

Democracy Made Kinder and Gentler: the Pro-active Development of the Responsive State

Lars JOHANSEN

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus

The pro-active policies pursued in the enlargement process have pushed the development of a specific European model of democracy characterized by dense co-operation between public authorities and civil society supported by values of participatory democracy. Furthermore, the responsive state has political consequences by contributing to a reduction of poverty. In sum it comes to embrace European values such as participation and equality.