

How do young voter choices in Argentina influence young voter views in the Czech Republic?

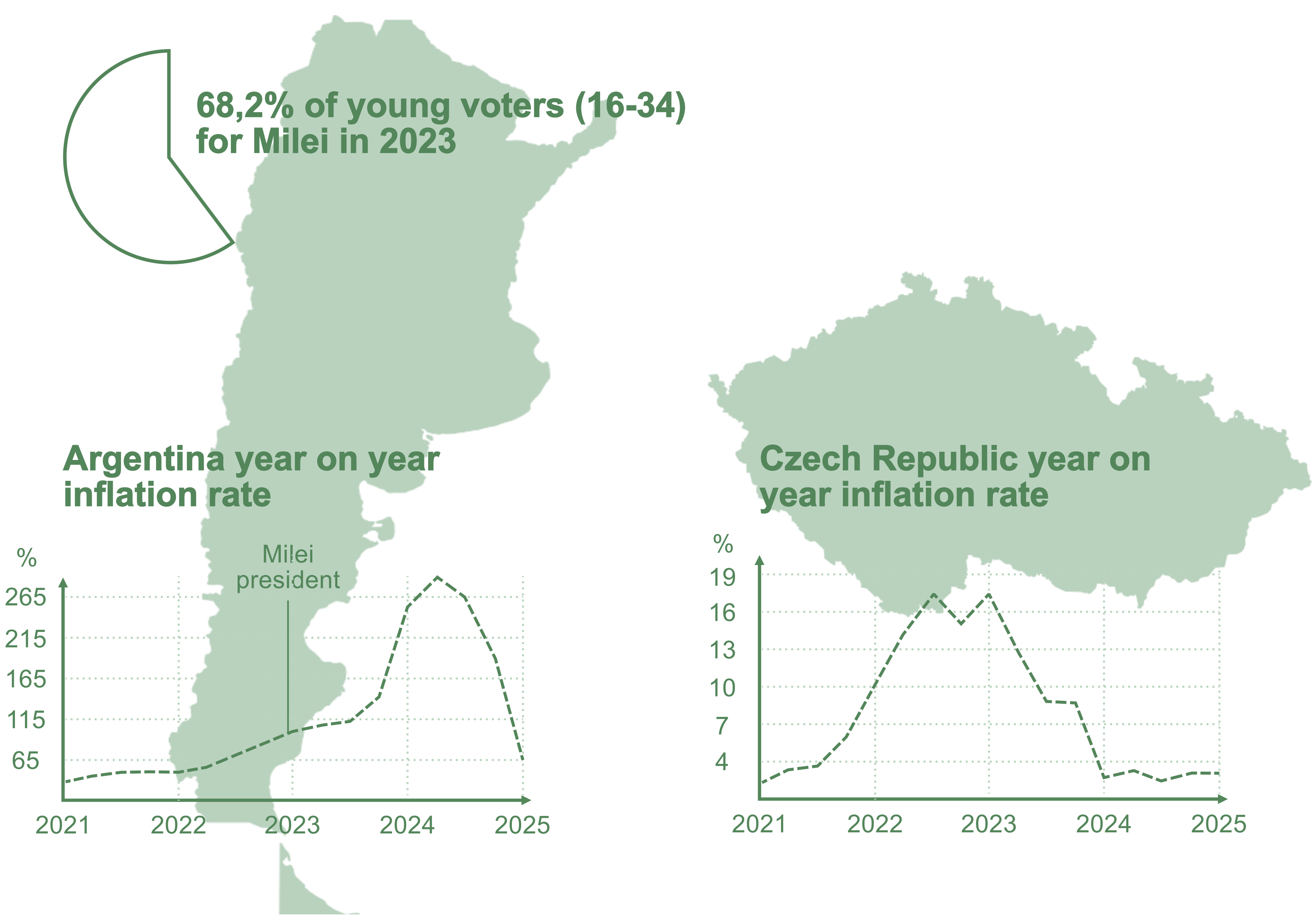
Background

In 2023, Argentinians, especially young voters, defied expectations of voting theory by choosing president Milei's promised economic V-curve of short-term pain for long-term benefits (78,24% of 16-24 year olds and 57,7% of 25-34 year olds) (AtlasIntel, 2023). This contradicts the theory of **temporal discounting** (Jacobs & Matthews, 2012) according to which the perceived utility of a policy is discounted if its benefits are delayed. We ask ourselves: How does this unusual voter choice influence voters across borders?

