

*Domestic Effects of International Norms.
EU Development Policy Principles in France,
Germany and Spain*

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Fach: Politikwissenschaft

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Forschungsfrage:

How do agency and structural factors affect the domestic translation of EU development policy principles?

Methodik:

- pre-study: analysis of ‘domestic structures’ in development policy
- main analysis: reconstruction of the institutionalisation, implementation and socialisation of two policy principles (prioritising LDCs and other LICs; EU Joint Programming) from 2000 to 2016 through process-tracing; triangulation of semi-structured interviews, content analysis and statistical data analysis

Ergebnis:

- Policy norms have the most encompassing effects once they are internalised by the relevant actors (identified through the pre-study). Norm internalisation, however, remains intricate to study, as it is a subjective, individual-level process. The study’s ‘domestic translation three-step’, constituted by the institutionalisation, implementation and socialisation of international policy principles, contributes to gaining insights into norm internalisation by uncovering different influences and sub-processes at work.
- In all six cases studied (two policy principles in three countries), norm processes are significantly influenced by both agency and structural factors.
- Agency-wise, contestation over application or meaning is found to be present in all six cases. Structure-wise, institutional procedures rank prominently as does the question of (mis)fit either with pre-existing domestic policy principles or norms, with institutional structures or identity traits.