

Border Security of the Schengen Area from the Perspective of the Public Goods Theory

Abstract

In the context of increasing illegal immigration to the European Union, doubts arise whether Schengen Area is fit to face this challenge, or whether it needs to be reformed. The aim of this dissertation thesis is to clarify questions surrounding functionality of the Border Security System of the Schengen Area by applying the theory of public goods. The main inquiry of the thesis is, whether it is necessary to further strengthen the EU competences in order to improve the functioning of the Schengen Border Security System (SBSS). First, a model of an ideal-type border security system is constructed in order to identify core functions of border security in relation to protection from illegal immigration: (a) deterrence of illegal immigrants, (b) prevention of illegal border crossings, (c) interdiction of illegal immigrants, (d) apprehension of illegal immigrants, (e) apprehension of illegal residents, and (f) removal of illegal population. Second, theory of public goods is introduced as an analytical framework, which allows to identify possible solutions to collective action problems associated with production of public goods such as security in transnational contexts comparable to the EU. Third, the thesis formulates conditions for functionality of a border security system and three hypotheses about the relationship between functionality, production method and distribution of competences. Fourth, empirical analyses of all the six intermediate public goods of the SBSS revealed the aggregation technologies involved: in three cases weighted sum, twice weaker link, and once better shot. Five, verification of the hypotheses confirms that the current distribution of competences does not limit full functionality of the SBSS, which is nearly fully functional. Therefore, it is not necessary to further strengthen the EU competences. Next research of the functioning of the SBSS should, thus, focus on application of the system, rather than on its institutional set-up.

Keywords

Border security – Schengen Area – Public Goods Theory – internal security – illegal immigration – European Union