

PREFACE

During the completion of this study, public interest in constitutional reform has boomed. The decision of the AKP government in Turkey and the SYRIZA–ANEL coalition government in Greece to launch a constitutional amendment process has resuscitated the discussion about populist majoritarianism. While the Greek amendment process has not born any fruit by summer 2017, the Turkish voters have approved by a thin majority of 51.4 percent in the referendum of 16 April 2017 the new constitution proposed by the AKP government. The way that the public debate has unfolded has pointed at the relevance of the main findings of this study, regardless of the outcome of the amendment process. As Greek and Turkish societies remain divided on political, religious, social and other grounds and populism remains an attractive political ideology in both countries, the need to reinforce checks-and-balances mechanisms and institutions nurturing social trust remains imperative.

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