



REGIONAL INTEGRATION OBSERVER

Contents

ZEI and WAI bring together
science and practice at their Mid-
Term Conference in Praia 1

Publications of WAI and ZEI:
The WAI-ZEI Paper Series..... 3

WAI Library inaugurated at the
National Library of Cape Verde in
Praia..... 4

The WAI-ZEI Team in Praia and
Bonn (Ablam Benjamin Akoutou
Daniel Yeboah, Maria de Fátima
Fortes, Rike Sohn, Matthias Vogl,
Sally Watkins) 5

The Monitoring Component of the
WAI-ZEI Project..... 6

Studying Integration in a Euro-
African Context 7

The Future of the Africa-EU
Partnership: Learning to think
about Opportunities..... 8

Regional Integration Observer (RIO)

The RIO takes a comparative look
at West African and European
integration and deals with the
relations between the two regions.
It is a new platform for exchange.

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The participants of the WAI-ZEI Mid-Term Conference on 21 and 22 October 2013 in Praia at the Cape Verdean Ministry of External Relations (MIREX).

ZEI and WAI bring together science and practice at their Mid-Term Conference in Praia

“We still have a way to go to make regional integration more effective, but the process is irreversible. This should be recognized”. With these words, Essien Abel Essien, the director of the Strategic Planning Unit in the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja highlighted the underlying dynamics of the integration process in West Africa during his presentation at the WAI-ZEI Mid-Term Conference from 21-23 October at the Ministry for External Relations (MIREX) in Praia. The conference marked the end of the first phase of the research coope-

ration WAI and ZEI conduct in the years 2012-2016 which is conducted with the support of the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The main topics of the event, the record of regional integration in West Africa and the future of European-West African relations were chosen timely given the anniversaries of the Revised Treaty of ECOWAS in 2013 (20 years), of WAEMU in 2014 (20 years), of ECOWAS in 2015 (40 years) and the preparations for the Europe-Africa Summit in April 2014. ECOWAS encompasses 15

Member States with a population of over 350 Mio. people. In a filled conference room at the Ministry, researchers from both regions intensively debated on the achievements and the challenges of political, economic and legal regional integration in West Africa. There was a wide consensus among participants and guests that the legal enforcement mechanisms and the sensitization of the region's citizens for their human and economic rights have to be enhanced. Experts argued that Member States have to learn to stick to regional rules as it lies in their own longer-term benefit.

In the economic sphere the "ECOWAS Rice Initiative" was discussed as an example for a successful regional policy approach and participants also debated the problem of a free circulation of persons and goods. A further intervention touched the problem of a West African energy policy. There are large potentials of fossil and of renewable energy resources in the region as a whole but unfortunately they either remain untapped or

are disconnected across borders. The lack of legal frameworks and effective governance impedes the private sector from investing more in the energy sector.

The crucial role of security as a precondition for development and the value that a regional approach can add in this field was another topic. Furthermore, the Director General of the Cape Verdean Ministry for Rural Development, Carla Helena Tavares, explained to the audience the

challenges of a regional agricultural policy taking the example of Cape Verde. Two days before the meeting of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in Dakar, Senegal, to agree on the implementation of a Common External Tariff (CET) for the whole ECOWAS region, researchers analyzed its possible effects on intra-regional trade and also on the trade relationship with Europe and the ongoing Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations.

Prof. Tony Chafer and Ed Stoddard from the University of Portsmouth showed in their presentation that the legitimacy, Europe's foreign policy is striving for in particular towards Africa can often be undermined by its vested security or economic interests. This obvious contradiction was also part of the discussion of the policy recommendations for a more balanced Africa-EU partnership in the future. The working session



The audience in the conference room.

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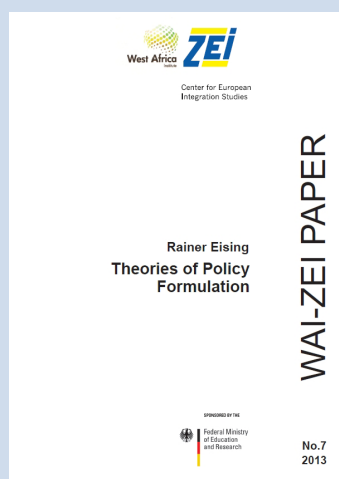
focused on finding ways to fill the idea of an equal partnership with life and to create situations of mutual benefit. The two regions come from different starting points but share common interests. Therefore it was recommended that the partners should exchange more especially on a cultural level and in the education and academic sector and should avoid mutual blockade because of existing prejudices. The conference was an example of an honest exchange of opinions and approaches in order to increase mutual understanding.

