

Differentiation in ASEAN, ECOWAS and MERCOSUR: A comparative analysis

26 October 2021 - 11.00h – 12.30h

By-invitation online session (via Teams)

Organised by: CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) in the framework of the H2020 research project EU IDEA – Integration and Differentiation for Effectiveness and Accountability

The purpose of this webinar is to discuss the main conclusions of the [policy document](#) published within the framework of the [EU IDEA project](#) in which various modes of differentiation in regions outside of Europe are analysed. From the perspective of comparative regionalism, the paper examines how the practice of differentiation facilitates flexibility and accommodates diversity in regional cooperation processes in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Examining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern Common Market (Southern Common Market - MERCOSUR). Drawing lessons from practices in these organizations, this policy paper argues that differentiation, including multi-speed, concentric circles, multiple sub-organisations and à la carte, is a “normal”, even essential element of regional cooperation processes. Differentiation is a key instrument to tackle heterogeneity and development disparities while promotes flexibility, and preserves state sovereignty.

Welcome and presentation

PoI Morillas, Director, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

Speakers

Main findings and differentiated integration in ASEAN

Bart Gaens, Senior Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

Differentiated integration in ECOWAS

Bernardo Venturi, Associate Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Differentiated integration in MERCOSUR

Anna Ayuso, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

Discussants

Jean Grugel, Director of Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre, University of York

Gian Luca Gardini, Chair holder of History of International Relations, University of Udine;

Visiting Professor of International Relations, Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen-Nuremberg

Debate with the audience



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