

## Potential Impact, Main Dissemination Activities and Exploitation of Results

MAXCAP is the most comprehensive attempt at taking stock of EU enlargement undertaken so far. We took up the challenge posed by the policy debate on integration capacity, which arose in the mid-2000s, collected the best available evidence to provide a systematic analysis of the EU's integration capacity in a variety of core areas and dimensions, and provided a detailed and differentiated assessment. Taken together, our findings point to the strengths and weaknesses of EU integration capacity as well as enlargement policies and suggest needs and venues of reform.

Our work not only makes a major contribution to the state of the art in research on EU enlargement. A special issue of the *Journal of European Public Policy* (currently under review) will assemble the most important scholarly contributions of MAXCAP and make them available to the scholarly community in a compact and highly visible way. In addition, we



The MAXCAP Consortium at the Midterm Conference in Istanbul, April 2015

contributed to the policy debate with our policy briefs and opinion articles that we have published on our website. While some may have a direct impact on future policy making, the large majority of our findings has a more indirect, but nevertheless important, effect, framing the policy and public debate concerning the lessons of and prospects for EU enlargement as well as the future of the ENP.



MAXCAP Kick-Off Conference, May 2013

Through its manifold activities MAXCAP enhanced cooperation between experts in different disciplines, notably political science, public administration, international relations, economics, and sociology, in EU member states as well as in Switzerland, Turkey, the Western Balkan states and neighbourhood countries, as several jointly organized events, jointly conducted empirical research and many co-authored publications demonstrate.

MAXCAP's dissemination strategy acknowledged that successful dissemination reaches beyond academic conferences and publications. Research on the lessons of and prospects for EU enlargement and alternative engagement strategies is of interest and relevance to informed citizens, journalists as well as policy makers throughout Europe. MAXCAP disseminated knowledge, research findings and policy

advice to a variety of actors at the national and European level. Recipients included policy makers, civil society, non-MAXCAP researchers and the wider public, and the respective information was spread through a variety of dissemination channels presented below.



Tanja A. Börzel and Klaudijus Maniokas at the MAXCAP Policy Briefing in Berlin, December 2013

MAXCAP research has resulted in numerous scientific publications, including books and chapters in edited volumes, articles in peer-reviewed journals, working papers, reports, and policy briefs.

The *MAXCAP Working Paper Series* was one of the most successful channels in order to publish and disseminate the project's ongoing research. The series consists of 35 working papers, covering most of the project's findings. Prior to publication the papers were internally reviewed. They are of a high academic quality as well as editorial

standard. Many were or are going to be published in peer-reviewed journals or as book chapters. All working papers are available for download at the MAXCAP website (<http://www.maxcap-project.eu/publications/working-papers>), enabling their dissemination to the wider public.

While the working papers encompass all methodological, academic and empirical findings of MAXCAP's research, the *MAXCAP Policy Brief Series* aims at formulating specific policy recommendations for practitioners on the EU and/or national level. They are of a great practical significance and have been republished by the European Commission (EC) as European Policy Briefs. The MAXCAP Policy Briefs are available for download at <http://www.maxcap-project.eu/publications/policy-briefs>. In addition, the *MAXCAP Report Series* was utilized to inform the public about preliminary results of MAXCAP research 'in the making' as well as conferences and other events conducted by MAXCAP. The series includes two reports, which also can be downloaded free of charge from the MAXCAP website: <http://www.maxcap-project.eu/publications/reports>.

Reaching out to a broad audience, the *MAXCAP website* is the primary source of information on research conducted in the project: <http://www.maxcap-project.eu>. In 2016, the website had more than 12,000 unique visitors and more than 300,000 hits. Over the three-year project period it had more than 80,000 visitors and more than 3,500,000 hits. The website offers a comprehensive overview of all publications, working papers, reports and policy briefs as well as MAXCAP-related research activities, events and news. The website also offers a search engine, which includes all relevant information



Workshop on Q methodology at Sofia University, April 2014

concerning publications, news, and MAXCAP scholars. Moreover, an extensive *Resource Database* compiles relevant primary and secondary information regarding previous and current enlargements and relations with the EU neighbours. It contains links to treaty texts, institutional documents, EU- and country-level databases, studies, progress reports, etc. The website is continuously updated with new documents.

Furthermore, six issues of the *MAXCAP Newsletter* were published during the course of the project. They are available online at <http://www.maxcap-project.eu/publications/newsletter> and were distributed electronically to a mailing list including nearly 700 addresses in 2016. The number of contacts increased steadily with more and more individuals signing up to keep informed on the project's progress. The newsletters contain information on research findings and new publications, comprehensive reports from conferences and other MAXCAP events as well as other news and relevant updates from the project.



