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A pendulum swung back? Populist fever in the Central and Eastern Europe

The paper intercepts economic insecurity (EI) of the Central and Eastern European states, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia, with recent swing towards populist narratives. The paper identifies EI as the main drive towards surge of the popular discontent with political elites. These countries, contrary to their Western European counterparts, had quickly bounced back to economic growth (Åslund, 2011) what reduces applicability of the strictly macroeconomic analysis in the region. Specificity of the selected region varies from the more secular, leftist realms of Czech Republic, towards anti-Roma rhetoric in Slovakia, and political clericalism of Poland and Hungary. Such microcosm of normative diversity, allows this analysis to identify the major aspects of the Central and Eastern European political cleavages against the background of perception of economic performance. The core variable for this qualitative comparative analysis, is the economic insecurity as defined by (Osberg, 2015). The compound index of economic insecurity grasps not only the change in absolute wealth, but also probability of unemployment, financial risks of illness, and poverty intensity. The major finding of the research is that despite the ongoing economic growth of the region, the economic insecurity is de facto worsening among these states. As such, it might result in increased level of resentment and openness to 'political scapegoating'.