



1.3. WHY IS EU ENLARGEMENT (STILL) ATTRACTIVE?

KRISTIЈAN LEZAIC, MASTER OF EUROPEAN STUDIES AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Center for European Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32601

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Enlargement as a policy of EU

- ☐ Gradual process of horizontal institutionalization widening
- ☐ Gradual process of vertical institutionalization deepening
- ☐ Can widening & deepening be mutually complementary?

Dimensions of Enlargement (politics)

- ❑ Applicants Enlargement Politics and Policies
- ❑ Member States Enlargement policies
- ❑ EU Collective Enlargement politics (Macro and Micro)
- ❑ Impact of Enlargement

Enlargement issues for the EU

- ❑ Agriculture
- ❑ Structural funds
- ❑ Budget
- ❑ Migration
- ❑ Voting – QMV and unanimity
- ❑ New members are always (much) poorer , e.g. the big bang enlargement in 2004 resulted in 20% rise in EU population, BUT **New 10's GDP equivalent to Netherlands**

EU's toolbox of integration capacity

- ❑ Enforcement (based on legal obligation and coercion)
- ❑ Conditionality (based on negotiations and bargaining power)
- ❑ Assistancce (expertise and technical and financial means to comply)
- ❑ Dialogue (on multiple levels and forums)

Entering EU or returning to Europe?

- ❑ EU somewhat colonized the concept of Europe - especially in terms of “values”
- ❑ Enlargement became intrinsic to the EU
- ❑ EU criticized and questioned on the ability to govern itself
- ❑ Organized hypocrisy in disguise?

Incentives for joining the EU...

- ❑ Structural funds – the EU Solidarity principle at its best
- ❑ Joining the elite club
- ❑ Picking sides ? (Case of Ukraine, potentially Serbia..)
- ❑ Prosperity, rules based system, security ?
- ❑ Peace, stability (case of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia...)

Disincentives for joining the EU...

- ☐ Ever moving target..
- ☐ Loss of sovereignty
- ☐ Strings attached to membership
- ☐ Case of Brexit – if not good for UK, why would we join?
- ☐ Fear of competition
- ☐ Loss of national identity

EU membership as the holy grail or magnetic attraction

- ❑ Often the process of negotiations for membership due to its sluggish pace seems like almost a boot camp for the candidate countries
- ❑ EU as a failed marriage or “waiting for Godot” – from Samuel Becket (Albanian Primeminster)
- ❑ Brexit changed the perspective as EU being the “place to belong”
- ❑ Alternatives towards EU (membership) become more present – Russia and China in Western Balkans

Case of the Balkans – mutual benefits?

“The Western Balkan leaders call to the member states was clear: “make the effort to read the map and the history of the Balkans, try to understand us better and plan for a future together within the European Union”.”

What about the citizens?

- ☐ Referendum to join EU is the final step and can easily go “the other way” ... (case of current polls in Serbia)
- ☐ Is EU explain well enough to the citizens?
- ☐ EU needs to be visible on the ground and in daily lives of ordinary citizens
- ☐ Is the process transparent enough?

Thank you for your attention!

My contacts:

klezaic@gmail.com

send me an email, discuss, debate.....

Questions for discussion

- ☐ United in diversity slogan still attractive?
- ☐ How much sovereignty is lost by joining?
- ☐ Do you think that enlargement is intrinsic to EU ?
- ☐ How would you define enlargement fatigue vs enlargement ignorance ?