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Policy-Centred Sampling in Interest Group Research: Lessons from the INTEREURO project¹

Jan Beyers, University of Antwerp

Andreas Dür, University of Salzburg

David Marshall, University of Salzburg

Arndt Wonka, Bremen University

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Proper sampling is the foundation for all scientific enquiry aimed at making generalizable claims about a wider set of cases. Indeed, inferential statistical analysis presupposes representative samples and units of analysis that can be considered as independent observations. Establishing a sample of issues on which lobbying may take place, which is at the same time representative of an overall population of issues and of the varying levels of conflict and political mobilization, however, is a major challenge for interest group research. Drawing on existing research practices, we discuss a series of different approaches that may be used to establish a sample of policy issues. The focus then is on the policy-centred stratified sampling procedure used in the INTEREURO project. Although our approach has important advantages, we extensively discuss several challenges we faced as well as the procedures we developed in order to deal with these.

Word count: 5876 words

Introduction: rationale of policy-centred sampling

Scholars increasingly agree that an analysis of lobbying practices and interest group influence has to account for the contextualized nature of lobbying (Baumgartner and Leech 1998; Lowery and Gray 2004). Indeed, the complex nature of interest group politics makes it difficult to draw general conclusions concerning *the* organizational structures, *the* strategies, or *the* influence of interest groups if the context that (← p. 160) surrounds specific policy issues is not taken into consideration (Beyers *et al* 2008). In the past, the inherent complexity of interest group politics made many group researchers rely primarily on case-studies. Although these studies made major contributions to the field, by definition case study findings usually remained restricted to particular types of groups, specific issues or policy areas under a particular set of conditions. Moreover, while case studies have contributed substantially to the explorative research on group activities and theory development, they are often set up in a way which inhibits direct comparisons and cumulative insights necessary to draw more general conclusions.

During the past few decades the field moved beyond this non-cumulative state of affairs as a diverse and rich set of qualitative and quantitative studies has been added to the literature. Yet, some earlier quantitative studies adopted a survey methodology starting from a sample of interest groups and usually no or only a small number of policy issues were part of the research design (for an overview, see Baumgartner and Leech 1998). Interest group surveys have their merits in terms of the large set of groups that can be studied, they are limited in their ability to capture the policy context in which interests groups operate. While case studies may run the risk of offering a somewhat idiosyncratic and unrepresentative picture of lobbying, large-scale quantitative research designs may result in a de-contextualized understanding of lobbying.

Instead of actor-centred sampling, that is, sampling from a universe of organized interests, or selecting only a small number of policy cases, our project hence relies on what we label as policy-centred sampling. Essentially, this means that sampling does not start from actors, but from a set of public policies. Policy-centred sampling is typical for research designs that aim to blend the benefits of case study research in gaining context-sensitive insights into groups' lobbying activities with the advantages of a large-N approach in generating generalizable knowledge. In order to combine qualitative and quantitative evidence, we sampled a moderate number of legislative proposals and then drew on various sources – such as structured personal interviews with group representatives and decision makers (Beyers *et al* 2014b) as well as qualitative and quantitative content analyses of newspaper articles and official documents – to obtain information on policy substance, interest groups' diverse mobilization efforts and their effect on policy outcomes. Relying on qualitative and quantitative methods to analyse our multifaceted empirical material not only facilitates the substantive understanding of interest group politics in European policymaking but should also increase the validity and reliability of our descriptive and causal inferences.

This article presents an overview of the rationale behind policy-centred sampling, the way we implemented this in the INTEREURO project, the representativeness of our final sample and some of the pitfalls and challenges in drawing policy-centred samples.² The main problems we face are the undefined nature of the population and the fuzzy boundaries between individual cases in the universe from which we (← p. 161) sample. Many structural features of this universe are unknown and often policy issues are not entirely independent observations. Yet, by carefully designing the different steps of the sampling process and remaining reflective during the overall research project, these challenges can be addressed adequately. In general, we believe that there are many reasons why policy-centred sampling is a highly useful approach in studying interest group strategies, framing and influence.

