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**Towards the Europeanization of Asylum Procedures? Negotiation and Implementation of the ‘Asylum Procedures Directive’**

Despite of the goals proclaimed in the evolving ‘Common European Asylum System’, numerous infringement cases indicate failures in implementing asylum legislation. Focusing on the asylum systems in Germany and Sweden, the paper analyzes the case of the ‘Asylum Procedures Directive’. How to translate this directive into practices was the subject of transnational negotiations including the member states’ asylum administrations. In infringement procedures, implementing EU directives is a matter of negotiation between the Commission and the member states concerned. Yet, as the analysis will show, even in highly regulated asylum systems the way in which decision-makers on the ground interpret and implement the directives is also a consequence of local conditions at the asylum institution. Safeguarding the protection seekers’ rights as guaranteed in the directives is thus a highly negotiated objective for the Europeanisation of asylum procedures. Yet, the implementation of the Asylum Procedures Directive in everyday practice, including interaction with the applicants, depends on strategies and knowledge resources activated in decision-making procedures within local settings of the administrative field. The database includes official documents, participant observation and semi-structured interviews with experts and asylum case officers in Germany and Sweden.