European Public Policy

Europeanisation/German Politics
Outline

Intro
  Recap
  Today: Public Policy

European Union Public Policy
  Concepts
  European Union Policy Making

Summary/Class Questions
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Europeanisation/MLG: definitions

- Multi-level governance
  - Multi-level: European, national, regional, local actors
  - Governance: Hierarchical politics partially replaced
  - Focus on communication, bargaining, deliberation
  - Formal inclusion of experts, stake holders etc.
Europeanisation/MLG: definitions

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- **Europeanisation**
  - Impact of ‘Europe’ on domestic politics through construction, diffusion, institutionalisation
  - Norms, beliefs, formal and informal rules, procedures, policy paradigms, styles
  - More than *adoption* of EU policies, less than EU politics
Europeanisation/MLG: points to remember

- Contra MLG: Hierarchical politics still important
- Europeanisation not a new phenomenon, but an important aspect of European integration
- Difficult to measure/assess
- Europeanisation: not a simple phenomenon
  - Unequal degree of Europeanisation across policy domains
  - Unequal degree of Europeanisation across different states
- Strategic use of Europeanisation, unequal power of member states to set European agenda
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- European Public Policy one important (but not the only) driver of Europeanisation
European policy analysis in context

- Two main approaches to EU policy
  1. IR perspective:
     - system treaties between sovereign states
     - treat EU like any other international organisation
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▶ Both perspectives useful, depending on context/domain
What is public policy?

“A set of interrelated decisions taken by a political actor or group of actors concerning the selection of goals and the means of achieving them within a specified situation where those decisions should, in principle, be within the power of those actors to achieve” (Jenkins 1978)

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Popular, venerable but not very clear-cut, so: nowadays controversial

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We have to understand what is at stake for whom to predict how process will unfold
The main characters

1. Policy makers (politicians)
2. Bureaucrats
3. Interest groups
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4. The public? – collective action problems
The policy cycle / stages

1. Problem recognition
2. Identification of possible solutions
3. Choice of best solution
4. Policy implementation
5. Policy evaluation
6. Desired objectives
   - Inputs
   - Processes
   - Outputs
   - Outcomes
7. Policy termination
The policy cycle / stages

1) Preparation
   - Informal talks → formulation of a proposal
   - start of formal process

2) Decision making
   - A legally binding decision is made

3) Implementation
   - Decision is put into practice through real measures

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   - Judicial review, political evaluation

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Networks and communities

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Again, more an approach than a theory, number of criticism
Delegation as a principal – agent problem

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  - High Authority/Commission
  - European Central Bank
  - Various regulators
  - European Court of Justice?
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- Degree of overlap between interests of principals and agents?
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Approaches to EU policy making

- Rational choice perspective:
  - Actors basically rational (well-informed, clearly defined & stable preferences, able to identify best course of actions)
  - Focus on formal rules, voting power etc.
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▶ Sociological/historical perspectives
  ▶ Actors basically role-playing, socialised, sanctioned; “logic of appropriateness”
  ▶ Preferences not stable, but shaped by interactions
  ▶ Problem(s): Highly plausible, but little evidence to back up claims
Players and rules

- Interest Groups
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- EP

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  - Voting largely structured by two dimensions:
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- Implementation & monitoring are tricky – degree of europeanisation?
  - Decisions
  - Regulations
  - Directives
Modes of policy making

1. “Traditional Community Method”
2. “EU Regulatory Mode”
3. “EU Distributional Mode”
4. “Policy Co-ordination”
5. “Trans-/Intergovernmentalism”
**Policy making**

- Policy making: what political systems do
- Different types of policies:
  - Who wins, who loses
  - How concentrated are the gains/losses
- Circular process that is difficult to control in democracies
EU policy making

- Very many players
- Different modes
- So far, dominance of regulation (and de-regulation)
- Focus on economy including labour markets, with far-reaching consequences (spill-over)
- One important source of europeanisation: Impact of European public policy on German politics
Your turn

- Work in two groups (A and B)
- Read Barroso’s speech. What is the Commission after? Which policies is it trying to implement in which way? And did the Commission achieve its aims?
- Break into A-B pairs.
- One student defends the Commission’s decision to increase the use of new modes of governance; the other accuses the Commission of pursuing ‘integration by stealth’.