

The master theses „European Integration Polity“ deals with the impact of European integration on the domestic balance of power between the German executive and legislative power, while focusing on the North Rhine-Westphalia (and partly Bavaria) as one of the examples of the German countries (“Laender”) key actors nowadays. While the initiative of the German Laender with the aim of obtaining their right of participation in decision-making on the European integration topic can be traced to the very beginning of the European integration process, in the course of the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty the German Laender succeeded in institutionalization of their participatory rights by changing the constitution and laws. Due to the changing dynamics both of the European integration and the German federalism, the consensus-finding became uneasy. The German Laender are being increasingly motivated to change their strategy while trying to achieve their goals. There are new ways to be found beyond the institutionalized way of procurement of the enhanced rights. The international partnership with the regions of the similar power and interests (e.g. RegLeg) became one of the key elements of the new strategy. Beside this, the executive power of the “Laender” has to cope with the approach of their legislative power, aiming at the similar goal, as the Laender’s executive power did before, namely at the privilege to control the executive power and to participate in the decision-making on the topic of the European integration. The master theses aims at answering of the key questions: Are the German Laender even since the 90th interested in enhancing their own power, while limiting the power of the executive (“domestication issue”)? Under what conditions is the executive willing to accept the demands of the legislative? And last but not least: What is the dynamics of the relationship between North Rhine-Westphalia and Bavaria in the European integration politics, what are the motives for their cooperation?