ONLINE APPENDIX

INCLUSION THRESHOLD

I apply different criteria for mergers and joint lists at the party and election levels of analysis. Recording the sheer number of parties involved in mergers and joint lists at the election level would give undue weight to these categories, as, by definition, two or more parties are involved in these types of party change (merger, joint list entry and joint list exit). As a consequence, mergers and joint lists changes would, by design, insert at least twice the weight of new party formations in the overall index. Empirically, this can be easily observed in Figure 1 in the text where the average number of parties participating in mergers, joint list entry and joint list exit is several times higher than the average number of new, disbanded or splinter parties in a given election. To correct for this, I record the number of new or modified mergers and joint lists, regardless of the number of parties comprising each. Accordingly, I implement the inclusion threshold at the level of mergers or joint lists rather than at the level of parties.

Party-level data

New party: The 5% threshold is applied at *t*.
Disbanded party: The 5% threshold is applied at *t-1*.
Splinter: The 5% threshold is applied at *t*.
Merger: To exclude marginal parties from the index, at least two of the merged parties must have received 5% of the vote or more at *t-1* and the merger must receive over 5% at *t*.
Joint lists (two indicators: entry, exit): To exclude marginal parties from the index, the 5% threshold is applied as follows: for entry, at least two of the parties must have received 5% of the vote or more at *t-1* and the joint list must receive over 5% at *t*; for exit, the joint list must have received 5% of the vote or more at *t-1*, and each of the parties must receive over 5% at *t*.

Election-level data (EIP index)

New party: The 5% threshold is applied at *t*.
Disbanded party: The 5% threshold is applied at *t-1*.
Splinter: The 5% threshold is applied at *t*.
Merger: A *merger* is included in the index if it passed the 5% threshold at *t*.
Joint list (entry, exit): A *new joint list* forms part of the index when (a) a new joint list formed or a party entered an existing joint list and (b) the joint list passed the 5% threshold at *t*. A *disbanded joint list* is included when (a) a joint list disbanded between elections *t* and *t-1* or a member of the joint list at *t-1* abandoned it by *t* and (b) the joint list received 5% of the vote or more at *t-1*.

TABLE A.1 LIST OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Country	**First election**	**Last election**	**Number of elections**
Austria	November 23, 1986	September 28, 2008	7
Belgium	December 13, 1987	June 13, 2010	6
Bulgaria	June 10, 1990	July 5, 2009	6
Czech Republic	May 31, 1996	May 28, 2010	4
Denmark	September 8, 1987	November 13, 2007	7
Estonia	September 20, 1992	March 6, 2011	5
Finland	March 16, 1987	April 17, 2011	6
France	June 5, 1988	June 10, 2007	4
Germany	January 25, 1987	September 27, 2009	6
Greece	June 18, 1989	October 4, 2009	8
Hungary	March 25, 1990	April 11, 2010	5
Iceland	April 25, 1987	April 25, 2009	6
Ireland	February 17, 1987	February 25, 2011	6
Italy	March 28, 1994	April 13, 2008	4
Latvia	June 5, 1993	October 2, 2010	5
Lithuania	November 15, 1992	October 12, 2008	4
Netherlands	September 6, 1989	June 9, 2010	6
Norway	September 11, 1989	September 14, 2009	5
Poland	October 27, 1991	October 21, 2007	5
Portugal	July 19, 1987	September 27, 2009	6
Romania	May 20, 1990	November 30, 2008	5
Slovakia	June 9, 1990	June 12, 2010	5
Slovenia	April 8, 1990	September 21, 2008	5
Spain	October 29, 1989	March 9, 2008	5
Sweden	September 18, 1988	September 19, 2010	6
Switzerland	October 18, 1987	October 21, 2007	5
United Kingdom	June 11, 1987	May 6, 2010	5

TABLE A.2 SUMMARY STATISTICS OF EIP, BY COUNTRY

Country	**Mean**	**Min**	**Max**	**SD**
Austria	0.14	0	1	0.38
Belgium	2	0	4	1.41
Bulgaria	7.3	3	10	2.7
Czech Republic	1.5	1	2	0.58
Denmark	0.14	0	1	0.38
Estonia	7	0	17	6.5
Finland	0.2	0	1	0.4
France	0.5	0	2	1
Germany	1	0	2	0.9
Greece	0.25	0	1	0.5
Hungary	1.6	0	5	1.9
Iceland	1.4	0	2	0.8
Ireland	0.2	0	1	0.4
Italy	4.75	4	6	1
Latvia	5.8	4	8	2
Lithuania	5.75	2	10	3.3
Netherlands	0.33	0	1	0.52
Norway	0	0	0	0
Poland	5.2	2	10	3.1
Portugal	0	0	0	0
Romania	4.2	3	6	1.3
Slovakia	3.6	1	7	2.4
Slovenia	2.8	1	4	1.3
Spain	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0.2	0	1	0.4
Switzerland	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	0.4	0	2	0.9

