The view that the contemporary process of European unification has been driven by the initiative of European political elites is widely shared. Arguably, the last 20 years have witnessed a declining capacity of these elites to drive the process of integration along a clear-cut and straightforward pattern. Recent research has focused on the process of elite convergence in Europe, noting three trends: an increasing bifurcation of elite orientations; emerging threats to the notion of peaceful integration in Europe; the appearance different strands of euroscepticism. This presentation is grounded on extensive survey-based research into the attitudes and skills of European political elites. It will present an overview of the current state of the ‘Europeanness’ among top decision makers in European countries. The presentation will offer several hypotheses to explain the difficult process of convergence among national elites in EU member countries, based on key dimensions that constitute ‘Europeanness’: attachment, trust in EU institutions, and orientation to a broader scope of governance.

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