

The Europeanization of Minority and Disability Rights: A Comparative View

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Abstract : Both minority rights and disability rights are relatively new fields for policy-making in a European context, and both are affected by the EU's diversity mainstreaming approach, as well as by the non-discrimination legislation drafted at the European level. These processes correspond to the classic understanding of Europeanization, namely a "top-down" stream of influence from the European to the national and subnational levels. However, both minority and disability rights movements also show instances of "bottom-up" Europeanization, e.g. transnational advocacy networks and efforts to reach joint goals at the EU-level. This paper aims to provide a comparative perspective on Europeanization in both fields, pointing out similar dynamics and patterns, but also explaining in which sectors outcomes may be different and which domestic and other scope conditions may be responsible for these differences.

Keywords : europeanization, disability rights, minority rights, comparative perspective

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