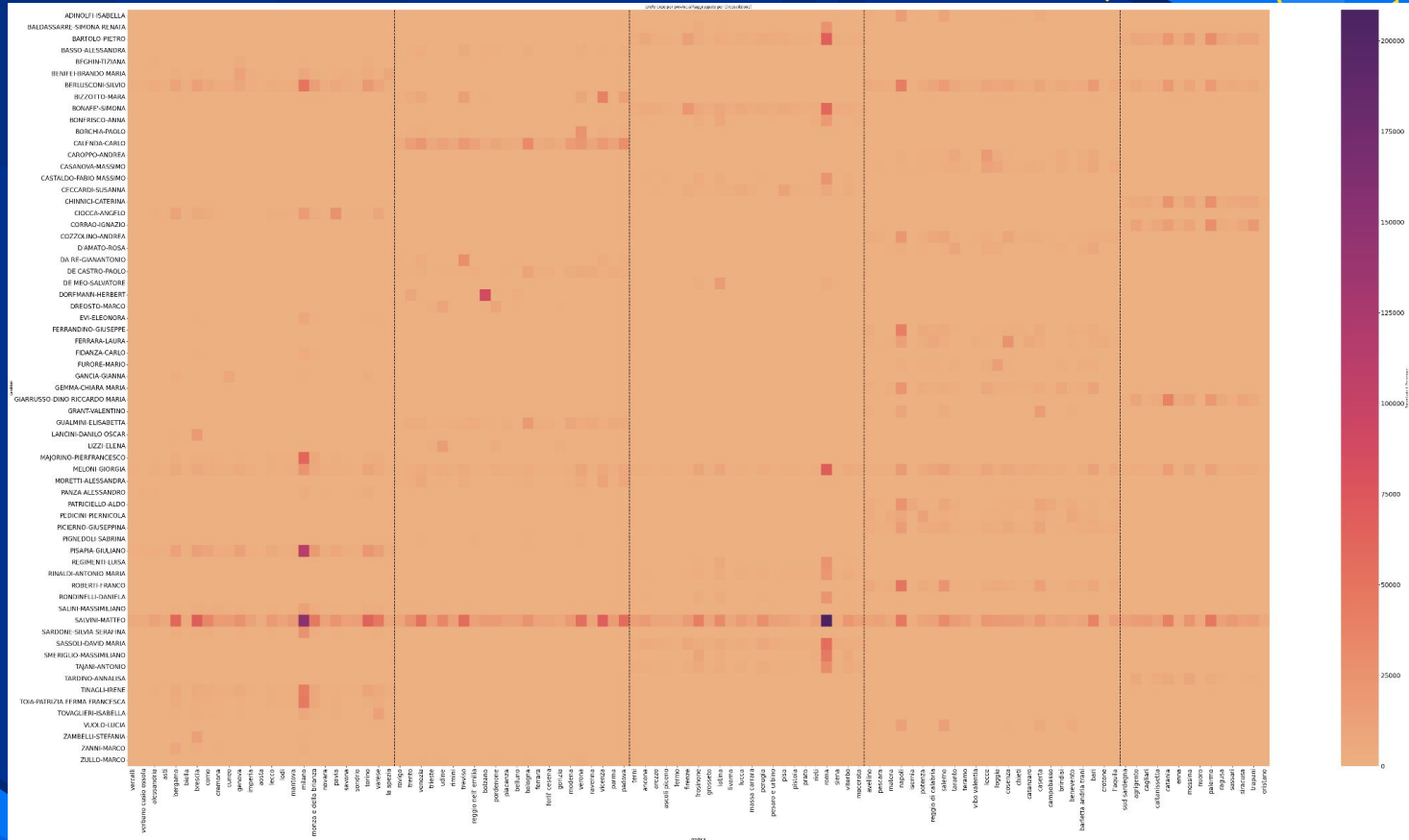
SVP

HERBERT DORFMANN



Where do the euro
parliamentarians
come from?