Against this background the recommendations that were formulated will be sent to decision makers on both sides as a unique contribution of academics and professionals from West Africa and Europe to the process of partnership-building. Furthermore, the conference offered the opportunity to exchange on other pressing problems in Africa like migration and others.

The WAI-ZEI cooperation will publish the conference papers as a comprehensive WAI-ZEI Paper in early 2014. Up to now, nine

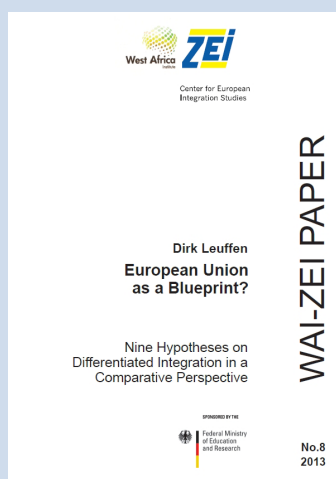
WAI-ZEI Papers and two Regional Integration Observers (RIO) were edited and are available for download. Further aspects of the project are the conduct of monitoring measures, the establishment of a WAI library in Praia and the elaboration of a specific Master Program in African Regional Integration in cooperation with the University of Cape Verde (UNI CV). Following its research manual, the cooperation will now enter into its second phase with its next workshop taking place in Avignon in March 2014.

Publications of WAI and ZEI: The WAI-ZEI Paper Series



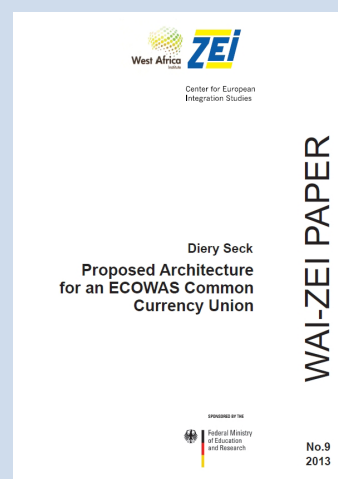
WAI-ZEI Paper No. 7: Rainer Eising: Theories of Policy Formulation, Praia/Bonn 2013.

The idea of creating a regional monetary zone for the ECOWAS has been at the forefront of the regional integration agenda and has attracted interest from policymakers, researchers and other development stakeholders for the last three decades. Diery Seck, Senior Fellow at the West Africa Institute (WAI) and Director of the Center for Research on Political Economy (CREPOL) in Dakar, Senegal, compares three competing options for the creation of the common monetary zone.



WAI-ZEI Paper No. 8: Dirk Leuffen: European Union as a Blueprint. Nine Hypotheses on Differentiated Integration in a Comparative Perspective, Praia/Bonn 2013.

The EU has been a valid reference point for research on differentiation. The author, Dirk Leuffen, Senior Fellow at the West Africa Institute Professor of Political Science at the University of Konstanz, formulates a set of hypotheses on comparative differentiated regional integration. He argues that the causes of differentiation lie mostly in institutional settings and diverging member state preferences.



WAI-ZEI Paper No. 9: Diery Seck: Proposed Architecture for an ECOWAS Common Currency, Praia/Bonn 2013.

Policy theories include propositions needed to diagnose problems, explain policy change, or predict policy outcomes. Policy research is concerned with the output of political processes. Rainer Eising, Senior Fellow at the West Africa Institute (WAI) and Professor of Political Science at the University of Bochum, establishes several theories to account for policy development. Eising provides a comparative assessment.

WAI Library inaugurated at the National Library of Cape Verde in Praia

On 23rd October, 2013, participants of the WAI-ZEI mid-term conference visited the WAI Library at the National Library of Cape Verde. The visitors comprised eminent researchers and civil servants from Europe and West Africa, as well as staff of the West Africa Institute (WAI) and the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI). The group, led by Prof. Dr. Ludger Kuehnhardt, Managing Director of ZEI and Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré, the Managing Director of WAI, was received by the President of the National Library in Praia, Dr. Joachim Morais.

Speaking to the gathering at the National Library, the Managing Director of WAI thanked the Head of the Library and his staff for their unflinching support and absolute cooperation for the success of the library project. On his part, Dr. Joaquim Morais assured the team of his continu-

ing cooperation. He promised to increase the space put at the disposal of the WAI Library as the stock of books and publications increases. The WAI Library was established based on the recognition that a well-equipped library is indispensable to the realization of the institute's vision of promoting knowledge of regional integration through

innovative research, as well as training a new generation of elites on issues relating to regional integration in Africa. The library will stock mainly literature on regional integration, particularly on Africa.