TABLE A.3 CITIZEN KNOWLEDGE OF PARTY POSITIONS – FULL MODEL RESULTS

	Western Europe	Central and Eastern Europe
Individual-level predictors		
Age	.006***	-.004
	.001	.002
Age * Age	-.0001***	.00004
	.00001	.00002
Male	.136***	.040**
	.007	.015
University Education	.290***	.243***
	.008	.020
Left-right distance from party	-.082***	-.100***
	.002	.004
Party-level predictors		
New party	-.790***	0.234***
	0.022	0.029
Merged	-0.075**	0.476***
	0.020	0.025
Splinter	-0.138***	0.033
	0.027	0.037
Entered joint list	0.199***	0.630***
	0.044	0.027
Left joint list	.	-0.648***
		0.030
Party Age	.0001	.006***
	.0001	.0005
Election-level predictors		
Electoral Instability in Parties (EIP)	-.258***	-0.056***
	0.057	0.007
ENEP, log	1.744***	-.481**
	.299	.172
MDM	-.058***	-.543***
	.009	.105
Proportional	-1.153**	3.159***
	.552	.455
Majoritarian	.812***	.
	.181	
Bicameral	-.933**	-.459***
	.190	.068
Months since previous election	.001	.040***
	.002	.007
Seat-vote disparity	-.174***	-.171***
	.048	.038
Constant	7.543***	9.556***
	.200	.468
N (respondents)	54,262	17,945

Note: The data is stacked at the individual per party level and contains repeated observations on individual. The total number of observations is 299,104 and 80,710 in Models 1 and 2, respectively. All models include fixed effects for country and year and robust clustered errors around individual. A total of forty-three West European and fifteen CEE elections are included in the analyses. The elections included in the study are Austria, 2008; Belgium, 1999, 2003; Bulgaria 2001; Czech Republic 2002, 2006, 2010; Denmark, 1998, 2001, 2007; Estonia 2011; Finland, 2003, 2007, 2011; France, 2007; Germany, 1998, 2002, 2005, 2009; Hungary 1998, 2002; Iceland, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2009; Ireland, 2002, 2007; Italy, 2006; Latvia 2010; Netherlands, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010; Norway, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009; Poland 2005, 2007; Portugal, 2002, 2005, 2009; Romania 1996, 2004; Slovakia 2010; Slovenia 1996, 2004; Spain, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008; Sweden, 1998, 2002, 2006; Switzerland, 1999, 2003, 2007; Great Britain, 1997, 2005.

TABLE A.4 CITIZEN KNOWLEDGE OF PARTY POSITIONS AS A FUNCTION OF ELECTORAL VOLATILITY

	Western Europe	Central and Eastern Europe
Individual-level predictors		
Age	.006***	-.005**
	.001	.003
Age * Age	-.0001***	.0001**
	.00001	.00002
Male	.149***	.047**
	.007	.016
University Education	.308***	.303***
	.008	.021
Left-right distance from party	-.079***	-.096***
	.002	.004
Party-level predictors		
Party Age	-.0001	.004***
	.0001	.0005
Election-level predictors		
Electoral Volatility	**-.024*** **	**-0.011*** **
	0.003	**0.002**
ENEP, log	-.100	.237
	.145	.146
MDM	-.033***	-.075
	.009	.112
Proportional	1.008***	.376
	.242	.441
Majoritarian	.862***	.
	.078	
Bicameral	-1.187**	-.278***
	.152	.065
Months since previous election	-.020***	.011**
	.004	.005
Compulsory voting	.744***	.
	.165	
Seat-vote disparity	-.013	-.064
	.022	.034
Constant	9.057***	8.793***
	.214	.433
N (respondents)	52,401	17,945

Note: The data is stacked at the individual per party level and contains repeated observations on individual. The total number of observations is 288,373 and 69,258 in Models 1 and 2, respectively. All models include fixed effects for country and year and robust clustered errors around individual. A total of forty-three West European and fifteen CEE elections are included in the analyses.