

New Modes of Governance in the EU (NEWGOV)

In recent years, policy-making at both the domestic and European levels has witnessed the emergence and proliferation of flexible, non-hierarchical forms of steering. These “new modes of governance” share a number of features that distinguishes them from traditional methods of policy-making. “Old” governance modes are typically characterised by legally binding legislation and a top-down approach to policy execution involving little or no participation by private actors in both decision-making and implementation. New modes of governance, in contrast, are usually not based on binding legislation but rely on soft law as well as on the self-regulation of private actors, the co-regulation of private and public actors or the delegation of tasks to regulatory agencies in policy formulation. At the implementation stage they use non-hierarchical and less formal modes of steering based on the creation of incentive structures and non-legal sanctioning methods, such as naming and shaming, as well as learning, arguing and persuasion.

To deepen our understanding of the causes and consequences of this transformation of governance is the aim of [NEWGOV](#), a major Pan-European research consortium that will, over the next four years, receive extensive funding from the European Union under the 6th Framework Programme for Research. The IHS Department of Political Science is among the participants of this Integrated Project, which consists of a multi-disciplinary network involving 43 of the most prominent research organisations in the field, from all over Europe. Under the overall guidance of the European University Institute, the research agenda of NEWGOV covers the emergence, evolution, execution and evaluation of new modes of governance.

As part of a cluster directed by Wolfgang Wessels from the University of Cologne, the IHS Department of Political Science’s research will focus on the emergence and evolution of new governance modes in the areas of social and environmental policy. The Department’s research team will in particular examine the long-term development of new methods of steering in these two policy areas and their relationship to more traditional forms of policy-making by binding legislation.

In addition NEWGOV will provide access to additional funds for networking and integrating our young researchers into the academic community across the continent and beyond. The training objectives for young researchers (which will be executed jointly with [CONNEX](#)) will be addressed by: a) close attention to on-the-job training of researchers involved in the consortium; b) summer schools; and c) translation of new skills, techniques and methodologies into the training programmes. On the whole, NEWGOV aims to establish principles and modules for post-graduate training which could act as guidelines for the project partners and the wider scientific community.

Relevant Publication:

Treib, Oliver/Bähr, Holger/Falkner, Gerda, 2005, Modes of Governance, Old and New: A Note Towards Conceptual Clarification; European Governance Papers

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