Approaches to policy-centred sampling

The main reason for policy-centred sampling is the theoretical notion that variation in substantive policies shapes the nature of politics surrounding specific issues (Lowi 1964; Lowi 1972; Wilson 1989). Who gets involved, how, and in which arena, how issues are resolved and how much influence stakeholders have, is largely determined by specific features of policy issues. A key variable in this regard is how the costs and benefits are distributed across segments of society. Thereby it is often hypothesized that the concentration of costs and benefits generates competitive battles among interests groups, while diffuse costs (or benefits) make interest group politics less competitive and/or more prone to capturing. Another crucial factor is that, under conditions of uncertainty, human beings are generally more sensitive to the threats and the risks of losing benefits (Kahneman and Tversky 1984), which means that the salience attached to specific issues, the level of conflict and the mobilization of a highly attentive public may considerably affect interest group strategies and influence Dür and Mateo (2014). Instead of objective costs and benefits, much lobbying is driven by bandwagoning, herding, mimicry and how entrepreneurial stakeholders frame the nature of policy issues (Granovetter 1978; Banerjee 1992; Baumgartner and Leech 2003; Halpin 2011). The skewed pattern that is regularly observed in lobbying communities could be partially explained by this social mechanism. Finally, the decision-making rules, the power distribution between legislative institutions as well as the venues in which issues need to be resolved might also affect interest group mobilization. For instance, it makes a considerable difference whether issues are processed by judicial venues involving mainly legal reasoning or whether issues are subject to parliamentary debate involving extensive media coverage.

All this speaks in favour of policy-centred sampling. Yet, the awareness of a theoretical notion does not solve the problem of how to sample policy issues. A major

problem is that in most circumstances we lack a proper map of the universe from which to sample. And if official records are available, they mostly do not map whether and how the different issues are related to each other. Often it is unclear where a particular issue stops and the next issue starts, to what extent issues are sub-sets of a more encompassing issue, or how issues are tied in a larger legislative package. Another problem is that the entities we are interested in are, regarding some (← p. 162) of their key features, characterized by highly non-linear distributions (King *et al* 1994, 125), which makes simple randomized sampling problematic.

Policy-centred sampling thus cannot presume a population in a usual sense. In view of this problem, scholars have used two types of policy-centred sampling: a bottom-up perspective starting from a set of sampled actors and a top-down perspective starting with a set of publicly available sources. Bottom-up policy-centred sampling, as exemplified in the work by Baumgartner *et al* (2009, 261-76; see also Mahoney 2008), starts from a random sample drawn from a population of organized interests that is active within a particular venue. In a next step, the sampled organizations are interviewed focusing on the most recent issue in which the organization spent time and resources. All the issues identified in the interviews then constitute the sample of issues and are closely scrutinized on the basis of publicly available sources as well as further interviewing with other stakeholders.

The major advantage of this procedure is that it leads to a wide and diverse sample of issues on which at least some lobbying took place, with issues on which a lot of lobbying took place more likely to be included in the sample (Baumgartner *et al* 2009, 267-271). The approach heavily depends on the availability of a reliable record of the interest group universe. However, many political systems, including the European Union (EU), lack such a record. Another potential problem might be situated during the interviewing stage (see the contribution by Beyers *et al* 2014b). When talking to stakeholders, in particular during the first round of interviews, the interviewer does not possess prior evidence or information on

the policy issues, which means that the interviewer might be somewhat constrained in checking factual details or might not always grasp the intricacies of a particular issue.

In contrast, top-down policy-centred sampling starts researching the universe of policy cases that were on the policy agenda during a particular period of time. For this approach, no register of lobbyists is needed; at minimum, one only needs a systematic overview of a list of laws, regulations or other policy initiatives initiated by policymakers. A challenge is the skewed nature of policy attention that is typical for most political agendas. This means that an unweighted random sample will include a large number of low salient issues, where usually little or no lobbying takes place, and only a small number of highly contested issues. Yet, if one aims to analyse how lobbying influences policymaking, one needs cases with at least some lobbying. At the same time, in order to establish general conclusions we need sufficient diversity in terms of controversy as well as control cases where no or little lobbying takes place.

