

Europeanization of National Party Systems

Europeanization

„Europeanization is always (to a certain extent) a process of domestic political change caused (somehow) by processes of European integration.“

(Maarten Vink)

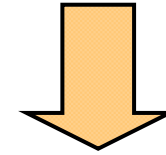
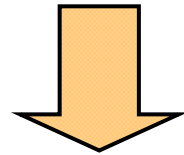
Europeanization approach vs. theories of European integration

Europeanization approach

Theories of European Integration

European Integration

National political systems



National political systems

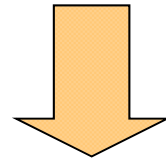
European Integration

Three different models of Europeanization

- Top-down model
- Bottom-up model or transformation model
- Europeanization as a macro-process

Top-down model

Demands from the EU level
(legislation, rules, norms and values)



Domestic changes

The misfit concept (T. Börzel, T. Risse, et. al.)

- Europeanization takes only place if there is a misfit between the European demands and the domestic „reality“
- This misfit creates pressure for adaptation
- The pressure for adaptation causes domestic change

Bottom-up model / transformation model



Impulses for Europeanization

- European laws, rules
- European structures
- Norms and ideas which influence political behavior

The degree of Europeanization

- Absorption
- Accommodation
- Transformation

The degree of Europeanization depends on (a) the misfit and (b) facilitating factors as well as veto players

Europeanization of the German Party System:

- traditional perspective:
only minor changes/now Europeanization
(no new parties, no pro-European-anti-European cleavages, EP-elections as second order elections, EU plays only a minor role in national elections, no changes in the electoral system)
- Recent changes:
 - a) European issues are central issues in domestic politics (Eurocrisis, migration)
 - b) AFD as a new Eurosceptic party
→ establishment of a new pro-European-anti-European Cleavage?
 - c) EU-level as a new career opportunity (e.g. M. Weber)
 - d) systemic changes: No 5 % barrier in EP elections

Quoted literature

- Vinck, Maarten P. What is Europeanisation? And other questions on a new research agenda. In: European Political Science 3 (2001) 1, pp. 66-74.
- Börzel, Tanja/Risse, Thomas: When Europe Hits Home. Europeanization and Domestic Changes, in: European Integration Online Papers 15/2000