Tanja A. Börzel at the round table held at the Delegation of the European Commission in Berlin, May 2013

MAXCAP organized several successful dissemination events with the purpose of presenting the project's results to a wider community of stakeholders and to both an academic and non-academic audience.

During the three-year project period, a total of 166 dissemination events have been organized by MAXCAP. Among them were over 40 presentations and talks, more than 20 interviews, 17 conferences, eight seminars, eight public lectures and five workshops. For instance, several radio interviews were given by consortium partners to the German radio stations

'Radio Kultur', 'Radio Wissen', 'Youth Radio Oscar' and 'radioeins/zwei" as well as to 'VPRO Buitenland', a station from Hilversum, The Netherlands, and the station 'Russian Voice' from Moscow, Russia. TV interviews were given to the German TV stations 'Deutsche Welle' and 'ZDF' as well as 'CCTV'. MAXCAP findings were also published in a number of newspapers in the form of interviews and articles. The list of events also includes several keynote speeches, policy briefings, round tables and numerous entries on MAXCAP's blog and website.

Some of the dissemination events were organized jointly with other projects, networks or partners, such as the European Center for Non-profit Law, Ilia State University, the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, the European Commission Directorate-General for



Public Round Table with MAXCAP researchers at the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, October 2014

Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), the Representation of the European Commission in The Netherlands, the College of Europe in Warsaw, the German Marshall's Fund, the European Academy Berlin and many others.

As a successful example of fruitful cooperation within the consortium, MAXCAP's research results on the EU's Eastern

Enlargement were presented as part of the joint sessions of the European Consortium for Political Research in Salamanca on 11-15 April 2014. On another occasion, on 5-7 June 2014 MAXCAP's Leiden University team hosted and co-organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference of the Standing Group on the European Union of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR-SGEU). MAXCAP's key topics and questions were presented to more than 300 scholars from all over Europe and worldwide. On 28-31 August of the same year the MAXCAP team presented the findings of the consortium at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) in Washington. Several papers with MAXCAP findings were also presented at the Annual Convention of International Studies Association (ISA) on 20-21 February 2015 in New Orleans and at the conference of the European Union Studies Association (EUSA) on 5 March 2015 in Boston. Furthermore, results generated under WP2 ('Effective decision-making, differential integration and implementation in the enlarged EU') were represented in the seminar 'Explaining European Union Decision-Making: Insights from the Natural and the Social Sciences' organized by the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences in Wassenaar on 16 December 2014, and in the workshop 'Compliance and Enforcement in the European Union' organized by MAXCAP partner Leiden University in The Hague on 21 January 2016.

MAXCAP's thematic work packages also took lots of efforts to disseminate their specific insights to academics, policy makers and interested citizens. Under WP1 ('The Transformative Power of Europe – Structural effects on new members, candidates and neighbours'), the two-day workshop 'EU Integration and Minority Protection in the Western Balkans: Mapping the Way Ahead' was held in Sarajevo, 20-21 November 2014. The workshop brought together EU officials, representatives from domestic governments and civil society organizations as well as international experts to discuss EU strategies for minority protection in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The MAXCAP team at Central European University discussed the results about the ambiguous effects of the Cohesion



Multi-stakeholder workshop in Sarajevo, November 2014

and Cohesion

Policy with Hungarian academics and local government experts in two consecutive workshops held at the Center for Social Sciences, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and at Corvinus University of Budapest in April 2016. They also consulted about the same findings with EU officials working for DG REGIO (Regional Policy). WP1's results of the coding of the EU monitoring reports and the creation of the first encompassing data base covering evolution in 18 various institutional arenas in 17 accession countries contributed to a deeper analysis of the social and economic effects of deep integration, challenging the more aggregate indices of institutional change (e.g. World Bank Governance Indexes). MAXCAP partner László Bruszt presented the results of the research at a meeting discussing the draft concept for the next World Development Report 2017 on 'Governance and the Law'. He discussed the relevance of the lessons of EU integration strategies for the governance of rule transfer in other parts of the world with the representatives of the World Bank. In collaboration with the World Bank the MAXCAP team is in the process of submitting a research proposal that would build upon the results of our research and would explore the developmental effects of EU induced institutional change on firm level developments. Also with the World Bank MAXCAP partners explore the possibilities to extend the database to the neighborhood countries.



Panel discussion on 'Fighting Corruption in the Western Balkans', June 2015

Emanating from the MAXCAP research on the EU and rule of law in the Western Balkans in WP1 and WP5 ('Modes of political and economic integration in the context of enlargement and the neighbourhood'), MAXCAP partner Adam Fagan cooperated with DG NEAR to host the roundtable 'Fighting corruption in the Western Balkans: The role of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)' in London on 5 June 2015. Panelists included officials from the German Enterprise for International Cooperation and DG NEAR. The audience consisted of

representatives from the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, international financial institutions, and academics. The discussion focused on the fight against corruption in the Western Balkans as well as the achievements and challenges of EU support for the strengthening of the rule of law in the region. Furthermore, Adam Fagan contributed to the House of Lords European Union Committee's report 'Europe in the world: Towards a more effective EU foreign and security strategy' as part of the UK House of Lords EU External Affairs Sub-Committee's strategic review of EU policy.

