



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

RESEARCH DG

MARIE CURIE MOBILITY ACTIONS
INDIVIDUAL DRIVEN ACTIONS
PERIODIC SCIENTIFIC/MANAGEMENT REPORT



FINAL ACTIVITY AND MANAGEMENT REPORT

Type of Marie Curie action:	Intra-European Fellowship
Contract No.:	236107
Title of the Project¹:	Polisinnovations: Diffusion of administrative and regulatory innovations in OECD and EU member states
Duration of fellowship/appointment/training period (Start Date – End Date¹):	01/04/2009 - 31/03/2011

¹ Pre filled when applicable

1. PUBLIC OUTREACH: PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY OF WORK PERFORMED AND RESULTS

*Include all main keywords referring to the objectives and results of this project, stressing **the most important scientific achievement made**. Write clearly and concisely, and make it understandable for the general public.*

Through a large-n comparative analysis, a rigorous operationalisation of the extent of policy diffusion among EU and OECD member states has been pursued. Specifically, this research project ascertains modes of interdependence in the choices of governments to adopt, implement, and evaluate administrative reforms. Methodologically, the research project draws on a mixed-method approach, consisting of a qualitative analysis to track the process of institutionalisation, as well as an event history analysis, based on a dataset covering thirty-eight countries from 1968 to 2006. The empirical findings show that policy diffusion a multi-faceted process. In the decision to adopt RIA, the role of the OECD in translating, packaging, and promoting regulatory reform coexists with previous innovations and other administrative variables. Yet, the impact of policy interdependence is marginal in the successive phases of implementation and evaluation. Earliness of adoption is the major predictor of the extent of implementation and there is little evidence of interaction and communication among adopters on the subject of their learning experience. On balance, administrative reforms, such as regulatory impact analysis, are a domain of symbolic and rhetorical meanings that is not adequately supported by administrative capacity.

List of Keywords

administrative reform, policy interdependence, OECD, policy process

WEBSITES WHERE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE FOUND

<http://sites.google.com/site/polisinnovations/>

2. REPORT ON WORK PERFORMED AND RESULTS

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AS PRESENTED IN THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

Objective of the research

This research project aimed at understanding the diffusion of administrative reform. A set of objectives were set in the research proposal: i) to develop an integrated theoretical framework; ii) to identify prerequisites for adoption and determinants of diffusion of administrative reform; iii) to embed coherently different stages of the policy process; iv) to attempt to generalise on patterns of diffusion of different administrative reforms.

Work performed

Overall, these objectives have been accomplished by drafting a very preliminary book manuscript "A comprehensive analysis of policy diffusion: Regulatory Impact Analysis in EU and OECD Member States" and several published and unpublished papers.

Theoretical framework: An overall framework for the analysis of diffusion of administrative reform has been identified, operationalised through hypotheses and independent variables, and tested in two papers. Alternative diffusion models, such as spatial model, have been tested.

Data generation and collection: Creation of a database on the years of adoption (among EU and OECD member states) of freedom information act, environmental impact assessment, regulatory impact assessment, parliamentary office technology assessment, and administrative procedure act. Collection of independent variables not presented in ready-to-use databases such as the number of scientific articles produced in OECD and/or EU member states and the stock of US foreign direct investment.

Research Methods: Knowledge and application of discrete event history analysis and logit models as well as panel data and time-series analysis.

Data analysis: Increased familiarity with qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) and relative software as well as statistical software for statistical analysis such as STATA and R.

Dissemination of research outcome:

1) Presentation at conferences such as Advanced Colloquium on regulatory reform, University of Exeter, 6-7 July 2009; 2) Public Administration Committee Conference, British Political Studies Association, Glamorgan Business Centre, University of Glamorgan, 7-9 September 2009; 3) Midwest Political Science Association 22-25 April 2010, Chicago, US; 4) Third Advanced Colloquium on better regulation, University of Exeter, 14-15 May 2010; 5) 9th International Association of Legislation, Quality of Legislation: Principles and Instruments, Lisbon 24-25 June 2010; 6) ECPR Standing Group on Regulation's biennial conference, 'Regulation in the Age of Crisis', Dublin 17-19 June; 7) ECPR Standing group on International Relations, 7th Pan-European International Relations Conference, Stockholm 9-11 September 2010; 8) Annual conference of Italian Political Science Association, Venice 16-17 September 2010.

