

Strengthening the Institutional Setting for Regulatory Reform

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Project overview

An explicit focus on core governance and institutional design issues where the OECD has a unique role to play



An explicit objective of the programme of work for 2009-10



Results based on existing reviews of a dozen countries: not exhaustive, and will need some complementary fact check



Issues of institutional design need to be addressed with caution: empirical perspective, building a conceptual framework and drawing some lessons, without over extending the results



Will be a key component of the synthesis report on 10 years of regulatory reform

Analysing Institutions

An explicit focus on key institutional design issues:

units, agencies, committees, advocacy bodies,

Within the executive or at arms' length from government

With or without a Secretariat

Four key functions:

Coordination (most widespread)

Challenge function (fairly common, but to which extent?)

Training and advice (less)

Advocacy (but also other institutions)

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A toolkit approach

The main elements of a an Oversight Body

Mandate and power



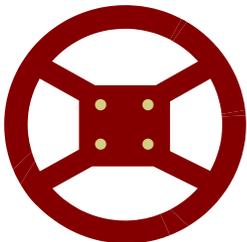
Administrative machinery



Institutional design and location



Coordination mechanisms



Human and financial resources



What about institutional performance ?

Policy coherence & coordination

Stability

Adaptability and responsiveness

Implementation strategies

Forging a political constituency



Some lessons and trends

Similarities and differences

- Tradition and constitutional aspects
- Controlling the 'regulators of regulators'

Networks of organizations

Existential trade offs

- 'Low hanging fruits' Vs 'big prizes'
- Stability Vs opportunism

Spirit of the organization

- Technocratic or political 'animal'

Some lessons and trends

Define the starting point and end point

Get backing of finance

Know how to handle mistakes, accidents

Deliver jobs, investment, security, change

Conclusion

Key messages

Policy coherence and co-ordination

Ensuring institutional stability

Adaptability and responsiveness

Strategies and approaches for implementation

Communication

Conclusion

Success factors, and role of intrinsic national institutional histories? Link with performance and ex post evaluation?

Evidence of net benefits

Need for long-term strategy

But: ineffective civil service reform, low regional capacity, short-lived support and consensus