

Development of core European institutions

Dimension - Institutional Arrangements

Associated Key Factor:

Political systems

Data Source:

European Convention

Background literature: Wallace and Wallace (1996), Policy-Making in the European Union, OUP

<http://european-convention.eu.int>
european-convention.eu.int/

General Availability:

Reporting unit: European institutions
Reporting level: European Union
Reporting period: regularly
Data available from 2002 to 2003

The indicator:

The development of the core European institutions is a qualitative indicator. It can be measured in terms of their decision-making powers and the rules of voting and participation for different policy areas.

Description

The development of core European institutions shows how the decision-making powers are allocated between the European institutions. At the EU level there are frequent institutional reforms in this regard. A monitoring of these provides information about the state and character of European integration which provides the framework for policy formulation and implementation.

How is it measured?

It is a qualitative indicator. According to the legal basis, the legislative power in the Community is exercised by the Council or jointly by Parliament and the Council. The Commission has virtual monopoly of the initiative. As a general rule the council and parliament can act only on a commission proposal. The European Parliament with the codecision procedure shares the legislative power with the Council; within the cooperation procedure, Parliament may influence Council decisions by exercising its amending power. The Council representing the member states can act on the unanimity principle or a qualified majority voting (QMV) depending on the type of decision. The field of action of the institution's relates to the three "pillars" of the EU, namely, the European Communities, common foreign and security policy, and police & judiciary cooperation in foreign matters. The development of the core institutions can be measured by the inclusion of certain policy areas for decision-making at the supra-national level vs. national level; type of voting procedures like the unanimity principle and the Qualified Majority Voting principle (QMV) in the Council and the co-decision procedure between the Council and the Parliament; number of votes assigned to each member state.

What are the advantages of the indicator?

The European Union is not a polity in the traditional sense. Nevertheless it displays state-like functions. These can be better understood through the monitoring of core European institutions.

What are the disadvantages of the Indicator?

Requires background political science knowledge about state functions and decision procedures.

What is the policy relevance of the indicator?

The development of the core European institutions, namely Commission, Council, Court and Parliament largely influences the allocation of decision-making powers between the Member states, between the supra-national, national and regional level and also between the European institutions.

The Indicator is relevant for the following pathways of the FORESIGHT FOR TRANSPORT exercise:

	Transport Impact	External Determining Variable	Intermediate Variable	Contextual Information
Greater power for European level of decision making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A reorientation of European transport policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>