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Summary/ Abstract:

Political participation is declining and that poses real threats to the democratic values in western societies because a democracy needs its citizens to participate. Nowadays, much research is conducted on the relationship between online media and political participation in the academic areas of political sciences, policy studies and communication sciences. This study builds upon insights from other scholars while making use of a recent, large data set of around 2500 respondents, representative for Dutch citizens from 2018 during the municipal elections. The aim of this thesis is to answer the question whether there is a positive association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* in the Netherlands. In this thesis different forms of *online media use* and *participation* are considered, identifying both *active* and *passive* forms, and the crucial influence of *Political Interest* is considered. It is concluded that there is indeed a significant positive association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. Also, the study finds that *Political Interest* considerably strengthens this association. Next to that, the study provides evidence to claim that the type of *Offline Political Participation* is significantly more important in determining the strength of the association than the type of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*.

Key words: *Online Media, Political Participation, Internet, Political Interest, Association, Regression, Netherlands, Sample and Offline.*

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1. Introduction

1.1. Societal and scientific background of the problem

Democracy and being a *democratic* society imply that states needs their citizens to participate in the system. It aims directly at the core definition of *democracy* which consists of the word *'demos'* that translates to English as *citizens*. It is therefore that a *democracy* cannot function without its vital aspect of *political participation* by citizens. However, *political participation* nowadays is under threat and has been faced with a major decline that can be seen in for example decreasing numbers in the turnout of elections (Burden, 2000), decreasing number of citizens that are a member of a political party (Biezen & Poguntke, 2014) and decreases in other types of *political participation*. This trend is alarming especially among young people Bakker and de Vreese (2011) argue. If this trend continues to decline, this could actually pose fundamental threats to our *democracy* and its values and consequently to society as we know it. To avoid this from happening, it is therefore crucial to investigate potential factors that can influence this decline in *political participation*.

One of the proposed factors that can influence *political participation* is the potential of the internet. Since the emerge of internet, the developments of *online media* have increased rapidly. Within a few decades the internet has grown from its first form into an unimaginable complex network that provides innovative opportunities for the both information and communication technologies. These technologies are quite new and are constantly subject to innovation and change. Due to that, it is by far not yet known what potential the internet can have in major societal issues and in this case, the decline of *political participation*. States and their governments have widely adopted these information and communication technologies in an attempt to narrow the gap between governmental organisations and its citizens, by for example using communication technologies to inform citizens and party members about their plans, points of view and daily business, and it is also already considered to be an important element of a successful election campaign (Kruikemeier, van Noort, Vliegenthart, & de Vreese, 2014, p. 903). But how is this internet potential to motivate citizens to become more politically active? And is it possible to use online tools to mobilise citizens for offline political action?

Much research is already conducted on the potential effects of *online media use* on *political participation*. Scholars have tried to explain the possible effect by exploring theories on for example social media behaviour, networks, mobilisation and reinforcement powers of the *internet* and *participation*. Various scholars claim that there is indeed a positive relationship between both *online media use* and *participation/engagement* (Bakker & de Vreese, 2011;

Boulianne, 2015; Kruikemeier et al., 2014; Quintelier & Vissers, 2008). What can be identified in the literature is that there is much variation among scholars. Several scholars focus only on the effects of *social media*, or more specific only one medium such as *Facebook* instead of *online media use*. Next to that, some scholars also look at a more limited set of indicators to measure the *participation* variable by for example including only voting turnout and political interest (Kruikemeier et al., 2014, p. 903) instead of a more broad definition of *political participation*. Various scholars also introduce other variables that might provide more explanation on the association such as *political interest* (Kruikemeier et al., 2014, p. 908) and *time online* (Quintelier & Vissers, 2008, p. 423). Although there are many scholars confirming the positive association, there are also scholars that find a negative association or no correlation at all between *online media use* and *political participation* (Theocharis & Lowe, 2016).

In a meta-analysis Boulianne (2015, p. 534) concludes that the data of much research suggests that there is a positive relationship between *social media* use and *participation* in civic and political life. Also, Bakker and de Vreese (2011, pp. 460, 462) argue that using *internet* for news and communication purposes is a positive predictor for *participation*. However, Kruikemeier et al. (2014, p. 911) found that for the effect of *internet use* for political purpose on *political participation*, this effect is rather reinforcing and very much depending on one's *political interest*. They argue that there is an effect, but the direction of this effect is very different per type of media use and political involvement. This is also confirmed by Quintelier and Vissers (2008, p. 423), however they add in their research that *time spend online* does not predict *participation*. To contradict these results that provide evidence to claim that there is a positive association, Theocharis and Lowe (2016, p. 1475) find in their experiment that took place in Greece that the relation between *media use* and *political involvement* is actually negative.

Since many scholars have conducted research on the subject, it would be logic to assume that most insights are already discovered and discussed. However, little in known on *internet use for political purpose* and it must be noted that the different scholars provide conflicting evidence and contesting conclusions. Therefore, the aim of this thesis is to test for the effects of *Online Media Use For Political Purpose* on *Offline Political Participation* using the data of a recent representative sample from the Dutch population.

1.2. Research Question

To further specify the aim of this thesis, the following question is formulated that has the central focus in this paper: *To what extent is the use of Online Media for Political Purpose affecting the Offline Political Participation among Dutch citizens and to which extent is this influenced by other factors?*

To further answer this question, three sub-questions are added in this thesis. The first sub-question aims to identify whether *Political Interest* might have an influence on the relationship between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. This question is formulated in the following manner: *Does Political Interest in local and national politics influence the relationship between Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation?* Next, to find more insight on this relationship, two questions are formulated on the type of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and type of *Offline Political Participation*. First: *Do different types of Online Media use For Political Purpose have different effects on Offline Political Participation?* and second: *Do the effects of Online Media Use for Political Purpose differ per type of Offline Political Participation?* If the research succeeds to formulate an answer to these above-mentioned questions, it can provide new insights and consequently possible tools to combat the decline of *political participation*. Therefore, it is important to explore and understand the role of *online media* in this matter.

In this thesis, the following chapters and sequence can be found. First of all, the next chapter is concerned with the theoretical framework in which this thesis can be positioned. In this chapter, the core concepts that are central in this thesis are described, explained and theorised. Next to that, guided and based upon existing literature and research, four hypotheses are created that are derived from theory and the research questions. In chapter 3, the methodology of the research will be central. In this chapter the choice of research design will be discussed and explained. The data origin and collection, the operationalisation and the methods for the data analysis will also be discussed. In the operationalisation, a detailed description and explanation is provided on the construction of the variables that are used in this thesis. In the data analysis, a stepwise explanation on how the data is analysed is provided. Continuing, chapter 4 will provided insights on the outputs that are resulting from the hypotheses testing in SPSS. Here, an elaborate structured analysis of the results can be found. This chapter is structured according to the four hypotheses that are formulated in chapter 2. In the final chapter, the results of the analyses will be summarised and will be used to formulate scientifically correct answers to the questions that are central in this thesis. Also, this final chapter will contain a few paragraphs

on the limitations of the research and recommendation regarding further research on the topic. In addition to this thesis, a list of references and an appendix are included. The appendix is structured in accordance with the referencing in the thesis. The figures and tables that can be found in the appendix are listed as a.1. a.2. b.1. etc.

2. Theory

In this section the core concepts will be explained and theorised. Consequently, a theoretical framework will be created to theorise the research question and its relevant sub-questions. From the theoretical framework, four hypotheses will be introduced that will be central in this thesis.

2.1. Core concepts

2.1.1. Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Nowadays in the Netherlands, most citizens make use of the *online media* that are available. In 2017, 91,2% of the Dutch individuals was able to make use of the *online media* (International Telecommunication Union, 2017). In this research, the central question in concerned with *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. This concept implies that the use of the *online media* has a goal in which there in a *political incentive* or *political question* at its core. In the literature many different distinctions and specifications are made within the scope of this variable (Bakker & de Vreese, 2011; Dimitrova, Shehata, Strömbäck, & Nord, 2014; Quintelier & Vissers, 2008) In this research a distinction is made between *Active* and *Passive* forms of *online media use*. This distinction in often used in the literature on *online media* (Kruikemeier et al., 2014; Dhavan V. Shah, Cho, Eveland, & Kwak, 2005). Dhavan V. Shah et al. (2005) name the two dimensions, *Active* and *Passive Online Media Use*, *civic messaging* and *online information seeking*. Kruikemeier et al. (2014, p. 906) define *active internet use* as interactive or two-way communications and *passive internet use* as involving one-way communication. This conceptualisation of Kruikemeier et al. (2014) will be guiding in this research.

2.1.2. Offline Political Participation

Political participation is often conceptualised in many different understandings (Bakker & de Vreese, 2011; Kruikemeier et al., 2014; Quintelier & Vissers, 2008; Theocharis & Lowe, 2016). In general, many scholars try to aim at a conceptualisation that is close to a definition like 'an activity done by citizens to aim for political influence'. Also *Offline Political Participation* is divided in this research in *Active Offline Political Participation* and *Passive Offline Political Participation*. Bakker and de Vreese (2011) identify within *digital participation* the dimensions of *active* and *passive* participation in their research. In this thesis we include the notion that *Passive Offline Political Participation* is a process in which individuals try to influence public decisions by voting and signing petitions. On the contrary, *Active Offline Political Participation* will be defined as 'being politically active' with the exception of voting and signing petitions.

2.2 Causal Model

On the subject and its relationship, many scholars propose different explaining theories: participation theories, media theories, internet theories, network theories and many more. One of the first theories that is often used to explain the relationship between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* is the *mobilisation* theory of the internet. However, there are scholars that can be categorised as having a rather pessimistic approach towards the internet and the association with *political participation*. They claim that spending time *online* does affect the amount of time the individual can spend on other activities, including engagement in *political participation*. The study by Theocharis and Lowe (2016) indeed finds evidence for this claim, arguing that there is actually a negative association between *Facebook use* and *political participation*. On the contrary, this thesis is focussed on the broader perspective of *online media use* and therefore focusses on evidence of the *mobilisation* theory, however it is interesting to keep the pessimistic approach and evidence in mind.

Kruikemeier et al. (2014, p. 904) explain the argument of this *mobilisation* theory as the various *sources available online* and lower costs of accessing theses sources encourages citizens to learn more about politics and thus increase *engagement*. Also, Tolbert and McNeal (2003, p. 175) found that respondents with access to the *internet* and *online election news* were more likely to *vote* between 1996 and 2000. In a meta-analysis of 36 studies, Boulianne (2015, p. 534) concluded that the data of the studies suggest a positive relationship between *social media use* and *participation* in civic and political life. Hence, the following hypothesis 1 (see figure 2.1.) is formulated: the more *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, the higher the *Offline Political Participation*. However, it must be noted that there is evidence that this causal effect might be the other way around. Boogers and Voerman (2003, p. 25) argue in their research on *political websites* and *participation* that '*visits to political Web sites are primarily confined to politically active groups.*' They identify that the mobilisation theory actually does apply for young people. Boogers and Voerman (2003, p. 25) thus identify that the use of the *online media* can also be explained by the fact that an individual is already linked to a more politically active group. Also di Gennaro and Dutton (2006, pp. 311, 312) found evidence to believe this reversed causation effect arguing that '*increasing involvement online* among those who are already *engaged offline*'. Even though this thesis might not provide an answer to the question whether there is a case of reversed causation, it is important to keep it in the back of the mind.

Hypothesis 1: *the more Online Media Use for Political Purposes, the higher the Offline Political Participation.*

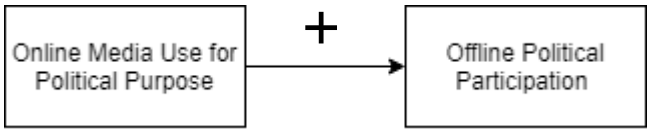

Figure 2.1. hypothesis 1

Furthermore, it is expected that *Political Interest* has an influence on the relationship of the proposed hypothesis 1. This phenomenon is often referred to as reinforcement theory. This theory explains that the positive effect is stronger if citizens are already interested in politics thus measuring the effect of lower levels and higher levels of political interest (Kruikemeier et al., 2014, pp. 905, 912). If this is the case Boulianne (2011, p. 148) suggests that the media becomes an information tool for those that are already interested. Various scholars thus control for *Political Interest* in their research, also Bakker and de Vreese (2011). They explained that *Political Interest* can be expected to account for a considerable amount of the variance in *internet use* (Bakker & de Vreese, 2011, p. 459). Bimber (1999, p. 413) goes further into detail of the effects of *Political Interest* by explaining that contacting a politician via the internet is companioned with various barriers and only those that are interested in politics find it worthy to pay the 'costs' to overcome these barriers due to their interest. Building further on that, Polat (2005, p. 442) claims that this influence of *Political Interest* is the crucial assumption when considering the mobilisation possibilities of the internet, people must be sufficiently interested. Therefore, the following hypothesis, see figure 2.2, is present to test for this phenomenon.

Hypothesis 2: *if the political interest is high, we expect a stronger relationship between Online Media use for Political Purpose and Offline Political Participation than if Political Interest is low.*

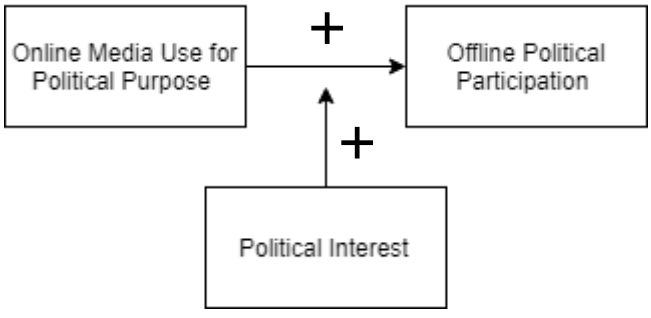

Figure 2.2. hypothesis 2

To go deeper into the relationship between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*, different dimensions of the variables were identified: *Active* and *Passive* forms. Many scholars conclude that the effects differentiate greatly when taking into account these different dimensions. Quintelier and Vissers (2008, p. 423) argue that only some *internet activities* are successful in stimulating *political participation*. Bakker and de Vreese (2011) found that different internet activities relate differently to the *political participation* dimensions. They for example identify seven different internet activities: internet news use, services, music, club/organisation, e-mail, social networking and forum. What they identified is that for example online forms of communication, such as e-mail and forum use, were more positively and significantly related to traditional passive participation than activities such as listening to music and social networking (Bakker & de Vreese, 2011, p. 462). This confirms Bakker and de Vreese (2011, pp. 462, 463) hypothesis that more interactive forms of *online communication* is positively related to *participation*. Next to that, Dhanavan V. Shah, McLeod, and Yoon (2001, p. 491) conclude that using the internet for exchange of information, so a rather interactive approach, is associated with higher levels of participation. Next to that, Quintelier and Vissers (2008) found that the type of online activities rather than time spend online is more successful in explaining political participation. To test whether there are indeed different effects, and whether more interactive types of internet use predict *Offline Political Participation* better, the following hypothesis is created (see figure 2.3).

Hypothesis 3: *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose explains Offline Political Participation better than Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose explains Offline Political Participation.*

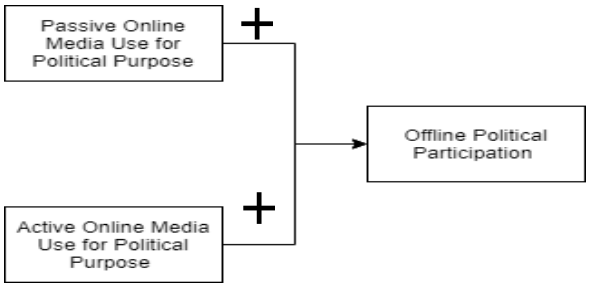

Figure 2.3. hypothesis 3

Next to the different effects of *Active* and *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, this phenomena is in theory also present in the variable *Offline Political Participation*. Bakker and de Vreese (2011, p. 460) conclude that the internet is for all forms of participation a positive predictor, but there are differences present between different types of political participation.

They for example identify that the internet is a stronger predictor for newer forms of *political participation*, for example digital participation (Bakker & de Vreese, 2011, p. 463). Boulianne (2015, p. 534) also identifies different forms of *Political Participation* and she found that for example *social media* has a minimal impact on *participation* in elections in contrary to other types of *participation*, such as *protest participation* (Boulianne, 2015, p. 532) Not many scholars have identified *active* and *passive* forms of participation. Therefore, the theory does not provide enough evidence to predict which form is better explained by *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. However, when looking into the efforts that are needed to engage in *Active Offline Political Participation* and *Passive Offline Participation*, it can be identified that the barriers for engaging in the *Active* forms of *Offline Political Participation* are much higher than when engaging in *Passive Offline Political Participation*. Consider for example the difference in efforts between *voting* and *attending a municipal council meeting* (Oudejans, 2018a). The 'costs' for an individual will be much higher generally when *attending a municipal council meeting* due to for example time resources. It can therefore be assumed that *voting* takes less time than *attending a municipal council meeting* and therefore the barriers to engage in *passive* forms are lower than to engage in *active* forms. Thus, if individuals engage easier in *Passive Offline Political Participation*, the chance that *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains this better seems argumentative. Therefore, it is interesting to hypothesize this assumption and check it against the data. The following hypothesis will be central (see figure 2.4).

Hypothesis 4: *Online Media Use for Political Purpose explains Passive Offline Political Participation better than Online Media Use for Political Purpose explains Active Offline Political Participation.*

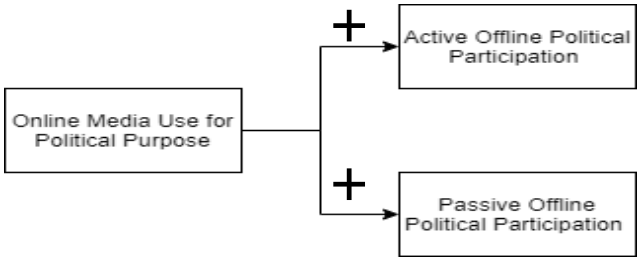

Figure 2.4. hypothesis 4

3. Methods

3.1. Research Design

The research that is to be conducted is hypotheses testing research. The hypotheses identified in the theory section will be tested via a cross-sectional research design. Dooley (2009, p. 265) identifies cross-sectional as quantitative research that is not subject to manipulation and is measured at one point in time. This implies data from a representative sample of a population measured from one point in time will be used to test the hypotheses. Although the study consists of two measurements in time, it is not appropriate to call it an interruptive time series study or longitudinal design because there was no treatment in between the surveys and the surveys did not measure the same variables.

Cross-sectional is appropriate because the design is able to use a large data set of many respondents. It is a fast and cheap way of gathering data for many cases. Also, it allows to test for more variables than just the dependent and independent variable. This allows the research to check for possible confounding variables in the relationship between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. The design is limited to the analyses of behaviour at one point in time, and therefore no causal inferences and conclusions can be drawn. This means that for this research, only conclusions can be drawn with regard to correlation and association between the variables. Another limitation of the research design because it only measures at one point in time is that the results can differ when using another time frame.

Important to note is that in the chosen research design, it should be checked whether the proper construct is reflected in the measurement and the presence of random error should be checked. This could pose real threats to the measurement construct validity. This is also the case with statistical inference validity (Dooley, 2009, p. 267). The design however limits the possibilities to check for internal validity, for example the spuriousness of the relationship.

3.2. Case Selection

In this research the case selection are Dutch citizens, the respondents to the survey. The case was selected on the basis of a new available data set in the context of local voter research. The available data provides opportunity for an inductive approach towards the data. The cases were randomly selected from a representative sample from the Dutch population in 2018. This made sure that the cases that is worked with in this sample are a proper representation of the Dutch population in 2018.

3.3 Data Collection

The hypotheses will be tested using the data Lokaalkiezers Onderzoek 2018. This research was concerned with local voter behaviour and opinions about local policies. The data collection was financially funded by Stichting Kiezers Onderzoek Nederland (SKON). The data was collected via two surveys. The survey consisted of a pre measurement (5 – 20 March 2018) and a post measurement (22 – 27 March 2018 and 2 – 24 April 2018) (Oudejans, 2018a, p. 2).

The survey was presented to a representative sample of the Dutch population. The sample consisted of 3392 participants (pre-measurement) and 3380 participants (post-measurement). The response rate of the pre-measurement survey was 75%. The response rate of the post-measurement was 80,0%. The sample was derived randomly from the LISS panel. The LISS panel (Langlopende Internet Studies voor Sociale wetenschappen) consists of around 5000 households spread among the Netherlands. The households for this panel are selected by CentRedata and Centraal Bureau voor Statestiek. The participants are payed for their participation in the surveys (de Blok et al., 2018, pp. 60, 61).