Future research agenda: Based on the PhD thesis manuscript, a proposal for a book manuscript has been drafted. The book will focus on the role of the OECD in facilitating transnational policy interdependence with regard to administrative reform. Contacts with publishers (Springer) and book series editors (ECPR press) have been established. A specific analysis on the impact of international organisations as promoters of policy interdependence will focus on the actual policy outcome of regulatory reform. Furthermore, a future research will focus on administrative reforms and innovations of budget policy.

Results and degree to which objectives were met

The results of this project have largely accomplished the research objectives stated in the research proposal. A theoretical framework suitable for the analysis of administrative reform, across the adoption, the implementation, and the evaluation of a policy innovation, has been used to test the extent of policy interdependence, as facilitated by international organisations such as the OECD.

Empirical findings show that administrative capacity to regularly adopt reforms and innovation, administrative tradition, captured by legal origin, and the size of government are important drivers for the adoption of policy innovations. This drive towards reform is enhanced by international organisations, such as the OECD, that through

transnational networks of experts promote innovation by disseminating concerned information.

Published empirical findings evidence that policy interdependence across EU and OECD member states is marginal in the successive phases of implementation and evaluation. Governments acquire information on an administrative innovation at the stage of policy adoption. On the contrary, the extent of information exchange is much less intensive when an innovation is actually implemented and evaluated. International organisations also focus mainly their activities on the phase of adopting policy reform.

Comparative analyses of administrative innovations evidenced the importance of defining what is diffusing, by distinguishing between precise model of innovation and general blueprint lesson of policy reform. In contrast to policy reform principles, innovation models spread quickly and do not require efforts for administrative adjustment and institutionalisation. Further, diffusion patterns vary according to the types of administrative reform, although spatial distance among capital cities matter.

Publication: Submission of papers in top-world political science journals, edited book chapters and handbooks, and conference papers and technical papers for the World Bank.

Training

Summer school Regular attendance at the Center for Comparative and International Studies's seminar and ETH and University of Zurich Diffusion brown bag in which I presented my research outcome twice.

Attendance at the ECPR-University of Essex summer school on data analysis. Course taken: Logit and Probit model and Panel Data for Comparative Analysis.

Training workshops: Workshop on R statistical software organised by the Chair of Policy Analysis Institute of Political Science and Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS), University of Zurich. Course instructor: Dr. Martin Elf, Department of Social Science, University of Mannheim.

Workshop on Causal Inference, Course instructor: Dr. Jens Hainmueller, University of Harvard.

Teaching activities: 2 X 2 hours seminars for undergraduates at the University of Zurich on Regulatory reform and Regulatory Impact Analysis. 3 hours seminar for MA public administration students at the University of Exeter.

Relevance for basic and applied science

As evidenced by the World Bank working papers, the research findings have been applied for policy recommendations for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of administrative reform.

NEW OBJECTIVES ESTABLISHED DURING THE COURSE OF WORK AND NEW LINES OF RESEARCH

Overall, the project was managed along the lines of activities stated in the proposal. However, three additional lines of research activities have been explored. First, the recent administrative decentralisation pursued by the Italian government has been exploited for an overview of the literature on the capacity of regional governments to innovate and learn from each other, by experimenting new policy options. A conference working paper has been drafted. Second, World Bank indicators on cost, time, and the number of procedures to establish a new firm has been exploited in order to assess the extent of convergence among EU member states. A very preliminary version has been drafted, but not yet presented in a conference. Finally, with the collaboration of Prof. Radaelli (University of Exeter) and relying on an extensive literature review of political control of bureaucracy and theories of delegation, I have started to collect data on administrative mechanisms used by parliaments and executive, in order to control lawmaking process. This activity will result in a map of and a database on administrative governance of lawmaking in a large-n set of EU and OECD countries. The aim of this research is to find general patterns of change in the mechanisms of political control over lawmaking and to evidence the different strategic use of control mechanisms according to institutional settings.

