

Latent factor	Items	Sample 1 (n=152) ^a		Sample 2 (n=349) ^b	
		Factor loadings	Indicator reliabilities	Factor loadings	Indicator reliabilities
Consensus-orientation	How important is it for you personally that...				
	.. political parties sometimes concede a point to the other side?	.683	.467	.683	.467
	... politicians give consideration to diverging interests when searching for solutions?	.759	.576	.759	.576
	.. political decisions are based on compromises?	.589	.347	.589	.347
Competition	... politicians are decisive and force their points?	.543	.294	.543	.294
	... one political side is able to put their plans through?	.611	.373	.611	.373
	.. certain politicians could give hierarchical orders, if a decision has to be taken?	.596	.356	.596	.356
Efficiency	.. political problems are solved as fast as possible?	.774	.599	.774	.599
	... political decision-making processes are simple and short?	.826	.683	.826	.683
	... politicians do avoid delays when making political decisions?	.622	.386	.622	.386

Note. Entries are factor loadings and indicator reliabilities (i.e. squared multiple correlations) of the modified (Sample 1) and confirmed scale (Sample 2).

All factor loadings are significant at the 5 % level

a Cases missing to 157 were excluded from the data analysis because they are statistical outliers.

b Cases missing to 366 were excluded from the data analysis because they are statistical outliers.

Table 5.2. Items, Factor Loadings, and Indicator Reliabilities of Process Preferences Scale

5.3.2. Measuring Process Perceptions

A model measuring process perceptions was tested by adapting the process preferences model. The scale to measure process perceptions encompasses three dimensions: consensus perceptions, efficiency perceptions and competition perceptions. The initial model with 17 items was tested with the survey data from the final survey

with the Swiss citizens. For the purpose of scale development and validation this survey sample was separated into two groups, a smaller sample with 157 participants who participated in the control group of the experimental study, and a second sample with 366 participants who participated in the two experimental groups. The development of the scale is based on the sample with 157 participants. The consensus dimension of process perceptions is measured with items referring to the role of compromises, the consideration of diverging interests, and whether or not politicians concede a point to the other side. The efficiency dimension of process perceptions is measured with items referring to delays in political decision-making procedures, simple and short processes and whether or not political problems are solved fast. The competition dimension of process perceptions is measured with items referring to the role of hierarchical orders, the decisiveness of political actors and whether or not political actors put their plans through. The model fit was satisfactory, with CFI = .91, RMSEA = .07 (90% CI = .03, .10), Chi-Square = 43.50, df = 24. Cronbach's Alpha was .48. Whereas the factors efficiency perception and consensus perception are well represented by its indicators, the factor competition perception causes some trouble. The item "Politicians are decisive and force their points" shows a particularly low and non-significant loading on the competition perception factor. After excluding this item, the model fit improved significantly as indicated by the Chi-Square-Difference Test. The model fit was satisfactory, with CFI = .97, RMSEA = .04 (90% CI = .00, .09), Chi-Square = 23.14, df = 17. Cronbach's Alpha was .47. See Table 5.3 for factor loadings and indicator reliabilities. Generally, the measures of process perceptions regarding the competition dimension are not ideal. Apparently citizens hold precise competition preferences, but not necessarily related perceptions.

Table 5.3 shows the items, factor loadings and reliabilities of the process perceptions scale. These results clearly support the validity of the scale. The calculated fit indices for the group comparison are: with CFI = .96, RMSEA = .04 (90% CI = .01, .06), Chi-Square = 78.24; df = 52. Cronbach's Alpha in the first sample was .45, in the second sample .44. In general, then, the findings support H1b.

5.3.3. Discriminant Validity of Preferences and Perceptions Scales

In order to compare citizens' process preferences and related process perceptions, the two scales to measure preferences and perceptions need to be discriminant, that is they need to measure different concepts. The discriminant validity of the process preferences and process perceptions scales was tested using the joint sample including participants group 1 and group 2 ($n = 523$). The discriminant validity of the process preferences and process perceptions scales was tested for the three dimensions, consensus, efficiency and competition, separately. The specification of a model in which each of the indicators loads on only one factor provides a precise test of convergent and discriminant validity (Kline, 2005, p. 181). A one-factor model tests whether the items are measuring one overall factor rather than two individual factors. Support for this model would suggest that individuals do not differentiate among different process preferences and process perceptions and both concepts would best be represented by a unidimensional construct (cf. Noar, 2003, p. 633f.). The results of selected fit indices clearly indicate poor fit for the one factor model for all three dimensions, consensus, efficiency and competition (see Table 5.4). The fit is significantly worse than the fit for the uncorrelated factors model, as the Chi-Square difference test shows.⁵² An uncorrelated factors model tests the idea that the two factors are independent. Support for this model suggests that the process preferences and process perceptions scales are independent constructs and thus not related to one another (Noar, 2003, p. 634). Comparing the uncorrelated factor model with a correlated factor model, the correlated factors model did result in a significant reduction of Chi-Square for the efficiency and competition dimensions, but not for the consensus dimensions.⁵³ The correlation between efficiency preferences and efficiency perceptions was $-.398$ ($p < .005$); the correlation between competition preferences and competition perceptions was $.515$ ($p < .005$). In general, the findings support H1c and indicate that the process preferences and process perception factors show discriminant validity and the scales allow measuring process preferences and related perceptions separately, although preferences and perceptions that concern the

52 Given a difference in Degrees of Freedom (df) of 1, the difference in Chi-Square is significant at the level of 5 % if it is 3.841 or larger. The Chi-Square difference here is larger than that value.

53 Given a difference in Degrees of Freedom (df) of 1, the difference in Chi-Square is significant at the level of 5 % if it is 3.841 or larger. The Chi-Square differences for the efficiency dimension and the competition dimension are larger than that value.