3.4 Operationalisation

The variables that are needed for the analysis are described below. The variables consist of the various items that are derived from survey questions. The questions originate from Oudejans (2018a, pp. 5, 8, 9, 10, 25, 26) and Oudejans (2018b, p. 8). The original Dutch questions and translations to English can be found in the Appendix A. For the hypotheses that are mentioned in the theory section, the following variables are constructed.

1. Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose
2. Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose
3. Online Media Use for Political Purpose
4. Active Offline Political Participation
5. Passive Offline Political Participation
6. Offline Political Participation
7. Political Interest

For the first hypothesis, variables 1 and 4 are needed. For the second hypothesis, variables 1, 4 and 7 are needed. For the third hypothesis, variables 2, 3 and 4 are needed. For the fourth hypothesis, variables 1, 5 and 6 are needed.

3.4.1. Active Online Media Use for Political Purposes

The variable *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* should measure to what extent individuals engage in activities that concern a two-way-communication during the use of online media for political purpose (Kruikemeier et al., 2014, p. 906). This implies that the items that make up this variable require *communication*, *interaction* and *immediate response*. These activities are selected by structurally analysing and assessing the content of the survey.

Item	Question
V11_4pre	Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Discussed about the municipal election with other via social media (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp).
V12_1	Have you made use of the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp) to contact city councillors, aldermen or the mayor in the past five years?
V12_2	Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp) to contact local civil servants about a local issue in the past five years?
V12_3	Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp) to contact other citizens and organisations about a local issue in the past five years?

Table 3.1: List of items Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose

The variable *Active Online Media Use for Political Purposes* consists of four items, that each consist of an activity that is concerned with two-way-communication (see table 3.1.). From the pre-measurement database, the activity concerning *'discussion about the municipal elections via social media'* was selected. This activity was selected because of its *interactive* nature and its use of *social media*, which is a sub-category of *online media*. This item is asked in the context of a time span of the recent weeks, which imply the election campaign for the municipal elections. Further, no other items were selected from the pre-measurement database due to the fact that they did not sufficiently match with the conceptualisation of *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. From the post-measurement database, three activities were selected to contribute to the measurement of the variable *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. These three items are concerned with online media: *internet*, *e-mails*, *apps* or *social media*. Next to that, the activities regard making contact with different individuals, such as *city councillors*, *aldermen*, *mayors*, *local civil servants* or *other citizens*. These items consist of a time span of five years, which implies that this also concerns the time span in which the first item is located.

To construct the variable *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* an index was created, adding up the items v11_4pre, v12_1, v12_2 and v12_3. This implied that an individual that votes 'Yes' in all questions that are linked to the items, this individual receives a value of 4 in the variable *Active Online Media Use for Political Purposes* which is labelled *Most Active Use*. The values of the variable *Active Online Media Use for Political Purposes* ranges from 0 to 4. Value 0 meaning *No Use* and value 4 meaning *Most Active Use*. In order to construct the general variable *Online Media Use for Political Purposes*, it was necessary to transform the values of the variable to a scale from 0 to 1. This implied that all values of *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* are divided by four resulting in the following values. 0 = .000, 1 = .250, 2 = .500, 3 = .750 and 4 = 1.00. The distribution of variable *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* can be seen in figure 3.1.[1]

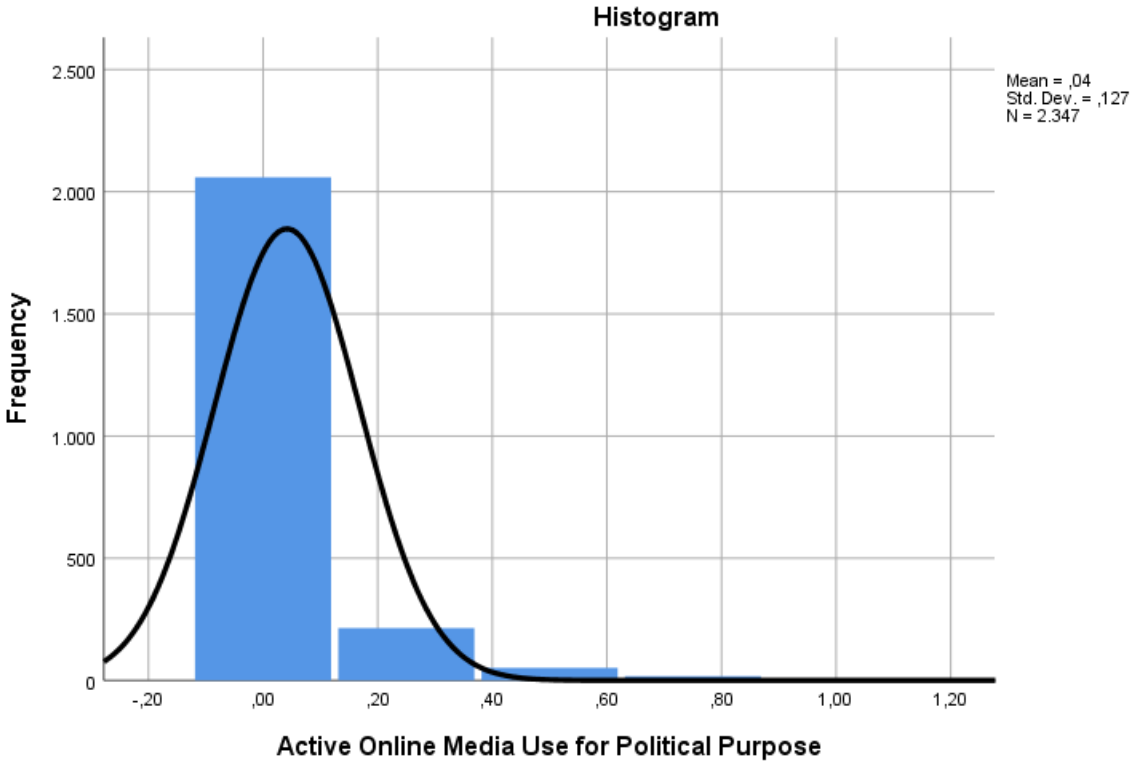

Figure 3.1: histogram Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose

3.4.2. Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose

The variable measures the *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* as described in the conceptualisation. The definition aims for activities that include *online media use* with a *political purpose* that are characterised by *one-way communication*. This implies that the

[1] For detailed outputs on the variable construction see appendix B.1.

activities are not interactive and that there is no immediate response. Activities that are labelled as *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* are for most activities in which the individual receives information without engaging in a conversation.

Item	Question
V10_1pre	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Visited the website of one or more local parties.
V10_2pre	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Visited the website of the municipality.
V10_3pre	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Made use of a voting guide for the municipal elections.
V10_4pre	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Read about the municipal elections on social media (Twitter, Facebook, blogs, WhatsApp).
V12_4	Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp) to sign an initiative or petition on a local issue in the past five years?
V36	Do you follow politicians from your municipality on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram?

Table 3.2: List items Passive Online media Use for Political Purpose

The variable consists of six items (see table 3.2). These items each concern an activity that is characterised as one-way communication. From the pre-measurement four items are selected. These items concern activities that are conducted in the context of finding information about the municipal elections. Activities that are included are *visited the website of one or more local parties, visited the website of the municipality, made use of a voting guide* and *read about the municipal elections on social media*. The values for these items range from 0 to 1. From the post-measurement, two items are selected. The first item concerns *the use of online media for signing a petition or local initiative* and the second items questions whether the respondent *follows local politicians on social media*. Again, in these activities it can be considered as one-way communication. For the item regarding the *follow local politicians on social media*, it can be debated whether the *political purpose* is clearly present. However, for this research it is decided that engaging in this activity does provide the respondent with information on the local politics that can be put to practice for *political purpose*. Item v27v1 and v27v2, concerning the use of online media for the purpose of information and use of municipal services and facilities, is consciously excluded. This choice was made since the content of these items do not fit the

conceptualisation of the concept *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. It is determined that these activities lack *Political Purpose*.

The variable *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* is constructed by adding up the individual items. In order to do this, all items that are included should use same values for their measures. Therefore, the v36 from the post-measurement database had to be recoded. After the recoding, all items rewarded 0 for answer 'No' and 1 for answer 'Yes'. To compute the variable *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* the items v10_1pre, v10_2pre, v10_3pre, v10_4pre, v12_4 and v36Rec were added up and this resulted in a new variable that had values ranging from 0 to 6, in which 0 means 'No Use' and 6 means 'Most Active Use'. In order to construct the general variable *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, it was necessary to transform the values of the variable to a scale from 0 to 1. This implied that all values of *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* are divided by six, resulting in the following values. 0 = .000, 1 = .167, 2 = .334, 3 = .500, 4 = .667, 5 = .834 and 6 = 1.00. The distribution of the variable can be found in figure 3.2.[2]

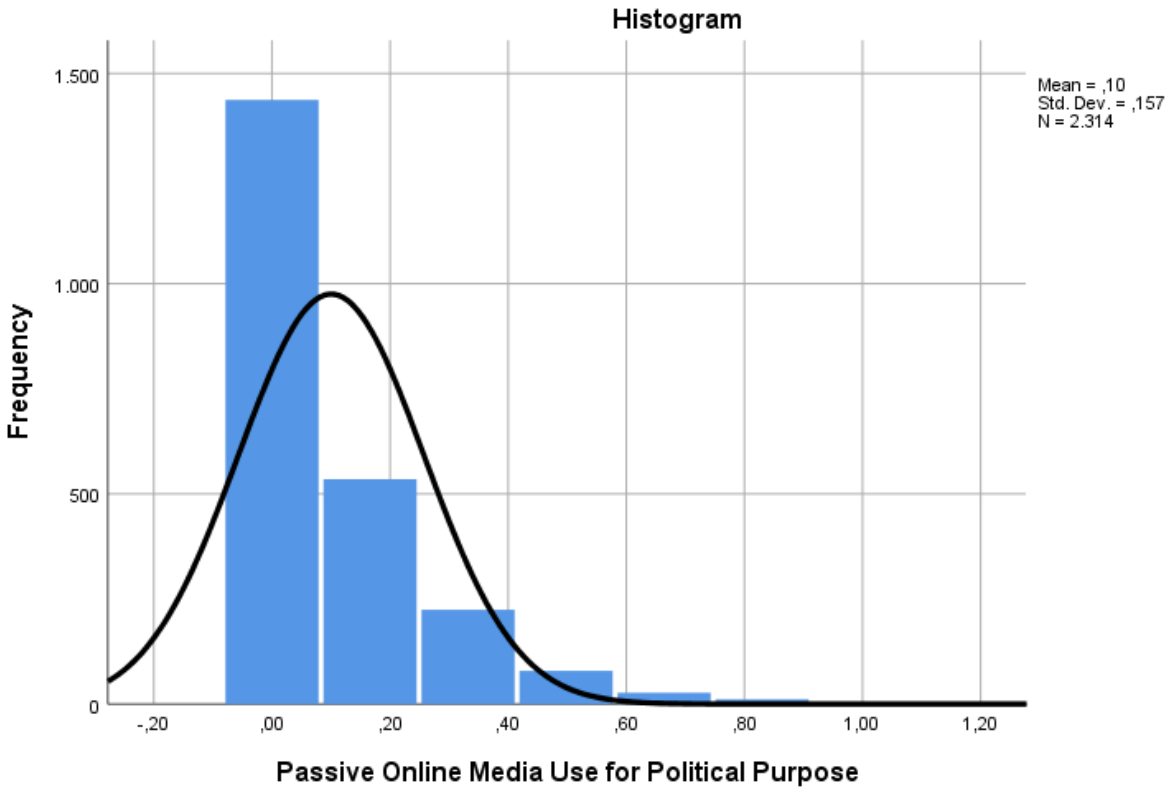

Figure 3.2: histogram Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose

[2] For detailed outputs on the variable construction see appendix B.2.

3.4.3. Online Media Use for Political Purpose

The variable *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* is conceptualised in chapter two. This variable ought to measure to what extent individuals are using online media for political purposes. This is measured by a list of activities that are concerned with *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. To select the activities that are relevant to this variable, the content of the survey was structurally analysed and assessed. After that, it was decided whether the selected items were concerned with one-way communication or two-way communication (Kruikemeier et al., 2014) and consequently could be considered an *Active* form or a *Passive* form of *Media Use for Political Purpose*.

The variable *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* consists of both *Active* and *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. The construction of the variable *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* can be found in section 3.4.1. of this chapter. The construction of the variable *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purposes* can be found in section 3.4.2. of this chapter. For the construction of the variable *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, the values of both the *Active* and *Passive* variable were altered to a scale from 0 to 1. This was done to make sure that *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* would not have a higher weight in the general variable than the active form, since the *passive* form consisted of more items. To construct the general variable on *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* the values of the *active* and *passive* variable added in a scale. This resulted in a variable (*N=2314*) with values ranging from 0 to 2, in which 0 is labelled as '*No Use*' and 2 as '*Most Active Use*'. What can be identified is that more than half of the individuals do not engage in any of the tested activities that relate to *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. The distribution of the variable can be found in figure 3.3.[3]

[3] For detailed outputs on the variable construction see appendix B.3.

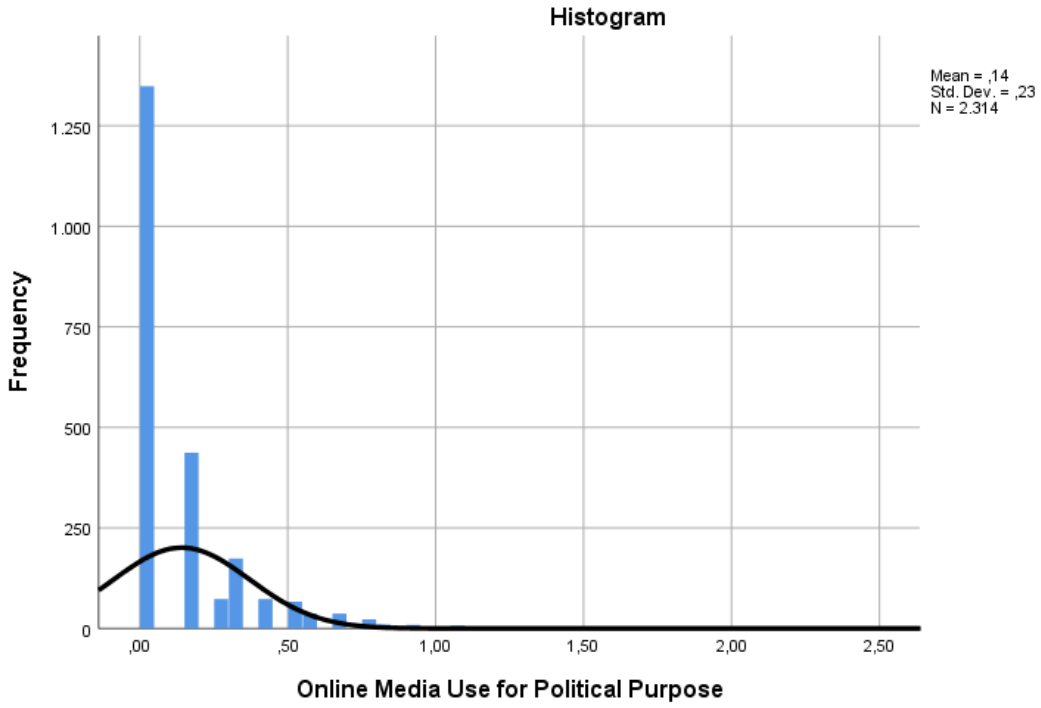

Figure 3.3: histogram Online Media Use for Political Purpose

3.4.4. Active Offline Political Participation

The variable *Active Offline Political Participation* should measure to what extent individuals engage in activities that concern *political participation*. *Active Offline Political Participation* can thus be identified as being politically active offline, offline activities to influence politics, with the exception of signing petitions and voting (Bakker & de Vreese, 2011). This implies that the items that make up this variable require activities that are engaging individuals offline to influence politics. These activities are selected by structurally analysing and assessing the content of the survey.

Item	Questions
V11_2pre	Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Supported a candidate or party.
V11_3pre	Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Attended a campaign meeting or election debate.
V11_1	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Contact (via an appointment, interview or letter) with a city councilor, alderman, mayor or civil servant.
V11_2	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Attended municipal council meeting
V11_3	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Visited public consultation evening (s) of your municipality.
V11_4	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Membership in a political party.

V11_5	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Active in a local action group.
V11_8	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Contacted a political party in your municipality.

Table 3.3: list of items Active Offline Political Participation

The variable *Active Offline Political Participation* consists of eight items, that each consist of an activity that is concerned with *Active Offline Political Participation* (see table 3.3.). From the pre-measurement database, the activities concerning '*did you support a candidate or party during the election period*' and '*attend a campaign meeting or an election debate during the election period*' were selected. These activities were selected because of their *offline* nature and their *political aim*. These items were asked in the context of a time span of the recent weeks, which imply the election campaign for the municipal elections. Further, no other items were selected from the pre-measurement database due to the fact that they did not sufficiently match with the conceptualisation of *Active Offline Political Participation*. From the post-measurement database, six activities were selected to contribute to the measurement of the variable. These six items are concerned with activities that individuals engaged in during the past five years to influence politics. The activities regard making contact with different individuals, such as *city councillors*, *aldermen*, *mayors*, *local civil servants* or *other citizens*, the activities also include visits to *meetings* and for example *membership*.

To construct the variable *Active Offline Political Participation* an index was created, adding up the items v11_2pre, v11_3pre, v11_1, v11_2, v11_3, v11_4, v11_5 and v11_8. This implied that an individual that votes 'Yes' in all questions that are linked to the items, this individual receives a value of 8 in the variable *Active Offline Political Participation* which is labelled *Most Politically Active*. The values of the variable *Active Offline Political Participation* ranges from 0 to 8. Value 0 meaning *Not Politically Active* and value 8 meaning *Most Politically Active*. In order to construct the general variable *Offline Political Participation*, it was necessary to transform the values of the variable to a scale from 0 to 1. This implied that all values of *Active Offline Political Participation* are divided by eight resulting in the following values. 0 = .000, 1 = .125, 2 = .250, 3 = .375, 4 = .500, 5 = .625, 6 = .750, 7 = .875 and 8 = 1.00. [4] The distribution of the variable *Active Offline Political Participation* can be identified in the figure below (see figure 3.4).

[4] For detailed outputs on the variable construction see appendix B.4.

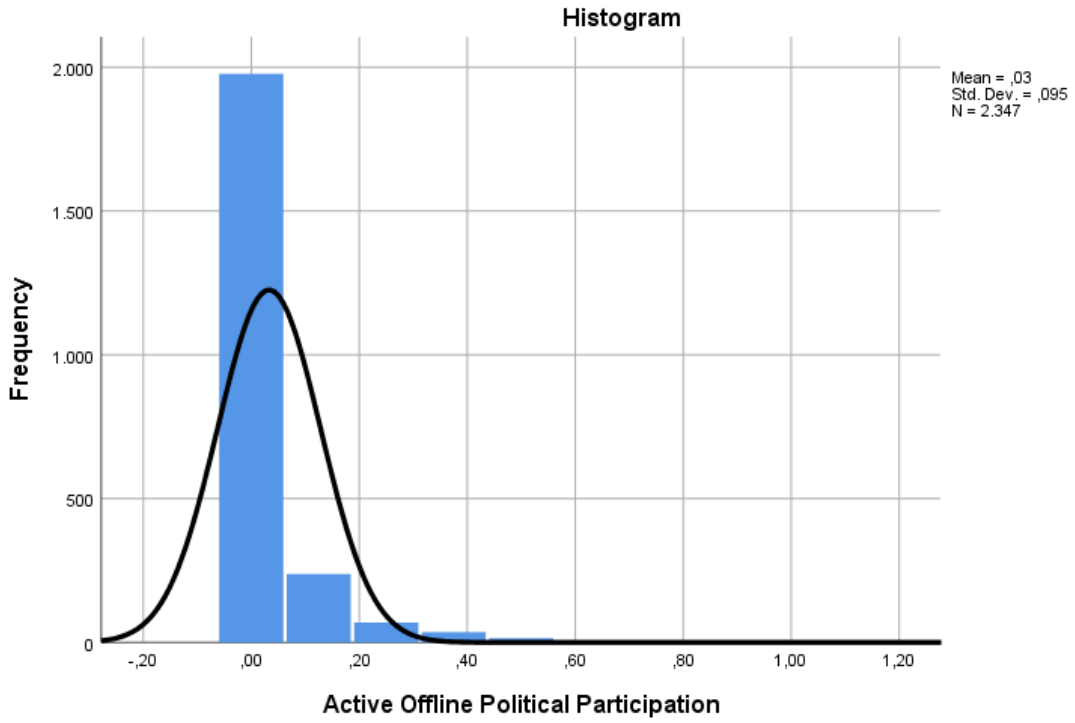

Figure 3.4: histogram Active Offline Political Participation

3.4.5. Passive Offline Political Participation

The variable measures the *Passive Offline Political Participation* as described in the conceptualisation (chapter 2). The definition aims for activities that include *offline activities* with a *Political Purpose* that are characterised by *either voting* or *signing petitions*. This implies that the activities do not include anything else than *voting* or *signing petitions*.