Research by Malet (2022) demonstrates that foreign voting outcomes can shape domestic public opinion, a phenomenon he terms **cross-national social influence**. Voters adopting cues from abroad may influence their evaluation of complex trade-offs.

We want to test these influences on voter behaviour in the Czech Republic, where parliamentary elections will take place this October. **Our hypothesis is that Czech voters exposed to Argentina's electoral choice will show reduced temporal discounting**, becoming more open to long-term solutions even at a short-term cost. If the choices in countries without a comparable background can be shown to influence domestic voting behaviour, policymakers should more heavily consider these external effects on their constituents.

See: Jacobs, A. M., & Matthews, J. S. (2012). Why do citizens discount the future? Public opinion and the timing of policy consequences. *British Journal of Political Science*, 42(4), 903–935.
Malet, G. (2022). Cross-national social influence: How foreign votes can affect domestic public opinion. *Comparative Political Studies*, 55(14), 2416–2446.

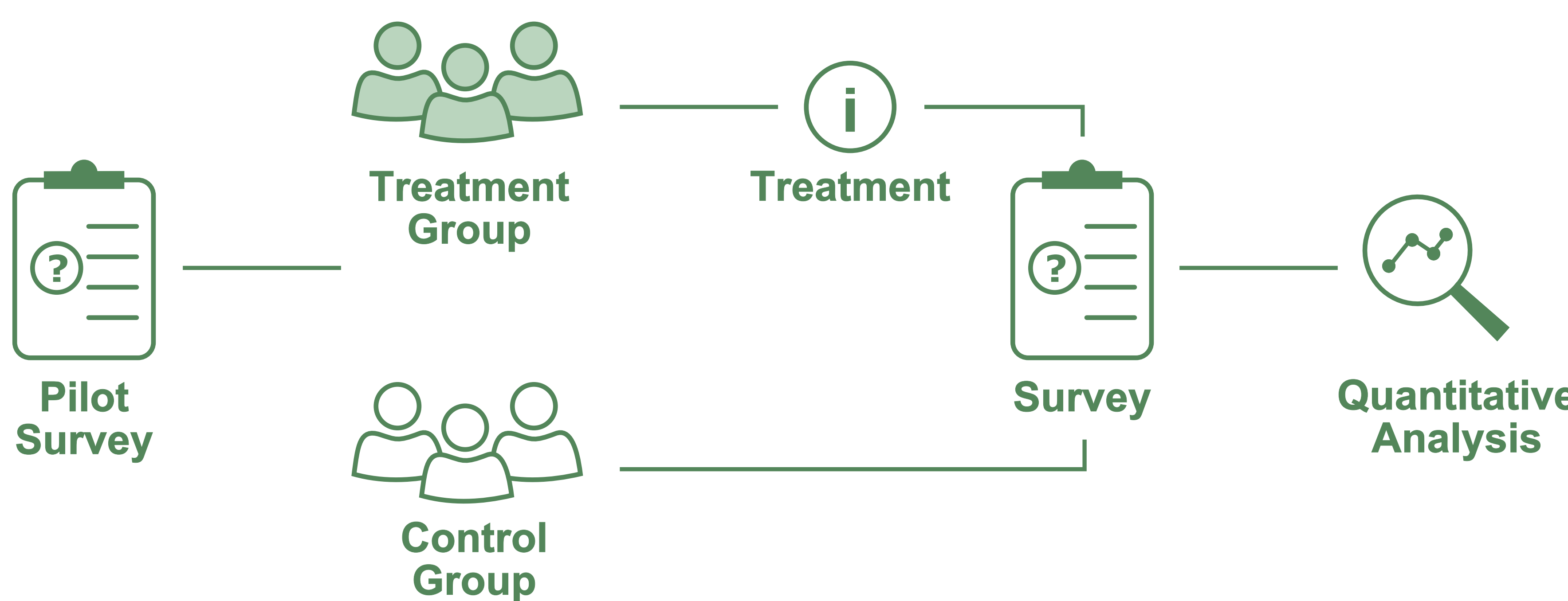


Research Design

We will employ a **quasi-experimental research design** with one treatment group and one control group. Our participants will be Czech young voters in the age group 18-34 years. Participants will be selectively assigned to each group. The goal is to have samples comparable in age and occupation (studying or working).

The treatment we will use is information about the voting choices made by the same age group in Argentina in the 2023 presidential elections. Participants will then answer questions about their views on economic and social policies. A quantitative analysis will determine if the treatment has a significant effect on participants' temporal discounting. We will conduct a pilot survey in Germany to refine our treatment.

See: Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE.



Project Structure