An interesting example of top-down policy-centred sampling is provided by Robert Thomson's (2011, 27-32) work on legislative politics in the EU (see also Thomson and Stokman 2006). Thomson started with a list of legislative proposals and used 'the political importance' of a proposal for the selection of cases with a (← p. 163) sufficient level of political controversy. His selected cases needed at minimum four hits in two media sources, namely *Agence Europe* and the *European Voice*. Note that two media mentions is still a rather low threshold which makes that highly visible cases will be selected in addition to a large number of cases that get much less attention. After sampling these issues, the research continues with expert interviews and extensive document archiving. One major challenge for this procedure is that one needs to define the weighting factors – mostly level of controversy, political salience, important of attention – in advance. For this, scholars usually rely on media

attentiveness, but we need to acknowledge that salience remains a concept that is notoriously difficult to measure (Warntjen 2012).

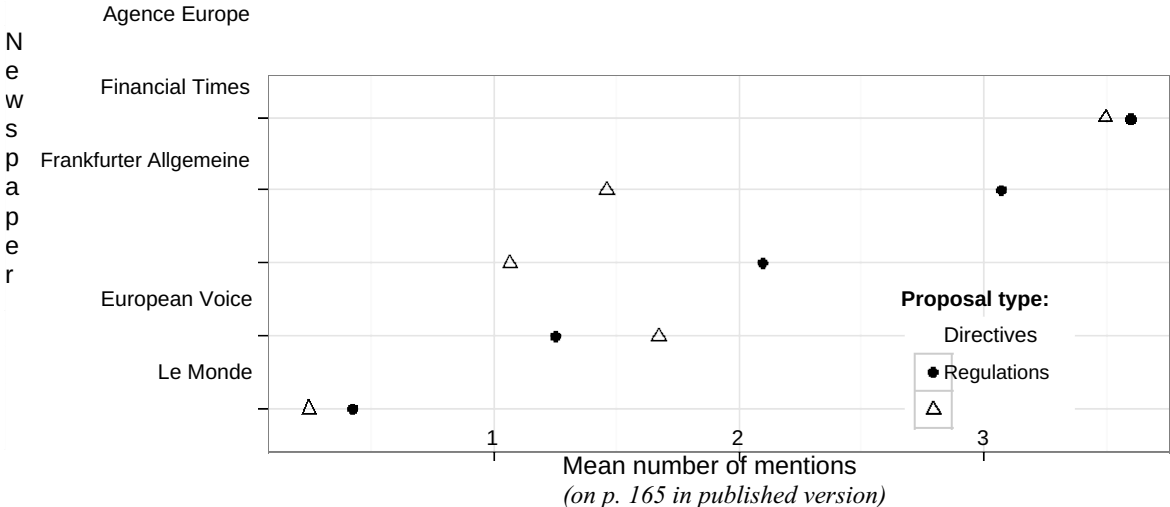
The INTEREURO sampling procedure

The basis for the INTEREURO sample is the list of all proposals for generally binding EU law, i.e. directives (N=144) and regulations (N=459), adopted by the European Commission between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2010.³ We opted for this period to maximize the chance of finding interview partners in the Commission as well as among organized interests and to be reasonably certain that at the time when we did the interview a decision would have been taken on the proposal (so no proposals that were too recent could be included; see also Beyers *et al* 2014b). We dropped all proposals for codifications, as these do not change the substance of existing legislation. After also eliminating a few proposals concerning the remuneration of and/or pensions for Commission officials or the internal management of the EU institutions, the list contained 111 proposals for directives and 427 proposals for regulations.

We decided to sample directives and regulations separately, as a simple random sample would have made us select very few directives (about four regulations for each directive). Having a large enough number of directives in the sample was important as we wanted to see whether there are any differences in terms of lobbying between regulations and directives, and because for directives we can also study lobbying during the national transposition process. Moreover, we stratified our sample according to public saliency, which increased the likelihood that highly salient cases would be selected. We did this by checking the media coverage of all proposals in five sources, namely *Agence Europe*, *European Voice*, the *Financial Times*, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and *Le Monde*. Using not only English-language media was important to avoid a bias in our sample towards proposal of

particular interest to some countries. About two thirds of the proposals for directives and sixty per cent of the proposals for regulations were mentioned in at least one media source. We found most media hits in *Agence Europe*, and fewest hits in *Le Monde* (see Figure 1). In all sources but *European Voice*, proposals for directives got more media attention.

