



# NAVIGATOR

## Newsletter

March-November 2023



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### PI's foreword

#### Innovation and cooperation in global governance: The first months of the NAVIGATOR project

**Cooperation** to solve global challenges is becoming increasingly difficult in a world where there is increased geopolitical competition. The globe is facing daunting challenges, but there is also increasing innovation in how states, civil society, corporations and philanthropic foundations are cooperating to solve these.



NAVIGATOR will **examine changes in global governance and provide recommendations to the EU** on how to navigate global governance – and make informed choices on which institutions to reform, when to support new forms of cooperation, shaping a sustainable, effective and legitimate system of global governance for the future.

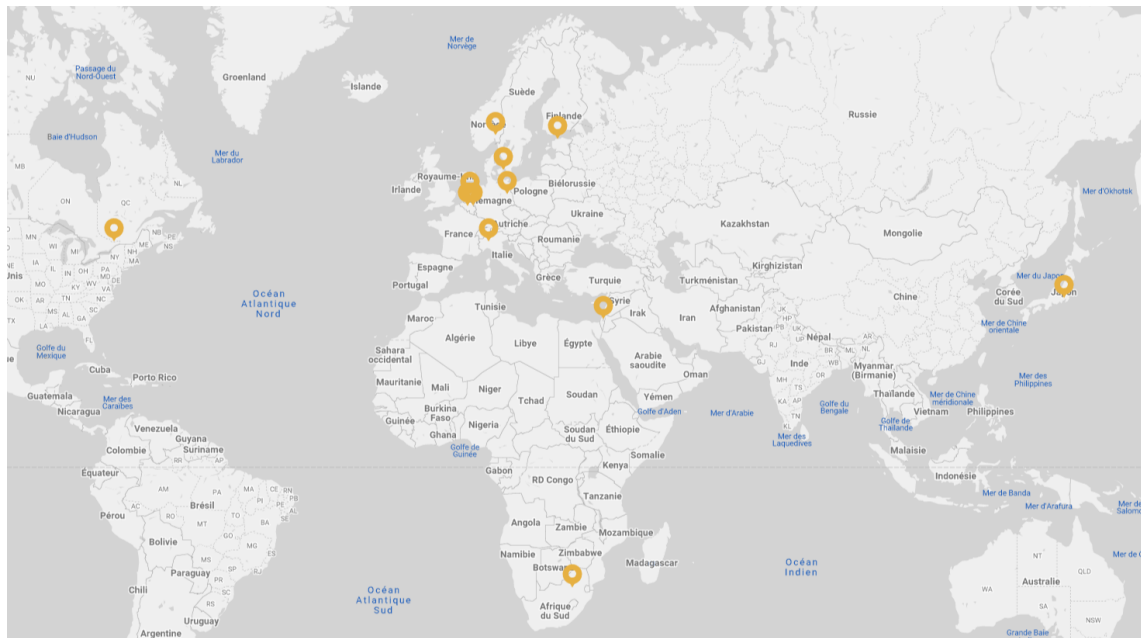
NAVIGATOR started 1 March 2023 and since then we have shaken together the team composed of sharp and dedicated researchers from 13 partner institutions.

The NAVIGATOR methodology will be published at the end of November 2023, and we are eagerly anticipating the conceptual framing of the project, tentatively titled *Global governance in transition*. The working paper will be published at the end of February 2024, and will enhance the conceptual and analytical framework of NAVIGATOR, detail variation in global governance arrangements and mechanisms, identify key trends in geopolitics and multilateral cooperation, and refine the propositions for how these trends impact the EU and Member States' influence in different policy domains.

Already, you can find the first academic output of NAVIGATOR on [our website](#) – an article in Studies in International Development co-authored by Alexandros Kentikelenis (Work package leader on Health), Leonard Seabrooke (Co-lead on the work package on Methodology) and Ole Jacob Sending (also Co-lead on Methodology).

John Karlsrud, NAVIGATOR PI, NUPI (Norway)

## What's in the horizon?



As this is the project's first newsletter, we wanted to share with our readers a quick summary of what [NAVIGATOR](#) is about, and what will be waiting for us in the next months.