Item	Questions
V1	Did you vote during the municipal elections?
V4	At the same time as the municipal elections of 21 March, a national referendum was also held on the Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv). Did you vote in this referendum?
V7	Did you vote in the parliamentary elections of 2017?
V11_6	Now we ask you a few questions about your involvement in local political activities. There are different ways to raise a political issue or to influence local politicians or the municipality. Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Signed a petition about a local issue (on paper).

Table 3.4: list of items Passive Offline Political Participation

The variable consists of four items (see table 3.4). From the pre-measurement no items were selected. The pre-measurement does include questions on voting, however the items question whether individuals are *'planning to vote in the municipal elections*. Therefore, it was decided

to not include them because the variable *Passive Offline Political Participation* should measure actual participation. From the post-measurement, four items are selected. The items concern *voting in the municipal elections, voting in the referendum, voting in the parliament elections* and *signing a petition on paper in the past five years*.

The variable *Passive Offline Political Participation* is constructed by adding up the individual items. In order to do this, all items that are included should use same values for their measures. Therefore, the items v1, v4 and v7 had to be recoded. In the survey, individuals could indicate if they voted, if they did not know, if they were not allowed to vote or if they were not willing to tell. After the recoding, all items rewarded 0 for answer 'No' and 1 for answer 'Yes'. The values that contained *not willing to say, not allowed to vote* and *don't remember* were coded as missing. To compute the variable *Passive Offline Political Participation* the items v1Recoded, v4Recoded, v7Recoded and v11_6 were added up and this resulted in a new variable that had values ranging from 0 to 4, in which 0 means '*Not Politically Active*' and 4 means '*Most Politically Active*'. In order to construct the general variable *Offline Political Participation*, it was necessary to recode the values of the variable to a scale from 0 to 1. This implied that all values of *Passive Offline Political Participation* are divided by four, resulting in the following values. 0 = .000, 1 = .250, 2 = .500, 3 = .750 and 4 = 1.00.[5] The distribution of *Passive Offline Political Participation* can be found in figure 3.5.

[5] For detailed outputs on the variable construction see appendix B.5.

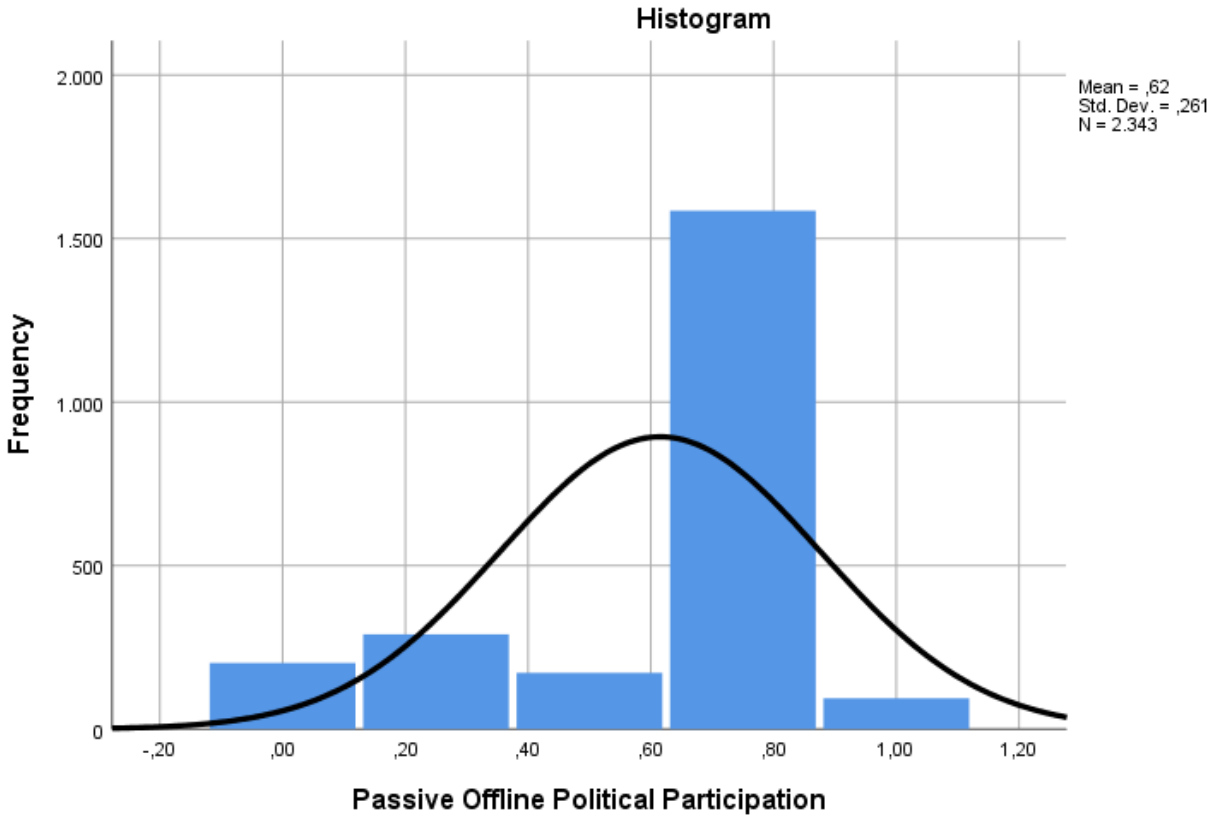

Figure 3.5: histogram Passive Offline Political Participation

3.4.6. Offline Political Participation

The variable *Offline Political Participation* is conceptualised in the previous chapter. This variable ought to measure to what extent individuals are engaging in offline activities that are classified as *Political Participation*. This is measured by a list of activities that are concerned with *Offline Political Participation*. To select the activities that are relevant to this variable, the content of the survey was structurally analysed and assessed. After that, it was decided whether the selected items were concerned with *Active Offline Political Participation* or *Passive Offline Political Participation* (Bakker & de Vreese, 2011) and consequently could be considered an active form or a passive form of *Political Participation*. The variable *Offline Political Participation* consists of both *Passive* and *Active Offline Political Participation* The construction of the variable *Active Offline Political Participation* can be found in section 3.4.4. of this chapter. The construction of the variable *Passive Offline Political Participation* can be found in section 3.4.5. of this chapter.

For the construction of the variable *Offline Political Participation*, the values of both the *Active* and *Passive* variable were altered to a scale from 0 to 1. This was done to make sure that *Active*

Offline Political Participation would not have a higher weight in the general variable than the *passive* form, since the *active* form consisted of more items. To construct the general variable on *Offline Political Participation* the values of the *Active* and *Passive* variable added in an scale. This resulted in a variable (*N=2054)* with values ranging from 0 to 2, in which 0 is labelled as '*Not Politically Active'* and 2 as '*Most Politically Active'*. A new variable was computed. This variable ranged from 0 to 2.[6] The distribution of the variable *Offline Political Participation* can be found in figure 3.6.

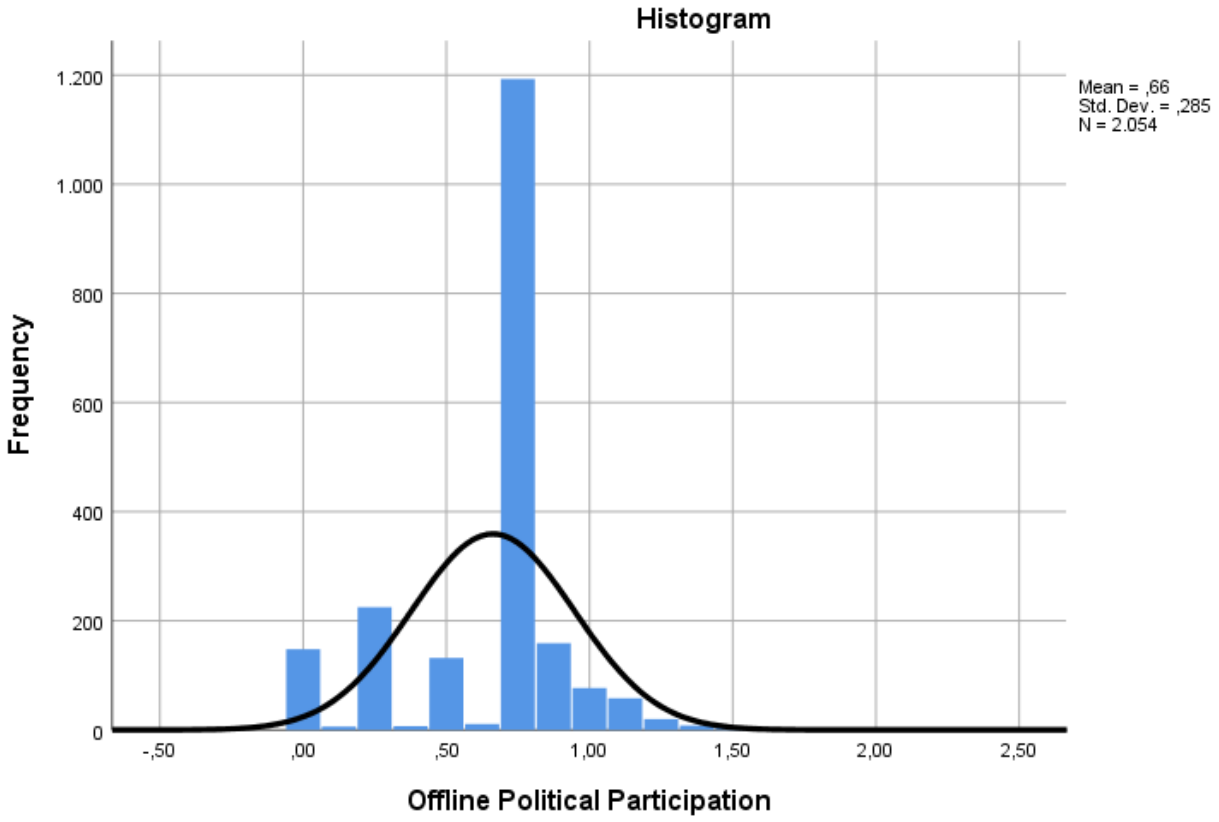

Figure 3.6: histogram Offline Political Participation

[6] For detailed outputs on the variable construction see appendix B.6.

3.4.7. Political Interest

The variable *Political Interest* should measure to what extent individuals consider themselves interested in politics. This implies that the items that make up this variable require questions regarding interest in politics. The items for this variable are selected by structurally analysing and assessing the content of the survey.

Item	Question
V15pre	To what extent are you interested in national politics?
V16pre	To what extent are you interested in local politics?
V32a	To what extent are you interested in national politics?
V32b	To what extent are you interested in local politics?

Table 3.5: list of items Political Interest

The variable *Political Interest* consists of four items (see table 3.5). From the pre-measurement database, two questions were selected regarding *interest in local political* and *interest in national politics*. These items were asked in the context before the municipal elections. From the post-measurement database, two questions were selected to contribute to the measurement of the variable. These two items are also concerned with *interest in local politics* and *interest in national politics* and were asked after the municipal elections. There are thus two same items that measure *Local Political Interest* and two items that measure *National Political Interest*. The individual was therefore asked before the municipal elections and after the municipal elections the same questions on *Political Interest*.

To indicated whether it is a good measure, a factor analysis and a reliability test is conducted (see appendix C.1.). The factor analysis indicated that only one component is extracted[7] with an eigenvalue of 2.732[8]. This explains that the four items that are analysed together measure 1 component. The Cronbach's Alpha value is .845.[9] This implies that the internal consistency of the index good. Due to the sample size is of such a large number $N = 2313$ it is possible to work with the index and thus construct the variable. The correlation between the items are all positive and there are not major differences between the correlations.[10] The smallest correlation is $r = .449$ and the largest correlation is $r = .759$. The high correlations can be explained due to the fact that in the pre-measurement and in the post-measurement, the same questions are

[7] See table c.3. (appendix C)
[8] See table c.2. (appendix C)
[9] See table c.4. (appendix C)
[10] See table c.5. (appendix C)

asked. However, this correlation is not *r =1.00* which means that some individuals did answer differently in the pre-measurement and in the post-measurement.

Before constructing the variable, the items had to be recoded. The items in the survey had 1 = not interested, 2 = fairly interested and 3 = very interested. In order to create a scale that measures *political interest* it is important to assign 'not interested' as value 0. Therefore, the following coding was created: 0 = not interested, 1 = fairly interested and 2 = very interested. To construct the variable *Political Interest* a scale was created, adding up the items v15preRec, v16preRec, v32aRec and v32bRec. This implied that an individual that votes 'not interested' in all questions that are linked to the items, this individual receives a value of 0 in the variable *Political Interest* which is labelled '*Not Interested*'. The values of the variable *Political Interest* ranges from 0 to 8. Value 0 meaning *Not Interested* and value 8 meaning *Most Interested*.[11] The distribution of the variable *Political Interest* can be found in figure 3.7.

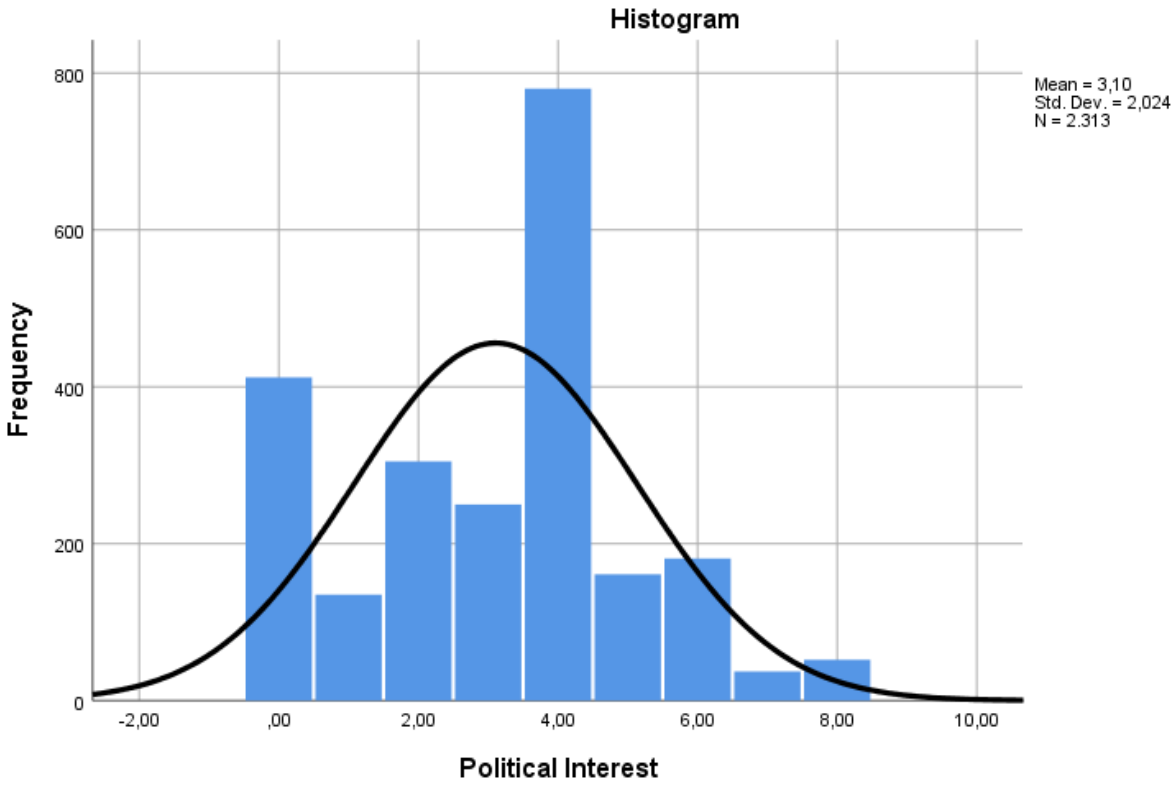

Figure 3.7: histogram Political Interest

[11] For detailed outputs on the variable construction see appendix B.7.

3.5. Data Analysis

From the procedure explained in the operationalisation[12], seven working variables were constructed: *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, *Offline Political Participation*, *Active Offline Political Participation*, *Passive Offline Political Participation* and *Political Interest*. These variables are used to further analyse the data.

Before conducting the analysis, there are several assumptions that needed to be checked in order to be able to make inferences for regression. The first assumption that needed to be check was the *Linearity Assumption* (De Veaux, Velleman, & Bock, 2016, p. 707). This assumption is check via the *Straight Enough Condition* and the *Quantitative Data Condition*. The *Straight Enough Condition* is checked via a scatterplot of residuals against the independent variable or a scatterplot of residuals against the predicted values of the dependent variable. The condition is satisfied if the scatterplot has a horizontal direction and contains no pattern. The *Quantitative Data Condition* can be checked by looking at the dataset.

Next to that it is important to consider the *Independence Assumption* (De Veaux et al., 2016, p. 708). This will be checked via the representative nature of the sample or via a display of the regression residuals that is checked for patterns, trends or clumping. To continue, the *Equal Variance Assumption* (De Veaux et al., 2016, p. 708) needs to be checked. This was done via the *Does the Plot Thicken? Condition*, which is a visual check of a scatterplot of the dependent variable against the independent variable. Also, this can be checked for via a scatterplot of the residuals of the regression against the predicted values of the dependent variable.

To conclude the assumptions that needed to be checked, a final check should assess whether the *Normal Population Assumption* (De Veaux et al., 2016, pp. 708, 709) is satisfied. This is done via the *Nearly Normal Condition* and the *Outlier Condition*. The *Nearly Normal Condition* is checked for by looking at a histogram of the residuals from the regression. Due to the large sample size in this research, this assumption becomes of less importance.

Hypothesis 1: *the more Online Media Use for Political Purposes, the higher the Offline Political Participation*. To test for this relationship, the variables *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* (independent variable) *and Offline Political Participation* (dependent variable) were used. Via a linear regression the outputs for this hypothesis were collected. This

[12] Syntax commands for the variable construction can be found F.1. in the appendix.

allowed for results on the significance of the relationship and the impact. Before conducting the analysis, the assumptions are checked for.

Hypothesis 2: *if the Political Interest is high, we expect a stronger relationship between Online Media use for Political Purpose and Offline Political Participation than if Political Interest is low.* The second hypothesis is testing for an interaction effect of *Political Interest* on the above tested relationship. This will be done via five regression analyses. First, the variable *Political Interest* was recoded (0 = 0, 1 = 1, 2 = 1, 3 = 2, 4 = 2, 5 = 3, 6 = 3, 7 = 4 and 8 = 4). This implied that the variable *politicalinterestRec* had a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 4. Next, the command split file by *Political Interest Recoded* was implemented. After that, a linear regression analysis was run, resulting in five output models in which each model represented a regression analysis based on one of the values of *Political Interest Recoded*. Before conducting the analysis, the assumptions are checked for.

Hypothesis 3: *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose explains Offline Political Participation better than Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose explains Offline Political Participation.* The third hypothesis will be tested via conducting two linear regression analyses of *Online Media Use for Political Purposes* on *Offline Political Participation*. The independent variables in this test are *Active Online Media Use for Political Purposes* and *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purposes*. Before conducting the analysis, the assumptions are checked for.

Hypothesis 4: *Online Media Use for Political Purpose explains Passive Offline Political Participation better than Online Media Use for Political Purpose explains Active Offline Political Participation.* The fourth hypothesis will be tested via conducting two linear regression analyses for *Online Media Use for Political Purposes* on *Offline Political Participation*. The dependent variables in this test are *Active Offline Political Participation* and *Passive Offline Political Participation*. Before conducting the analysis, the assumptions are checked for.

4. Results

In this section, the hypotheses that are proposed in the theory section are tested via regression analyses. In order to structure the analysis, additional null hypotheses are created. In order to answer all the sub-questions, it is of crucial importance that the first hypothesis 'The more *Online Media Use for Political Purposes*, the higher the *Offline Political Participation*' is answered fully and correctly. This is because the analyses of the other three hypothesis depend greatly on the results of the first hypothesis. The hypotheses do not all consists of the same variables and therefore the assumptions are checked per hypotheses or otherwise stated. The syntax commands that are used for these analyses can be found in Appendix F.2.

