



NAVIGATOR

Newsletter

December 2023 - August 2024



Table of contents

1. Foundational scientific output

- 1.1. The NAVIGATOR methodology
- 1.2. Search Costs in Global Governance

2. Expanding the team

- 2.1. Establishment of the three expert groups
- 2.2. NAVIGATOR new team members

3. Events

- 3.1. May mid-term review
- 3.2. June board meeting
- 3.3. First expert groups meeting

Foundational scientific output

This newsletter highlights two significant contributions to the literature on global governance. The first outlines the **methodology** for the NAVIGATOR project, focusing on identifying the necessary data, compiling relevant information, and exploring various methodologies to answer key questions and support the project's goals of enhancing multilateralism.

The second introduces the concept of "**search costs**" in global governance, offering a new framework for policymakers to navigate the increasingly complex landscape of governance options. Both works provide valuable insights into the evolving challenges and strategies in international governance and economic inequality.



Concept, Methods and Analyses

D2.1 Working paper on the NAVIGATOR methodology



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation action programme under grant agreement ID 101016162. Unless otherwise indicated, the views expressed are attributable only to the authors in a personal capacity and not to any institution with which they are associated, nor do they necessarily reflect the views or policy of the European Commission. For more information on the NAVIGATOR project, see <https://navigator.eu>

The NAVIGATOR methodology

In November 2023, Leonard Seabrooke and Ole Jacob Sending published their working paper on NAVIGATOR's methodology. This paper is a crucial step in advancing the NAVIGATOR project's goal of **revitalizing the multilateral governance system** to strengthen an international order based on rules, aligning with the core values and interests of the EU.

The document outlines the methodology for **developing a sophisticated search tool** to assess and compare the strengths and weaknesses of various multilateral organizations. This search tool should not only look for the formal public arrangements we often focus on, such as intergovernmental organizations, but also the role of private sector, civil society, and hybrid organizations that have gained attention in recent years.

This tool is designed to identify which organizations are suitable for reform and which ones may require alternative strategies, ultimately guiding actionable strategies to enhance multilateralism.

The methodology paper also details the data required to feed such search tool, and explores various approaches to address key questions within and across different issue areas, providing a comprehensive foundation for the NAVIGATOR project's objectives.

Read our [blog post](#) and the [working paper](#) to learn more about the project's methodology!

Search Costs in Global Governance

The second NAVIGATOR working paper, entitled *Search Costs in Global Governance*, was published in February 2024. Its authors - Ole Jacob Sending, Leonard Seabrooke, and John Karlsrud - tackle the challenges policymakers face in navigating the increasingly complex landscape of global governance.

As new actors, such as private transnational regulatory organizations, proliferate across various policy areas, traditional approaches consisting of allocating resources to intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) fall short. For the authors, **policymakers must consider not only the effectiveness and legitimacy of governance options, but also the "search costs" associated with identifying the most suitable actors and networks to advance specific interests.**



SEARCH COSTS IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

FEBRUARY 2024



Ole Jacob Sending (NUP)
Leonard Seabrooke (CBS)
John Karlsrud (NUP)



This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Call HORIZON-CL2-2021-DEMOCRACY-01 - Grant agreement n°101061621

These search costs, which include the effort and resources required to find and evaluate different governance arrangements, are becoming increasingly important as regime complexity grows. The paper highlights the importance of developing frameworks that help policymakers choose governance solutions that balance effectiveness, legitimacy, alliances, and political interests. Additionally, such frameworks are relevant for scholars seeking to understand the implications of increasing complexity in global governance.

Read our [blog post](#) and the [working paper](#) to learn more about how search costs influence multilateral decision-making!

Expanding the team

Establishment of the three expert groups

Three expert groups will assist the researchers associated with the project. They serve as **high-level knowledge hubs where scholars, citizens, policymakers, and activists gather to address global governance challenges and advance EU foreign policy goals.** They aim to reinforce the accuracy and evidence-based dimension of the research carried out, and broaden the dissemination of the policy recommendations formulated. Each group gathers experts working in sectors marked by specific governance arrangements, namely multilateral institutions, international governance clubs and public-private regulatory arrangements.

External experts play a pivotal role in the success of the research conducted in the project, as they assume three key responsibilities, namely:

- Participating in a series of in-person meetings to discuss global governance challenges;
- Sharing their knowledge and comments on the project's written materials;
- Participating in a forecasting exercise to anticipate future trends.

41 experts from all over the world have joined the project. Click here to check the full list: [Final list of experts](#).



NAVIGATOR new team members

Over the past months, the project has welcomed three great additions to its team. Two persons joined as post-doctoral researchers, and the last one took on as coordinator on behalf of ECFR.

