

Title: “Complex public policies. The case of the EU Digital Infrastructure sector.”

„ Digital infrastructures (DI) occupy a highly important position in contemporary EU public policy. Brussels devotes massive public resources to the sector, pushing for strategic autonomy, green economy, and market efficiency – all simultaneously. Viewed longitudinally, this marks a clear shift from the strictly neoliberal policies the EU used since building the unified DI market in 1987 until the 2010s. Only then, when DI was recognised as *key enabling technology*, the sector was linked to several new objectives, which were increasingly pursued through industrial policy approaches.

How EU DI policy copes with the contemporary coexistence of equally important, conflicting objectives and policy approaches remains unanswered. On the one hand, longitudinal studies mainly focus on understanding regulation, with none including the last five to ten years into their analysis. On the other hand, analyses of contemporary EU DI legislation fail to place their findings into the larger context of conflicting objectives and paradigms. Both approaches missed the emergence of complexity qualities in the EU DI policy portfolio. The PhD fills this gap empirically and theoretically. First, it systematically traces the evolution of EU DI policy from the beginning to the present providing the first comprising and explanatory account of sectoral policy development. Second, it proposes a meaningful theoretical contribution to studying public policy portfolios by establishing yet unexplored interdisciplinary links public policy theory and complexity theory.”