4.1. Online Media Use for Political Purpose and Offline Political Participation

In this section, it is tested whether the association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* is either present or not present. Both variables consist of values ranging between 0 and 2. To carefully analyse the results, two hypotheses are created to be tested.

H_0: There is no association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*.

H_1: The more *Online Media Use for Political Purposes*, the higher the *Offline Political Participation*.

The alternative hypothesis (H_1) is consistent with the hypothesis that is proposed in the theory section. The null hypothesis will be the starting point in this analysis. If the outputs satisfy the conditions of the null hypothesis, it will be concluded that the null hypothesis will be accepted. However, if there is not sufficient proof to accept the null hypothesis, this hypothesis is rejected and proof is ought to be found for the alternative hypothesis, H_1.

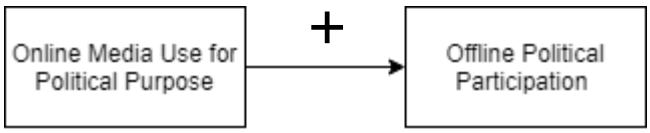

Figure 4.1: Model I

Before analysing the results for model I (see figure 4.1), the assumptions for linear regression are checked as mentioned in the Data Analysis section. First of all, the linearity assumption is checked. To check the linearity assumption, a scatterplot of the residuals of the regression model I against the predicted values of model I is created. From the scatterplot is can be identified that the plot has a horizontal direction and that no patterns are present (see figure d.1.

in appendix). Therefore, it is concluded that the Straight Enough Condition is checked and satisfied. To check the *Independence Assumption* the origin of the data was considered and determined as being a representative sample. Therefore, it can be concluded that the independence assumption is checked and sufficiently proven. Next to that, the *Equal Variance Assumption* needed to be checked via the *Does the Plot Thicken? Condition*. For this, the scatterplot (see figure d.1. in appendix) was also used. What can be seen is that there was a slightly unequal variance when looking at the lack of variance around the predicted value six. However, this could be explained by taking into account the limited amount of cases that represent value six. To check for the *Normal Population Assumption* a Normal Probability Plot of the residuals and a histogram is made (see figure d.2. and d.3.). It could be seen that there is little evidence in both graphs to satisfy for the *Normal Population Assumption*. In the normal probability plot it can be seen that the dots do deviate from the fitted line and in the histogram the residuals are partly normally distributed with the exception of residuals with the value around minus two. However, it must be noted that the sample size of this regression (*N>2000)* allows for the assumption to be considered less important[13].

In the table 4.1. an R value .383 can be identified. This is the value of the correlation of the model. Also, a value of R^2 value .147 can be identified. This value implies that 14,7% of the variation in *Offline Political Participation* can be possibly explained by the values of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. The adjusted R^2 is not used in this analysis for the reason that there is only one parameter so no correction for large numbers of parameters in models are needed. To continue, ANOVA identifies the correspondence between the regression equation and the data. What is important to note in the ANOVA table (see table e.2. in appendix) is the significance of the model I that can be found in the rightest column of the table. What can be seen is that $p < .05$ ($p = .000$) which implies that *Offline Political Participation* is significantly well predicted by the regression model.

Next to that, it is important to the coefficients that come along with model I. The coefficients table e.3. (see appendix) provides the following equation to predict *Offline Political Participation*.

Offline Political Participation = 0.593 + 0.465 (*Online Media Use for Political Purpose)*

[13] See appendix D.1. for detailed outputs from testing the assumptions.

For the analysis it is more convenient to use the standardized coefficients of Beta although both the dependent and the independent are consistent on the same scale (0 – 2). This choice was made in order to make the results of the analyses of the different models more comparable. Therefore, the Beta = .383 (see appendix table e.3) is used. This value thus implies that an increase in *Online Media Use for Political Participation* by 1 standard deviation leads to an increase of .383 standard deviation in *Offline Political Participation*. The p-value of 0.000 in the ANOVA test means that the association that is measured in this regression is unlikely to have occurred by chance. This means that even though r^2 is not strong ($r^2 = .147$) it seems that the null hypothesis can be rejected on the basis of these values, because the null hypothesis implied either $r^2 = 0$, $\beta 1 = 0$ or $p > .05$. However, these values are not consistent with the table 4.1. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis (H1) can be the put central in this analysis.

Table 4.1: Model I results

	Offline Political Participation		
	B	**Beta**	**Sig**
Constant	.593		.000***
OMU	.465	.383	.000***
R^2	.147		

Dependent variable: Offline Political Participation
Independent variable: Online Media Use for Political Purpose
OMU = Online Media Use for Political Purpose
B = Unstandardized Coefficient
* = p <.05, ** = p <.01, *** = p <.001

With the alternative hypothesis central, the values in table 4.1 do provide more prove that there is indeed a positive association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. This conclusion can be deducted from the positive r^2 and the Beta > 0. Since the ANOVA test found evidence that model I is statistically significant and did not occur by chance, it can be concluded that the alternative hypothesis can be accepted in this analysis. It can therefore be assumed that there is an association between an individual engaging in *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and that same individual engaging in *Offline Political Participation*. However, it must be noted that due to number of parameters, it is not possible to exclude other factors that might be of influence on *Offline Political Participation*.

4.2 Online Media Use and Offline Political Participation: the effect of Political Interest

In this section it is tested whether the amount of *Political Interest* influences the strength of the association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. For this analysis the variables *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, *Offline Political Participation* and *Political Interest* are used. To structure this analysis, the following hypotheses were constructed. The alternative hypothesis is consistent with the expectation that was presented in the theory section.

H0: *Political Interest* has no effect on the relation between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*.

H1: if the *Political Interest* is high, we expect a stronger relationship between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* than if *Political Interest* is low

What can be identified is that the hypotheses in this section build upon the analysis that was conducted in the previous section. Model I is in this section expanded with an interaction effect. Therefore, model II is partly similar to model I, however it can be identified in figure 4.2. that *Political Interest* is added as an additional variable that might influence the association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*.

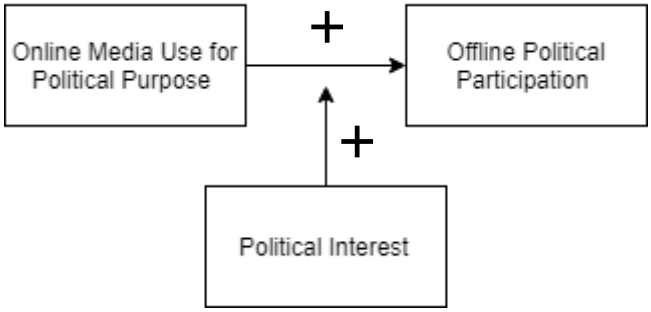

Figure 4.2: model II

Before conducting the regression analyses, the assumptions that allow for linear regression inferences must be checked and satisfied. Since all five regression models (IIa. IIb. IIc. IId. IIe) consist of the same dependent variable, *Offline Political Participation*, and independent variable, *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, it can be concluded that all assumptions are

checked and satisfied sufficiently in the analysis of model I[14]. In table 4.2. it can be seen which model type II is connected with which value of *Political Interest*.

Model	Political Interest
IIa	0
IIb	1
IIc	2
IId	3
IIe	4

Table 4.2: Different types model II

Table 4.3: Model II results

		OMU		
Political Interest	**B**	**Sig**	**R^2**	**N**
0	.260	.000***	.068	412
1	**.156**	**.002****	**.024**	**440**
2	.244	.000***	.060	1030
3	**.386**	**.000*****	**.149**	**342**
4	.659	.000***	.435	89

Independent variables: Online Media Use for Political Purpose
Dependant variable: Offline Political Participation
OMU = Online Media Use for Political Purpose
B = standardized beta coefficient
* = p <.05, ** = p <.01, *** = p <.001

The first regression model that is analysed is model IIa. This model fits a linear regression between the independent variable *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* for all respondents that scored on *Political Interest* = 0. What can be identified is that r^2 is .068 which is a low value (see table 4.3.). This implies that for respondents that are not politically interested, the amount they engage in *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*

[14] For the details of checking the assumptions, see chapter 4.1. and see appendix D1.

only explains 6,8% of the variance in their engagement in *Offline Political Participation*. When looking at the ANOVA test, the change that these values occurred by chance is little since the model IIa is statistically significant, $p < .000$ (see appendix E.2.).

The second regression analysis that is conducted is the linear regression for model IIb which includes the data from the respondents that scored value 1 on the variable *Political Interest*. What immediately is visible is that the values differ from model IIa. First of all, the r^2 is smaller, namely $r^2 = .024$. Next to that the Beta is also smaller, which implies that an increase in *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* leads to a smaller increase of *Offline Political Participation*. What must be noted is that the p-value of model IIb is larger than of all other models that are analysed in this section (see table 4.3). Although the $p < .05$, it is important notice that the model that fits the null hypothesis best, is the least statistically significant from all types of model II.

The third regression analysis concerns the respondents scored value 2 on the variable *Political Interest*. What must be noted in this analysis is that it contains the largest group of respondents, (see table 4.3). This group represents almost half of the sample's population. In the model summary of model IIc (see table e.10) it can be identified that the values much more correspond with the values that resulted from model IIa. With an $r^2 = .060$ this model implies that 6% of the variation in *Offline Political Participation* can be explained by the value a respondent scores on *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. What can be seen in in table 4.3. is that for *Political Interest* values 0, 1 and 2, the association between the *Offline Political Participation* and *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* is ranging between $.024 < r^2 < .068$. There is no pattern of increase or decrease visible in the analyses of the models, therefore there is little evidence to reject the null hypothesis based on model IIa, IIb and IIc.

However, when analysing the model IId (*Political Interest* = 3) the r^2 doubles in value comparing it to the values of *Political Interest* 0, 1 and 2. The r^2 results in .146 which means that 14,6% of the variation in *Offline Political Participation* of respondent that are more politically interested (3) can be explained by their engagement in *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. The ANOVA (see table e.14) proves the model to be statistically significant and therefore model IId does represent an effect of the variable *Political Interest*. When including the final regression analysis, model IIe, the increase of the r^2 continues (see table e.16.). If respondents are most politically interested, 43,5% of the variation in *Offline Political*

Participation can be explained by their engagement in *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. Also, the p-value of this model is statistically significant, see table 4.3.

What can be identified from the above presented outputs is that the r^2 is not the same for the different values of *Political Interest*. The models per value of *Political Interest* are due to $p<0.05$ all statistically significant. What is also remarkable is that the r^2 from model I, which was analysed in the previous section, differs from both the smallest r^2 (model IIb) and the largest r^2 (model IIe). This provides sufficient prove to assume that *Political Interest* does influence the association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. Therefore, it must be concluded that the null hypothesis must be rejected. The alternative hypothesis (H_1) will consequently be put central in this analysis and tested against the evidence.

There is already evidence that partly confirms the likelihood that the alternative hypothesis is true. This claim can be extracted from the evidence that proved the null hypothesis to be wrong, which is namely the difference between r^2 of model I and the types of model II. To be able to fully test the alternative hypothesis, it is important to find evidence on the direction of the effect of *Political Interest* on the association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. What can be identified from table 4.3. is that the r^2 can be categorised low (*Political Interest* 0, 1 and 2), middle (*Political Interest* 3) and high (*Political Interest* 4). This implies that overall it can be probably be assumed that the higher the *Political Interest*, the stronger the association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. Therefore, this provides evidence for a positive direction of the interaction effect. Keeping this in mind, the analyses of the types of model II provide enough evidence to assume the alternative hypothesis to be true. Therefore, it can be assumed that a respondent that is politically interested, the association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* is stronger than if a respondent is less politically interested.

4.3. Active Online Media Use and Passive Online Media Use on Offline Political Participation

In this section, it is tested whether *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Offline Political Participation* better than *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Offline Political Participation*. The different types of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* that are identified in the theory section and operationalised in chapter 3 are an *active* type and a *passive*

type of media use. To test this, two hypotheses are constructed on the basis of figure 4.3. The null hypothesis assumes that there is no different association for *Active* and *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* against the dependent variable *Offline Political Participation*. The alternative hypothesis however expects that this association is different for the different types of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. The alternative hypothesis claims that the there is a greater association between *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* than between *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. The model that is used to test the hypotheses is model III. Overall, this model resembles the first model, model I, however model III finds itself to have two forms, model IIIa. and model IIIb.

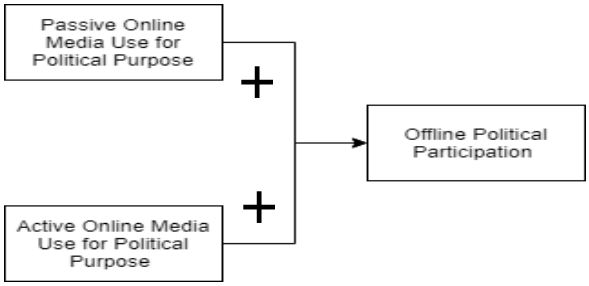

Figure 4.3: model III

H0: *Active* or *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* have no different effects on *Offline Political Participation*.

H1: *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Offline Political Participation* better than *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Offline Political Participation*.

Table 4.4: model IIIa and model IIIb

Model	**Independent variable**	**Dependent variable**
IIIa	Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose	Offline Political Participation
IIIb	Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose	Offline Political Participation

Before analysing the results for model IIIa and IIIb (see table 4.4), the assumptions for linear regression are checked as mentioned in the data analysis section. First of all, the linearity assumption is checked. To check the linearity assumption of model IIIa, a scatterplot of the residuals of the regression model IIIa against the predicted values of model IIIa is created (see appendix figure d.4). From the scatterplot is can be identified that the plot has a horizontal direction and that no patterns are present. Therefore, it is concluded that the Straight Enough

Condition is checked and satisfied. To check the linearity assumption of model IIIb, also a scatterplot of the residuals of the regression model IIIb against the predicted values of model IIIb is created. From the scatterplot is can be identified that the plot has a horizontal direction and that no patterns are present (see figure d.7. in appendix). Therefore, it can also be concluded that the Straight Enough Condition is checked and satisfied for model IIIb. To check the *Independence Assumption* the origin of the data for both model IIIa and model IIIb was considered and determined as being a representative sample. Therefore, it can be concluded that the independence assumption is checked and sufficiently proven. Next to that, the *Equal Variance Assumption* needed to be checked for model IIIa via the *Does the Plot Thicken? Condition*. For this, the scatterplot of model IIIa (see figure d.4. in appendix) was also used. What can be seen is that the plot does not significantly thickens and therefore it can be concluded that the *Equal Variance Assumption* can be checked. Continuing, also the *Equal Variance Assumption* needed to be checked for model IIIb via the *Does the Plot Thicken? Condition*. For this, the scatterplot (see figure d.7. in appendix) was also used. What can be noticed is that on the right in the scatterplot an outlier is present. This could be problematic. However, it is only one deviation. To check for the *Normal Population Assumption* a Normal Probability Plot of the residuals[15] and a histogram[16] is made of both model IIIa and model IIIb. It could be seen that there is little evidence in both graphs for both models to satisfy for the *Normal Population Assumption*. In both Normal Probability Plots it can be seen that the dots do deviate from the fitted line and in both histograms the residuals are not really normally distributed. However, it must be noted that the sample size of this regression (*N>2000)* allows for the assumption to be considered less important[17].

Table 4.5: Model IIIa and IIIb

	Active OMU				Passive OMU			
	B	Sig	R^2	N	B	Sig	R^2	N
OPP	.331	.000***	.109		.304	.000***	.093	

Independent variables: Active Online Media Use for Political Purposes, Passive Online Media Use for Political Purposes
Dependant variable: Offline Political Participation
OPP = Offline Political Participation
B = Standardized coefficient
* = p <.05, ** = p <.01, *** = p <.001

[15] See appendix d.5. and d.8.
[16] See appendix d.6. and d.9.
[17] See appendix D for detailed outputs from testing the assumptions.

In the table 4.5 the results of the regression analyses of model IIIa and IIIb are presented. What can be seen is that both models can be considered statistically significant because $p < .001$. In this analysis it is important to note whether there is a difference between model IIIa and model IIIb. To check for the null hypothesis, it is important to ask the question whether both *Active* and *Passive* equally explain the variation in *Offline Political Participation*. To check this, it is important to look at the r^2 of both model IIIa and model IIIb. What can be seen in table 4.5. is that the r^2 of model IIIa is .109 and the r^2 of model IIIb is .093. This implies that 10,9% of the variation in *Offline Participation* can be explained by *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* is able to explain 9,3% of the variation in *Offline Political Participation*. Though the difference between the percentages is rather small, it is important to note that there is indeed a difference. Therefore, the null hypothesis must be rejected, because there is no evidence to support the claim that different types of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, *Active* or *Passive*, have no different effects on *Offline Political Participation*.

To continue the analysis, now the alternative hypothesis is considered which implies that there are indeed different effects present in model IIIa and model IIIb and that the *Active* form explains the *Offline Political Participation* better. As described in the previous section, there is proven to be a difference in the r^2 of both models, however this difference is extremely small. It can be seen that thus *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* does explain the variation in *Offline Political Participation* better than *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, but only a little better. Therefore, it can be concluded that strictly speaking there is sufficient evidence to accept the alternative hypothesis and to assume that *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Offline Political Participation* better than *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Offline Political Participation*. However, this result is rather unsubstantial and therefore it would be misleading to accept the alternative hypothesis and to claim that there is indeed a difference. Therefore, it would be concluded that the null hypothesis is rejected, but the alternative hypothesis not proven significantly to unconditionally accept the alternative hypothesis for the truth.

4.4 Online Media Use on Active Offline Political Participation and Passive Offline Political Participation

In this section, the final hypothesis from the theory section is tested. To do this, two regression analyses are conducted to test whether the effects of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* differ not for different types of *Offline Political Participation*. In order to structure the analysis, two hypotheses are constructed to structurally analyse the regression outputs of the two regression models. The null hypothesis assumes that the effect of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* is the same for both *Active* and *Passive Offline Political Participation*. The alternative hypothesis (H1) contradicts this and assumes that this effect is not the same and that *Online Media Use* for *Political Purpose* explains *Passive Offline Political Participation* better than *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Active Offline Political Participation*. Starting with the null hypothesis, two models are constructed from figure 4.4. In table 4.6 the models IVa and IVb are displayed with the corresponding variables. Again, model IVa and IVb combined can be seen as model IV, and this model is in its nature similar to model I that was tested in the first section of this chapter.

H0: The effects of *Online Media Use for Political Purposes* differ not for *Active Offline Political Participation* and *Passive Offline Political Participation*.

H1: *Online Media Use* for *Political Purpose* explains *Passive Offline Political Participation* better than *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Active Offline Political Participation*.

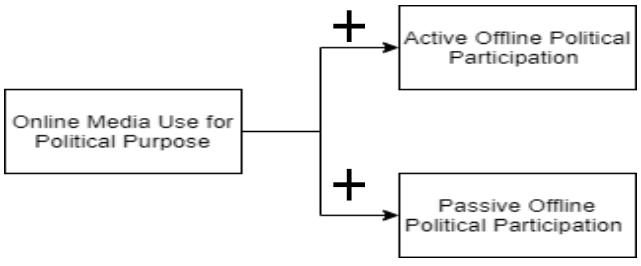

Figure 4.4 model IV

Table 4.6: model IVa and model IVb

Model	Independent variable	Dependent variable
IVa	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	Active Offline Political Participation
IVb	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	Passive Offline Political Participation

Before continuing to the analyses, it is important to check the assumptions. Since there are two models that are worked with, the assumptions must be checked twice. Starting with model IVa, *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* against *Active Offline Political Participation*. First, the linearity assumption is checked via a scatterplot of the residuals of the regression model IVa against the predicted values of model IVa (see appendix D, figure d.10.). What can be identified from the plot is that there is a horizontal direction in the plot. It is debatable whether any patterns are present. It looks like there are similar trends in the scatterplot. However, it is found that these patterns do not fully resemble each other and therefore the linearity assumption is checked. Next, it is necessary to check the *Independence Assumption* which can be done by considering the data. When doing this, it can be concluded that the data that is used for model IVa is from a representative sample in which interdependence between the respondents is unlikely to have occurred. Further, the *Equal Variance Assumption* needed to be checked for model IVa via the *Does the Plot Thicken? Condition*. For this, the scatterplot of model IVa (see figure d.10. in appendix) was also used. What can be seen is that the plot does not significantly thickens and therefore it can be concluded that the *Equal Variance Assumption* can be checked. To check for the *Normal Population Assumption* a Normal Probability Plot of the residuals (see figure d.11.) and a histogram (see figure d.12.) is made of model IVa. It could be seen that there is little evidence in the graph for model IVa to satisfy for the *Normal Population Assumption*. In the normal probability plot it can be seen that the dots do deviate from the fitted line and in both histograms the residuals are not really normally distributed. However, it must be noted that the sample size of this regression (*N>2000)* allows for the assumption to be considered less important[18].

