



The effect of Covid on EU democracies

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Abstract

To better understand how the pandemic has so far affected Europe's democracies, the European Policy Institutes Network (EPIN) has analysed 19 succinct national perspectives. We asked our EPIN partners: *what are the effects of different crisis rules or procedures on the democratic character of national governance?*

This exercise has shown that while in some member states the democratic institutions and electoral processes have proved robust and flexible, outstanding democratic issues across all member states are: an overly powerful executive, limited checks on government, and the sidelining of parliaments. Trust, or the lack of it, in the respective political elites is a particularly divisive issue.



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