

Ad Hoc Gruppe „European Civil Society and Multilevel Governance“

29. September, 9:00 – 12:30 Uhr, Raum Ü5 (Fürstenberghaus)

PROGRAMM

Zeit	Thema
9:00 – 9:10	<i>Matthias Freise (Münster)</i> Introduction
9:10 – 9:40	<p>Michèle Knodt (Darmstadt) Assessing Civil Society participation in the EU. Three models of involvement Kommentar: Ece Göztepe-Çelebi (Ankara)</p> <p><u>Abstract:</u> Within the last years research on European integration as well as the European Union itself have developed a strong interest in the concept of civil society. This scientific as well as political discourse can be located within the discussion on legitimate European governance. In order to cope with the so called 'democratic deficit' European institutions, first and foremost the European Commission, have discovered civil society involvement as a resource to enhance their legitimacy within the European political system. Nevertheless, we can witness a wide range of (sometimes conflicting) involvement strategies which seem to leave scientists helpless in their attempt to assess the legitimizing potential of these strategies. Academic concepts such as participatory governance or deliberative supranationalism have been imprecise and not focussed enough on the legitimacy question. This contribution will shed some light on the tension and sometimes gap between the European Commission's claim to legitimize European governance on the one hand and the reality of civil society involvement on the other. For this purpose, three idealtypes of civil society involvement will be constructed: (1) a selective consultation model; (2) a procedural communication model and (3) a model of selfregulation. These idealtypes will cover the range from ad hoc involvement for pure information and consultation to a type of involvement which is based on deliberative standards of arguing to the delegation of binding decision to civil society actors. The idealtypes will facilitate the classification and assessment of different strategies of civil society involvement existing in the European Union with reference to their legitimate potential. The analysis will show (1) that most of the involvement strategies of European institutions can be assigned to the selective consultation model and, as I will argue, miss deliberative legitimacy standards; (2) that, over time, we can witness a shift towards deliberative legitimacy standards and thus towards the procedural communication model including even some hints for a model of selfregulation; and (3) that the scope of this shift varies within different policy fields of European governance.</p>
9:40 – 10:10	<p><i>Gudrun Eisele (Münster)</i> Organising Civil Society: The European Economic and Social Committee Kommentar: Andrea Lenschow (Osnabrück)</p> <p><u>Abstract:</u> In its attempt to reach the citizens, build up allies, and develop a societal foundation, the EU has turned its attention to civil society. This focus makes it worthwhile to take a closer look at the European Economic and Social Committee, that defines itself as a "bridge between Europe and organised civil society". How well does that bridge function? This</p>

	<p>paper explores the Committee's strengths and weaknesses as well as the opportunities and challenges the increased interest in civil society involvement presents to it. Based on interviews, the paper outlines different ways in which the Committee responds to these challenges, shedding light on its internal dynamics of change. The paper finishes with an appraising conclusion.</p>
<p>10:10 – 10:40</p>	<p><i>Thorsten Hüller (Mannheim)</i> Enhancing Democracy through Civil Society Participation in the EU – What is the question? And what is the answer? Kommentar: Birgit Sittermann (Münster)</p> <p><u>Abstract:</u></p> <p>For about a decade now political actors and social scientists alike have called for enhancing civil society participation in EU affairs. Most prominent has been White Paper on European Governance and the Draft of the Constitutional Treaty and the academic debate commenting these initiatives. The EU Commission, in particular, has been active to establish the principle and the practice of civil society participation in EU policy making. But if civil society participation is the solution, what is the problem? There are at least three potential deficits to be cured: (1) Defects in the quality and efficiency of policy making, (2) fading social support for EU integration, (3) lack in democratic legitimacy. Irrespective of the interdependence of these three issues I should like to concentrate on the third, last, not least because this is the topic of a research project just started at the MZES. This paper will take a close look whether the theory of participation and 'participatory democracy' will give us guidance to find an answer to the question whether 'civil society involvement' will contribute to further the democratic quality of the EU.</p> <p>We have to face three challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we explain that the Commission, mainly an administrative and executive body, needs democratic legitimacy and when being more open to societal actors will contribute to democratic legitimacy? • What are the relevant criteria to measure the democratic value added when not the participation of the citizen but of civil society organisations do the job? • How does the context, i.e. the EU system of multi-level-governance, affect civil society participation? <p>The paper will mainly discuss these questions from a perspective of political theory.</p>
<p>10:40 – 11:00</p>	<p>Kaffeepause</p>
<p>11:00 – 11:30</p>	<p><i>Matthias Dembinski & Jutta Joachim (Mannheim)</i> From an Intergovernmental to a Governance System? Non-Governmental Organizations and the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy Kommentar: Dominik Sopart (Münster)</p> <p><u>Abstract:</u></p> <p>What role do non-governmental organizations play in the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union? Thus far we know very little in this respect since research on non-state actors has exclusively focused on the first and third pillars. This paper seeks to help fill the gap in the literature. Employing a governance approach, we examine the evolution of the European Code of Conduct on Arms Export adopted in 1998 as well as the responses of two EU Member States – France and Germany – to the soon to be binding agreement. We show that the CFSP is no longer closed off to actors other than governments. Instead, its ongoing institutionalization provides non-state actors with spaces to insert their voices, to exert pressure on governments, and to set in motion processes which originally had not been intended by states. The patterns of state and non-state actor interaction are surprisingly similar to those found in the first pillar. They only differ in their intensity and regularity. However, this may be attributed to the fact that the CFSP is only an evolving rather than a fully developed governance system.</p>

11:30 – 12:00	<p><i>Achim Goerres (LSE)</i> The Ageing of Civil Society in Europe and its Consequences for Political Participation. An Exploration. Kommentar: Susanne in der Smitten (Münster)</p> <p><u>Abstract:</u> This paper explores the implications of demographic ageing on civil society and political participation across Europe. Does the fact that there are more and more older citizens make any difference for the political participatory processes in individual countries and in the European Union? The paper presents empirical evidence from the European Social Survey and from interviews with older English protesters who were part of a protest movement. The paper postulates that the gradual change in the age composition of civil society offers new opportunities (such as a growing pool of retired political volunteers) as well as challenges for liberal democracy in Europe (such as the lack of responsiveness of some polities to old age local demands and expensive policy preferences of older people). It finishes by raising some normative questions about civil society and demographic ageing.</p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p><i>Matthias Freise (Münster)</i> Civil Society Organizations in Public Private Partnerships Kommentar: N.N.</p> <p><u>Abstract:</u> The outsourcing of local based community services to public private partnerships with involvement of civil society organizations is currently taking place in many European countries and policy sectors. In particular the policy sectors welfare production and culture, but also education, environment, sports, and recreation are restructured in the course of new governance approaches. Up until now the topic of civil society organizations involved in public private partnerships has not been well researched. This is particularly the case if we consider these developments in an European comparative perspective. In other words, research takes by and large a rather static view on the “welfare mix” of selected policy fields.</p> <p>The aim of the paper is to present and to discuss the analytical approach of a broader research project at Muenster University which will investigate the involvement of civil society organizations in public private partnerships and the influence of Europeanization on this development from a comparative perspective.</p>