NAVIGATOR is a **Horizon Europe 48 month long, €3 million, interdisciplinary, international and intersectoral project across 8 European and 4 non-European countries**. It is coordinated by the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI). It involves 10 higher education institutions joined in the consortium by 2 non-academic partners: the European Council for Foreign Relations Deutschland (ECFR) and the German Marshall Fund (GMF).

**The EU is searching for ways to navigate the increasingly complex institutional spaces of global governance** to advance a rules-based international order. Additionally, it needs to identify which institutions to strengthen, which to reform and which to bypass when revitalising **multilateralism**. Therefore, the EU-funded NAVIGATOR project will deliver a search mechanism that will allow EU Member States to compare strengths and weaknesses of existing multilateral organisations, determine the reformable ones, identify and assess alternatives, and develop action strategies to reform multilateralism.

The project will explore institutional variation on **climate change, digitalisation, finance/tax, health, migration and security** policy issues to identify institutional recommendations enabling optimal policy impact. NAVIGATOR will be very relevant to the European Commission's work programme, as it will assess the effectiveness of multilateral institutions and arrangements; identify the optimal pathways of action of EU support to multilateral, unilateral, private and public-private initiatives to further global governance in a given policy domain and provide recommendations for EU engagement strategies in the context of the war in Ukraine, threats of nationalism and anti-EU populism.

## Copenhagen methodology workshop



The NAVIGATOR team held a meeting in September 2023 at the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, chaired by our PI John Karlsrud. The meeting aimed to **refine the project's methodology** and included discussions about the **NAVIGATOR toolkit** and the **project's objectives**, which revolve around strengthening the multilateral governance system in line with EU values. The meeting addressed normative questions and identified variables for data collection across various policy fields.

The **data nest**, a reference resource, was discussed as a tool for cross-case comparisons. The workshop laid the foundation for the project's work, with data collection starting in March 2024 and working papers expected by March 2025. For a complete overview of the methodology workshop, we invite you to read our dedicated blog post.

While in Copenhagen, NAVIGATOR's entire external board meeting also met, and we look forward to share with you the feedback of this reunion in our next blog post.

[Read our blog post](#)

## Introducing NAVIGATOR's governance framework



**John Karlsrud**  
WP 1 - Management



**Leonard Seabrooke**  
WP 2 - Concept, methods & analysis



**Ole Jacob Sending**  
WP 2 - Concept, methods & analysis

John (NUPI, Norway) is Research Professor at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. He is co-Principal Investigator (PI) of ADHOCISM, a 1,2 EUR million Research Council of Norway project examining the role of ad hoc coalitions in global governance, and PI of NAVIGATOR, a 3 EUR million Horizon Europe project exploring changes in global cooperation across a range of issues.

Leonard Seabrooke (CBS, Denmark) is a professor in International Political Economy and Economic sociology at the Copenhagen Business School, and Research Professor at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. His research primarily concerns the role of professionals and experts in treating social and economic problems and the role of 'Global Wealth Chains' in the international political economy.

Ole Jacob (NUPI, Norway) is Director of Research and Research Professor at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. His research interests include the character of global governance arrangements, the changing form of state sovereignty, and the evolving features of power politics. His research on global governance focuses on the role of expertise, the dynamics of authority constitution, and the nexus between public and private actors.



**Philipp Pattberg**  
WP 3 - Climate change

Philipp (VU, Amsterdam) is Director of the Amsterdam Sustainability Institute (ASI). As full professor of transnational environmental governance and policy at VU Amsterdam, he specializes in the study of global environmental politics. Current research analyses options for institutional innovation to help accelerate the sustainability transition in times of increased institutional complexity, functional overlaps and fragmentation across environmental domains.



**Eneken Tikk**  
WP 4 - Digitalisation

Eneken (TalTech, Estonia) conducts research on strategic stability, cybersecurity governance, peaceful settlement of international disputes and responsible state behavior. She is leading the Security Governance pillar in Meta's Security Policy Team since July 2022. Eneken is part of research projects at the Institute of Software Sciences at Tallinn University of Technology, and the Erik Castrén Institute of the University of Helsinki.



**Lars Gjesvik**  
WP 4 - Digitalisation

Lars (NUPI, Norway) is a senior researcher in the Research Group for Security and Defence at the the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, where he also serves as the co-leader of the research centre for digitisation and cyber security. His research focuses on the intersection of private enterprise and state interests, security challenges, and power politics related to digitalisation and emerging technologies.



