

## 10.2. Overview of Items Used in the Study

*Process preferences:* In the following question we would like to know more about your political preferences. Citizens hold different preferences regarding how political decisions should be made in democratic systems. Please answer according to the following scale, how important

do you consider the following preferences. The scale ranges from 1 (not important at all) to 7 (very important). How important is it for you, that...

... political parties sometimes concede a point to the other side? [**concede**]

... politicians give consideration to diverging interests when searching for solutions? [**div interests**]

... political decisions are based on compromises? [**compromise**]

... political problems are solved as fast as possible? [**fast**]

... political decision-making processes are simple and short? [**simple process**]

... politicians do avoid delays when making political decisions? [**avoid delays**]

... politicians are decisive and force their points? [**force points**]

... one political side is able to put their plans through? [**put plans through**]

... certain politicians could give hierarchical orders, if a decision has to be taken? [**hierarchical orders**]

... politicians tread each other with respect. [**respect**]

... politicians treat each other fairly. [**fair**]

... there are no losers of political decisions. [**no losers**]

... political actors give clear orders as to how to proceed further after a decision has been taken. [**clear orders**]

... political decisions are not hampered by quarrels between political parties. [**no quarrels**]

... political decisions are not hampered by power struggles. [**no power struggles**]

... political opponents do not insist on their opinions. [**no persistence**]

(Given in parentheses are denotations of variables in figures and tables.)

### *Process perceptions:*

Now we would like to know how, in your opinion, political decisions are actually made in Switzerland. Please answer according to the following scale and indicate to what extent the following statements on political decision-making processes in Switzerland, in your opinion, apply or not apply. The scale ranges from 1 (does not apply at all) to 7 (fully applies).

Political parties sometimes concede a point to the other side. [**concede**]

Politicians give consideration to diverging interests when searching for solutions. [**div interests**]

In Switzerland political decisions are based on compromises. [**compromise**]

In Switzerland political problems are solved as fast as possible. [**fast**]

Political decision-making processes in Switzerland are time-consuming.\* [**simple process**]

Swiss politicians postpone decisions over and over again.\* [**avoid delays**]

Swiss politicians are decisive and force their points. [**force points**]

In political discussions in Switzerland one political side mostly put their plans through. [**put plans through**]

In Switzerland, certain politicians can give hierarchical orders if a decision has to be taken. [**hierarchical orders**]

Swiss politicians tread each other with respect. [**respect**]

Swiss politicians treat each other fairly. [**fair**]

In Swiss decision-making processes, there are no losers of political decisions. [**no losers**]

Political problems in Switzerland are solved as efficient as possible. [**efficient processes**]

Swiss political actors give clear orders as to how to proceed further after a decision has been taken. [**clear orders**]

In Switzerland, political decisions are not hampered by quarrels between political parties. [**no quarrels**]

In Switzerland, political decisions are not hampered by power struggles. [**no power struggles**]

In Switzerland, political opponents do not insist on their opinions. [**no persistence**]

(\* = reversed scale, given in parentheses are denotations of variables in figures and tables.)

*Political Support:* In the following we would like to ask of your opinion on Swiss politics. Please tell me on a score of 1-10 how much you personally trust each of the following institutions. 1 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust.

... government,

... parliament (National Council and Council of States)

How good or bad do you consider the present general performance of the government? Please answer according to the following scale, 1 indicates very bad, 10 indicates very good.

How good or bad do you consider the present general performance of the parliament?

Please answer according to the following scale, 1 indicates very bad, 10 indicates very good.

How good or bad do you consider the present general performance of politicians in Switzerland altogether?

Please answer according to the following scale, 1 indicates very bad, 10 indicates very good.

How satisfied are you with the way politicians in Switzerland altogether solve the nation's problems? Please answer according to the following scale, 1 indicates not satisfied at all, 10 indicates very satisfied.

How much do you trust politicians in Switzerland altogether to act as they really should? Please answer according to the following scale, 1 indicates no trust at all, 10 indicates very much trust.

On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Switzerland? Please answer according to the following scale, 1 indicates not at all satisfied, 10 indicates very satisfied.

