

## **Abstract**

In recent years, technocratic populism had continuously gained more relevance both in academic literature and mainstream media; nonetheless, due to the recentness of the phenomenon, scholarly publications are yet to agree on an universally accepted definition defining technocratic populism. Similarly, the publications discussing political actors vis-à-vis technocratic populism are scarce. The present dissertation aims at summarizing the working definitions of technocratic populism and testing them against the political careers of Andrej Babis and Silvio Berlusconi, aiming at identifying whether or not these two former prime ministers can be described as technocratic populist actors. As of today no academic publication has delved into this comparison even though these actors appear very similar to one another: both are extremely wealthy businessmen turned politicians amid domestic political crises and both have quickly become relevant political actors in the European political arena. In order to conduct the research, this dissertation identifies five parameters defining technocratic populist actors; subsequently, the two aforementioned former prime ministers are discussed as case studies compared to the working definition of technopopulism derived from the existing academic literature. In doing so, the present research aims at expanding the literature discussing real-life cases of technocratic populism, presenting a methodology which allows for the replicability of this research with respect to other contemporary political actors identifiable as technocratic populist ones.