

European Union studies is an independent and important direction of regional integration research. However, methodological obstacles make it problematic to set common standards within the field. This theoretical deficiency is often described using a well-known metaphor of the blind men and the elephant; the blind men touched the different parts of the animal and drew different conclusions about the nature of the beast, the result was that “no man arrived at a very accurate description of the elephant.” Solution here, as the same was in other fields (biology, sociology, political theory) could lay in finding a middle ground between reductionism and holism. The work proposes a framework that identifies components of the EU as: function-systems (political, legal, economic), planner systems (institutions) and operational systems (organization-structure). We argue that by determining patterns of communication between these systems, we will be able to understand a very nature of the European Integration. The research is based on Niklas Luhmann's social systems theory, but it also incorporates various concepts and views from General System Theory and Cybernetics.