Figure 1. Number of mentions in media sources



The resulting sample includes 48 proposals for directives and 38 proposals for regulations that were mentioned in at least two of these media sources. We opted (← p. 164) for this rather low threshold of two media in order to allow for large variation in salience across proposals in our sample. Moreover, to add additional variation in terms of salience, we added a randomly selected set of ten proposals for directives and nine proposals for regulations that did not meet the media coverage criterion. Finally, we added all proposals for directives and regulations that had not made it into the sample following that strategy, but for which public consultations had been held and consultation documents are available. We did this for pragmatic reasons, as we wanted to benefit from the additional data that is available for consultation cases.

This process resulted in a sample of 125 proposals, which breaks down to 64 proposals for directives and 61 proposals for regulations. The interviewing projects in the influence and

the strategies modules take this set of 125 cases as a starting point for their data-collection. Two parts of the INTEREURO project use different samples (see Beyers *et al* 2014a). The multi-level governance (MLG) module concentrates on lobbying and controversy at the member state level and for this purpose we identified twenty proposals for directives with the largest media coverage, to maximize the chances that the cases to be analysed created some controversy at the national level. The US-based framing project (see XX in this volume) considers all proposals for directives (n=27), regulations (n=21) and all the Green and White Papers (n=20) on which public consultations have been held and for which position papers submitted by organized interests were available.⁴ Of the 68 cases in the US sample, the 48 directives and regulations overlap with the interviewing sample of 125 legislative proposals. Table 1 summarizes the INTEREURO samples.

Table 1. Summary of INTEREURO samples

	Directives	Regulations	Green and White Books	Total
<u>Interviewing sample</u>				
Strategies and influence modules	64	61	-	125
<u>Sub-samples (out of n=125)</u>				
MLG module	20	-	-	20
Framing module	27	21	20	68

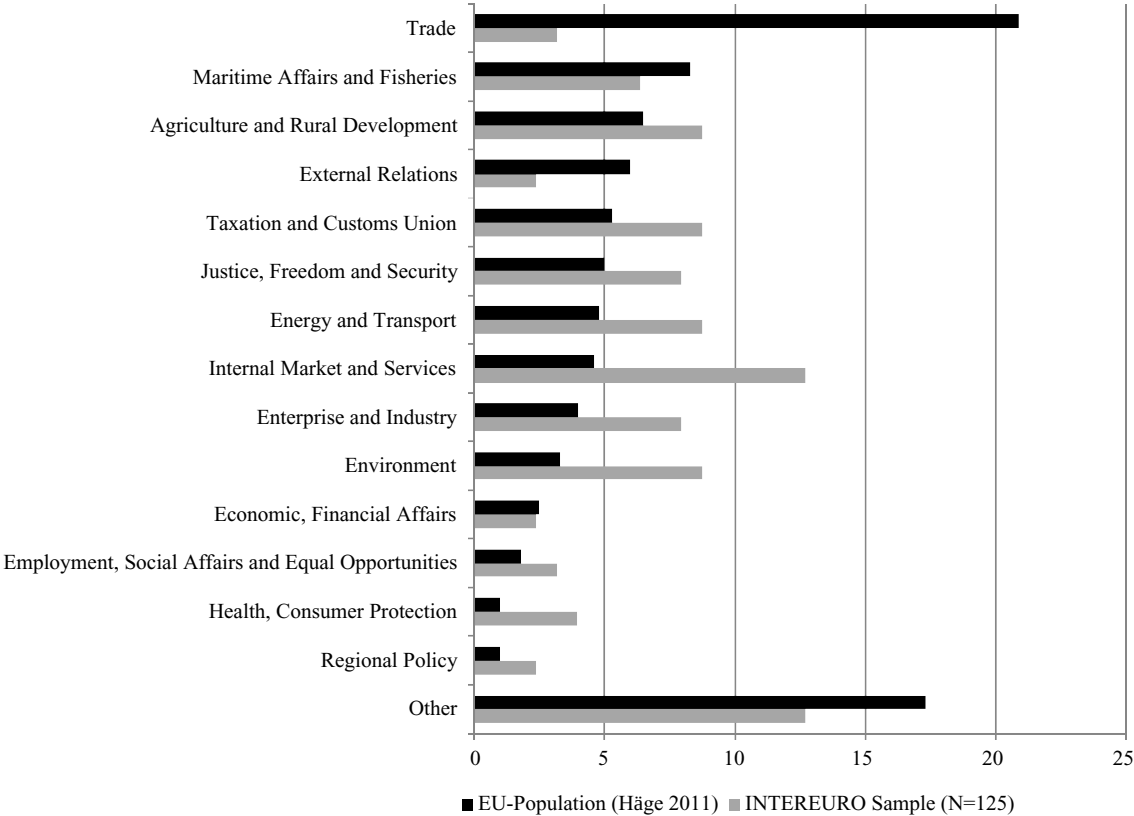
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The INTEREURO sample

