This article outlines an on-going research project that analyzes the process of cooperation for development in the promotion of political institutions. Focusing on the case of Spain and Mozambique, the author states that development cooperation is part of a state’s foreign policy. Therefore, the author suggests that the donor states have their own dynamics and set of interests for institutional promotion which most likely differ from the recipient state. For example, Mozambique is characterized by neo-paternalism and centralization which should be taken into account when analyzing its developmental relationship with other countries.

Keywords
Cooperation for development, modern state, state in Africa, Mozambique, Spain