3. Assessment by the scientist in charge on the fellow's work during the fellowship

During the fellowship, the fellow has made good progress both on the specific research project and on his academic profile more generally.

On the project, the fellow has produced several outputs. The most important is a study of the diffusion of regulatory impact assessment, which shows that networking taking place within the OECD has played an important role in its spread. This paper has been accepted for publication by the prestigious journal *Comparative Political Studies* and will be published in 2012. A second, co-authored paper focuses on the implementation of regulatory impact assessment and other governance innovations and has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of European Public Policy*. Furthermore, three chapters on the topic of regulatory impact assessment have been published or are forthcoming in high-profile volumes such as the *Oxford Handbook of Regulation*. The fellow has also produced a several manuscripts, including notably a book proposal based on his PhD dissertation that has been sent for consideration to renowned academic publishers such as the ECPR Press and Edward Elgar. In addition, the fellow has written a number of papers on the topics of administrative reforms and policy diffusion. In sum, the fellow's work during the fellowship has produced a good number of publications, with more to come in the next months.

Beyond the specific research project carried out during the fellowship, the fellow has participated in several methods courses and workshops that helped him improve his methodological skills. His participation in many international conferences has also helped him extend his network. Finally, his teaching activities, while not extensive, are a clear consolidation of this important side of his academic profile. In the last months, the fellow has been shortlisted for two lectureship positions at the LSE and at the University of Nottingham. Thus, it can be concluded that the fellowship has been effective in helping the fellow to make the transition from PhD student to professional researcher.

In conclusion, my assessment of the the fellow's work during the fellowship is positive and I am confident that he will be able to secure an academic position in the near future.

RESEARCH RESULTS (Summarise the results obtained by the contractor since the beginning of the project):**Participation in conferences and other scientific events:**

Please indicate the number of participation to scientific events by the beneficiary of the contract. List the participation on a separate sheet following the classification used below.

	Number			
	Active participation			Passive participation
	Oral	Poster	Of which were invited presentations (oral + poster)	
Conferences	7	1	3	
Workshops				2
Other Scientific Meetings				1

Patents:

Please indicate the number and status of patents, which have been the direct results of the research project. List the patents on a separate sheet giving their complete reference number and briefly stating the applicability of each patent.

	Number of Patents		
	Application filed	Pending	Granted
National Patents:			
- Member States and/or Associated States			
- Third Countries:			
- US			
- Japan			
- Other			
European Patents (EP number):			
International Patents (WO number):			

Publications:

Please indicate the number of publications resulting directly from the project. List the publications on a separate sheet following the classification used below, indicating any invited contributions. In publications resulting from collaboration with other institutions, indicate name and country of institution.

	Number of Publications		
	As main author	Total	Of which were co-authored with researchers from other institutions
A. Peer Reviewed (incl. in press)			
- Articles in Journals	1	2	1
- Chapters in Books	1	2	1
- Articles in Conference Proceedings	1	1	
- Books and Monographs			
B. Non-Peer Reviewed (incl. in press)	2	2	2
C. Submitted	0	0	0
D. Manuscripts in preparation	4	5	1

Teaching and Transfer of Knowledge:

Please indicate the number of hours of lectures, which have been delivered by the beneficiaries of the project and training courses, which have been organised by the contractor on the research carried out in the project. List on a separate sheet the lectures and/or training courses delivered.

	Number of Hours	Number of participants	
		Early stage researchers	Other
Lectures	5	35	
Training Courses			

Other outcomes:

Please list other outcomes of the project than those mentioned above. Such outcomes may be further academic qualifications, spin-off companies, prizes, awards, media coverage, etc.

	Number	Type
Academic qualifications	1	PhD in Politics, University of Exeter
Prizes and Awards		
Spin-off companies		

Signatures:

Name of fellow: Fabrizio De Francesco

Name of scientist in charge: Fabrizio Gilardi

Date: 5 May 2011

Date: 5 May 2011

Signature of fellow: _____

Signature of scientist in charge: _____