In line with WAI's policy of forming partnerships with institutes sharing WAI's vision, WAI is working closely with the National Library in Praia, Cape Verde, to use the library's existing infrastructural synergies. The WAI electronic library database and its search engine is accessible via the WAI Website. The WAI Library is a reference library. However, personnel, visiting scholars and students of WAI, who will receive a special identification, will be exempted from this requirement. The WAI Library Project is financed by the German Ministry of Education (BMBF).



Bookshelves at the WAI Library.



Visitors at the WAI Library.

The WAI-ZEI Team in Praia and Bonn

The WAI-ZEI Research Cooperation is headed by the Directors of WAI and ZEI Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré and Prof. Dr. Ludger Kühnhardt. Support is also provided by the WAI Board and its Chairman, Jose Brito. The project is managed by a team of coordinators at WAI and ZEI. These junior researchers from West Africa and Europe are responsible for the organization of meetings, the publication program, the establishment of the WAI library and a new Master Program in African Regional Integration and they contribute with own research. They are supported by student assistants in Praia and Bonn.



The WAI-ZEI Team at the Mid-Term Conference in October 2013 in Praia. From left to right: Maria de Fátima Fortes, Wautabouna Ouattara (WAI Program Director), Daniel Yeboah, Marcio Junior (Student Assistant), Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré, Ablam Benjamin Akoutou, Jose Brito, Aksana Brito (Student Assistant), Rike Sohn, Matthias Vogl, Prof. Dr. Ludger Kühnhardt.

Ablam Benjamin Akoutou



Ablam Benjamin Akoutou is the WAI coordinator of Research Area 1, Regional Integration and Policy Formulation Processes. He holds a Magister Degree in Political Science from the University of Bonn.

Daniel Yeboah



Daniel Yeboah is the WAI coordinator of Research Area 2, Economic Integration and Regional Trade. He holds a Bachelor in French and Linguistics from the University of Ghana and a Master in Diplomatic Studies from the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna.

Maria de Fatima Fortes



Maria Fortes is the WAI coordinator of Research Area 3, Institutional Capacity Development for Regional Integration. She holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences from the University of Rio Grande, Brasil and a Business Master from the University of Cape Verde.

Rike Sohn



Rike Sohn is the ZEI coordinator of Research Area 2, Economic Integration and Regional Trade. She holds a Bachelor in Political Science from the University of Bremen and a Master in International Development from Fordham University, New York.

Matthias Vogl



Matthias Vogl is the ZEI coordinator of Research Area 1, Regional Integration and Policy Formulation Processes. He holds a Magister Degree in Political Science from the University of Bonn.

Sally Watkins



Sally Watkins is the ZEI coordinator of Research Area 3, Institutional Capacity Development for Regional Integration. She holds a Bachelor in Law from the Australian National University and a Master of European Studies from Bonn University.

The Monitoring Component of the WAI-ZEI Project

Monitoring efforts form part of the WAI-ZEI cooperation. They contribute to bridging an existing gap of transparent knowledge about current trends in West African regional integration. In this context, pre-defined groups of people are asked to answer questionnaires on different topics prepared by the WAI-ZEI team. A first questionnaire on general questions about regional integration, on the main challenges and the lessons learned so far was sent to the Heads of the ECOWAS National Units in all the 15 Member States. Feedback was received from ten Member States. The answers clearly stated that from the perspective of the Member States of ECOWAS, the main goals and also challenges of the regional integration process lie in three fields, which are; expansion of different types of infrastructure, the increase of intra-regional trade and the prevention and resolution of conflicts in the region. A vast majority of the addressees were in favor of deepening the integration process for which the European model may at least partly serve as a source of experience. The implementation of regional decisions including the lack of enforcement mechanisms were self-critically seen as another crucial challenge. To solve these problems it was considered important to improve the strategic policy formulation, to enhance the coordination of national and regional key actors on a working level and to strengthen the regional dimension by streamlining national policy documents. Finally, one of the proposals mentioned was to further integrate the voice of civil societies into the integration process by improving the coordination of their representatives.

Studying Integration in a Euro-African Context

“I am interested in the role of the EU as a global authority, the process of conflict resolution and the alliances that governments form to take international measures. My own political ideology is based on the notion that the world can be made stronger through international co-operation, and that our main concern should not be with domestic interests but international ones”, says ZEI fellow Annabel Ruth Edevbie, a student of the Master of European Studies – Governance and Regulation 2013/2014. Originally from Nigeria, Annabel is one of the first West African scholars who study at ZEI in the framework of the research project “Sustainable Regional Integration in West Africa and Europe”, a collaboration with the West Africa Institute (WAI) in Praia, Cape Verde, and ZEI, which is sponsored by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Every year, the WAI-ZEI fellowship covers the tuition fee of 6,500 Euros of up to seven West African graduates, including educational materials, field trips to EU institutions and the Career Development Program.

