

CALL FOR PAPERS

Human rights in EU external relations: inequality, security and trade

Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences
Comenius University in Bratislava
7 December 2017

Conference topic

The current globalized world poses various challenges to the functioning of states, institutions, even communities and individuals. Military conflicts, terrorism, increasing inequality and environmental threats and their implications all influence the behavior of stakeholders and constitute major topics not only for policy makers, but also for researchers as well as non-governmental organizations.

Today, such challenges and threats are all included in the sustainable development regime based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda, which has been set to meet its objectives till the 2030. The SDGs represent significant change in development policy and change in international development regime comparing them to the previous strategy of MDGs. New researches and approaches towards inequality reduction aims to balance the economic, social and cultural gaps between and within the continents. Even though international organizations are criticized because of the lack of their effectivity, most of regimes, which formation has been initiated by, among others, the UN, have an undoubtful impact on the behaviour of states and other stakeholders. Compliance with regimes and its negotiation has not been determined by membership in the UN, but rather by the dominant position of certain actors¹. Moreover, when considering the human rights regime, we may argue that one of the crucial actors here is the European Union (EU). However, it is important to state that the EU does not only confirm to the international treaties and conventions with weak enforceability, it created its own regime that is rooted in Art. 2 and Art. 6 of the Lisbon Treaty. Human rights thus became a fundamental principle which implications reach also external policies. That places the EU as a human rights protector in a unique position in the world. However, the EU is not the only actor in the world who uses human rights discourse as central to its foreign policy. Such discourse is interconnected with the discourse of security and defence (case of migration crisis) as well as economy (North v South).

¹ Moravcsik, A. (2000). The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe. *International Organization* (vol. 54, no. 2), pp. 217-252.

Topics for considerations / Potential panels

This international conference welcomes proposals for papers dealing with the role of human rights in the construction and implementation of the EU internal policies with external effect and external policies themselves, including but not limited to:

- Enlargement policy,
- neighborhood policy,
- international trade,
- security and defence,
- asylum and migration policy,
- gender equality,
- development policy,
- diplomacy.

Especially appreciated will be papers dealing with concrete issue within policy *case study* or in a *comparative study* using *different methods* and analyses such as

- the role of institutions and bodies in construction, implementation and supervision of human rights in the EU external policies,
- pursuing national agenda of the EU MS in the human rights clauses related to specific regions in trade and development agreements,
- human rights as stepping stone of European identity,
- EU as a global actor in the UN and its implementation of the UN programs,
- EU soft power and its role of establishment and improvement of the rule of law within and outside of the EU.

Abstract and paper submission

We invite scholars, young researchers and PhD students to send an abstract (200-250 words) of their potential contribution at the conference and a short bio (150-200 words) to workshop@fses.uniba.sk. Deadline: 7 November 2017

Participants will have the opportunity to have their research considered for inclusion in the conference proceedings or in the special issue (**tbc**). Deadline for full paper submission: 21 December 2017

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