In this section we describe how representative our sample is for the population of EU legislative decision-making processes. The vast majority of the cases in the sample deal with policies regulating economic exchanges between member states in the EU’s internal market (see Figure 2). Our sample covers regulatory policy areas (Internal Market and Services, Health and Consumer Protection, Internal Market and Services (← p. 165) etc.) as well as the few policy areas in which the EU is directly involved in redistribution (Agriculture and Rural

Development, Regional Policy).⁵ As the INTEREURO sample covers all policy areas in which the EU legislates, we will be able to draw general conclusions on interest group mobilization, groups' strategies and interest group influence in internal market policymaking. Yet, while our sample is broadly representative of the policy areas that constitute the internal market, trade policies, which are the cornerstone of the EU's activities with third countries and other regional and international organizations, are strongly underrepresented. Our sample will therefore not allow us to draw broader conclusions on interest groups politics in EU external affairs.

Figure 2. Comparing the sample and the population by policy area (in per cent)

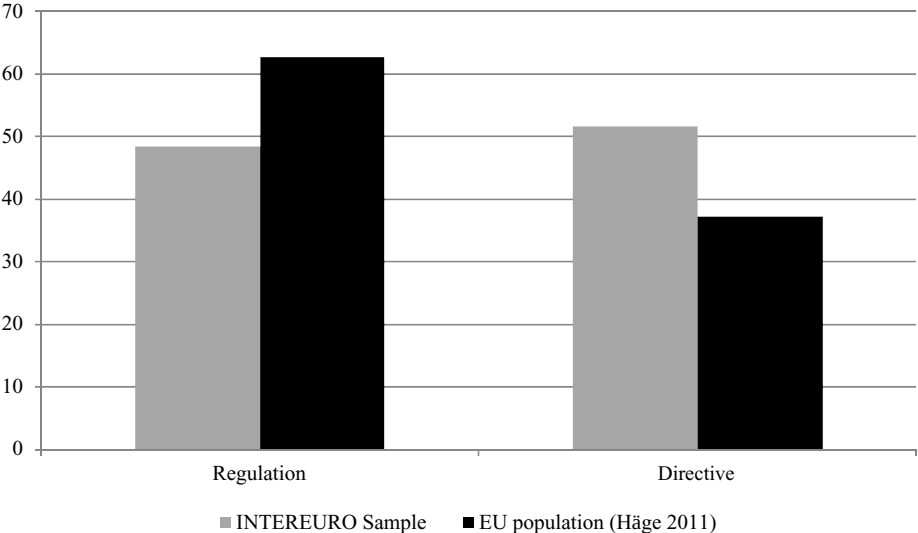


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Compared to the share of directives and regulations proposed by the European Commission between 2008 and 2010, regulations are slightly underrepresented and directives overrepresented in the INTEREURO sample (figure 3). (← p. 166) As directives need to be implemented through national laws in member states to become effective, national interest

organizations might spend less effort and resources in lobbying directives at the EU-level but focus their attention on the domestic implementation stage instead. If that is the case, our sample might underestimate the extent to which national interest organizations are lobbying at the EU-level. At the same time, national organizations might want to secure their stakes in the early stages of EU-level decision-making, thus leading to no differences in the extent to which national and European organizations lobby the formulation of directives and regulations at the EU-level. Given the sufficient number of regulations and directives respectively, we should be able to empirically assess potential biases.

