

VU Research Portal

Impressions of European Integration

't Lam, P.A.

2012

document version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in VU Research Portal](#)

citation for published version (APA)

't Lam, P. A. (2012). *Impressions of European Integration: A comparative analysis of the impact of EU news in European newspapers on European audiences*. [PhD-Thesis – Research external, graduation internal, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam]. BOXPress.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

E-mail address:

vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl

BRIEF SUMMARY

This study demonstrates that the coverage of the EU in the European press affects the knowledge and attitude towards the EU of the average European newspaper reader. This outcome is the more relevant now that the EU is steadily growing in size and impact, but conversely is confronted with a general decline in public support. The legitimacy of the EU is challenged. The question asked here is whether or not media can play a role in bridging the gap between 'Brussels' and the European citizen.

During the time-frame of the research (1994-2006) the amount of EU coverage in the European press has steadily grown. The number of positive EU issues in the news however has diminished considerably. The effect-analyses demonstrate that EU coverage contributes to higher levels of EU knowledge among readers, but also to a more negative attitude towards the EU. The quality press, with a small market share in all member states, produces relatively large amounts of EU news with a wide variety of issues. Its readership demonstrates a modest, positive effect on levels of EU knowledge and of EU support. The widely read popular and tabloid press produces low to medium levels of EU reporting and a more unfavorable outlook on the EU. Readers of the popular press are relatively more affected by EU news in their evaluation of the EU, and these effects develop in a negative direction.

By and large, the European press contributes to a decline in public appreciation for European integration. The gap has become wider, the democratic deficit larger.