In the same manner the assumptions for model IVb must be checked, *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* against *Passive Offline Political Participation*. First, the linearity assumption is checked via a scatterplot of the residuals of the regression model IVb against the predicted values of model IVb (see appendix d.13.). What can be identified from the plot is that there is a horizontal direction in the plot. Also, it is debatable whether any patterns are present. It looks like there are similar trends in the scatterplot. However, same as for model IVa, it is found that these patterns do not fully resemble each other and therefore the linearity assumption is checked. Next, it is necessary to check the *Independence Assumption* which can be done by considering the data. When doing this, it can be concluded that the data that is used for model IVb is also from a representative sample in which interdependence between the respondents is

[18] See appendix D for detailed outputs from testing the assumptions.

unlikely to have occurred. Further, the *Equal Variance Assumption* needed to be checked for model IVb via the *Does the Plot Thicken? Condition*. For this, the scatterplot of model IVa (see figure d.13. in appendix) was also used. What can be seen is that the plot does not significantly thickens and therefore it can be concluded that the *Equal Variance Assumption* can be checked. To check for the *Normal Population Assumption* a Normal Probability Plot of the residuals (see figure d.14.) and a histogram (see figure d.15.) is made of model IVb. It could be seen that there is little evidence in the graph for model IVb to satisfy for the *Normal Population Assumption*. In the Normal Probability Plot the dots do deviate from the fitted line and in both histograms the residuals are not normally distributed. However, it must be noted that the sample size of this regression (*N>2000)* allows for the assumption to be considered less important[19] for model IVa.

Table 4.7: results regression model IVa and IVb

	STANDARDIZED BETA	SIGNIFICANCE	R^2
ACTIVE OPP	.482	.000***	.232
PASSIVE OPP	.252	.000***	.063

Independent variable: Active Online Media Use for Political Purposes
Dependent variables: Active Offline Political Participation and Passive Offline Political Participation
OPP = Offline Political Participation
B = Standardized coefficient
* = p <.05, ** = p <.01, *** = p <.001

Both regression analyses are run, and the important results are summarised in table 4.7. Further output can be found in the appendix E. What can be identified is that both model IVa and IVb are statistically significant. This can be concluded via de ANOVA tests that were conducted during the regression analyses. The aim in this analysis is to accept or reject the null hypothesis that assumes that *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* has the same effect on both *Active* and *Passive Offline Political Participation*. To find evidence for this claim, it is important to consider and compare the r^2 for model IVa and IVb. What can be found there is that the r^2 of model IVa is different from the r^2 of model IVa. This implies that the effect of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* does not have the same association with both *Active* and *Passive Offline Political Participation*. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is no evidence that supports the claim of the null hypothesis, so the null hypothesis is rejected. The alternative hypothesis (H1) is now put central in this analysis. To find support for the claim of the alternative hypothesis, it is again looked at the r^2. *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*

[19] See appendix D for detailed outputs from testing the assumptions.

explains 23,2 % of the variation in *Active Offline Political Participation*. For model IVb, this value is much lower. Namely, *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains only 6,3 % of the variation in *Passive Offline Political Participation*. With these results, it is consequently necessary to reject the alternative hypothesis and to conclude that *Online Media Use* for *Political Purpose* does not explain *Passive Offline Political Participation* better than *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Active Offline Political Participation*. But that indeed, there is evidence that this effect is the other way around. Namely that *Online Media Use* for *Political Purpose* explains *Active Offline Political Participation* better than *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Passive Offline Political Participation*.

5. Conclusion and Discussion

The aim of this research was to formulate an answer to the question: *To what extent is the use of Online Media for Political Purpose affecting the Offline Political Participation among Dutch citizens and to which extent is this influenced by other factors??* In order to formulate an answer to this question, three sub-questions were created to be able to provide an additional answer for the central question of this thesis. In this section, it is aimed to provide an answer for both the central question and the sub-questions of this thesis.

To what extent is the use of Online Media Use for Political Purpose affecting the Offline Political Participation among Dutch citizens and to which extent is this influenced by other factors?

Central for this question was the first hypothesis of this thesis which assumed the more *Online Media Use for Political Purposes*, the higher the *Offline Political Participation*. The results from the regression analysis provided enough evidence to accept this claim. The results concluded statistically significant that 14,7% of the variation in *Offline Political Participation* can be explained by *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. The correlation between the two variable is positive and therefore it can be concluded that the more *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*, the higher the *Offline Political Participation* among respondents. The conclusion in this paper thus confirms the conclusions of Boulianne (2015) that the data of the meta-analysis suggests that there is a positive relationship. So, to answer the question, *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* is positively affecting *Offline Political Participation* among Dutch citizens.

Does Political Interest in local and national politics influence the relationship between Online Media Use for Political Purpose and Offline Political Participation?

What can be found in the results is corresponding with the findings of Kruikemeier et al. (2014) who claim that the association between *Internet Use for Political Purpose* and *Participation* is very much depending on one's *Political Interest*. Indeed, this is also what can be concluded from the regression results in this thesis. What can be concluded is that for respondents that scored 0, 1 and 2 in *Political Interest* a much weaker association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* was present. This indicates that for those who are less interested in politics, their engagement in *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* does not necessary explain part of their engagement in *Offline Political Participation*. However, for respondents that scored 3 and 4, the association between *Online Media Use for*

Political Purpose and *Offline Political Participation* increased significantly. Therefore, it can be concluded that the variable *Political Interest* does have an interactive effect on the association. To formulate an answer to the sub-question, it can be concluded that *Political Interest* in local and/or national politics influences the relationship between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* positively. This implies that if an individual is highly politically interested, its engagement in *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* is much greater in explaining their engagement in *Offline Political Participation* in contrary to an individual that is less politically interested. This result is highly corresponding with the views of Bimber (1999), one of the frequent quoted scientists by other scholars in the field of this research. However, what must be noted is that this interaction effect of *Political Interest* only comes in play when the interest is really high. If an individual scores zero, the interaction effect is higher than if an individual scores value one. Why this is the case and how this can be explained is by far not known. What might possibly be the case is that a politically interested individual finds it more or less a duty to be politically active and therefore his interest enhances the association between *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation*. This feeling of duty might be less present at individuals that are not very much interested in politics, and therefore their choice to engage in *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* and *Offline Political Participation* is rather incidental and sporadic. Also, Boulianne (2009, p. 202) explains that the role of *Political Interest* in influencing the effect of Internet use on engagement may be changing across time. Taking this into account, the effect of *Political Interest* in on the association might in this case be highly influence by the focus on the municipal elections and its time frame.

Do different types of Online Media use for Political Purpose have different effects on Offline Political Participation?

This sub-question was linked with a corresponding hypothesis that claimed that *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Offline Political Participation* better than *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Offline Political Participation*. The different types of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* were set as *Active* and *Passive* forms. What could be identified from the results is that there is a slight statistically significant difference between the effects of the types of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose*. *Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose* (10,9%) explains *Offline Political Participation* a little bit better than *Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose* (9,3%). Although there is a difference present in the effects, the evidence is too weak to unconditionally support the claim of Dhanavan V. Shah et

al. (2001, p. 491) that internet for exchange of information, so interactive, is associated with higher levels of participation. Concluding, different types of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose, Active* or *Passive*, have minor different effects on *Offline Political Participation*. Therefore, it barely matters whether individuals engage in one-way-communication (non-interactive, passive) and two-way-communication (interactive, active) in explaining their engagement in *Offline Political Participation*.

Do the effects of Online Media Use for Political Purpose differ per type of Offline Political Participation?

This sub-question was linked to the final hypothesis in this thesis that tried to find evidence for the claim that *Online Media Use* for *Political Purpose* explains *Passive Offline Political Participation* better than *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* explains *Active Offline Political Participation*. However, what could be concluded from the results is that *Online Media Use for Political Participation* explains *Active Offline Political Participation* much better than *Passive Offline Political Participation*. This supports the claim of Bakker and de Vreese (2011, p. 460) that indeed there are differences in effects present for different types of political participation. However, it contradicts the hypothesis 4 that was formulated in the theory section. The testing in two dimensions, *active* and *passive*, led to new insight about the association between the variables and which association is stronger. However, much is still unclear in this area. In this section the answer to the question whether there are different effects is provided, but why *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* predicts *Active Offline Political Participation* better than for example voting in election (*Passive Offline Political Participation)* is still an interesting topic to exploit further.

Although evidence has been found to support the hypotheses and provide for answers in this thesis, there are various limitations and points of improvement that can be identified. First of all, the data collection set place in a time of campaigns and elections. Therefore, it is hard to generalise the observed association for times in which no elections or campaigns take place. Also considering that it concerned municipal elections might be a factor in explaining these specific outcomes of the thesis. It would be recommended when assessing the full extent of influence of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* to also include data from other time frames and other elections. This could also overcome another limitation of the research which is, the causal limitation. The research design in this thesis was cross-sectional which implied that various threats could not have been checked, for example reversed causation. The research

design does not allow for evidence to determine which variable precedes. Therefore it would be recommended to conduct a longitudinal study which is able to find more evidence for causation (Dooley, 2009, pp. 265, 266).

Also, content validity was one of the major limitations of this research. The activities selected from the survey ought to measure the overall variables. However, it is almost impossible to create a construct that is completely valid when there are so many different activities that could be tested for. It cannot be ruled out that the concepts in this research, measured with constructs that contain other items/activities, might result in completely different findings. Therefore, it is important to extensively consider the activities that are included when interpreting the results and the conclusions.

This research aimed to test known effects of *Online Media Use for Political Purpose* with new and recent sample of Dutch citizens to check whether the effects are also present here. The thesis concluded that indeed the effects that are much know, are significantly visible in the data. What is interesting next is how politicians and policy makers can use this information to increase the overall *Political Participation* and 'save' the democracy, as mentioned in the introduction. However, this thesis and its conclusion are still far to basic and broad to deduct clear points of action from. But, they can function as starting point for further research in the area and the conclusion can also serve complementary to the work of other scholars. Especially with the increasing role of *Online Media* in society, it is important that the effects are mapped and identified and consequently can be used by policy makers as tools to include the '*demos*' in democracy again.

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[20] Faculty at the University of Twente, based in Enschede.

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Data Appendix

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Appendix A: Translation Survey Questions

This appendix contains the variable name, the Dutch question and the English question.

Table a.1: Translation Survey Questions Pre-Measurement

Variable	Dutch	English
V10_1	Hebt u, om informatie over de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen te zoeken, de afgelopen weken wel eens één van de volgende dingen gedaan? De website van één of meer lokale partijen bezocht.	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Visited the website of one or more local parties.
V10_2	Hebt u, om informatie over de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen te zoeken, de afgelopen weken wel eens één van de volgende dingen gedaan? De website van de gemeente bezocht.	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Visited the website of the municipality.
V10_3	Hebt u, om informatie over de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen te zoeken, de afgelopen weken wel eens één van de volgende dingen gedaan? Een lokale stemwijzer ingevuld.	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Made use of a voting guide for the municipal elections.
V10_4	Hebt u, om informatie over de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen te zoeken, de afgelopen weken wel eens één van de volgende dingen gedaan? Op sociale media (Twitter, Facebook, blogs, Whatsapp) gelezen over de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen.	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Read about the municipal elections on social media (Twitter, Facebook, blogs, WhatsApp).
V11_2	Hebt u tijdens de verkiezingscampagne (in de afgelopen weken) één van de volgende dingen gedaan? Een kandidaat of partij gesteund (bijvoorbeeld: financieel of door mee te doen bij campagneactiviteiten, of het dragen van een button of ophangen van een poster).	Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Supported a candidate or party (for example: financially or by participating in campaign activities, or wearing a button or hanging a poster).
V11_3	Hebt u tijdens de verkiezingscampagne (in de afgelopen weken) één van de volgende dingen gedaan? Een campagnebijeenkomst of verkiezingsdebat bijgewoond.	Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Attended a campaign meeting or election debate.
V11_4	Hebt u tijdens de verkiezingscampagne (in de afgelopen weken) één van de volgende dingen gedaan? Via sociale media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp) met anderen gediscussieerd over de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen.	Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Discussed about the municipal election with other via social media (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp).
V15	Tot slot volgt een aantal vragen over uw interesse in the nationale en lokale politiek en uw opvattingen over de lokale politiek. In hoeverre bent u geïnteresseerd in de nationale politiek?	Finally, there are a number of questions about your interest in the national and local politics and your views on local politics. To what extent are you interested in national politics?
V16	In hoeverre bent u geïnteresseerd in de lokale politiek?	To what extent are you interested in local politics?

Table a.2: Translation Survey Questions Post-Measurement

Variable	Dutch	English
V1	Hebt u gestemd tijdens de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen?	Did you vote during the municipal elections?
V4	Tegelijk met de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen van 21 maart is er ook een landelijk referendum gehouden over de Wet op de inlichtingen- en veiligheidsdiensten (Wiv). Hebt u gestemd bij dit referendum?	At the same time as the municipal elections of 21 March, a national referendum was also held on the Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv). Did you vote in this referendum?
V7	Hebt u gestemd bij de Tweede Kamerverkiezingen van 2017?	Did you vote in the parliamentary elections of 2017?
V11_1	Nu stellen we u een aantal vragen over uw betrokkenheid bij lokale politieke activiteiten. Er zijn verschillende manieren om iets politiek aan de orde te stellen of invloed uit te oefenen op lokale politici of de gemeente. Van welke van de volgende manieren hebt u in de afgelopen 5 jaar gebruik gemaakt? Contact gelegd (via een afspraak, gesprek of in brief) met een gemeenteraadslid, wethouder, burgemeester of ambtenaar.	Now we ask you a few questions about your involvement in local political activities. There are different ways to raise a political issue or to influence local politicians or the municipality. Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Contact (via an appointment, interview or letter) with a city councillor, alderman, mayor or civil servant.
V11_2	Nu stellen we u een aantal vragen over uw betrokkenheid bij lokale politieke activiteiten. Er zijn verschillende manieren om iets politiek aan de orde te stellen of invloed uit te oefenen op lokale politici of de gemeente. Van welke van de volgende manieren hebt u in de afgelopen 5 jaar gebruik gemaakt? Gemeenteraadsvergadering bezocht.	Now we ask you a few questions about your involvement in local political activities. There are different ways to raise a political issue or to influence local politicians or the municipality. Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Attended municipal council meeting.
V11_3	Nu stellen we u een aantal vragen over uw betrokkenheid bij lokale politieke activiteiten. Er zijn verschillende manieren om iets politiek aan de orde te stellen of invloed uit te oefenen op lokale politici of de gemeente. Van welke van de volgende manieren hebt u in de afgelopen 5 jaar gebruik gemaakt? Inspraakavond(en) van uw gemeente bezocht.	Now we ask you a few questions about your involvement in local political activities. There are different ways to raise a political issue or to influence local politicians or the municipality. Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Visited public consultation evening (s) of your municipality.
V11_4	Nu stellen we u een aantal vragen over uw betrokkenheid bij lokale politieke activiteiten. Er zijn verschillende manieren om iets politiek aan de orde te stellen of invloed uit te oefenen op lokale politici of de gemeente. Van welke van de volgende manieren hebt u in de afgelopen 5 jaar gebruik gemaakt? Lidmaatschap van een politieke partij.	Now we ask you a few questions about your involvement in local political activities. There are different ways to raise a political issue or to influence local politicians or the municipality. Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Membership in a political party.
V11_5	Nu stellen we u een aantal vragen over uw betrokkenheid bij lokale politieke activiteiten. Er zijn verschillende manieren om iets politiek aan de orde te stellen of invloed uit te oefenen op lokale politici of de gemeente. Van welke van de volgende manieren hebt u in de afgelopen 5 jaar gebruik gemaakt? Actief in een lokale actiegroep.	Now we ask you a few questions about your involvement in local political activities. There are different ways to raise a political issue or to influence local politicians or the municipality. Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Active in a local action group.
V11_6	Nu stellen we u een aantal vragen over uw betrokkenheid bij lokale politieke activiteiten. Er zijn verschillende manieren om iets politiek aan de orde te stellen of invloed uit te oefenen op lokale politici of de gemeente. Van welke van de volgende manieren hebt u in de afgelopen 5 jaar gebruik gemaakt? Een petitie getekend over een lokale kwestie (op papier).	Now we ask you a few questions about your involvement in local political activities. There are different ways to raise a political issue or to influence local politicians or the municipality. Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Signed a petition about a local issue (on paper).
V11_8	Nu stellen we u een aantal vragen over uw betrokkenheid bij lokale politieke activiteiten. Er zijn verschillende manieren om iets politiek aan de orde te stellen of invloed uit te oefenen op lokale politici of de gemeente. Van welke van de volgende manieren hebt u in de afgelopen 5 jaar gebruik gemaakt? Contact opgenomen met een politieke partij in uw gemeente.	Now we ask you a few questions about your involvement in local political activities. There are different ways to raise a political issue or to influence local politicians or the municipality. Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Contacted a political party in your municipality.
V12_1	Hebt u de afgelopen vijf jaar wel een gebruik gemaakt van het internet, e-mails, apps of sociale media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp om contact te	Have you made use of the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp)

	leggen met gemeenteraadsleden, wethouders of de burgemeester?	to contact city councillors, aldermen or the mayor in the past five years?
V12_2	Hebt u de afgelopen vijf jaar wel een gebruik gemaakt van het internet, e-mails, apps of sociale media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp om contact te leggen met gemeentearnbtenaren over een lokale kwestie?	Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whats App) to contact local civil servants about a local issue in the past five years?
V12_3	Hebt u de afgelopen vijf jaar wel een gebruik gemaakt van het internet, e-mails, apps of sociale media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp om contact te leggen met andere inwoners en organisaties over een lokale kwestie?	Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whats App) to contact other citizens and organisations about a local issue in the past five years?
V12_4	Hebt u de afgelopen vijf jaar wel een gebruik gemaakt van het internet, e-mails, apps of sociale media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp om een initiatief of petitie te tekenen over een lokale kwestie?	Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whats App) to sign an initiative or petition on a local issue in the past five years?
V32a	Nu volgt een aantal vragen over uw interesse in de lokale en nationale politiek. In hoeverre bent u geïnteresseerd in de nationale politiek?	Now a few questions about your interest in local and national politics. To what extent are you interested in national politics?
V32b	In hoeverre bent u geïnteresseerd in de lokale politiek?	To what extent are you interested in local politics?
V36	Volgt u politici uit uw gemeente op sociale media als Facebook, Twitter, of Instagram?	Do you follow politicians from your municipality on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram?