Figure 3. Share of legislative instruments/type of act (in per cent)

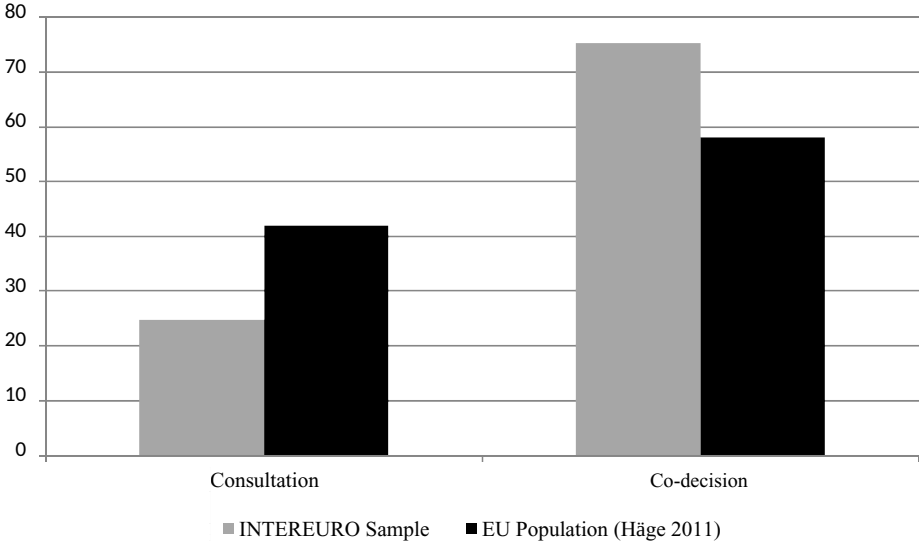


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Finally, we expect the institutional rules by which legislative decisions are taken to have an impact on interest groups’ lobbying efforts and strategies. Two decision-making procedures account for the vast majority of policies adopted at the EU-level (Hix and Høyland 2011). In the consultation procedure the Commission formulates a proposal, which is then adopted by member state governments in the Council. The European Parliament can only submit nonbinding opinions. In the co-decision procedure, on the other hand, the European Parliament is a co-equal legislator; proposals formulated by the Commission only become effective if adopted by member state governments in the Council and the members of the

European Parliament. Interest group mobilization and decision-making dynamics might vary considerably between both procedures due to the differential access different types of groups might have to the EU’s legislative institutions and their need to invest organizational and political resources carefully when trying to influence EU policies (Beyers and Kerremans 2004; Dür and Mateo 2012). The INTEREURO sample under-represents the share of proposals decided in the consultation procedure during the period 2008 to 2010 (see figure 4). Since 2009, however, the number of consultation procedures has sharply decreased so that our sample broadly reflects (← p. 167) the institutional rules by which policies are taken in the recent phase of European integration.

Figure 4. Share of decision-making procedures (in per cent)



Note: Our sample also includes 21 proposals (16.7 per cent) decided by specific procedures; to allow for direct comparison with the population sample, we only included proposals decided in the EU’s regular legislative decision-making procedures in this comparison.

(on p. 168 in published version)

In our description of the sampling procedure we highlighted that our strategy aimed at selecting cases which vary regarding the public attention they received. This selection strategy was meant to avoid a sample that is overwhelmingly made up of proposals that experienced little political conflict. Taking the number of days it took the Council and the European Parliament to adopt the European Commission’s legislative proposal as a proxy for the level of conflict we find that conflicts during the decision-making phase vary considerably for

proposals in our sample. It took governments and the European Parliament on average 464 days to adopt a proposal (median: 405; min.: 2, max.: 1666), with a standard deviation of 345. Between 2001 and 2007, the median duration for the adoption of EU legislative proposals varies between 303 and 430 days (Häge 2011, 472-473), indicating that the INTEREURO sample is broadly representative of the level of conflict which characterized legislative politics in the EU during the last decade.⁶ The subsamples of the framing module (mean: 672 days; SD: 364; median: 611) and of the multilevel governance module (mean: 724 days; SD: 401; median: 580) are somewhat skewed towards more conflictive policy proposals.

Concrete challenges

Once the sample was selected, detailed fieldwork was carried out on each of the 125 legislative proposals. This revealed a surprising level of heterogeneity, which poses a (← **p. 168**) number of challenges for empirical and theoretical inference. Firstly, it turned out that not all proposals are equivalent entities and that the differences identified contribute to the skewed distribution of lobbying activity that is directed toward the Commission. Secondly, it emerged that a significant number of proposals are in some way directly connected to each other, which questions the extent to which one particular legislative proposal can be taken to be a fully independent unit of analysis.

