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3.1.2 Methodological Challenges in the Context of the Current Study; 3.1.3 Opting for a Distinct Research Strategy; 3.2 Explaining Successes and Failures of External Democracy Promotion; 3.2.1 What Factors Matter?; 3.2.2 The EU Engagement in Central Asia: Main Assumptions; 3.3 Further Methodological Considerations; 4. The EU Sanctions Against Uzbekistan 4.1 Tracing Implementation of the Sanctions 4.1.1 The EU Sanctions and Conditions for Their Withdrawal; 4.1.2 The EU Sanctions at Work; 4.1.3 Summary of the Results; 4.2 Explaining the Outcomes of EU Sanctions; 4.2.1 Lack of Credibility as an Explanation for Failure; 4.2.2 Substance of the EU Demands and Their Implications as Explanatory Factors; 4.2.3 Possible Interfering Effects; 4.3 Concluding Remarks; 5. Structured Human Rights Dialogues; 5.1 Tracing Implementation of the Dialogues; 5.1.1 The Issues in Focus of the HRDs; 5.1.2 Evaluating the Results: What Has (Not) Been Achieved 5.2 Explaining the Outcomes: Multiple Causes of Failure 5.2.1 Process-related Factors; 5.2.2 Substance of the Promoted Norms; 5.3 Concluding Remarks; 6. The Institution Building and Partnership Programme and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights; 6.1 Tracing Implementation of the Programmes; 6.1.1 The IBPP at Work; 6.1.2 The EIDHR at Work; 6.1.3 Summary of the Results; 6.2 Explaining the Outcomes of the IBPP and EIDHR Application; 6.2.1 Assistance Transparency and Ownership; 6.2.2 Substance of the Promoted Norms; 6.3 Concluding Remarks; 7. Conclusion; References Annex I: List of Expert Interviews Annex II: IBPP Projects implemented in Kyrgyzstan in 2002-2009; Annex III: IBPP Projects implemented in Uzbekistan in 2003-2010; Annex IV: EIDHR Regional Projects implemented in Central Asia in 2003-2010; Annex V: EIDHR Macro- and Micro-Projects (CBSS) implemented in Kyrgyzstan in 2004-2010

Sommario/riassunto

The European Union has developed a range of instruments to promote democracy and human rights worldwide. However, the success of its democratization efforts remains questionable in countries that lack an EU membership perspective. The case of post-soviet Central Asia, where the EU declares democracy promotion among its key priorities yet is confronted with unfavorable domestic conditions for democratization and often fails to follow through, is an eye-opening example. Vera Axyonova's study offers the first comprehensive evaluation of the micro-level effects of the EU engagement in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and examines the factors that have made the EU efforts more or less successful in Central Asia.

"Vera Axyonova's book offers an insightful and refreshing analysis of the European democratization strategy in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The book is a must-read for all those interested in understanding the very limited success of EU democratization tools in Central Asia and the challenges that European institutions face in their promotion of a value-based agenda."-Marlene Laruelle, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University