STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL SETTING FOR REGULATORY REFORM

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• 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:
  – Co-ordination (most widespread)
  – Challenge function (fairly common, but to which extent?)
  – Training and advice (less)
  – Advocacy (but also other institutions)

• Recent empirical study with C. Cordova-Novion. Building also on previous OECD work on regulators (2005).
Key elements of institutional design

- Mandate and power
- Administrative machinery
- Co-ordination mechanisms
- Institutional design and location
- Human and financial resources
Assessing institutional performance

- Policy coherence & co-ordination
- Stability
- Adaptability and responsiveness
- Implementation strategies
- Forging a political constituency
Lessons from implementation

✓ Similarities and differences
  • Tradition and constitutional aspects
  • Controlling the ‘regulators of regulators’

✓ Networks versus centralisation

✓ Addressing trade-offs
  • ‘Low hanging fruits’ Vs ‘big prizes’
  • Ensuring stability while seizing opportunities

✓ Balancing the need for evidence base and political relevance
Scope for autonomous bodies

- Significant trend: Germany, Sweden, UK, Netherlands
- To which extent regulatory quality oversight can really be decentralised? *Technical expertise versus formal assessment*
- Political discretion versus rule-based systems
- Role in terms of advocacy and reaching out to a wider public
Addressing broader challenges

✓ Moving into compliance: compliance costs
✓ Broader perspective on regulators: integrity, conflict of interest, enforcement
✓ Links with ex post review mechanisms
✓ Role in terms of advocacy and reaching out to a wider public
✓ Establish capacity for strategic foresight
CONCLUSION

• Institutional creativity across the globe
• Beyond political cycles
• Links with trust in government, accountability and transparency

... Report will soon be out (as soon as the conference is over).