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Protecting the Environment. Transnational Networks in the Emergence of a new EC Policy in the 1970s

Fact Sheet

Project Information

ENTRANET

Grant agreement ID: 220109

Project closed

Start date

1 June 2008

End date

31 May 2010

Funded under

Specific programme "People" implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013)

Total cost


€ 161 225,98

EU contribution

€ 161 225,98

Coordinated by

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORPORATION

 United Kingdom

This project is featured in...


**Results Supplement No.
029 - Technology at work:
in industry, offices and
SMEs**

Objective

The proposed research project sets out to describe and explain the establishment of an environmental policy at the EC level in the 1970s that eventually led to its incorporation into the treaties with the Single European Act in 1987. It seeks to elicit why and how it was possible to institutionalise a new policy area at the level of the European Community that had not originally been foreseen in the Rome Treaties. This development is even more puzzling, because environmental policy was very different in its thrust – addressing adverse consequences of growth – whereas the EEC Treaty focused on economic modernisation and prosperity. Contrary to traditional state-centric accounts of European integration history, the guiding hypothesis of this project is that informal networks of actors coalesced to shape and institutionalise the new policy agenda. These networks comprised supranational actors like the European Commission, some member-states and also non-governmental actors like the environmental movement, which set up the European Environmental Bureau in Brussels as early as 1974, and scientists providing expertise. The project will focus on the early years of European environmental policy, examining the emergence of the policy network in the context of the First and Second Environmental Action Programmes of 1973 and 1977, based on sources from European, national and NGO archives and interviews. The goal is to map and analyse the emerging policy network, conceptually informed by policy network approaches from the social sciences. For the first time, this research will provide in-depth knowledge about the origins of EC/EU environmental policy. Studying networks the project will not only contribute to a decisive conceptual innovation in European integration history. It will also provide important new insights into the establishment of the specific patterns of policy making and governance that continue to shape the present-day EU.

Fields of science (EuroSciVoc)

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Keywords

[Contemporary history](#)

[Governance](#)

[Involving society](#)

[Political history](#)

[Political sciences](#)

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Programme(s)

[FP7-PEOPLE - Specific programme "People" implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities \(2007 to 2013\)](#)

Topic(s)

[PEOPLE-2007-2-1-IEF - Marie Curie Action: "Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development"](#)

Call for proposal

FP7-PEOPLE-2007-2-1-IEF
[See other projects for this call](#)

Funding Scheme

[MC-IEF - Intra-European Fellowships \(IEF\)](#)

Coordinator



UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH HIGHER EDUCATION CORPORATION

EU contribution

€ 161 225,98

Total cost

No data

Address

WINSTON CHURCHILL AVENUE UNIVERSITY HOUSE

PO1 2UP Portsmouth

 **United Kingdom** 

Region

South East (England) > Hampshire and Isle of Wight > Portsmouth

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

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European Union, 2025