**Eleni Tsingou**  
WP 5 - Finance & taxes

Eleni (CBS, Denmark) is Professor with special



**Alexandros Kentikelenis**  
WP 6 - Health

Alexandros (UB, Italy) is associate professor of political



**Chloé Brière**  
WP 7 - Migration

Chloé (ULB, Belgium) is professor of EU law at the

responsibilities in International Political Economy at the Copenhagen Business School. Her primary academic field is financial governance and how transnational policy communities shape regulatory practices. She is currently researching on expert networks in economic governance and on how professional networks address complex global issues, with a focus on demographic change in OECD countries.

economy and sociology at Bocconi University in Milan. His substantive interests are in international affairs, global health and development, and he has published extensively on three research areas: decision-making in global governance, the development and evolution of global norms, and the social and health consequences of economic policies.

Centre for European Law of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Since 2019, she has been holding the chair in European law, teaching, researching and supervising students in the Faculty of Law and Criminology. Her research interests include other aspects of European Union Law, such as EU Criminal Law, EU external relations law, EU migration law and the free movement of persons.



**Malte Brosig**  
WP 8 - Security

Malte (WITS, South Africa) is Professor in International Relations at the Department of International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. He joined the Department in 2009 after he received his PhD from the University of Portsmouth. His main research interests focus on issues of international organizations and security in Africa and Europe.



**Kristin M. Haugevik**  
WP 8 - Security

Kristin (NUPI, Norway) is Senior Research Fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. An International Relations scholar, her research revolves around international diplomacy, interstate cooperation and friendship with a geographical focus on the Euro-Atlantic region and the foreign policies of Britain and the Nordic states). As of June 2023, Haugevik is Editor in Chief for the academic journal Cooperation and Conflict.



**Frederik Ponjaert**  
WP 9 - Dissemination & Exploitation

Frederik (ULB, Belgium) is Researcher and Lecturer at the Université libre de Bruxelles and Associate Lecturer in Comparative Regionalism at SciencesPo. His research is on comparative regionalism, with an emphasis on European and Asian realities. He equally works on EU external action and inter-regional partnerships, again with a specific focus on Euro-Asian dynamics.

**NAVIGATOR's new communications officer**



As NAVIGATOR's work starts to intensify and researchers publish their first scientific findings, effective communication is paramount for such an ambitious project. It is with great enthusiasm that we introduce you to the newest addition to our team, **Alix Bullman, our communications officer**. Alix brings to the table a wealth of experience in European public affairs and strategic communications both in the private and the public sectors. Since September 2023, she plays a key role in shaping and delivering our messages to our diverse audience, going from civil society, academics and EU and Member States officials.

Alix is very excited to join NAVIGATOR's team: "*Communication is the bridge connecting ideas and people and can be challenging for such a broad and dynamic project as NAVIGATOR. I am thrilled to jump on this role, and I am committed to foster meaningful connections and conveying messages that matter*".

Alix of course eagerly encourages you to [follow us on X](#) (Twitter) and to [visit our website](#) to make sure you are not missing any NAVIGATOR update!

## Research and activities

### Research

Alexandros KENTIKELINIS, Leonard SEABROOKE, Ole Jacob SENDING (dir.), "**Global Health Expertise in the Shadow of Hegemony**", *Studies in Comparative International Development*, September 2023. [Online] <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12116-023-09405-z>

Elisa LÓPEZ LUCÍA, María MARTÍN DE ALMAGRO (dir.), "**Introduction: Transnational assemblages and the production of security knowledges. New perspectives on security governance in, and on, conflict and post-conflict contexts**", *Territory, Politics, Governance*, November 2023. [Online] <https://doi.org/10.1080/21622671.2023.2271524>

### Read the papers

### Activities

#### Upcoming

***Innovation and decline in global governance: ISA 2024 Annual Convention - San Francisco (USA), 3-6 April 2024***

We are thrilled to announce that we are currently organizing a NAVIGATOR panel and a roundtable with several members of NAVIGATOR participating at the ISA 2024 Annual Convention to take place in San Francisco next 3-6 April 2024.

The ISA Conference is very relevant for our project. Indeed, the **International Studies Association** is one of the oldest interdisciplinary associations dedicated to understanding international, transnational and global affairs. Founded in 1959, its more than 7,000 members span the globe – comprising academics, practitioners, policy experts, private sector workers and independent researchers, among others. The Association has long served as a central hub for the exchange of ideas and for

networking and programmatic initiatives among those involved in the study, teaching and practice of International Studies.

