

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

1. Research project objectives/ Research hypothesis

The aim of the project is to analyze the effectiveness and functions of experimentalist governance in the space policy of the European Union. The proposed project analyzes the justifications, development, mechanisms, and application of international regulatory standards contained in the space programs in a form of experimentalist regimes in transnational governance. It contains most of the key issues and questions concerning the meaning of political action in the EU in the normative, regulatory and economic environment. Hence, the basic premise is that EU experimentalist governance in space meets the interests of the public and private actors, guided by the divergent preferences, which act in strategic constellations at different stages, and through different channels. Space assets and services have become strategically important to the European Union since 1990s and all EU objectives would not be achieved without access to space. Therefore civil, commercial, security and defense-related policy objectives are emphasized in the Space Strategy for Europe 2016. When traditional competitors, namely space-faring powers, could be easily identified, new actors, both private and public, are launching their spacecraft. Moreover, growing technical capabilities, both to observe from the orbit, and to interfere with other spacecraft call for greater flexibility and agility in policymaking on the European level. Since space has strategic importance for Europe and reinforces the EU's role as a stronger global player in security the question on the intent of the space policy of EU is more urgent and relevant than ever when aforementioned changes in space environment, the call for greater understanding of EU experimentalist governance in space ought to be headed. This proposed project seeks to advance scientific knowledge of the political processes that determine the nature and the formation of public policies and EU experimentalist governance regarding space.

2. Research project methodology

The project has been divided into three parts, in which all the elements constituting the EU approach to space governance were analyzed. In the first part, the ideas underlying the experimentalist governance are analyzed. The study of the idea of space governance will be based on an analysis of current institutional setting important for space affairs, such as cooperation and coordination in the assumptions of negotiating positions of Member States, third countries, negotiating mandates of the Commission, communications and positions of the Commission and the European Parliament. The PI decided to refer to the concept of experimentalist governance because is well suited to transnational domains, where there is no overarching sovereign with authority to set common goals even in theory. In this case, an important element will be the concept of the EU as an entity that is actively seeking to extend its own internal rules, norms, standards, and governance processes beyond the EU's borders to third countries. The second part of the project is devoted to the interests pursued at the transnational level by incorporating EU regulation into strategic thinking and trade agenda. The concept of interest will be based on the assumption that the EU is a system whose aims are regulation and efficiency. The interests will be analyzed in terms of participants' preferences, considered in a subjective dimension, the role of exogenous and endogenous factors, and the role of ideas important for different stakeholders. The third part of the project is devoted to the analysis of institutions of experimentalist governance related to space policy and will focus on the practical implementation of agreements and regimes between the EU, Member States and the third parties in a form of experimentalist governance.

3. Expected impact of the research project

The expected results of the project will help for a better understanding of the processes of formulating ideas and modes of EU experimental governance in external affairs. The results of the project may have an influence on legislative processes on national and international levels, especially in space law. The proposed project aims to demonstrate that a detailed analysis of the effectiveness and functions of experimentalist governance in space allows to address the most of key issues and questions concerning the role of EU policies in the normative, regulatory and economic dimension. It will allow for a more systematic overview of dynamics of EU policies related to physical elements of European integration. As result, the project develops categories to systematically map, analyze and compare political processes taking place between the Commission, European Parliament, member states, private actors, and third countries. Therefore it uncovers a hierarchy of preferences of the participants of the political processes involved in the implementation of the experimentalist governance in the space policy of the European Union.