To what extent does democracy as it exists in Switzerland correspond to your personal version of an ideal democracy? Please answer according to the following scale, 1 indicates no correspondence to personal vision at all, 10 indicates full correspondence to personal vision.

*Article impression:* To begin with, we would like to ask you some questions on the news articles that we have sent to you last week. What impression did these articles raise with respect to the way political decisions are made?

Have the articles, all in all, raised the impression that political decision-making processes are shaped by conflicts and power struggles? Would you say this applies, rather applies, does rather not apply, or does not apply?

And have the articles, all in all, raised the impression that political decisions are made uncompromisingly? Would you say this applies, rather applies, does rather not apply, or does not apply?

And have the articles, all in all, raised the impression that political decision-making processes are time-consuming? Would you say this applies, rather applies, does rather not apply, or does not apply?

And have the articles, all in all, raised the impression that political decisions are postponed over and over again? Would you say this applies, rather applies, does rather not apply, or does not apply?

*Television & newspaper use:* On an average weekday, how much of your time is generally spent using news or programmes about politics and current affairs in the radio, in television, in the newspaper or in the internet? (None; Less than ¼ hour; ¼ to ½ hour, more than ½ hour, up to 1 hour; more than 1 hour; Don't know)

Local newspaper, National newspaper, Tabloid, Free newspaper, Television, Radio, Internet

*Political experiences:* There are different possibilities to be politically active. Some of them are mentioned below. Please indicate for each of those activities whether it applies or does not apply to you.

... engaging actively in party work.

... hold a political mandate.

Do you have direct experiences with political everyday business due to your professional employment or other occupations? (Yes, regularly; yes, occasionally; no)

Do you gain insight into political everyday business through friends or acquaintances and their occupations? (Yes, regularly; yes, occasionally; no)

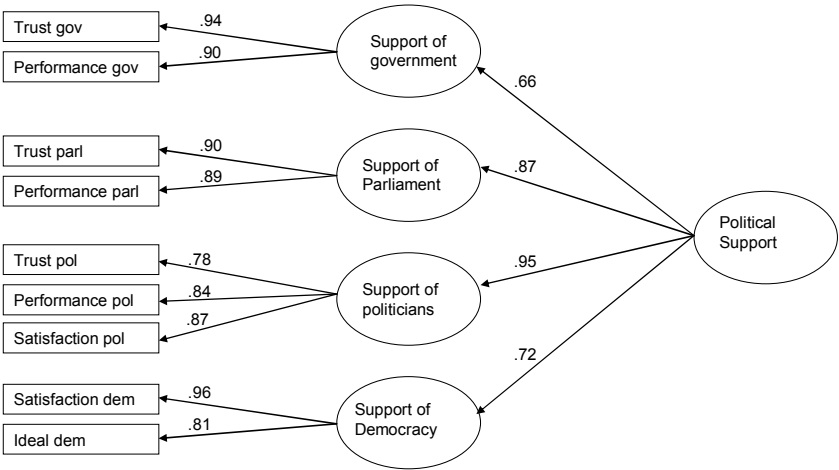
*Political awareness:* How interested would you say you are in politics? (very interested, somewhat interested, not much interested, or not at all interested, don't know) When you get together with friends, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, rarely, or never? (frequently, occasionally, rarely, never, don't know)

*Political ideology:* In politics people sometimes talk of left and right. Where would you place yourself on a scale from 1 to 11 where 1 means the left and 11 means the right?  
(European Social Survey).

*Age* was measured with an open question and recoded into categories of 18 thru 32; 33 thru 43; 44 thru 54; 55 thru 96 (percentiles). *Education* was measured on a 6-point scale ranging from no degree (1) to college or university degree (6).

10.3. *Measurement Models of Latent Factors Used in the Analyses*

Measurement Model for Political Support (Hierarchical Factor Models that Encompasses Four First-Order Factors)



Note. All the solid line paths are statistically significant at .05 or above.  
Chi-Square (df=23, N 339) = 109.67, Comparative fit index is .94, root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) is .10 with a 90% confidence interval .08 - .12.