



## Karina Shyrokykh, M.A. Roads to Human Rights: Assessing the Effects of the EU Human Rights Promotion in the Former Soviet Republics



Karina Shyrokykh, M.A.

### SUPERVISOR

Prof. Dr. Petra Stykow

### STUDY GROUP

Social Sorting

### CONTACT

Graduate School for East and  
Southeast European Studies  
(LMU Munich)  
Maria-Theresia-Straße 21  
81675 München  
Tel.: +49 (0)89 2180 1330

### E-Mail:

Karina.Shyrokykh@  
lrz.uni-muenchen.de

### RESEARCH TOPIC

Since the early 1990s the EU has been actively involved in human rights promotion in the post-Soviet states. Respect of human rights is one of the fundamental values of the European Union (EU) and human rights promotion is one of the objectives of Common Foreign and Security Policy. These values are of particular importance in cooperation with its neighbours.

The EU sees its inner security and prosperity as being dependent on security and development in its neighbourhood. Informed by the belief that sustainable peace, development and prosperity are possible only when grounded upon the respect for human rights, democracy and rule of law, the EU has developed cooperation and institutions to support these in third states.

### Research question:

- *To what extent and under what conditions can promotion of human rights in post-Soviet states be successful?*

### THEORY

Building upon both constructivist and rationalist international relations theories I develop a theoretical account for instruments and set of scope conditions under which these are more likely to be effective. I propose a two-by-two approach, present four main instruments and develop conditional hypotheses.

The dimension of external enforcement and self-reinforcement is introduced in order to differentiate between the sources of impetus to presupposedly comply with every mechanism. Instruments differ on the basis of whether states are externally forced or nudged

“The concrete engagement of the European Union in the world is deeply marked by our continent's tragic experience of extreme nationalism, wars and the absolute evil of the Shoah [...] That is the foundation of our multilateral approach for a globalization based on the twin principles of global solidarity and global responsibility; that is what inspires our engagement with our neighbouring countries and international partners.”

*Nobel Lecture by the European Union, Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Durão Barroso, Oslo, 10 December 2012.*

(stimulated) to achieve compliance. Internal source of incentive (or self-reinforcement) relies on invoking desired behavioral patterns, while instruments characterised by external enforcement do not require active actions from the receiving end.

### METHODS

Four hypotheses created based on the theoretical assumptions regarding the instrument and conditions under which they are likely to be effective, are tested using **quantitative approach**:

- *Time-series cross-section data collected on twelve post-Soviet states over twenty years (1992-2011);*
- *Dynamic panel model with lagged independent variables.*

Quantitative analysis is complemented by qualitative analysis of two individual states using the process-tracing method.

### PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The results show that the EU foreign policy instruments applied to promote human rights might cause both positive and negative effects.

**Assistance** is more likely to trigger positive domestic change when:

- *State capacity is high;*
- *Political cooperation is more institutionalized.*

**Coercive enforcement** is associated with positive change when:

- *Regional competing powers are absent;*
- *Competing interests of the EU are absent.*

**Persuasion and socialization** are more likely to trigger positive outcome when:

- *European identity is present;*
- *Earlier adhered to human rights norms;*
- *Neighbouring states adopted the norms.*

The EU foreign policy instruments might have **negative effects** in cases of:

- *Low state capacity;*
- *Vaguely institutionalized political cooperation;*
- *Present competing interests.*
- *Present alternative regional powers.*

MODEL OF GOVERNANCE	SOURCE OF IMPETUS	
	External enforcement	Self-reinforcement
High-intensity	<b>Coercive enforcement</b> negative measures (sanctions, threat)	<b>Assistance</b> positive measure (technical assistance, financial assistance)
Low-intensity	<b>Persuasion</b> shaming, dialogue (blaming, HR dialogue)	<b>Socialization/diffusion</b> involvement, exchange (cooperation, exchange)