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Abstract

The most recognisable and researched impact of Europeanisation is upon government structures, processes and policies. However the study of its effects on domestic interest groups is still in its infancy. This work addresses this gap in the academic literature by examining the extent to which interest groups in Malta and Ireland are being exposed and influenced by European incentives, values and style of governance.

European exposure is not only investigated in terms of engagement with the EU's multi-tier institutional design, but more fundamentally, it is analysed in its ability to reshape domestic structures, politics and mindsets of active citizens organised in different sorts of group formations. The investigation is rooted in the theoretical framework of new institutionalism which is well equipped in providing answers as to which enablers of change are at play in Europeanising domestic interest groups. To this effect, the major aim of this study is twofold: to measure the extent of Europeanisation and to decipher its typology. In particular it seeks to determine whether marginal or significant Europeanisation has taken place in the period between 2004 and 2011 and whether this can be explained through rationalist or sociological logics of adaptation or a combination of the two.

Essentially, this thesis adopts a comparative and empirical case study approach, making use of mixed methodology, to investigate the complexity of the core issues from the Maltese and Irish perspective as two small island member states at the periphery of an integrated continent. Research primacy rests on the role and character of interest groups involved in domestic policy-making and their interplay with governmental actors, as well as their participation in EU governance. Findings confirm that trade unions, employers' organisations, social and human rights movements as well as environmental groups in both Malta and Ireland are undergoing a process of domestic change, yet their gradual transformation is being marshalled by differing speeds and logics of Europeanisation. Apart from its special attention dedicated to small island states and domestic active citizenship, this thesis sets out an innovative statistical model to quantify the familiar elements of Europeanisation. This model shapes the way for future

research projects on Europeanisation that will try to encapsulate its magnitude quantitatively.

Abbreviations

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BMW	Border, Midlands and Western region (Ireland)
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
Chi ²	Chi Square Test
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CIRA	Continuity Irish Republican Army
CMTU	Confederation of Malta Trade Unions (Malta)
COM	Communication by the European Commission
CoR	Committee of the Regions
CSP	Community and Social Pillar (Ireland)
CVO	Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (Malta)
DOI	Department of Information (Malta)
EC	European Commission
ECB	European Central Bank
ECJ	European Court of Justice
EEC	European Economic Community
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EP	European Parliament
EnvP	Environmental Pillar (Ireland)
ESF	European Social Funds
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute (Ireland)
EU	European Union
FDIs	Foreign Direct Investments
FF	<i>Fianna Fáil</i> (Ireland)
FG	<i>Fine Gael</i> (Ireland)
ForUM	<i>Forum Unions Maltin</i> (Malta)
GUG	Gozitan University Group (Malta)
GWU	General Workers' Union (Malta)
HI	Historical Institutionalism
IBEC	Irish Business Employers Confederation
ibid.	<i>ibidem</i> – in the same place (Latin)

ICTU	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
IDA	Industrial Development Authority (Malta)
IEG	Irish Environmental Group
IEN	Irish Environmental Network
IMB	Irish Mediating Body
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPO	Irish Political Observer
IRA	Irish Republican Army
Ireland	Republic of Ireland
ISHG	Irish Social and Human rights Group
IT	Information Technology
ITU	Irish Trade Unions
LGBT	Lesbians, Gays, Bi-sexuals and Transgenders movements
Malta	Republic of Malta
MAX	<i>Moviment Azzjoni Xellug</i> (Malta)
MCCEI	Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry
MCESD	Malta Council for Economic and Social Development
MEA	Malta Employers Association
MEG	Maltese Environmental Group
MEPs	Members of European Parliament
MEUSAC	Malta-EU Action and Steering Committee
MLG	Multi-Level Governance
MMB	Maltese Mediating Body
MNC	Multi-National Corporations
MP	Member of Parliament (Malta)
MPO	Maltese Political Observer
MSHG	Maltese Social and Human rights Group
MTU	Maltese Trade Unions
MUMN	Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses
NCC	National Competitive Council (Ireland)
NDPs	National Development Plans
NESC	National Economic and Social Council (Ireland)
NGDOs	Non-Governmental Development Organisations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

p	Probability value
PAM	Public Affairs Management
PL	<i>Partit Laburista</i> (Malta)
PN	<i>Partit Nazzjonalista</i> (Malta)
PPCD	Planning Priorities and Coordination Department (Malta)
PPP	Public-private partnership
QUANGOS	QUAsi Non-Governmental Organisations
RCI	Rational Choice Institutionalism
RIRA	Real Irish Republican Army
S&E	Southern and Eastern region (Ireland)
SBA	Small Businesses Act (Malta)
SF	<i>Sinn Fèin</i> (Ireland)
SHEGs	Social, Human rights and Environmental Groups
SI	Sociological Institutionalism
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SP	Social Partnership (Ireland)
STV	Single Transferable Vote
SWaN	Sustainable Water Network (Ireland)
TD	<i>Teachta Dála</i> (Members of the Irish Parliament)
TUGI	The Urban Governance Initiative
u	unreliable
UHM	<i>Union Haddiema Magħqudin</i> (Malta)
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UoM	University of Malta
USA	United States of America
v	frequencies
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation
x^2	Chi Square Test

Acknowledgements

Many people have generously given their time, experience, expertise and encouragement to this thesis. Hundreds of leaders of interest groups in Malta and Ireland were asked to participate in this research project; many were invited to fill-in questionnaires, others were selected to be interviewed and a couple of others accepted to be observed over a period of fourteen months. I have respected the confidentiality of what they told me and secured the anonymity of their identities. I hope, however, that I have represented their viewpoints as faithfully as possible.

From the academic sphere, I am most indebted to Prof Simon Bulmer, my primary supervisor at the University of Sheffield, whose expert advice and motivation have been a great stimulus, particularly in times of anxiety and fatigue. I owe so much to Prof Ian Bache, my second supervisor, for auditing my work at the end of the whole writing process. Furthermore I thank Dr Liberato Camilleri, a senior lecturer at the Mathematics and Statistics Department of the University of Malta for his inestimable friendly, yet professional, mentoring in working out statistical models. I am also grateful to the University of Malta that financed my scholarship at the University of Sheffield.

I had the pleasure to work with various other distinguished people whose esteemed contribution in realising this project of intellectual and personal development has been indispensable. Sincere words of gratitude go to Ms Sarah Cooke, postgraduate research administrator at the University of Sheffield, for her guidance and assistance. A special mention goes to Dr Edward Warrington, Prof Godfrey A. Pirotta, Dr George V. Zammit and Dr Manwel Debono, four dear colleagues at the University of Malta, whose unswerving trust in me, maintain my morale high in difficult times. In addition, I feel vigorously obliged to Ms Marlene Mifsud Chircop for proofreading my manuscripts with painstaking attention to detail and to Mr Andrè De Battista who was extremely valuable during the collection phase of questionnaires in Malta.

I thank wholeheartedly my mother, Marianna, and brother Louis who imbued me with hope and love throughout all my life and, above everyone else, I shall be forever

grateful to Liberata, my wife who have endured with me countless sacrifices that such an experience necessitates. My wife's constant support, many times, was the difference maker between me moving forward versus being frozen in fear. A word of appreciation goes to my in-laws, Virginia and Guzeppi, for taking care of my two young daughters, Martina and Elisa, whenever I had to be away from home researching my thesis.

I reserve my last gratitude to our Lord whose words '*Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... and you will find rest. For my yoke is easy, and my load is light*' (Mt 11, 28-30) are always of great comfort and spiritual reassurance in my critical moments of distress.