The Master of European Studies – Governance and Regulation is characterized by consistently high academic standards and a fruitful working atmosphere among faculty members and students from around the world. In close collaboration with other institutions of the University of



Annabel Ruth Edevbie and Michael Amoah Akwuah are studying a Master of European Studies at ZEI with a WAI-ZEI Scholarship.

Bonn, alumni and local companies, the curriculum is supplemented by offering further career development activities that facilitate the entry into the international labor market after successful graduation. Michael Amoah Awuah, another WAI-ZEI scholar from Ghana, adds: “The MES program sufficiently equips students from around the world with the most relevant practical and theoretical foundation to kick start an international and European career. It is an innovative and interesting learning experience.”

The application period for the upcoming program year (from October 2014), has already begun. Interested candidates from around the world can apply for the Master of European

Studies – Governance and Regulation until 15 March 2014. The Master’s degree is awarded by the Faculty of Arts at the University of Bonn. Detailed information on the application process can be found on the program’s website. In addition, interested candidates are invited to come to ZEI and get a first impression of the program’s structure on the spot or to get in contact with the MES alumni directly.

Also for the program year WAI and ZEI offers seven scholarships for qualified West African candidates. Interested students or professionals from the sub-region who are fluent in English, can apply by sending their documents to WAI or directly to ZEI’s Maser office. The scholarships do not cover any living or travel expenses.

The Future of the Africa-EU Partnership: Learning to think about Opportunities

On the basis of the discussions of European and West African experts and the insights gained during the WAI-ZEI Mid-Term Conference in Praia, the team of WAI-ZEI coordinators in Praia and Bonn has elaborated a short contribution to the debate on the future of the Africa-EU partnership.

The paper has a particular geographical focus on West Africa and a particular thematic focus on the role of improved structures of research, science and education. The paper shall serve as some food for thought for the EU-Africa Summit, taking place in Brussels in April 2014.

Within the framework of the areas likely to form the core of the future Joint Strategy, which is to be renewed at the EU-Africa Summit in April 2014 in Brussels, the team has developed some project-related recommendations. These areas are: 1. Peace and security. Democracy, governance and human rights. 2. Sustainable and inclusive development. Economic growth and regional integration. 3. Tackling global issues and capacity development. The headlines used are a mixture of the preferences expressed by the European and the African sides ahead of the summit. The paper focuses on the drivers for a common

approach on the one hand and on proposals for practical projects on the other hand.

In the first thematic area the drivers are to be found in a common interest for long-term stability, but also in missing knowledge about the structure of conflicts and the role of actors that may impede effective prevention or resolution. Therefore it is suggested to promote a "West African-European Research Network on Comprehensive Security", which would channel research based insights on security developments into the political process and foster dialogue between stakeholders and decision-makers on different levels.

In the second thematic area the motives for more intensive economic exchange lie in the untapped potential of African countries which has demanded more and more attention in recent years and that has led to unprecedented growth and investment. However, it should not be forgotten that existing potentials can only be used under favorable structural conditions. In West Africa these conditions could be improved through a deeper integration of national research and science policies in order to look for synergies and to strengthen the knowledge base of

African economies. Furthermore, a regional agency for development cooperation can help to train local capacities and to increase ownership and the effectiveness of development projects at the same time.

Finally the third thematic area looks at global challenges and the role of capacity development. Again, the focus is set on structural questions like the expansion of mutual knowledge between Europe and Africa in order to understand the sensitivities of both sides in the process of tackling global challenges, the improvement of the African educational basis for this task or the general diversification of development partnerships. The proposals in this context range from the support for new and interdisciplinary African study programs dealing with global challenges, the strengthening of intra-regional and bi-regional student exchange to the establishment of a database for best practices where not only Africans can learn from European experiences but also the other way around.

With their suggestions the authors would like to emphasize that only by thinking about opportunities instead of limits, can the African-European partnership add value to the bi-regional relationship.

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Editor: Matthias Vogl:

mvogl@uni-bonn.de

Benjamin Akoutou:

benjamin.akoutou@iao.gov.cv

Center for European Integration Studies

Walter-Flex-Strasse 3, 53113 Bonn

Germany.

West Africa Institute

Avenida de Liberdade e Democracia, N°9

Praia, Cape Verde.

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