

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LAW: HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW, HOW CONTRADICTIONARY ARE THE FINDINGS?

Vortrag von **Dimiter Toshkov**
(Leiden University)

Zum Thema:

This lecture presents a literature review of all quantitative (statistical) studies of compliance with EU law. It introduces a new online database (published at the website of the Institute for European Integration Research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, <http://www.eif.oeaw.ac.at/databases>) which presents a detailed and comprehensive overview and classification of the existing quantitative research on transposition and implementation of EU directives in the member states. The study discusses and compares the different conceptualizations and operationalizations of compliance used, the list and specifications of the explanatory variables included in the models, the hypotheses proposed, and, most importantly, the findings of the literature.

While the academic field has made progress in terms of assessing the scale and dimensions of the transposition failures in the EU, the causal inferences that the existing literature suggests are often weakly supported and sometimes contradictory when all studies are considered. The literature review suggests that only causal relationships that are specific for a certain time period, policy area, country, or type of legislation can be supported by empirical data, which means that broad generalizations about compliance in the EU might be impossible to uncover. The paper also suggests that decomposing the implementation process into its component stages, incorporating more rigorously the interactions between the Commission and the member states, and paying closer attention to the multilevel structure of the data in the statistical models can benefit future research on compliance in the EU.

Discussant: Michael Tatham (European University Institute, Florence)

Diskussionsleitung: Gerda Falkner (Direktorin EIF)

Datum und Ort:

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Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Wien