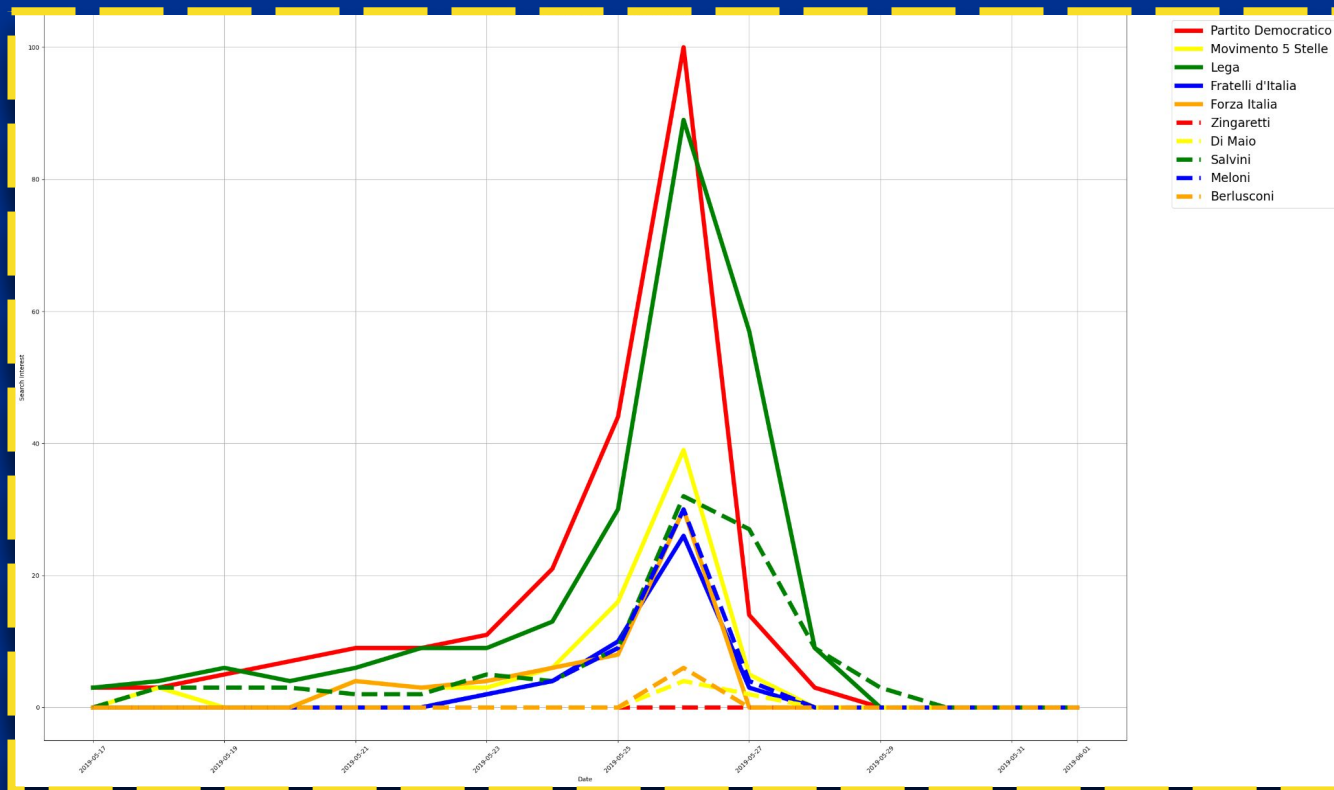




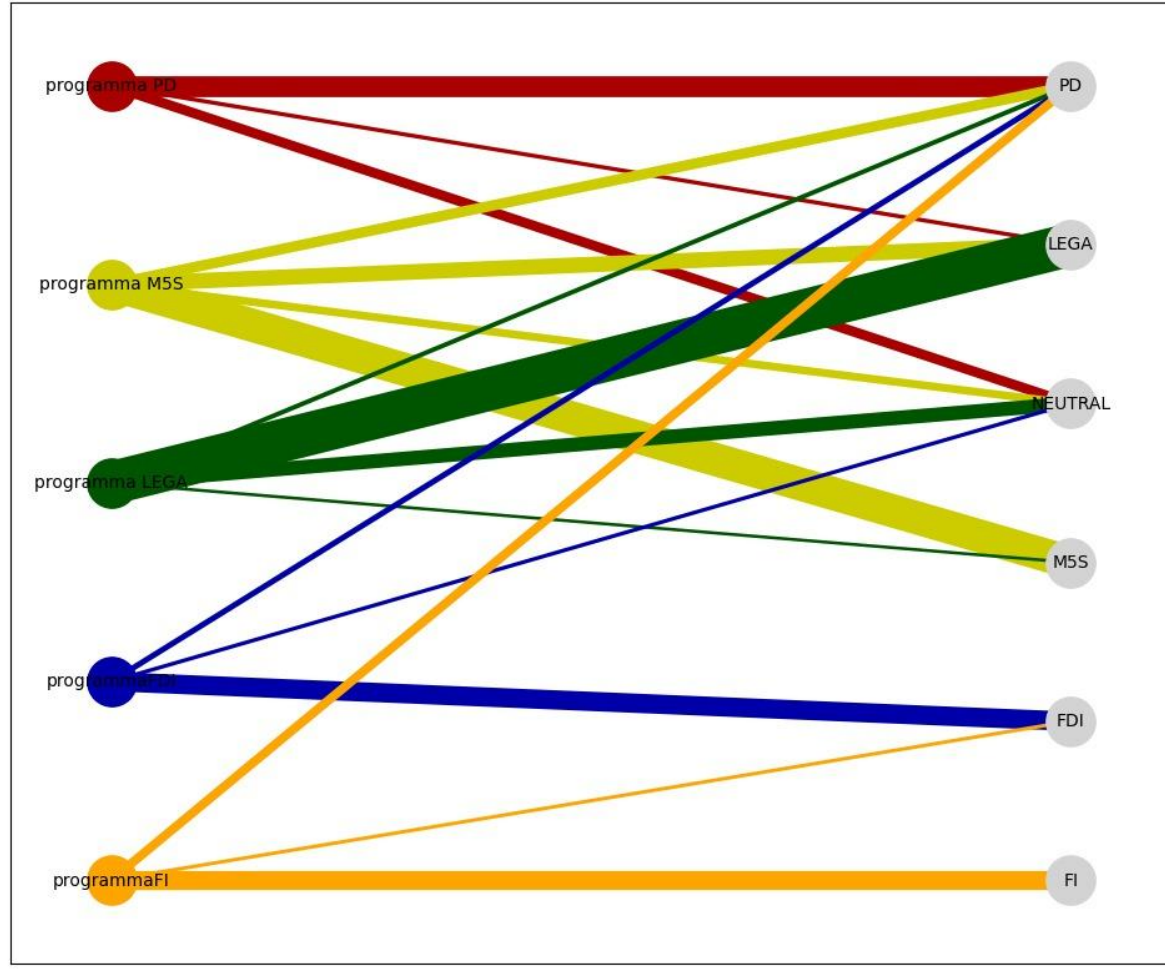
IV

Could there be any reason
why some parties use
this strategy?

Search analysis for party (or leader) program



Enhanced Weighted Bipartite Graph with Color-Coded Edges



Conclusions

How do party leaders candidacy influence elections?

By receiving significantly more votes than other candidates from their party, party leaders secure a seat in parliament even for minor candidates who have a smaller local voter base in a given college. This is particularly common in right-wing parties.

What are some other strategic candidacies parties employ?

The strategy of fielding towny candidates from specific constituencies or regions does not appear to have a significant impact on election outcomes, as demonstrated by the data.

How do these strategies influence the representation of the voters?

They negatively impact voter representation, especially for right-wing parties, as they allow parties to avoid running local politicians. This undermines regional or provincial representation, particularly in southern Italy.

Why are these tactics used?

It is difficult to gauge the efficacy of a party leader's candidacy, however some data suggests that voters might have an interest in personas when searching for information about elections. But there are several variables at play which are outside of our dataset, and in general difficult to quantify

A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark blue suit, is shown from the chest up. He has his hands clasped in front of him and is smiling, with his mouth open as if speaking. A large, bold, yellow text overlay reads "THANK YOU!". The background is a blurred blue and white pattern.

THANK YOU!

Comuni Clustering Based on Modularity Class

