

B3.9 The European Union in International Organisations



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Funding/ University of Mannheim (WOVEN) and MZES



Hypotheses

- RQ1: Hypotheses are based on rationalist intergovernmental, institutionalist and constructivist perspectives and relate to EU Member States' preferences, IO's resources, the sectoral vs. universal character of IOs, mode of decision making within IOs, number of IO members, EU competences, IO bureaucratic culture, and IOs' age
- RQ 2a: Hypotheses relate to the ideological distance between EU Commission and Council, the bindingness of IO decisions, and first mover advantages
- RQ 2b: Hypotheses relate to EU competences, as well as the EU's acquis and expertise in certain policy fields

Approach

- Inclusion of IOs on the basis of Correlates of War (CoW) International Governmental Organization (IGO) data and the Yearbook of International Organizations (online)
- Own data collection on the EU's status in these IOs and on independent variables
- Application of quantitative and qualitative methods.

Contribution

- For several decades, the European Union (EU) has been actively involved in the work of international organisations (IOs) as a member, as observer with varying degrees of rights, or as a partner. At the same time, there are instances where the EU has faced obstacles to its participation and even outright rejection by both EU member states and IO members.
- This project represents the first comprehensive study that focuses on the role of the EU in international organisations. It goes beyond existing research by providing a full picture of the EU's formal and effective status in IOs, based on the collection of original data and by avoiding selection bias.
- The EU is the most advanced regional integration organisation (RIO) and hence a 'most-likely' case. In a world of accelerating regionalism, project results are relevant with respect to other RIOs, too.

Research Questions

- **RQ1: Formal status:** Why did the EU gain membership or observer status in some IOs but not in others? Which factors influence the EU's status in IOs?
- **RQ2: Effective status:** Why are there differences with regard to the degree to which the EU can effectively make use of its member or observer status in an IO and which factors influence this degree?
 - **RQ2a.** Why are there different arrangements between the EU institutions and member states in cases of joint IO membership and how can observed differences be explained?
 - **RQ2b.** Why are there different arrangements for the EU as an observer in IOs and how can observed differences be explained?

EU Access to IOs



* with regard to observer status

Formal EU Status in IOs

- The diagram shows the EU's status in 140 IOs included in the CoW dataset. Data collection on further IOs is ongoing. Examples include:
- Member status: Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Tropical Timber Organization
- Observer status: International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- No Status: Arctic Council, World Tourism Organization, International Rice Commission