Appendix B: Operationalisation: variable construction

Appendix B.1. Active Online Media Use for Political Purposes

Table b.1: Statistics of items Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose

		V11_4PRE	V12_1	V12_2	V12_3
N	Valid	2559	2703	2703	2703
	Missing	357	213	213	213

Table b.2: List items Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Item/variable	Label	Values
V11_4pre	Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Discussed about the municipal election with other via social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whats App).	0 = No 1 = Yes
V12_1	Have you made use of the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whats App) to contact city councillors, aldermen or the mayor in the past five years?	0 = No 1 = Yes
V12_2	Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whats App) to contact local civil servants about a local issue in the past five years?	0 = No 1 = Yes
V12_3	Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whats App) to contact other citizens and organisations about a local issue in the past five years?	0 = No 1 = Yes
Mediause_active	Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose	0 1 2 3 4
Mediause_activeRec	Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose	0 = 0 1 = 0,250 2 = 0,500 3 = 0,750 4 = 1

Table b.3: Frequency table v11_4pre

Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Discussed about the municipal election with other via social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2469	84,7	96,5	96,5
	Yes	90	3,1	3,5	100,0
	Total	2559	87,8	100,0	
Missing	System	357	12,2		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.4: Frequency table v12_1

Have you made use of the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp) to contact city councilors, aldermen or the mayor in the past five years?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2585	88,6	95,6	95,6
	Yes	118	4,0	4,4	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.5: Frequency table v12_2

Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp) to contact local civil servants about a local issue in the past five years?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2566	88,0	94,9	94,9
	Yes	137	4,7	5,1	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.6: Frequency table v12_3

Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp) to contact other citizens and organisations about a local issue in the past five years?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2601	89,2	96,2	96,2
	Yes	102	3,5	3,8	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.7: Frequency table mediause_active

Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	,00	2059	70,6	87,7	87,7
	1,00	214	7,3	9,1	96,8
	2,00	51	1,7	2,2	99,0
	3,00	17	,6	,7	99,7
	4,00	6	,2	,3	100,0
	Total	2347	80,5	100,0	
Missing	System	569	19,5		
Total		2916	100,0		

Appendix B.2 Passive Online Media Use for Political Purposes

Table b.8: Statistics items Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose

		V10_1PRE	V10_2PRE	V10_3PRE	V10_4PRE	V12_4	V36
N	Valid	2559	2559	2559	2559	2703	2653
	Missing	357	357	357	357	213	263

Table b.9: List items Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Item/variable	Label	Values
V10_1pre	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Visited the website of one or more local parties.	0 = No 1 = Yes
V10_2pre	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Visited the website of the municipality.	0 = No 1 = Yes
V10_3pre	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Made use of a voting guide for the municipal elections.	0 = No 1 = Yes
V10_4pre	To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Read about the municipal elections on social media (Twitter, Facebook, blogs, WhatsApp).	0 = No 1 = Yes
V12_4	Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp) to sign an initiative or petition on a local issue in the past five years?	0 = No 1 = Yes
V36	Do you follow politicians from your municipality on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram?	1 = Yes 2 = No
V36Rec	Do you follow politicians from your municipality on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram?	0 = No 1 = Yes
Mediause_passive	Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose	0 1 2 3 4 5 6
Mediause_passiveRec	Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose	0 = 0 1 = 0,167 2 = 0,334 3 = 0,500 4 = 0,667 5 = 0,834 6 = 1

Table b.10: Frequency table v10_1pre

To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Visited the website of one or more local parties.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2258	77,4	88,2	88,2
	Yes	301	10,3	11,8	100,0
	Total	2559	87,8	100,0	
Missing	System	357	12,2		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.11: Frequency table v10_2pre

To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Visited the website of the municipality.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2367	81,2	92,5	92,5
	Yes	192	6,6	7,5	100,0
	Total	2559	87,8	100,0	
Missing	System	357	12,2		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.12: Frequency table v10_3pre

To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Made use of a voting guide for the municipal elections.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2098	71,9	82,0	82,0
	Yes	461	15,8	18,0	100,0
	Total	2559	87,8	100,0	
Missing	System	357	12,2		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.13: Frequency table v10_4pre

To search for information about the municipal elections, have you ever done one of the following in the last few weeks? Read about the municipal elections on social media (Twitter, Facebook, blogs, Whatsapp).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2277	78,1	89,0	89,0
	Yes	282	9,7	11,0	100,0
	Total	2559	87,8	100,0	
Missing	System	357	12,2		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.14: Frequency table v12_4

Have you used the internet, e-mails, apps or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp) to sign an initiative or petition on a local issue in the past five years?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2521	86,5	93,3	93,3
	Yes	182	6,2	6,7	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.15: Frequency table v36

Do you follow politicians from your municipality on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	169	5,8	6,4	6,4
	No	2484	85,2	93,6	100,0
	Total	2653	91,0	100,0	
Missing	System	263	9,0		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.16: Frequency table v36rec

Do you follow politicians from your municipality on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2484	85,2	93,6	93,6
	Yes	169	5,8	6,4	100,0
	Total	2653	91,0	100,0	
Missing	System	263	9,0		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.17: Frequency table mediause_passive

Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	,00	1437	49,3	62,1	62,1
	1,00	535	18,3	23,1	85,2
	2,00	224	7,7	9,7	94,9
	3,00	79	2,7	3,4	98,3
	4,00	27	,9	1,2	99,5
	5,00	11	,4	,5	100,0
	6,00	1	,0	,0	100,0
	Total	2314	79,4	100,0	
Missing	System	602	20,6		
Total		2916	100,0		

Appendix B 3: Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table b 18: List items Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Item	Label	Values
Mediause_activeRec	Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose	0 0,250 0,500 0,750 1
Mediause_passiveRec	Passive Online Media use for Political Purpose	0 0,167 0,334 0,500 0,667 0,834 1
Mediause_general	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	0,00 0,17 0,25 0,33 0,42 0,50 0,58 0,67 0,75 0,83 0,83 0,92 1,00 1,08 1,17 1,25 1,33 1,42 1,50 1,58 1,67 1,83 2,00

Appendix B 4: Active Offline Political Participation

Table b 19: Statistics items Active Offline Political Participation

		V11_2PRE	V11_3PRE	V11_1	V11_2	V11_3	V11_4	V11_5	V11_8
N	Valid	2559	2559	2703	2703	2703	2703	2703	2703
	Missing	357	357	213	213	213	213	213	213

Table b 20: List items Active Offline Political Participation

Item/variable	Label	Values
V11_2pre	Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Supported a candidate or party.	0 = No 1 = Yes
V11_3pre	Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Attended a campaign meeting or election debate.	0 = No 1 = Yes

V11_1	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Contact (via an appointment, interview or letter) with a city councilor, alderman, mayor or civil servant.	0 = No 1 = Yes
V11_2	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Attended municipal council meeting.	0 = No 1 = Yes
V11_3	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Visited public consultation evening (s) of your municipality.	0 = No 1 = Yes
V11_4	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Membership in a political party.	0 = No 1 = Yes
V11_5	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Active in a local action group.	0 = No 1 = Yes
V11_8	Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Contacted a political party in your municipality.	0 = No 1 = Yes
Politicalparticipation_active	Active Offline Political Participation	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = 5 = 6 = 7 = 8 =
Politicalparticipation_activeRec	Active Offline Political Participation	0 = 0 1 = 0,125 2 = 0,250 3 = 0,375 4 = 0,500 5 = 0,625 6 = 0,750 7 = 0,875 8 = 1

Table b.21: Frequency table v11_2pre v11_3pre

Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Supported a candidate or party.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2500	85,7	97,7	97,7
	Yes	59	2,0	2,3	100,0
	Total	2559	87,8	100,0	
Missing	System	357	12,2		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.22: Frequency table

Did you do one of the following during the election campaign (in the recent weeks)? Attended a campaign meeting or election debate.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2509	86,0	98,0	98,0
	Yes	50	1,7	2,0	100,0
	Total	2559	87,8	100,0	
Missing	System	357	12,2		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.23: Frequency table v11_1

Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Contact (via an appointment, interview or letter) with a city councilor, alderman, mayor or civil servant.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2545	87,3	94,2	94,2
	Yes	158	5,4	5,8	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.24: Frequency table v11_2

Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Attended municipal council meeting.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2616	89,7	96,8	96,8
	Yes	87	3,0	3,2	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.25: Frequency table v11_3

Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Visited public consultation evening (s) of your municipality.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2558	87,7	94,6	94,6
	Yes	145	5,0	5,4	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.26: Frequency table v11_4

Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Membership in a political party.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2594	89,0	96,0	96,0
	Yes	109	3,7	4,0	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.27: Frequency table v11_5

Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Active in a local action group.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2666	91,4	98,6	98,6
	Yes	37	1,3	1,4	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.28: Frequency table v11_8

Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Contacted a political party in your municipality.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2646	90,7	97,9	97,9
	Yes	57	2,0	2,1	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.29: Frequency table political participation_active

Active Offline Political Participation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	,00	1977	67,8	84,2	84,2
	1,00	238	8,2	10,1	94,4
	2,00	69	2,4	2,9	97,3
	3,00	36	1,2	1,5	98,8
	4,00	15	,5	,6	99,5
	5,00	3	,1	,1	99,6
	6,00	6	,2	,3	99,9
	7,00	2	,1	,1	100,0
	8,00	1	,0	,0	100,0
	Total	2347	80,5	100,0	
Missing	System	569	19,5		
Total		2916	100,0		

Appendix B.5: Passive Offline Political Participation

Table b.30: Statistics Items Passive Offline Participation

		V1	V4	V7	V11_6
N	Valid	2436	2672	2668	2703
	Missing	480	244	248	213

Table b.31: List of items Passive Offline Political Participation

Item/variable	Label	Values
V1	Did you vote during the municipal elections?	-9 = I don't want to say -8 = I don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = I was not allowed to vote

V1 Recoded	Did you vote during the municipal elections?	-9 = 99 = I don't want to say -8 = 99 = I don't know 1 = 1 = Yes 2 = 0 = No 3 = 99 = I was not allowed to vote
V4	At the same time as the municipal elections of 21 March, a national referendum was also held on the Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv). Did you vote in this referendum?	-9 = I don't want to say -8 = I don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = I was not allowed to vote
V4 Recoded	At the same time as the municipal elections of 21 March, a national referendum was also held on the Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv). Did you vote in this referendum?	-9 = 99 = I don't want to say -8 = 99 = I don't know 1 = 1 = Yes 2 = 0 = No 3 = 99 = I was not allowed to vote
V7	Did you vote in the parliamentary elections of 2017?	-9 = I don't want to say -8 = I don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = I was not allowed to vote
V7 Recoded	Did you vote in the parliamentary elections of 2017?	-9 = 99 = I don't want to say -8 = 99 = I don't know 1 = 1 = Yes 2 = 0 = No 3 = 99 = I was not allowed to vote
V11_6	Now we ask you a few questions about your involvement in local political activities. There are different ways to raise a political issue or to influence local politicians or the municipality. Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Signed a petition about a local issue (on paper).	0 = No 1 = Yes
Political participation_passive	Passive Offline Political Participation	0 1 2 3 4
Political participation_passive Rec	Passive Offline Political Participation	0 = 0 1 = 0,250 2 = 0,500 3 = 0,750 4 = 1

Table b.32: Frequency table v1

Did you vote during the municipal elections?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1899	65,1	78,0	78,0
	No	528	18,1	21,7	99,6
	I was not allowed to vote	9	,3	,4	100,0
	Total	2436	83,5	100,0	
Missing	I don't want to say	15	,5		
	I don't know	6	,2		
	System	459	15,7		
	Total	480	16,5		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.33: Frequency table v4

At the same time as the municipal elections of 21 March, a national referendum was also held on the Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv). Did you vote in this referendum?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1871	64,2	70,0	70,0
	No	757	26,0	28,3	98,4
	I was not allowed to vote	44	1,5	1,6	100,0
	Total	2672	91,6	100,0	
Missing	I don't want to say	21	,7		
	I don't know	10	,3		
	System	213	7,3		
	Total	244	8,4		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.34: Frequency table v7

Did you vote in the parliamentary elections of 2017?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	2296	78,7	86,1	86,1
	No	300	10,3	11,2	97,3
	I was not allowed to vote	72	2,5	2,7	100,0
	Total	2668	91,5	100,0	
Missing	I don't want to say	21	,7		
	I don't know	14	,5		
	System	213	7,3		
	Total	248	8,5		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.35: Frequency table v11_6

Which of the following ways have you used in the last 5 years? Signed a petition about a local issue (on paper).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	2580	88,5	95,4	95,4
	Yes	123	4,2	4,6	100,0
	Total	2703	92,7	100,0	
Missing	System	213	7,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.36: Frequency table v1Recoded

Did you vote during the municipal elections?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	528	18,1	21,8	21,8
	Yes	1899	65,1	78,2	100,0
	Total	2427	83,2	100,0	
Missing	99,00	30	1,0		
	System	459	15,7		
	Total	489	16,8		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.37: Frequency table v4Recoded

At the same time as the municipal elections of 21 March, a national referendum was also held on the Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv). Did you vote in this referendum?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	757	26,0	28,8	28,8
	Yes	1871	64,2	71,2	100,0
	Total	2628	90,1	100,0	
Missing	99,00	75	2,6		
	System	213	7,3		
	Total	288	9,9		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.38: Frequency table v7Recoded political participation_passive

Did you vote in the parliamentary elections of 2017?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	300	10,3	11,6	11,6
	Yes	2296	78,7	88,4	100,0
	Total	2596	89,0	100,0	
Missing	99,00	107	3,7		
	System	213	7,3		
	Total	320	11,0		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.39: Frequency table

Passvie Offline Political Participation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	,00	202	6,9	8,6	8,6
	1,00	290	9,9	12,4	21,0
	2,00	172	5,9	7,3	28,3
	3,00	1585	54,4	67,6	96,0
	4,00	94	3,2	4,0	100,0
	Total	2343	80,3	100,0	
Missing	System	573	19,7		
Total		2916	100,0		

Appendix B 6: Offline Political Participation

Table b.40: List of items Offline Political Participation

Item	Label	Values
Political participation_active Rec	Active Offline Political Participation	0 = 0 1 = 0,125 2 = 0,250 3 = 0,375 4 = 0,500 5 = 0,625 6 = 0,750 7 = 0,875 8 = 1
Political participation_passive Rec	Passive Offline Political Participation	0 = 0 1 = 0,250 2 = 0,500 3 = 0,750 4 = 1

Politicalparticipation_general	Offline Political Participation	0,00 0,13 0,25 0,38 0,50 0,63 0,75 0,88 1,00 1,13 1,25 1,38 1,50 1,63 1,88 2,00

Appendix B 7: Political Interest

Table b 41: Statistics items Political Interest

		V15PRE	V16PRE	V32A	V32B
N	Valid	2559	2558	2654	2654
	Missing	357	358	262	262

Table b 42: List of items Political Interest

Item/variable	Label	Values
V15pre	To what extent are you interested in national politics?	1 = not interested 2 = fairly interested 3 = very interested
V16pre	To what extent are you interested in local politics?	1 = not interested 2 = fairly interested 3 = very interested
V32a	To what extent are you interested in national politics?	1 = not interested 2 = fairly interested 3 = very interested
V32b	To what extent are you interested in local politics?	1 = not interested 2 = fairly interested 3 = very interested
V15preRec	To what extent are you interested in national politics?	0 = not interested 1 = fairly interested 2 = very interested
V16preRec	To what extent are you interested in local politics?	0 = not interested 1 = fairly interested 2 = very interested
V32aRec	To what extent are you interested in national politics?	0 = not interested 1 = fairly interested 2 = very interested
V32bRec	To what extent are you interested in local politics?	0 = not interested 1 = fairly interested 2 = very interested
Politicalinterest	Political Interest	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = 5 = 6 = 7 = 8 =

Table b.43: Frequency table v15pre

To what extent are you interested in national politics (pre-measurement)?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not interested	659	22,6	25,8	25,8
	Fairly interested	1508	51,7	58,9	84,7
	Very interested	392	13,4	15,3	100,0
	Total	2559	87,8	100,0	
Missing	System	357	12,2		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.44: Frequency table v16pre

To what extent are you interested in local politics (pre-measurement)?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not interested	924	31,7	36,1	36,1
	Fairly interested	1461	50,1	57,1	93,2
	Very interested	173	5,9	6,8	100,0
	Total	2558	87,7	100,0	
Missing	System	358	12,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.45: Frequency table v32a

To what extent are you interested in national politics?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not interested	891	30,6	33,6	33,6
	Fairly interested	1417	48,6	53,4	87,0
	Very interested	346	11,9	13,0	100,0
	Total	2654	91,0	100,0	
Missing	System	262	9,0		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.46: Frequency table v32b

To what extent are you interested in local politics?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not interested	1112	38,1	41,9	41,9
	Fairly interested	1390	47,7	52,4	94,3
	Very interested	152	5,2	5,7	100,0
	Total	2654	91,0	100,0	
Missing	System	262	9,0		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.47: Frequency table v15preRec

To what extent are you interested in national politics (pre-measurement)?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not interested	659	22,6	25,8	25,8
	Fairly interested	1508	51,7	58,9	84,7
	Very interested	392	13,4	15,3	100,0
	Total	2559	87,8	100,0	
Missing	System	357	12,2		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.48: Frequency table v16preRec

To what extent are you interested in local politics (pre-measurement)?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not interested	924	31,7	36,1	36,1
	Fairly interested	1461	50,1	57,1	93,2
	Very interested	173	5,9	6,8	100,0
	Total	2558	87,7	100,0	
Missing	System	358	12,3		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.49: Frequency table v32aRec

To what extent are you interested in national politics?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not interested	891	30,6	33,6	33,6
	Fairly interested	1417	48,6	53,4	87,0
	Very interested	346	11,9	13,0	100,0
	Total	2654	91,0	100,0	
Missing	System	262	9,0		
Total		2916	100,0		

Table b.50: Frequency table v32bRec

To what extent are you interested in local politics?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not interested	1112	38,1	41,9	41,9
	Fairly interested	1390	47,7	52,4	94,3
	Very interested	152	5,2	5,7	100,0
	Total	2654	91,0	100,0	
Missing	System	262	9,0		
Total		2916	100,0		

Appendix C: Outcome Reliability tests

Appendix C.1: Political Interest

In this section the outputs of the factor analysis and the reliability test are presented.

Table c.1: Factor Analysis Political Interest

Communalities

	Initial	Extraction
To what extent are you interested in national politics (pre-measurement)?	1,000	,732
To what extent are you interested in local politics (pre-measurement)?	1,000	,620
To what extent are you interested in national politics?	1,000	,730
To what extent are you interested in local politics?	1,000	,649

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Table c.3: Factor Analysis Political Interest

Component Matrix[a]

	Component 1
To what extent are you interested in national politics (pre-measurement)?	,856
To what extent are you interested in national politics?	,855
To what extent are you interested in local politics?	,806
To what extent are you interested in local politics (pre-measurement)?	,787

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a. 1 components extracted.

Table c.2: Factor Analysis Political Interest

Total Variance Explained

	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
Component	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	2,732	68,293	68,293	2,732	68,293	68,293
2	,640	15,993	84,286			
3	,453	11,313	95,599			
4	,176	4,401	100,000			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Figure c.1: Factor Analysis: Scree Plot Component Number against Eigenvalue

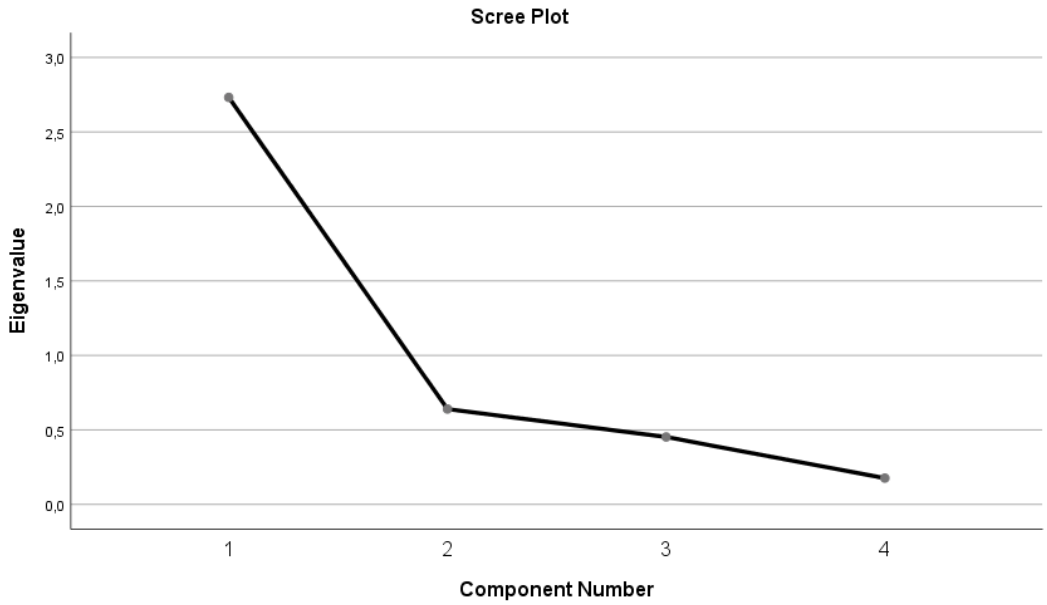


Table c.4: Reliability Test Political Interest Interest

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
,845	,845	4

Table c.5: Reliability Test Political

Inter-Item Correlation Matrix

	To what extent are you interested in national politics (pre-measurement)?	To what extent are you interested in local politics (pre-measurement)?	To what extent are you interested in national politics?	To what extent are you interested in local politics?
To what extent are you interested in national politics (pre-measurement)?	1,000	,561	,759	,478
To what extent are you interested in local politics (pre-measurement)?	,561	1,000	,449	,611
To what extent are you interested in national politics?	,759	,449	1,000	,598
To what extent are you interested in local politics?	,478	,611	,598	1,000

Appendix D Checking Assumptions

In this section the SPSS outputs are presented regarding the check of the assumptions before conducting a linear regression analysis.