Daniel Muth



Daniel joined our team at VU Amsterdam and the work package on climate change. His research primarily focuses on the political economy of global climate policy development.

He obtained two BA degrees in Economics and Political Science. He did his MA in Public Administration at Radboud University, the Netherlands. Furthermore, he attended an executive education programme on sustainability at Peking University, China. He finished his PhD in Public Policy in 2024 at Central European University, Vienna.

Before joining CEU, he worked at the European Commission (DG Clima – EU ETS Implementation Unit). During his PhD, he was a junior researcher fellow at the Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Budapest, where he studied climate policy development in the Central and Eastern European regions.

Olga Mikheeva



Olga joined our team at CBS and the work package on finance/tax. She is a postdoctoral research fellow in Political Economy and the Green Transition at Copenhagen Business School (Denmark). She works on the financial governance of the Green Transition, particularly Finance Ministries and climate-related capabilities. Olga's primary research interest lies in financial bureaucracies and public investments, including in the context of the Green Transition.

She holds PhD in Public Administration and Technology Governance from TalTech (Estonia).

Before joining CBS earlier this year, Olga was a Marie Curie Research Fellow at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London (UK), where she remains an Honorary Senior Research Fellow. In addition, Olga has worked directly with public sector organisations, carrying out policy evaluation and advice in the fields of science, technology and innovation, circular economy and public investments.

Carla Moll



Carla took on the lead in coordinating ECFR's work in NAVIGATOR. She is the Programme Manager of the European Power programme.

Moll holds a master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the London School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

Before joining ECFR in 2020, Carla worked in London's advertising and marketing sector, managing client accounts for global commercial brands.

From 2020 to 2023, Carla was a development manager at ECFR's Berlin office, directly supporting fundraising for its technology and climate initiatives, the European Power programme, and Africa programme. She also supported the Madrid office with fundraising efforts and grant management.

Before returning to ECFR in 2024, she worked in Spain as a partnerships manager at global NGO Generation, where she led fundraising efforts and fostered positive impact by addressing key societal challenges through collaborations between the private sector, public administration, and the third sector.

Events

First expert groups meeting

On 12-13 June 2024, NAVIGATOR hosted its inaugural expert groups meeting at the Institute for European Studies (IEE) of the *Université libre de Bruxelles*. **The event gathered researchers and [external experts](#) to explore how the EU can best support multilateral and transnational democracy and advance European interests in the project's six studied policy areas.**

The first day featured presentations by Principal Investigator John Karlsrud and WP2 leader Ole Jacob Sending (NUPI), who introduced NAVIGATOR's ambitious goal of developing a "search mechanism" to evaluate and strengthen multilateral organizations. Keynotes from [Gurvan Le Bras \(EEAS\)](#) and [Prof. Joris Larik \(Universiteit Leiden\)](#) provided valuable perspectives on the EU's role in a challenging global landscape.

The second day was dedicated to four focused **brainstorming sessions**, where experts and researchers discussed the implications for the EU's international role. These discussions will inform an initial report, set for release in winter 2024, and guide future scenario planning.

The meeting concluded with a farewell lunch, with the next expert group meeting planned before March 2025. [Read our blog post and have a look at our event video and pictures!](#)



May mid-term review

On 28 May 2024, NAVIGATOR team participated in the **mid-term review of the project with its European Commission's project officer and two external experts**, Elaine Fahey (City University London) and François Bafoil (Centre de recherches internationales - CERI, Sciences Po Paris), to assess progress and refine our approach. The review highlighted the project's achievements in analysing global governance challenges and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration among our expert groups.

The evaluators provided valuable feedback to ensure that our research and recommendations remain aligned with the EU's strategic priorities, marking a crucial step in advancing our mission to help the EU navigate a fragmented global governance landscape.

June board meeting

On 13 June in Brussels, the NAVIGATOR board meeting gathered our team of researchers and representatives of partner universities and organisations. **It aimed to evaluate the progress achieved in the project's activities and set the course for the next phases.** The meeting focused on reviewing the achievements so far, discussing challenges, and aligning our strategies with the project's objectives. The discussions reinforced our commitment to delivering actionable recommendations that will help the EU navigate complex global governance issues effectively.



Stay tuned...

And more is about to come! In the next months, NAVIGATOR will **launch its podcast's first season** & the first episode with the project's principal investigator John Karlsrud is forthcoming. **Short videos from the first expert groups meeting** and **more scientific material** will also be published!

We eagerly encourage you to [follow us on X](#) (Twitter) and visit our [website](#) to make sure you are not missing any NAVIGATOR update.



NAVIGATOR

This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Call HORIZON-CL2-2021-DEMOCRACY-01 – Grant agreement n°101061621

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}
You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)

