

Small States Differentiated Integration

Montenegro

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European Integration

Differentiated Integration

- Historic steps in EU integration:
 - 2007 – Signed Stabilisation and Association Agreement
 - 2008 – Montenegro officially requested EU membership
 - 2009 – Visa liberalization for Montenegrin citizens
 - 2010 – EC recommend to grant Montenegro candidate status
 - 2012 – Negotiation process begins
- Current situation:
 - Opened 32/33 chapters in the negotiation process
 - Temporarily closed: 25; 26; 30.
 - Biggest issues: politically 23 and 24; economically 27.
 - Not in the mix: 8
- The EU integration is a parallel process with NATO integration so disentangling specific effects on the economy and culture is not possible
- However, since the initiation of the integration process the market opened up, economy is on the rise and relative inequalities are quite constant

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Differentiated Integration

- National administration and European affairs
- Changes in administrative structure with every new electoral cycle
- Currently – European integration office as the primary coordinating institution
 - Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with European Union
 - Specialized directorates within Ministries that deal with specific areas of integration process

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Differentiated Integration

- Decision shaping and policy making
 - Predominant party system
 - DPS as a specific driver of integration process and policy making
 - Stakeholders and interest groups (virtually non-existing in a sense of western known interest groups) are involved as members of work groups for preparing the negotiation process for the specific chapters (NGOs, think tanks, academia, unions, employers federation etc.)

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National debates

- How is the national debate on European integration in your country
 - EU integration is relatively uncontested both by public opinion (67.4% December, 2018) and political subjects
 - In the political arena: on the positive side – adherence to democratic and liberal values
 - But first and foremost economic development
 - NGOs and think tanks view the process as the main driver of institutional and democratic development
 - Recent development – since February 2019 first Eurosceptic party (MfC)

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Free movement

- Provide an overview of your country's position towards the four freedoms (goods, services, persons and capital)
- In general a very liberalized approach to economic freedoms
- Weak type of corporatist negotiations
- Free flow of goods and services (national campaigns too prioritize national goods and services but no actual institutional protection)
- Free flow of persons (brain drain is positioned as an issue that could potentially worsen after the accession process finalizes)
- Free flow of capital (economy dependent on foreign direct investment, economic citizenship programs)

European Integration Conclusions

- Future trajectories – more/less integration or status quo
- Currently not really applicable (nor real debate on sovereignty transfers, supranationality or intergovernmentalism)
- The debate is not structured on how the EU should look like, more on the path to getting there