Appendix D 1: Hypothesis 1 & hypothesis 2

Figure d 1: Scatterplot Model I (residuals against predicted values)

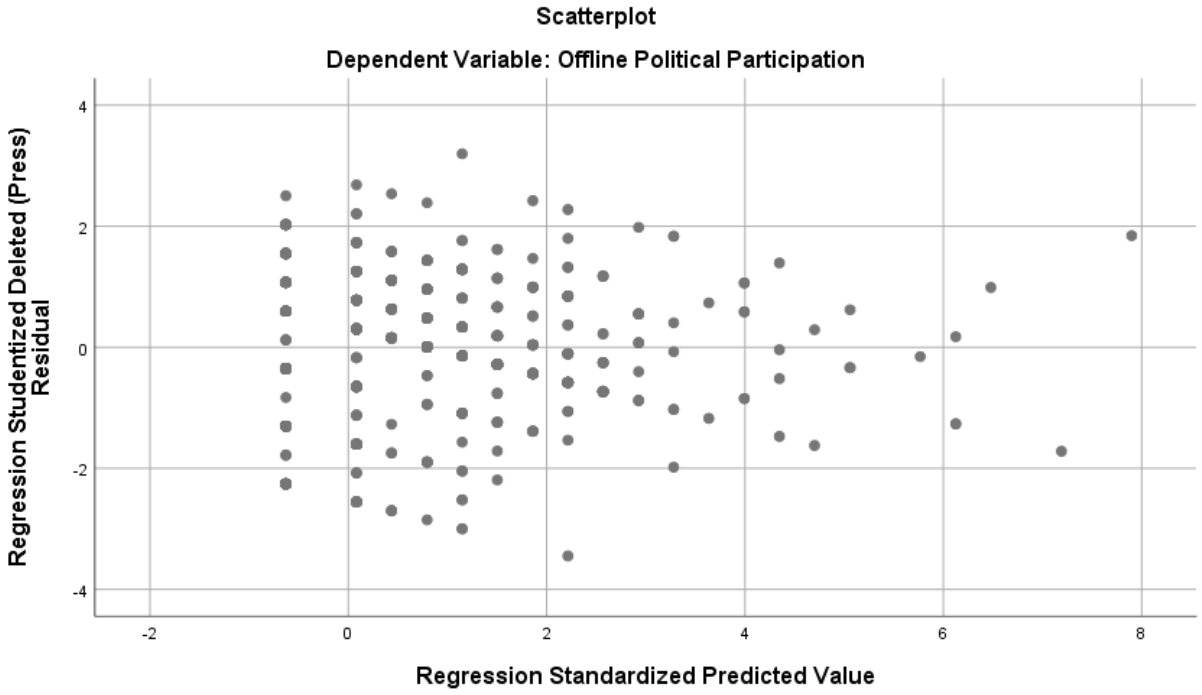


Figure d 2: Normal Probability Plot Model I

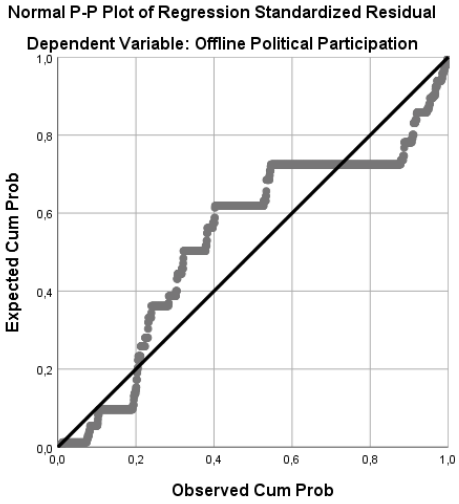
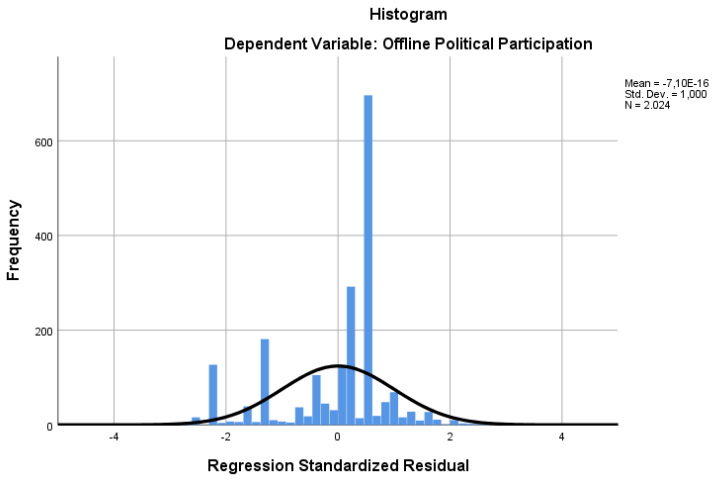


Figure d 3: Histogram Model I



Appendix D 2: Hypothesis 3
Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose → Offline Political Participation

Figure d 4: Scatterplot Model IIIa (residuals against predicted values)

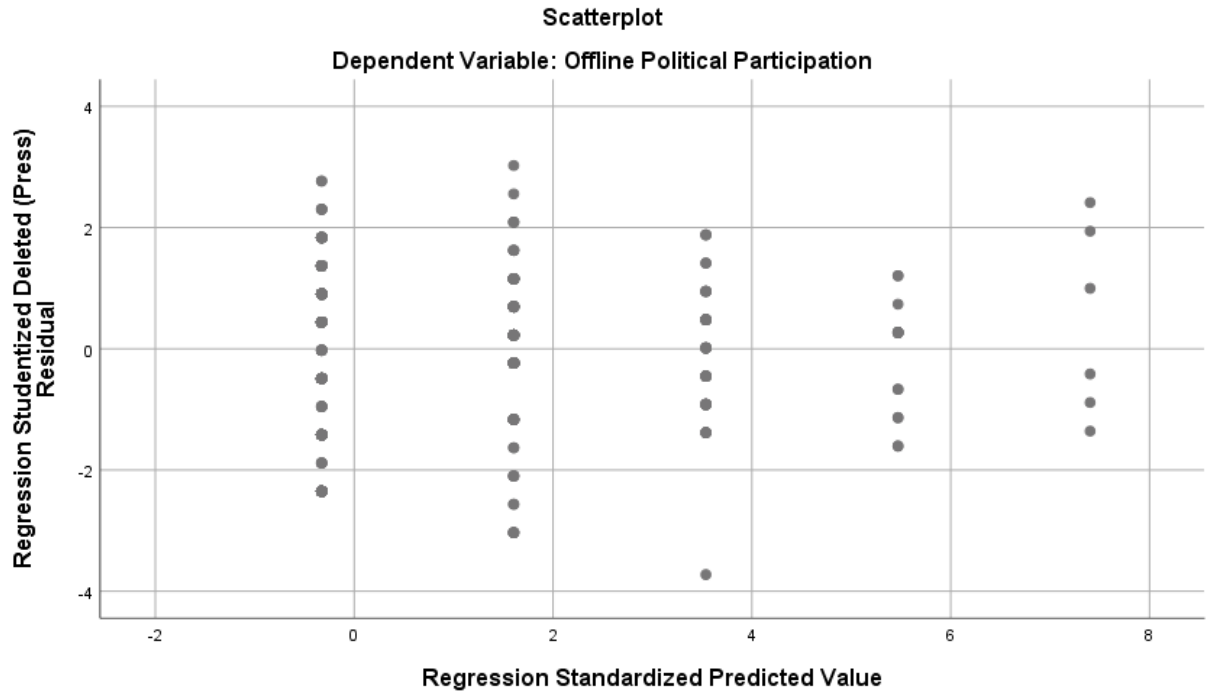


Figure d 5: Normal Probability Plot Model IIIa

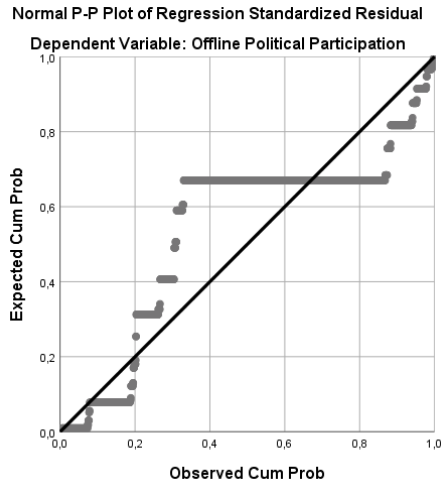
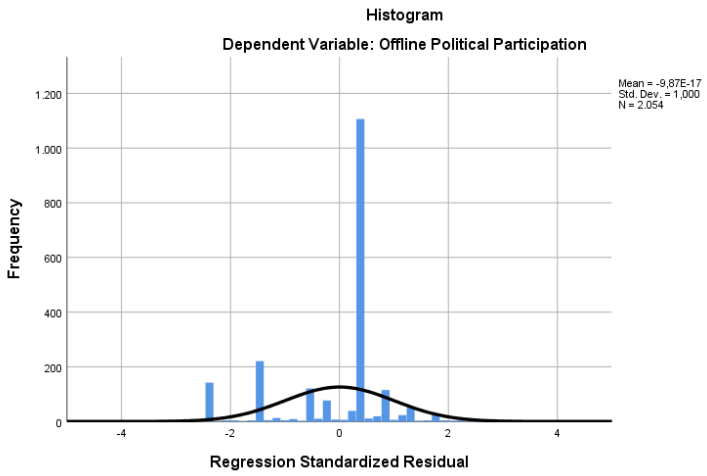


Figure d 6: Histogram Model IIIa



Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose → Offline Political Participation

Figure d 7: Scatterplot Model IIIb (residuals against predicted values)

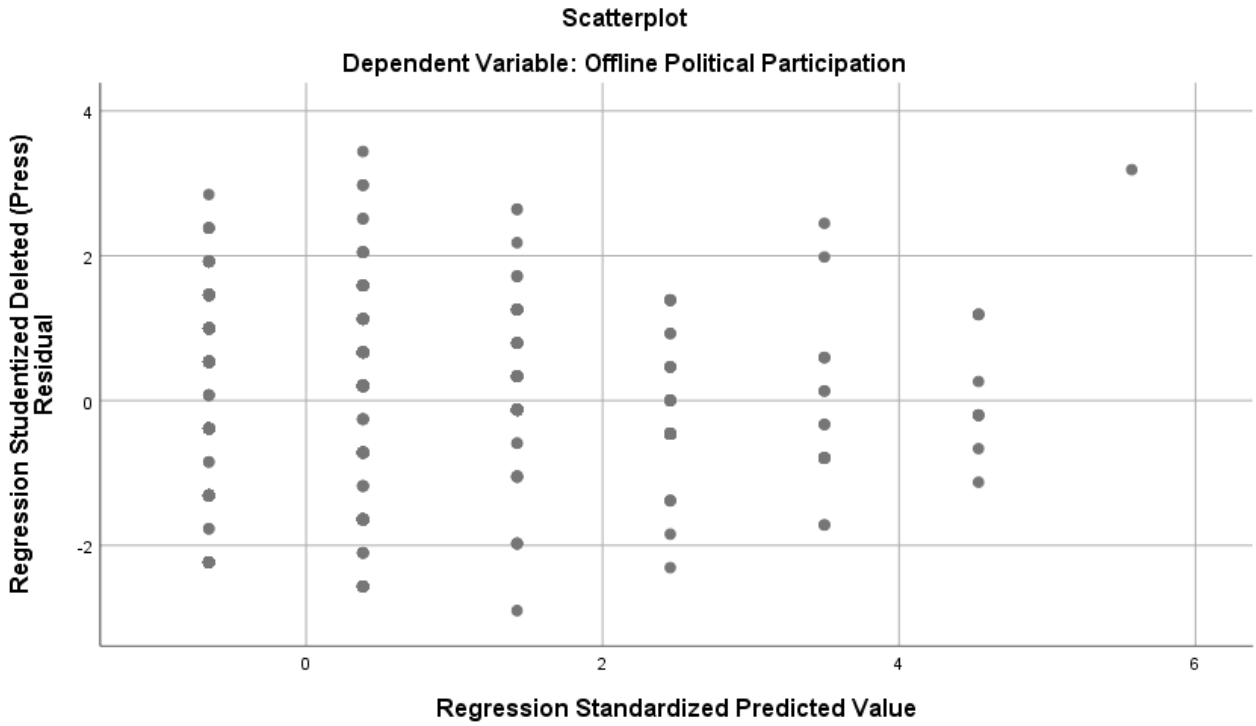


Figure d 8: Normal Probability Plot Model IIIb

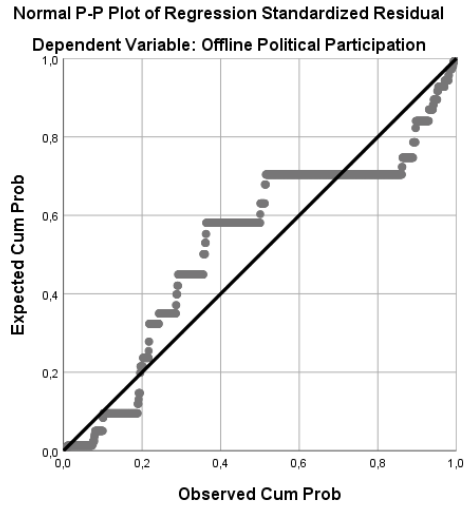
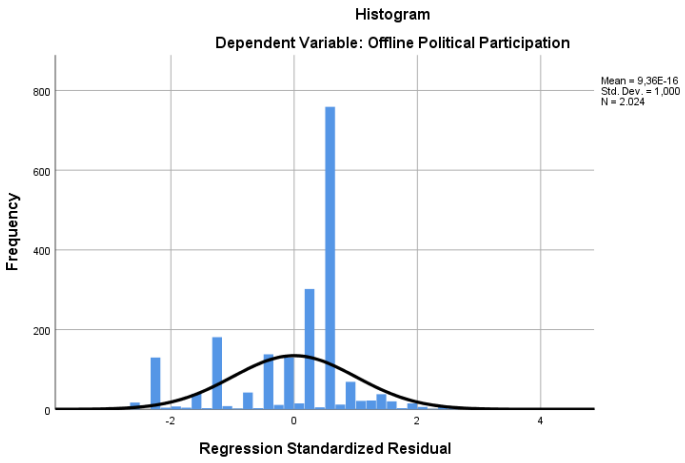


Figure d 9: Histogram Model IIIb



Appendix D3: Hypothesis 4
Online Media Use for Political Purpose → Active Offline Political Participation

Figure d10: Scatterplot Model I Va (residuals against predicted values)

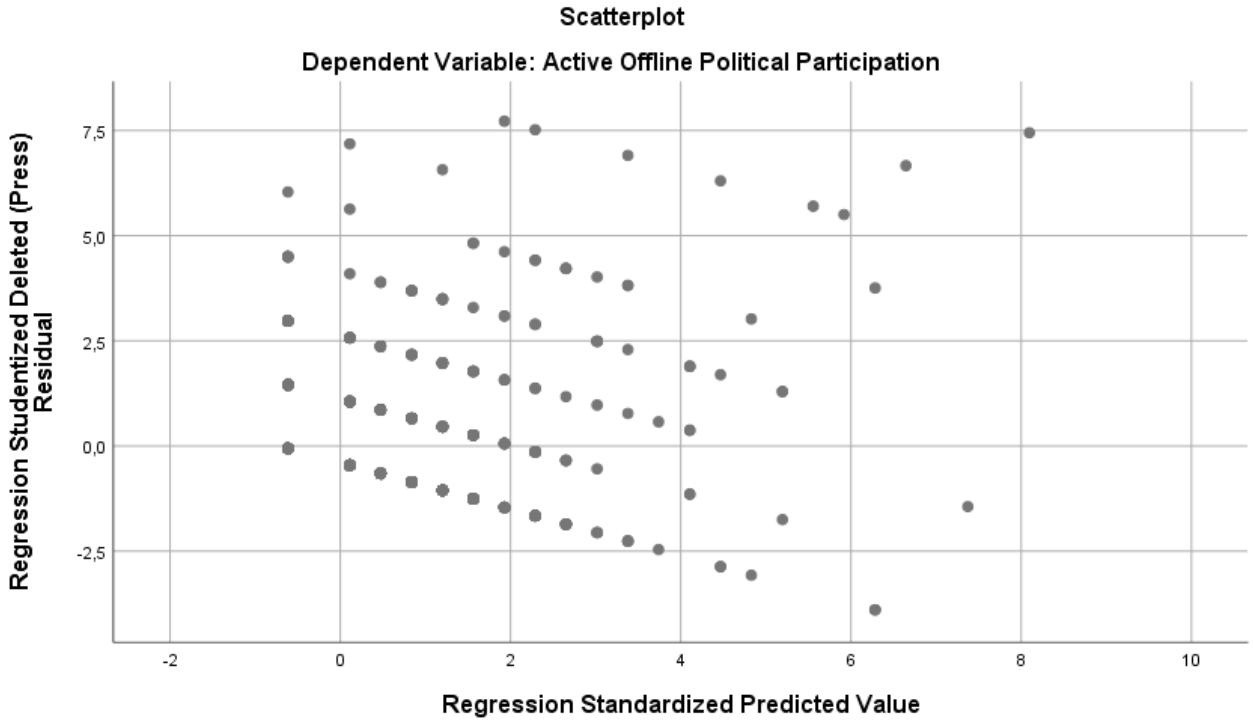


Figure d11: Normal Probability Plot Model I Va

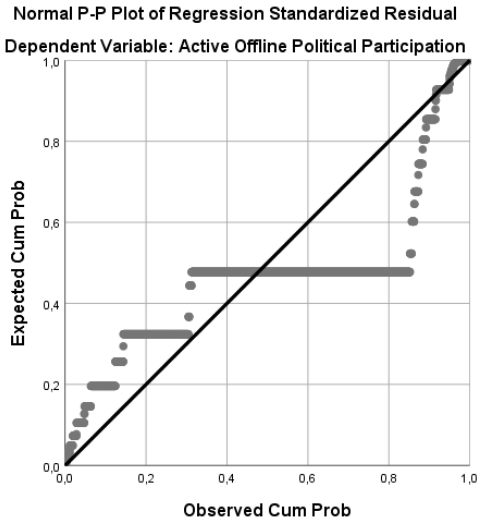
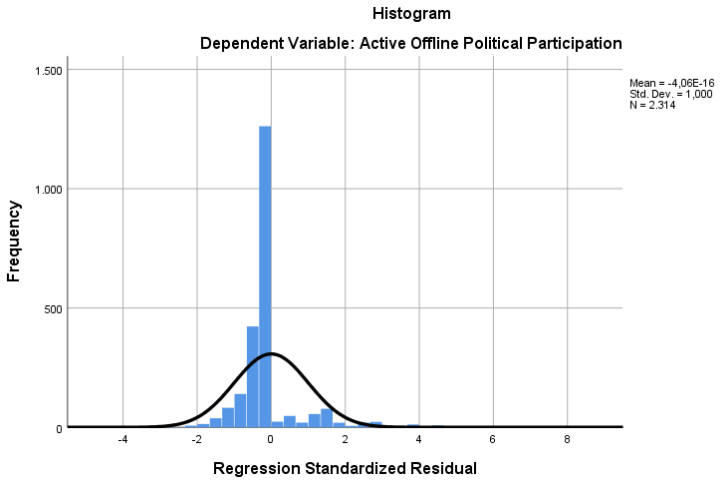


Figure d12: Histogram Model I Va



Online Media Use for Political Purpose →Passive Offline Political Participation

Figure d 13: Scatterplot Model I Vb (residuals against predicted values)

