



Project no. CIT1-CT-2004-506392

NEWGOV

New Modes of Governance

Integrated Project
Priority 7 – Citizens and Governance in the Knowledge-based Society

NEWGOV Cross-Cluster Workshop & Practitioner's Event Civil Society, New Modes of Governance and Enlargement

**8 – 10 May 2008
Free University Berlin
Germany**

Call for Papers / Participants

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Co-ordinated by the European University Institute
NEWGOV is financially supported by the EU's 6th Framework Programme



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Outline

To what extent does civil society help to make enlargement work by providing both EU-level actors and governments of accession countries with means to strengthen the effectiveness and legitimacy of accession processes and outcomes? Various research projects, both within the New Modes of Governance (NEWGOV) Integrated Project and beyond have recently provided interesting insights on this question and raised some important puzzles for theoretical reasoning and practical application.

First, there seems to be solid evidence for civil society as a critical determinant for the emergence, evolution, effectiveness and legitimacy of new modes of governance during enlargement and beyond. At the same time, Enlargement has helped to strengthen civil society actors which could benefit from EU capacity-building measures and the opening up of multiple channels of influence in the EU's multi-level governance system. Nevertheless, and largely against original expectations, research results show that new modes of governance have emerged much less than expected in the accession countries. Their authoritarian legacies, combined with a still rather weak civil society, the complexity of democratic and economic transitions as well as the rapid legal and political change attributed to the EU accession have largely hindered the emergence of inclusive modes of policy-making in the region. Thus, both the nature of the accession process and the domestic conditions of the accession countries have effectively counteracted functional pressures stemming from relatively weak state capacities and the encouragement of the EU to involve non-state actors in the adoption of the *acquis communautaire*.

Second, even where societal actors have been sufficiently strong to support the emergence and evolution of new modes of governance, their impact is at best ambivalent. On the one hand, non-state actor's participation can increase the legitimacy, effectiveness and accountability in policy processes, e.g. by providing relevant knowledge to state actors or by actively participating in the implementation process. On the other hand, however, the influence of non-state actors with strong particularistic interests may lead to some form of state capture, challenging the legitimacy of new modes of governance or (further) undermining effective provision of public goods.

Third, while the level of new modes of governance has remained rather low in accession countries, we find some significant variance with regard to non-state actor involvement across different regions (Southern, Central and Eastern Europe) and policy fields (environment, OMC, regional development, social dialogue). These findings clearly indicate that the outcomes with regard to the emergence, evolution, effectiveness and legitimacy of new modes of governance are highly differential and depend to a considerable extent on certain societal preconditions.

The NEWGOV Cross-Cluster Workshop seeks to explore the societal preconditions, in general, and the role played by civil society actors, in particular, in the emergence, evolution and effectiveness of New Modes of Governance during enlargement. The aim of the workshop is to contribute to the comparative analysis and consolidation of research findings from different NEWGOV clusters and individual projects dealing with these issues. The meeting will help promote the theoretical, methodological and empirical consistency of research related both to the links between new modes of governance and civil society in general and in Central and Eastern Europe in particular. Special emphasis will be placed on systematically exploring societal factors that account for the divergent outcomes of the (non-) emergence of new modes of governance, their (in)stable evolution, and their differential impact on policies and domestic structures. While the focus of the workshop lies on accession countries, we also look for

cross-regional, temporal and policy-specific factors explaining the differences in the emergence of new modes of governance within the issues studied by different NEWGOV projects.

The workshop will be complemented by a Practitioners Event that will bring together specialist working in the state and non-state sector and contribute to the dissemination of findings of NEWGOV researchers during the last years. Moreover, the organizers will seek to synthesize the findings of the workshop into a cross-cluster publication.

The cross-cluster workshop will bring together senior researchers, practitioners and junior researchers dealing with different issues related to new modes of governance and Civil Society. It will help to bring together researchers from NEWGOV and other research projects in order to compare, complete and consolidate their findings. The meeting will help to achieve theoretical, methodological and empirical consistency in their work. This will be reached by involving:

- Researchers using interdisciplinary approaches from different fields of research like political science, sociology and legal studies,
- Researchers focusing on different levels of EU policy-making (national and EU level),
- Researchers focusing on empirical and theoretical issues relating to new modes of governance,
- Researchers and practitioners from different policy fields such as environmental policy, regional development and social policy.

The workshop will be facilitated by Professor Tanja A. Börzel (Free University Berlin, NEWGOV Cluster 3 Coordinator), Aron Buzogany (Free University Berlin) and Heiko Pleines (Research Center for East European Studies at the University of Bremen). Seminar participation, paper presentation and local accommodation in Berlin will be organized by the Center for European Integration at the Free University Berlin.

How to participate / present a paper

Interested researchers from NEWGOV and CONNEX are invited to submit abstracts of papers (ca 300 words) by the **26th of March 2008** to the workshop organizers (europa@zedat.fu-berlin.de). As a rule, participation of one researcher per project will be fully financed through funding made available by the NEWGOV Consortium. Additional researchers from NEWGOV projects or CONNEX wishing to attend are also encouraged to participate, but will not be eligible for funding. In some well justified cases, however, exemptions can be granted. While the workshop is oriented mainly towards NEWGOV members, it is open for participation and funding also for external researchers. All selected paper givers (NEWGOV and CONNEX) will have their travel, accommodation funded by the NEWGOV budget.

For further information please contact Aron Buzogány (buzogany@zedat.fu-berlin.de)