In his contribution Ingmar von Homeyer examines the level of participatory governance in three issue areas: biotechnology regulation/the revision of the Deliberate Release Directive, European political values/the ‘sanctions’ against Austria/revision of Article 7 TEU, and employment policy/the European Employment Strategy.

Participatory governance is a multi-dimensional concept. Four aspects appear to be particularly significant: mobilisation of societal actors, public contestation and debate, openness of the decision-making process, and responsiveness of policy-makers. The analysis looks at the extent to which each of these dimensions characterises European policy-making in the three issue areas selected. Variation in the levels of mobilisation, public debate, openness and responsiveness among the issue areas is (partly) explained in terms of four causal factors: common affectedness, organisational embeddedness, decision-making rules, and transfer of competencies to the EU-level. The analysis suggests that organisational embeddedness appears to have a particularly strong influence on
the level of participation in EU-policy-making.

The book is available on the internet at Routledge [2] at the price of US$ 120,-.

The publication is a result of the project European Public Space Observatory - EUROPUB [3] sponsored by the European Commission, DG Research [4].

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