**Increased competition and geopolitical rivalry is impacting on global governance in diverse ways.** There is growing variation among the actors in global governance. States, international organizations, philanthropic foundations, corporations and civil society are joining forces to overcome gridlock in established multilateral institutions. Conceptually, important work is being done to analytically capture institutional complexity in different issue-areas in global cooperation, examining low-cost institutions, transnational public-private governance initiatives and ad hoc coalitions. As there is great variation in the scope, duration and permanence of these forms' cooperation, questions arise about their accountability and effectiveness.

Our panel will **explore these variations in terms of their empirical mapping and their capacity to solve collective problems**, taking both a short- and long-term perspective. The panel will stimulate a dialogue between different substantive, theoretical, epistemological, and historical perspectives.

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*Climate Finance and Investment in Times of Crisis: Towards a New Partnership with the Global South workshop* - Research Institute for Sustainability, Helmholtz Centre Potsdam (RIFS), Potsdam (Germany), 5 February 2024

The purpose of this workshop is to bring together scholars who work on the topic of climate finance from an international political economy perspective. The proposed workshop will explore the **evolution of climate finance within the context of the current vacuum of leadership within the international system**. It will shed light on how climate finance is developing within different institutional settings and how it is being shaped by different actors and the interests they bring to bear in the field. In particular, it will focus on climate finance as an arena for contestation and cooperation in the context of North-South relations. The goal of the workshop is to build a network of scholars in the field and discuss possible applications for a research grant on the topic.

NAVIGATOR's **Mathieu Blondeel** (VU Amsterdam) and Louis Fletcher will be presenting their paper entitled *Para-market logics to stimulate North-South climate finance: net-zero credit and public derisking funds*.

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NAVIGATOR is co-arranging a rountable, *The Dynamics of Global Governance in Hard Times*.

Contemporary global governance is facing both complex cooperation problems and a challenging political environment. Its task is to facilitate collective action on pressing problems such as climate change, migration, and the spread of viruses – often under considerable time pressure and uncertainty. However, both **the change in the global distribution of power and the rise of authoritarian populism are detrimental to facilitating collective action within global governance institutions**.

This roundtable seeks to assess **how global governance is responding to this challenge**. It brings together a diverse group of scholars who are working on a wide variety of cooperation problems from different perspectives to discuss the most important institutional dynamics in contemporary global governance. In a nutshell, how are global governors trying to overcome gridlock in formal state-based global governance institutions? To address this question, the roundtable will offer a platform not only for scholars who work on traditional international organizations, but also for colleagues who work on various types of low-cost institutions, such as ad hoc coalitions, informal intergovernmental organizations, transnational-public private partnerships, private transnational regulatory organisations, and transgovernmental networks. As a result, it promises to paint an encompassing picture of the dynamics of global governance in hard times.

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Past

On 27 October 2023, at the occasion of the **Inaugural Conference of the ICON-S Benelux Chapter**, NAVIGATOR's **Chloé Brière** (ULB) presented a first overview of the questions to be addressed when analysing the EU's choices in international migration governance.

In 2018, the **ratification of the UN Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (hereafter the GCM) led to several political crises**. The coordination of the positions of the EU Member States failed in the last steps of its adoption, with several Member States deciding to abstain or vote against the text. Additionally, in some countries, such as Belgium, the decision to ratify it led to acute internal political tensions.

In such a divisive political context, the EU institutions and the Member States in favour of the GCM opted for its “quiet implementation” carrying it mostly through the EU's competence in development cooperation and/or building on their previous commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals. This tactic to avoid political tensions is not new, and the literature has long explored how EU external migration governance has moved to less visible mechanisms, such as the conclusion of informal arrangements, granting new roles to the EU agencies or mobilizing funding programs.

Nevertheless, such **“quiet implementation” is emblematic of the impact political tensions may have on the EU's external relations**. In the field of migration, it notably leads to a preference for new forums of informal cooperation, in bilateral or multilateral settings, involving ever-changing alliances of third countries, regional and international organisations. After mapping out these forums of cooperation, the contribution explored the challenges they raise in terms of transparency and accountability.



## NAVIGATOR

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