The Leiden University team organized several briefings where the results of the MAXCAP project and WP3 ('Citizens' perceptions of, attitudes towards and discourses in enlargement'), in particular, were presented. During the visit of Simon Mordue, Director, DG NEAR (Directorate A Strategy and Turkey), in The Hague, the team at Leiden University organized a briefing on 14 January 2015. The event included the presentation of the project as a whole, a presentation of public opinion results and the results of discourse analyses as well as some related research by the Leiden team members on migration and citizens' attitudes. The event was co-hosted by the

Representation of the European Commission in The Hague. Furthermore, MAXCAP co-coordinator Dr. Antoaneta Dimitrova gave a closed-door briefing as part of the lunch-time series of The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 24 March 2015. The session was very well attended by diplomats and Dutch experts working in the Western Balkans and on enlargement in general. In March 2016, MAXCAP partner Elitsa Kortenska presented the findings of WP3 to a broad group of young professionals of various backgrounds in European industries, companies and NGOs as well as to UK political representatives at the House of Lords in London at the annual Young Professionals Seminar organized by United Europe.

Dissemination activities under WP4 ('Designing the enlargement process: strategies and negotiations past and present') also involved multiple policy briefing talks to increase the impact of the findings on the policy making community. MAXCAP partner Meltem Müftüleri-Baç gave a



Young Researchers Workshop with PhD candidates and leading European integration scholars in Istanbul, April 2015

talk at the European Green Party – Free Alliance annual summit on 7 November 2014, a seminar at the European Parliament on 5 December 2014, keynotes at the College of Europe Natolin in November 2014, at the German Marshall Fund, Brussels, in January 2015, and the European Policy Centre, Macedonia, in April 2015. These events mainly involved European Parliamentarians, politicians, policy makers and journalists.

Last but not least, MAXCAP actively contributed to the recent review of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) initiated by the European Commission. It

dedicated the first issue of its Policy Brief Series to the ENP with specific policy recommendations for a refined approach towards the Eastern Partnership. MAXCAP coordinator Tanja Börzel, MAXCAP co-coordinator Antoaneta Dimitrova as well as MAXCAP partners Julia Langbein and Bidzina Lebanidze also contributed with an interview on EU-Russia relations, which was later published online by the European Commission.

Other important dissemination events included the Kick-Off Conference in Berlin on 28-30 May 2013 with over 60 participants, the Young Researchers Workshop and the Midterm Conference in Istanbul on 20-24 April 2015 with more than 80 participants, and the Final Conference in The Hague on 22-23 January 2016 with more than 50 participants.



The MAXCAP Final Conference in The Hague, January 2016

The final conference in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 22-23 January 2016 brought together researchers and friends of MAXCAP to showcase the project's main findings and to discuss them with European policy makers. Among others, the conference was attended by Simon Mordue (Head of Directorate A – ‘Strategy and Turkey’, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), Wolfgang Petzold (European Committee of the Regions) and Pierre Mirrel (former Director, DG Enlargement and Honorary Director-General, European Commission).



MAXCAP Final Conference in The Hague, January 2016

MAXCAP's final dissemination event in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 26-27 February 2016 focused on the EU's enlargement strategy and what the EU and applicant countries can learn from each other. MAXCAP researchers, high-ranking politicians and other distinguished guests discussed MAXCAP's relevance and findings with the international audience. Among the participants were Daniel Mitov (Foreign Minister of Bulgaria), Dzema Grosdanova (Chairperson of the Bulgarian Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy) and Ognian Zlatev (Head of the European Commission Representation in Bulgaria) as well as other high-ranking politicians and academics.



MAXCAP Workshop in Sofia with Daniel Mitov (center), Bulgarian Foreign Minister, February 2016

Taken together, during the project period MAXCAP's dissemination events have taken place in more than 30 cities of Europe and the USA, including Berlin, Brussels, Florence, Istanbul, Warsaw, Rome, London, New York, Boston, Paris, Amsterdam, Konstanz, Sofia, The Hague, Skopje, Milan, Budapest, Vienna, Ankara and many others.

## MAXCAP partner institutions



Freie Universität Berlin (FUB), coordinator



Leiden University (UL), co-coordinator



London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Eidgenössische Hochschule Zürich (ETH)



Sabancı University (SU)



European University Institute (EUI)



Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN)



Central European University (CEU)



Sofia University (SU-BG)