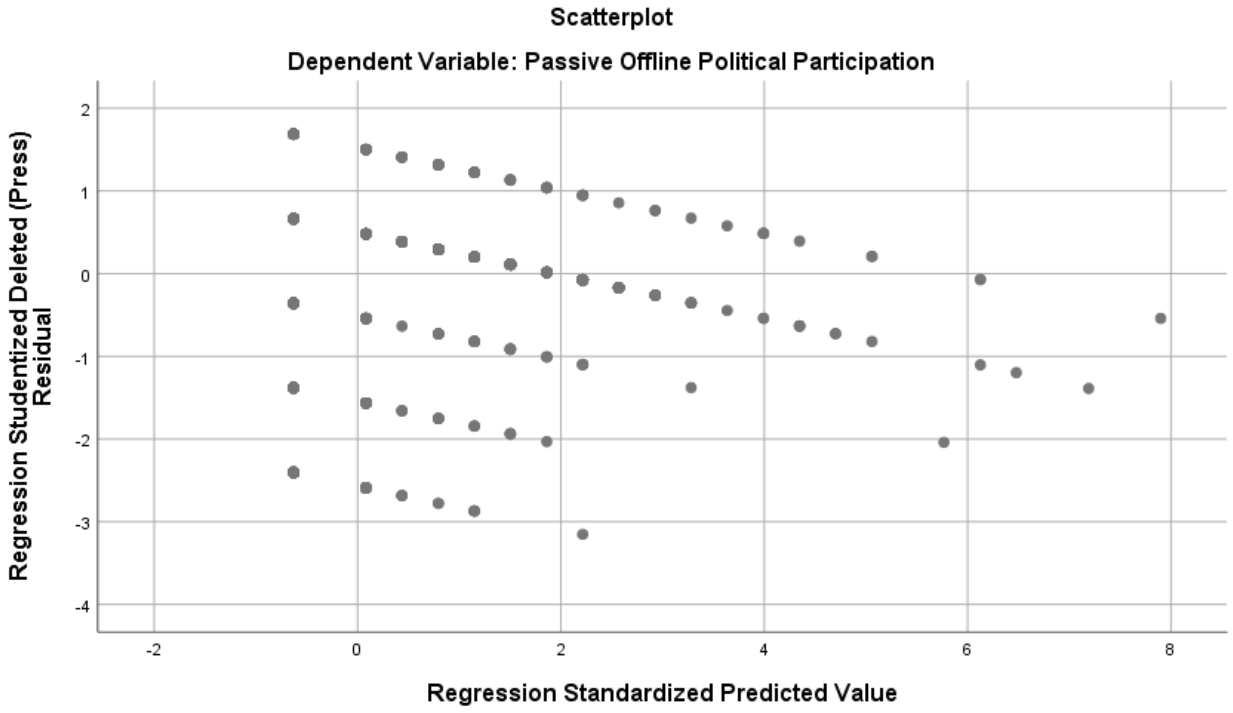


Figure d 14: Normal Probability Plot Model I Vb

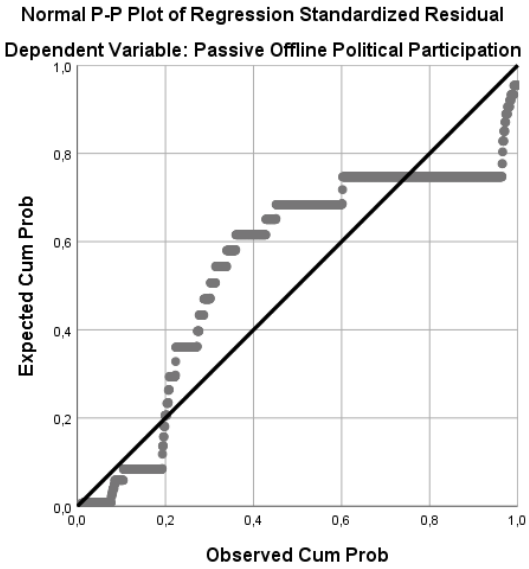
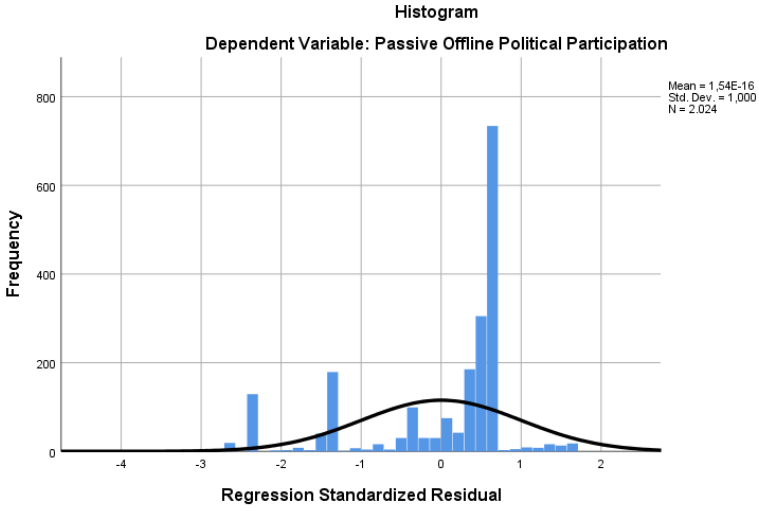


Figure d 15: Histogram Model I Vb



Appendix E: Results

In this section the SPSS outputs of the regression analyses are presented. The structure corresponds with the structure in the thesis.

Appendix E.1: Hypothesis 1

Table e.1: Model I (Model Summary)

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,383[a]	,147	,146	,26300

a. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Table e.2: Model I (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	24,050	1	24,050	347,692	,000[b]
	Residual	139,863	2022	,069		
	Total	163,913	2023			

a. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.3: Model I (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,593	,007		85,796	,000
	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,465	,025	,383	18,647	,000

a. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Appendix E.2: Hypothesis 2

Political Interest = 0

Table e.4: Model IIa (Summary)

Model Summary[a]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,260[b]	,068	,065	,32248

a. Political Interest = ,00

b. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.5: Model IIa (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a,b]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2,563	1	2,563	24,645	,000[c]
	Residual	35,357	340	,104		
	Total	37,920	341			

a. Political Interest = ,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

c. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.6: Model IIa (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a,b]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,391	,019		20,723	,000
	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,850	,171	,260	4,964	,000

a. Political Interest = ,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Political Interest = 1

Table e.7: Model IIb (Summary)

Model Summary[a]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,156[b]	,024	,022	,26161

a. Political Interest = 1,00

b. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.8: Model IIb (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a,b]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	,649	1	,649	9,477	,002[c]
	Residual	25,940	379	,068		
	Total	26,588	380			

a. Political Interest = 1,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

c. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.9: Model IIb (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a,b]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,562	,015		36,727	,000
	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,316	,103	,156	3,079	,002

a. Political Interest = 1,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Political Interest = 2

Table e.10: Model IIc (Summary)

Model Summary[a]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,244[b]	,060	,059	,20870

a. Political Interest = 2,00

b. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.11: Model IIc (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a,b]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2,516	1	2,516	57,767	,000[c]
	Residual	39,635	910	,044		
	Total	42,151	911			

a. Political Interest = 2,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

c. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.12: Model IIc (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a,b]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,676	,008		79,882	,000
	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,245	,032	,244	7,600	,000

a. Political Interest = 2,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Political Interest = 3

Table e.13: Model IId (Summary)

Model Summary[a]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,386[b]	,149	,146	,21088

a. Political Interest = 3,00

b. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.14: Model IId (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a,b]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2,403	1	2,403	54,047	,000[c]
	Residual	13,741	309	,044		
	Total	16,144	310			

a. Political Interest = 3,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

c. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.15: Model IId (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a,b]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,718	,016		44,580	,000
	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,288	,039	,386	7,352	,000

a. Political Interest = 3,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Political Interest = 4

Table e.16: Model IIe (Summary)

Model Summary[a]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,659[b]	,435	,427	,20511

a. Political Interest = 4,00

b. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.17: Model IIe (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a,b]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2,426	1	2,426	57,674	,000[c]
	Residual	3,155	75	,042		
	Total	5,582	76			

a. Political Interest = 4,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

c. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.18: Model IIe (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a,b]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,746	,034		21,860	,000
	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,434	,057	,659	7,594	,000

a. Political Interest = 4,00

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Appendix E.3: Hypothesis 3
Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose → Offline Political Participation

Table e.19: Model IIIa (Summary)

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,331[a]	,109	,109	,26909

a. Predictors: (Constant), Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Table e.20: Model IIIa (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	18,252	1	18,252	252,080	,000[b]
	Residual	148,580	2052	,072		
	Total	166,832	2053			

a. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.21: Model IIIa (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,632	,006		101,054	,000
	Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,729	,046	,331	15,877	,000

a. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose → Offline Political Participation

Table e.22: Model IIIb (Summary)

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,304[a]	,093	,092	,27123

a. Predictors: (Constant), Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose

b. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Table e.23: Model IIIb (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	15,162	1	15,162	206,100	,000[b]
	Residual	148,751	2022	,074		
	Total	163,913	2023			

a. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.24: Model IIIb (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,605	,007		83,823	,000
	Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,539	,038	,304	14,356	,000

a. Dependent Variable: Offline Political Participation

Appendix E.4: Hypothesis 4
Online Media Use for Political Purpose → Active Offline Political Participation

Table e.25: Model IVa (Summary)

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,482[a]	,232	,232	,08267

a. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

b. Dependent Variable: Active Offline Political Participation

Table e.26: Model IVa (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	4,774	1	4,774	698,523	,000[b]
	Residual	15,801	2312	,007		
	Total	20,575	2313			

a. Dependent Variable: Active Offline Political Participation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.27: Model IVa (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,005	,002		2,322	,020
	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,198	,007	,482	26,430	,000

a. Dependent Variable: Active Offline Political Participation

Online Media Use for Political Purpose → Passive Offline Political Participation

Table e.28: Model IVb (Summary)

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,252[a]	,063	,063	,24467

a. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

b. Dependent Variable: Passive Offline Political Participation

Table e.28: Model IVb (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	8,192	1	8,192	136,838	,000[b]
	Residual	121,045	2022	,060		
	Total	129,236	2023			

a. Dependent Variable: Passive Offline Political Participation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Online Media Use for Political Purpose

Table e.29: Model IVb (Coefficients)

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	,588	,006		91,399	,000
	Online Media Use for Political Purpose	,271	,023	,252	11,698	,000

a. Dependent Variable: Passive Offline Political Participation

Appendix F: Syntax

In this section the syntaxes can be found that are used to construct the variables and to conduct the regression analyses for the different models.

Appendix F.1: Construction Variables

```
* Merge datafile of the pre-measurement and post-measurement
DATASET ACTIVATE DataSet2.
SORT CASES BY nomem_encr.
DATASET ACTIVATE DataSet1.
SORT CASES BY nomem_encr.
DATASET ACTIVATE DataSet2.
MATCH FILES /FILE=*
 /FILE='DataSet1'
 /RENAME nohouse_encr=nohouse_encrpre
 /BY nomem_encr.
EXECUTE.

* Weights that are linked to the variables are turned off
WEIGHT OFF.

*ACTIVE ONLINE MEDIA USE
*frequencies voor variabelen mediause_active
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v11_4pre v12_1 v12_2 v12_3
 /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
*create the variable mediause_active
COMPUTE mediause_active=v12_1 + v12_2 + v12_3 + v11_4pre.
VARIABLE LABELS  mediause_active 'Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies for variable mediause_active
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mediause_active
 /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
*recode mediause_active in order to create the same scale
DATASET ACTIVATE DataSet1.
RECODE mediause_active (0=0) (1=0.250) (2=0.500) (3=0.750) (4=1) INTO mediause_activeRec.
VARIABLE LABELS  mediause_activeRec 'Active Online Media Use for Political Purpose'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies for variable mediause_activeRec
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mediause_activeRec
 /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
* Mediause_activeRec is done

*PASSIVE ONLINE MEDIA USE
*frequencies of items that will form variable mediause_passive
```

```
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v10_1pre v10_2pre v10_3pre v10_4pre v12_4 v36
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
*recode variable v36
RECODE v36 (1=1) (2=0) INTO v36Rec.
VARIABLE LABELS v36Rec 'Volgt u politici uit uw gemeente op sociale media als Facebook,' +
    'Twitter, of Instagram?'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies of the recoded v36
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v36Rec
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
*compute variable mediause_passive
COMPUTE mediause_passive=v36Rec + v12_4 + v10_4pre + v10_3pre + v10_2pre + v10_1pre.
VARIABLE LABELS mediause_passive 'Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies of variable mediause_passive
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mediause_passive
/ORDER=ANALYSIS.
*recode mediause_passive in order to create a general variable
RECODE mediause_passive (0=0) (1=0.167) (2=0.334) (3=0.500) (4=0.667) (5=0.834) (6=1) INTO
    mediause_passiveRec.
VARIABLE LABELS mediause_passiveRec 'Passive Online Media Use for Political Purpose'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies of the final variable
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mediause_passiveRec
/ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*GENERAL MEDIA USE
*compute the general media use variable
COMPUTE mediause_general=mediause_activeRec + mediause_passiveRec.
VARIABLE LABELS mediause_general 'Online Media Use for Political Purpose'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies of the Media Use variable
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mediause_general
/ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*ACTIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
*frequencies for items that make active political participation
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v11_2pre v11_3pre v11_1 v11_2 v11_3 v11_4 v11_5 v11_8
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
*compute political active participation
COMPUTE politicalparticipation_active=v11_2pre + v11_3pre + v11_1 + v11_2 + v11_3 + v11_4 + v11_5 +
    v11_8.
VARIABLE LABELS politicalparticipation_active 'Active Offline Political Participation'.
```

```
EXECUTE.

*frequencies of active political participation

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalparticipation_active

  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*recode active political participation to scale 0 to 1

RECODE politicalparticipation_active (0=0) (1=0.125) (2=0.250) (3=0.375) (4=0.500) (5=0.625)

    (6=0.750) (7=0.875) (8=1) INTO politicalparticipation_activeRec.

VARIABLE LABELS  politicalparticipation_activeRec 'Active Offline Political Participation'.

EXECUTE.

*frequencies of the recoded variable active political participation

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalparticipation_activeRec

/ORDER=ANALYSIS.



*PASSIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

*frequencies of items that will make up passive pp

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v1 v4 v7 v11_6

  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*Recode v1

RECODE v1 (-9=99) (-8=99) (1=1) (2=0) (3=99) INTO v1Recoded.

VARIABLE LABELS  v1Recoded 'Have you voted during the local elections?'.

EXECUTE.

*recode v4

RECODE v4 (-9=99) (-8=99) (1=1) (2=0) (3=99) INTO v4Recoded.

VARIABLE LABELS  v4Recoded "At the same time as the municipal elections of 21 March, a national referendum was also held on the Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv). Did you vote in this referendum? ".

EXECUTE.

*recode v7

RECODE v7 (-9=99) (-8=99) (1=1) (2=0) (3=99) INTO v7Recoded.

VARIABLE LABELS  v7Recoded "Have you voted during the national elections in 2017 ".

EXECUTE.

*frequencies recoded v1

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v1Recoded

  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*frequencies recoded v4

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v4Recoded

  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*frequencies recoded v7

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v7Recoded

  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*compute variable passive political participation

COMPUTE politicalparticipation_passive=v11_6 + v1Recoded + v4Recoded + v7Recoded.

VARIABLE LABELS  politicalparticipation_passive 'Passvie Offline Political Participation'.

EXECUTE.
```

```
*frequencies passive pp
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalparticipation_passive
/ORDER=ANALYSIS.
*recode passive pp to scale 0 to 1
RECODE politicalparticipation_passive (0=0) (1=0.250) (2=0.500) (3=0.750) (4=1) INTO
    politicalparticipation_passiveRec.
VARIABLE LABELS politicalparticipation_passiveRec 'Passive Offline Political Participation'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies passive pp recoded
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalparticipation_passiveRec
/ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*GENERAL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
*compute general variable of politilcal participation
COMPUTE politicalparticipation_general=politicalparticipation_activeRec +
    politicalparticipation_passiveRec.
VARIABLE LABELS politicalparticipation_general 'Offline Political Participation'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies final variable pp
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalparticipation_general
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*POLITICAL INTEREST
*frequencies of the items that will contstruct the variable
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v15pre v16pre v32a v32b
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
*recode the items that will construct the variable
RECODE v15pre v16pre v32a v32b (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) INTO v15preRec v16preRec v32aRec v32bRec.
VARIABLE LABELS v15preRec 'PRE In hoeverre bent u geïnteresseerd in de nationale politiek?
   /v16preRec 'PRE In hoeverre bent u geïnteresseerd in de lokale politiek? /v32aRec 'Nu volgt een' +
   'aantal vragen over uw interesse in de lokale en nationale politiek. In hoeverre bent u' +
   'geïnteresseerd in de' /v32bRec 'In hoeverre bent u geïnteresseerd in de lokale politiek?'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies recoded items
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=v15preRec v16preRec v32aRec v32bRec
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
*factor analysis
FACTOR
  /VARIABLES v15preRec v16preRec v32aRec v32bRec
  /MISSING PAIRWISE
  /ANALYSIS v15preRec v16preRec v32aRec v32bRec
  /PRINT INITIAL CORRELATION EXTRACTION ROTATION
  /FORMAT SORT BLANK(0.3)
```

```
  /PLOT EIGEN
  /CRITERIA MINEIGEN(1) ITERATE(25)
  /EXTRACTION PC
  /CRITERIA ITERATE(25)
  /ROTATION VARIMAX
  /METHOD=CORRELATION
*reliability test
RELIABILITY
  /VARIABLES=v15preRec v16preRec v32aRec v32bRec
  /SCALE('Political Interest') ALL
  /MODEL=ALPHA
  /STATISTICS=DESCRIPTIVE SCALE CORR
  /SUMMARY=TOTAL.
*compute political interest variable
COMPUTE politicalinterest=v15preRec + v16preRec + v32aRec + v32bRec.
VARIABLE LABELS politicalinterest 'Political Interest'.
EXECUTE.
*frequencies political interest
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalinterest
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

*HISTOGRAMMEN VARIABLES

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mediause_activeRec
  /HISTOGRAM NORMAL
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mediause_passiveRec
  /HISTOGRAM NORMAL
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mediause_general
  /HISTOGRAM NORMAL
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalparticipation_activeRec
  /HISTOGRAM NORMAL
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalparticipation_passiveRec
  /HISTOGRAM NORMAL
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
```

```
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalparticipation_general
  /HISTOGRAM NORMAL
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalinterest
  /HISTOGRAM NORMAL
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
```

Appendix F.2: Data Analyses

```
*Hypothesis 1
REGRESSION
  /MISSING LISTWISE
  /STATISTICS COEFF OUTS R ANOVA
  /CRITERIA=PIN(.05) POUT(.10)
  /NOORIGIN
  /DEPENDENT politicalparticipation_general
  /METHOD=ENTER mediause_general
  /SCATTERPLOT=(*SDRESID,*ZPRED) (politicalparticipation_general ,*SDRESID)
  /RESIDUALS HISTOGRAM(ZRESID) NORMPROB(ZRESID).

REGRESSION
  /MISSING LISTWISE
  /STATISTICS COEFF OUTS R ANOVA
  /CRITERIA=PIN(.05) POUT(.10)
  /NOORIGIN
  /DEPENDENT politicalparticipation_general
  /METHOD=ENTER mediause_activeRec mediause_passiveRec
  /SCATTERPLOT=(*SRESID,*ZPRED)
  /RESIDUALS HISTOGRAM(ZRESID) NORMPROB(ZRESID).

*hypothesis 2
SORT CASES BY politicalinterestRec.
SPLIT FILE SEPARATE BY politicalinterestRec.

REGRESSION
  /MISSING LISTWISE
  /STATISTICS COEFF OUTS R ANOVA
  /CRITERIA=PIN(.05) POUT(.10)
  /NOORIGIN
  /DEPENDENT politicalparticipation_general
  /METHOD=ENTER mediause_general.

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=politicalinterestRec
  /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
```

```
*Hypothesis 3
REGRESSION
  /MISSING LISTWISE
  /STATISTICS COEFF OUTS R ANOVA
  /CRITERIA=PIN(.05) POUT(.10)
  /NOORIGIN
  /DEPENDENT politicalparticipation_general
  /METHOD=ENTER mediause_activeRec
  /SCATTERPLOT=(*SDRESID,*ZPRED) (politicalparticipation_general,*SDRESID)
  /RESIDUALS HISTOGRAM(ZRESID) NORMPROB(ZRESID).

REGRESSION
  /MISSING LISTWISE
  /STATISTICS COEFF OUTS R ANOVA
  /CRITERIA=PIN(.05) POUT(.10)
  /NOORIGIN
  /DEPENDENT politicalparticipation_general
  /METHOD=ENTER mediause_passiveRec
  /SCATTERPLOT=(*SDRESID,*ZPRED) (politicalparticipation_general,*SDRESID)
  /RESIDUALS HISTOGRAM(ZRESID) NORMPROB(ZRESID).

*Hypothesis 4
REGRESSION
  /MISSING LISTWISE
  /STATISTICS COEFF OUTS R ANOVA
  /CRITERIA=PIN(.05) POUT(.10)
  /NOORIGIN
  /DEPENDENT politicalparticipation_activeRec
  /METHOD=ENTER mediause_general
  /SCATTERPLOT=(*SDRESID,*ZPRED) (politicalparticipation_activeRec,*SDRESID)
  /RESIDUALS HISTOGRAM(ZRESID) NORMPROB(ZRESID).

REGRESSION
  /MISSING LISTWISE
  /STATISTICS COEFF OUTS R ANOVA
  /CRITERIA=PIN(.05) POUT(.10)
  /NOORIGIN
  /DEPENDENT politicalparticipation_passiveRec
  /METHOD=ENTER mediause_general
  /SCATTERPLOT=(*SDRESID,*ZPRED) (politicalparticipation_passiveRec,*SDRESID)
  /RESIDUALS HISTOGRAM(ZRESID) NORMPROB(ZRESID).
```