In respect to the effect of proposal equivalence on lobbying activity, we find that 23 proposals within our sample are of a kind that attracts little or no spontaneous lobbying activity (18 per cent). Moreover, this subset excludes a further fifteen (12 per cent) proposals which although of a type that may attract spontaneous lobbying, were insufficiently salient to prompt such action. Our fieldwork hence indicated a substantial number of cases that are intrinsically off-limits to lobbyists. To clarify this, the following categorization has been made: cases where access to decision-making is highly restricted (seven cases); those

where decisions are taken outside the normal legislative arena (eight); those that are administrative (six); as well as seemingly *ad hoc* types that defy even the broadest categorization (two).

Taking the first category, we find that access to the decision-making process is formally constrained and highly regulated in cases of both anti-dumping and social policy. Anti-dumping allegations although initiated by an interest group claiming economic injury, if taken up, immediately become quasi-legal investigations. In social policymaking the role of institutionally embedded corporate interests is formally defined in the Treaties. Here the lack of access for other interests was summed up by a Commission official who stated, “we are not able to accommodate other interests, which can be a problem, but even we ourselves are not always privy to the evolving nature of negotiations”.⁷ The second category includes instances in which decisions are taken outside of the EU’s inter-institutional setting. These include proposals for restrictive measures (sanctions in respect of Guinea and President Lukashenko), which turn out to be verbatim translations by the Commission of a Council common position; as well as intergovernmental agreements including the Financial Stabilisation Package (2010). The third category is essentially administrative housekeeping, but unlike the codifications that were removed as part of the sampling process, the characteristics of these cases were not immediately obvious. For example, the sample includes an *alignment proposal*, the purpose of which is simply to distinguish between delegated and implemented acts. Finally, to illustrate the small set of proposal that although problematic to categorize nevertheless attract no lobbying, our sample includes a €40 million pilot fisheries policy which was described by the Commission official responsible as “peanuts” and although it “looks like a legislative doc” is “actually a facilitation doc to stimulate dialogue. Nobody feels threatened”, and hence nobody would lobby.⁸

The extent to which proposals are independent from each other, and indeed how independence is defined is potentially very complex. A strict application of the principle of independence might find the population wanting, as it is likely that the (← p. 169) occurrence of some proposals will affect the probability of a second making it onto the agenda. However, it would be naive to think that policymaking is conducted in a vacuum, and as such it would be surprising to observe a set of policy proposals that were not in any way affected by the outcome of others. In the context of understanding lobbying behaviour, we adopted a research strategy that takes cases where the relationship between proposals is explicit and obvious as one unit of observation and analysis.

We have twenty proposals (16 per cent of the sample) that are strongly connected to one or more other proposals within this subset, but the nature of the relationships varies. To give a sense of this, we have two instances of so called ‘quick-fix’ proposals which were initiated in response to the financial crisis, and were subsequently amended. We have several instances of consecutive amendments to an existing proposal, for example changes to the financial management of the Regional Development, Social, and Cohesion Funds. There are two proposals to set up separate financial regulatory authorities (banking and pensions) in which the decision-making process, and hence lobbying, was delegated to one of the ultimately near identical proposals (banking). In this instance we also find evidence of a third such proposal (securities) outside our sample which similarly delegates authority to the banking proposal. Similarly we observed a more or less symbiotic relationship between the revised directive on ‘waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)’ and the parallel directive restricting ‘the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment’. In the dense policy field of CAP reform linkages abound, with a further four proposals in some way dependent on progress within this subset. Further demonstrating the interconnectivity of proposals, we observe three proposals in which specific issues were

prevalent at the time of their initiation, but were later subsumed in other proposals, within and outside our sample.

