

Europeanization as an instrument of the EU's foreign policy in the field of promotion of democracy

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in search for new integration code?”
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“European values”

European Union and its foreign policy is based on “**European values**” which include:

- **ideological and political norms:** protection of democracy, human rights and civil liberties, the rule of law, etc.
- **socio-economic norms:** social justice, tolerance, solidarity, gender equality, etc.
- **norms governing foreign relations:** maintaining peace, renouncing the use of armed force, multilateral cooperation, the primacy of international law, etc.

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in the field of promotion of democracy

“European values” (2)

“European values”:

- are recorded in the most important EU documents, in particular in the Lisbon Treaty (including in the Preamble and in the Articles 2, 3 and 21)
- constitute an immanent, very important part of the EU *acquis communautaire* and *acquis politique*
- constitute a normative basis (also in the legal and constitutional sense) of the entire EU’s foreign policy

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in the field of promotion of democracy

European Union as a "soft power"

European Union is a specific "soft power", which affects its international environment not with the help of force, but with the use of its civilization attractiveness, including its system of values

The soft power concept is a conceptual basis for other similar theories, such as "civilian power", "normative power", "transformative power" or "market power"

Their main common denominator is that the EU refrains from using military force and promotes democratic values

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Democratization

One of the main goals of the EU's foreign policy is to support democratization, especially by means of such policies as the European Neighbourhood Policy or the Eastern Partnership

Democratization means a process of political transformation consisting in the gradual and evolutionary initiation and deepening of democracy in a state that was previously authoritarian

Full liberal democracy means the implementation of a set of norms that essentially overlap with the catalogue of “European values”

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Europeanization

In the case of the EU's foreign policy, democratization is closely related to Europeanization

Europeanization means a gradual transfer of values, norms and standards from the EU's level to the level of its Member States, and then their application and effect caused by such implementation

Europeanization has various aspects: cultural, social, legal or economic, as well as its internal dimension, referring mainly to the integration processes taking place within the EU

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External Europeanization

In the context of the EU's foreign policy, the most important is external Europeanization

External Europeanization occurs when there are two main and related phenomena:

- the geographical extension of the EU (the admission of new Member States) and/or
- effective transfer of the EU norms, values and standards (the transmission of the European political and economic model to third countries)

It means that the highest manifestation of Europeanization is simply an enlargement of the EU

External Europeanization (2)

From the point of view of the effectiveness of the EU's foreign policy, the transfer of "European values" is also very important, even if it does not lead to membership of the given partner country in the EU

External Europeanization can have significant strength and effectiveness, even greater than in the case of internal Europeanization

Partner countries are subject to **conditionality**, which means that the EU provides assistance to them depending on whether they implement "European values"

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Europeanization and democratization

Europeanization and democratization are closely related, but they do not mean the same process

Europeanization requires more than adopting solutions leading to democratization, but needs also adoption of some socio-economic norms

Europeanization in its ideal form means the full introduction of a liberal democracy in combination with the introduction of a developed free market economy

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Socialization

Europeanization can take place with the help of socialization

Socialization means a broad transfer of “European values” to local elites, especially political ones managing the administrative apparatus of a given partner country

In many cases, socialization may allow the introduction of Europeanization through the “back door”

It is possible because it does not raise the objections from local political actors who, as a result of Europeanization, would lose their influence or even power

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Europeanization and socialization

Europeanization done only by means of socialization could pose
a serious danger

The mere strengthening of the administrative system of the partner country does not necessarily lead to greater Europeanization, because this may support the emergence of authoritarian tendencies

Europeanization can not limit the promotion of democracy
to the promotion of good governance

Europeanization should include the widest circles of the whole society
of partner countries

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Some effects of Europeanization

The most desired effects, that is the full Europeanization of the partner countries, have so far only occurred in relation to the states accepted as the new members of the EU - although even in such cases problems may arise with full adoption of the EU standards

The least desirable result, that is the full rejection of Europeanization, can be illustrated by the example of a complete failure of the EU-Russian strategic partnership

There are also effects such as inertia or a specific accommodation consisting only in the introduction of small, superficial changes and adaptations to the EU requirements

Assessments of Europeanization

Europeanization is assessed in a critical manner by some researchers and politicians

In their opinion, Europeanization is highly asymmetrical to the detriment of partner countries because they are forced to adopt EU regulations

It is true that relations between the EU and partner countries are by definition **asymmetric and hierarchical in nature**, since these countries are unilaterally dependent on the EU in the field of trade, economic cooperation or political, financial and technical assistance

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Assessments of Europeanization (2)

On the other hand, the establishment of the EU-partner countries relations is **entirely voluntary**

In contrast to internal Europeanization (where there is a “legal coercion”), in relation to partner countries such coercion does not formally exist - unless the given state under its sovereign decision is subject of conditionality

Each partner country can at any time resign from the tightening of ties with the EU and thus not be subject of further Europeanization

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Assessments of Europeanization (3)

Voluntary nature of relations between the EU and partner countries may be limited by an objective factor which can be called
“no alternative to the integration path”

This means that partner countries may come to the conclusion that none of other possible options creates real opportunities comparable to the benefits resulting from integration with the EU

Europeanization is certainly a very important factor favouring the political, economic and social development of a given partner country

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Positive effects of Europeanization

Europeanization and democratization brings to the partner countries serious benefits in practically all spheres of life

The proof is that it is very difficult to find real examples that the adoption of the EU standards brings tangible, practical damage to any partner country

In some cases Europeanization has brought real positive results: examples are results achieved in some countries involved in the Eastern Partnership, such as Georgia and Ukraine

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Positive effects of Europeanization (2)

Promotion of democracy connected with Europeanization, treated as a tool of the EU's foreign policy, brings benefits to the European Union itself

The construction of an international order based on "European values" promotes political and social stability, strengthens security, develops trade, increases prosperity, etc. in relation both to the close neighbourhood of the EU and on a global scale

Such an international environment favours the development of the EU treated both as a "soft power", as well as a traditional political and economic power

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**Thank you very much
for your attention**

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