

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC of the project “The European Council in the process of shaping its formal and informal powers within the scope of EU external actions”

The project concerns the transformations of the model of functioning, present form and further development prospects of the European Council, which is a key institution that establishes political priorities of the European Union. The framework of the project encompasses both internal determinants that influence the process of transformations of the European Council (such as intergovernmental disputes and inter-institutional limitations) as well as external conditions that shape the European Council’s formal and informal powers. The primary objective of the project is to carry out an analysis of factors that have an influence on the development of the European Council in terms of two notions that determine the research: complementarity and dysfunctionality.

A significant element of the research will involve the analysis of interactions between EU member states and other European institutions as well as external entities (selected third countries and international organisations) in the process of making political decisions by the European Council as concerns selected international issues (such as the Arab Spring, conflicts in Georgia and in Syria).

The essence of the project is to expand the knowledge about the position and role of the European Union in the international arena, and in particular – about the potential of the European Council to exert influence on international circles by means of its decision making mechanism. Possible further scenarios for the development of the European Council will be designed under the project. The direct outcome of the team’s work encompasses the publication of two monographs, including one in English to be published by a renowned publishing house abroad. The research results will also be disseminated via papers published in English and Polish in renowned periodicals listed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.