Conclusion

Our sample is, to the best of our knowledge, a highly encompassing and, in terms of variation on theoretically important dimensions, a very balanced set of cases allowing us to study diverse aspects of interest group mobilization, interest group strategies and interest group influence. Most quantitative studies of interest groups in the EU sample groups rather than issues (Beyers 2004; Eising 2004; Dür and Mateo 2012) and are thus limited in drawing conclusions about the issue contextualized nature of lobbying and the influence of societal interests. The approach we adopted comes with several key advantages. First, starting with legislative acts makes sense in the EU context, as it is difficult to identify the population of all national and European-level groups that may be active in EU politics. While there are some datasets of groups active at the EU-level (Wonka, Baumgartner et al. 2010), data sets on the population of national actors interested in EU politics are difficult to assemble. Second, even if we had been able to establish a (← p. 170) sampling frame that is representative of the target population of interest groups, getting information on the issues that these groups are active on would have been challenging. A pilot project that aimed at coding issues mentioned on the groups' webpages showed that many webpages contain little information on the specific issues the groups are active on. Rather, groups mention quite vague topics on their webpages, such as reducing unfair tax competition or combating climate change. We could have called a sample of groups and directly asked them to identify a recent issue on which they were active on, but this would have been a time consuming undertaking. Moreover, one advantage of this approach was that our interview projects could be enriched by considerable prior information on the specific cases. Third, compared to non-random policy-centred approaches such as the

one used in the Decision-making in the European Union project (DEU project), where researchers analysed primarily highly conflictive proposals (Thomson *et al* 2006), we are quite confident that we do not overestimate conflict and mobilization. In fact, our sample includes 19 proposals for which we could not find evidence of public visibility. This allows us to generalize our findings to a broader population of issues, which makes our approach particularly distinct from qualitative studies that often focus on highly salient issues.

Nevertheless, our approach is no panacea to all research design problems. As with all other approaches, it comes with important trade-offs. First, we only consider proposals that made it onto the political agenda and thus cannot say much about the agenda setting stage (Bachrach and Baratz 1962). While we cannot exclude the possibility that the population of groups active in the agenda-setting stage is different from the population of groups that we identify, however, we do not have any indication for that, either. Second, our approach turned out to be quite resource-intensive. In fact, sometimes the border between the data-collection stage and the sampling stage became blurred, as only interviews with Commission experts made us aware that certain cases actually were not decided independently of each other and thus were no independent cases in our sample. Finally, looking at proposals put forward during the relatively short time period of three years may mean that short-term fluctuations in the Commission's agenda have a large impact on the composition of the sample. In our sample, for example, we find several legislative acts related to the financial crisis of 2007– 2008, which clearly is not typical of the EU's long-term legislative agenda. Having sampled proposals from two different colleges (Barroso I and II) and over an extended period of time, however, we are still confident that our sample is pretty representative of the Commission's agenda. In addition, given our knowledge about the individual cases, we will be able to take these idiosyncrasies into account in the analysis of our data. Overall, therefore, we are

confident that our sampling strategy worked well and that it allows us to make inferences to a broader population of proposals on the EU's legislative agenda.

In sum, policy-centred sampling is feasible, but demanding in terms of resources and time as it requires considerable intensive collaboration among like-minded scholars. Importantly, it also implies that when inferences are made to the wider population, consideration can be given to the full extent of heterogeneity within the sample. (← p. 171) When selecting individual proposals for analysis, an assessment of independence needs to be made, and the implications considered. As a consequence, interviews with policy elites are an important prerequisite and crucial complement to the sampling procedure itself. Similarly, the differential effect of proposal type is an important factor, alongside issue salience, in accounting for the skewed distribution of lobbying activity that is directed toward the European institutions.

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Notes

¹ All authors contributed equally to the paper and the names appear in alphabetical order.

² The major goals and research questions of the overall INTEREURO project are outlined in the introduction to this special issue, see Beyers *et al* 2014a.

³ Basically, the EU has three kinds of legal instruments: directives, regulation and decisions. *Directives* are generally binding acts which require member states to realize a particular objective or result, but they do not stipulate how the member state must achieve this. In contrast, *regulations* are self-executing and immediately enforceable as law in all the member states. Finally, *decisions* are addressed to and binding upon a specific legal person (or persons) or a member state. We chose not to analyse lobbying on EU *decisions*, because they are not generally binding and have no EU-wide mobilization potential.

⁴ Green Papers are early discussion papers published by the European Commission. White Papers put forward more concrete plans for legislation, which is usually followed by specific proposals for legislation.

⁵ In this paper we operationalize policy areas by the Directorates General of the European Commission which had primarily responsibility for the formulation of the original policy proposal.

⁶ Note that 10 per cent of the proposals in our sample (n=12) have not been adopted at the time of publication and one has been withdrawn by the European Commission.

⁷ Interview, Brussels, 3 May 2012.

⁸ Interview, Brussels, 13 July 2012.

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