



ENBR Newsletter 1/2006

Foreword

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of the ENBR Newsletter. The European Network for Better Regulation (ENBR) is a Coordination Action funded by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme, gathering 18 Universities and Research Institutes from the EU and Israel, with the aim of exploring and improving the current knowledge on regulatory processes as well as the degree and mode of implementation of impact assessment procedures in EU member states. ENBR was launched in January 2006 and will last for three years.



In this issue of the ENBR Newsletter, we provide readers with an update on the first steps of our Coordination Action. Our most important endeavour in the first year of ENBR is to stimulate research and disseminate knowledge on impact assessment methodologies, and to start building the most ambitious database on impact assessment ever conceived – the Database on Impact Assessment Development in European Member States (DIADEM). On methodology, we announce that the ENBR Working Group on Methodology will organise the first ENBR Workshop at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam on December 14, 2006. This will also be the occasion to present the first ENBR research paper, which will include contributions from the Erasmus University, the University of Manchester, Luiss Guido Carli University of Rome, the Warsaw School of Economics and the Madrid-based Instituto de Empresa.

Apart from updating the readers on developments in ENBR, this Newsletter also contains information about current and forthcoming news and events in the field of better regulation. We plan to constantly keep track of developments in a companion EU-funded project, EVIA, with which we already started a fruitful collaboration that we plan to strengthen over the lifetime of the two projects.

A major new initiative that is expected before the end of 2006 is the launch of a Commission Communication on the reduction of administrative burdens caused by EU and national legislation. CEPS (in collaboration with WiFo) has been helping the European Commission's DG Enterprise on this issue from July to October 2006. As the DIADEM will contain information on use of the Standard Cost Model in the countries covered, ENBR will contribute by disseminating knowledge also in this promising field of research and policy.

We hope you will find this Newsletter of interest. All comments and suggestions that will help us improve this publication are, as always, more than welcome. Enjoy the reading

Andrea Renda
ENBR Coordinator

ENBR – Focus

ENBR website

Information on the ENBR project, details on the work in progress and forthcoming events can be found on our website: www.enbr.org.

One of the most prominent features of our website is the availability of the DIADEM information system containing the data collected by all project partners across Europe and Israel. The database is constantly being updated, in line with the evolution of regulatory practice in the countries surveyed.

In addition, the website contains an updated bibliographical section with the most relevant recent contributions in the field of better regulation, RIA and an updated list of links to partner universities, research centres, EU-funded research projects (e.g. EVIA) and institutions active in the field of better regulation. The website has a dedicated section for main publications and Working Papers from partner universities on initiatives towards better regulation, RIA and SIA in EU member states. If you wish to post your contribution, please submit it to the project management board for review!

ENBR Handbook on methodology

The ENBR High Level Group has completed its Handbook on data collection for DIADEM.

The ENBR High Level Group was coordinated by the University of Exeter and grouped together distinguished experts in the field, such as Claudio Radaelli, Scott Jacobs, Bruno Dente and Colin Kirkpatrick. The Handbook provides a common and standardised methodology that all ENBR partners will follow during the collection of data and information relevant for the DIADEM website. The Handbook also contains background information, such as a definition of impact assessment and guidance on how to solve borderline cases. The three annexes of the Handbook provide step-by-step guidance on how to access the DIADEM web-based interface, a thorough description of the methodology adopted in DIADEM, and a survey of the existing databases on Regulatory Impact Assessment and their main features.



Forthcoming events – ENBR Workshop

The first ENBR Workshop will be held in Rotterdam on December 14, 2006, and will focus on impact assessment methodologies.

The main theme of the symposium is the relation between Regulatory Impact Assessment in the light of future developments in Europe and the Netherlands. The symposium will provide the participants with state of the art knowledge on reducing administrative burdens and impact assessment.

As anticipated in the foreword, five ENBR project partners will present their latest research findings on the topic. The papers presented will be posted on the ENBR website. The preliminary agenda of the symposium features, inter alia, contributions on the application of the Standard Cost Model in the Netherlands, on problematic aspects of cost-benefit analysis, and on regulation in decentralised political structures. Academics, ENBR members, EU and national policy-makers will contribute to the debate with the aim of issuing some recommendations for practice and further research.

ENBR WORKSHOP ON METHODOLOGY

*In cooperation with
the Erasmus University of Rotterdam*

December 14, 2006
University of Rotterdam

Programme and details on: www.enbr.org

Data collection in European MS & Israel

ENBR project partners recently started the data collection on impact assessment in the EU25 and Israel.

Each partner is in charge of a limited number of countries and will explore impact assessment practices both from a macro and micro perspective. The first part of the research focuses on the drafting of country fact sheets presenting the constitutional structure of the country at stake and its approach in terms of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), consultation, and administrative simplification. The second part of the data collection targets the individual RIAs carried out in each member state. The first results are already available on the DIADEM database and more information will be added during the coming months.

Project enlargement

ENBR will soon welcome three new partners from Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

The new partners are private research institutions or NGOs with a proven track record in contributing to better regulation in their home countries. Their inclusion in the project will increase the informative potential of the DIADEM database and enhance the knowledge on regulatory processes in third countries. The three new project partners will also take part in the organization of the workshop on regulatory context and publish a paper for the workshop on CEE countries to be held in Bratislava at the end of next year.

Future developments & planned activities

In December 2006, ENBR will appoint a thematic Expert Group on Process.

The Expert Group will be in charge of reviewing the state-of-the-art and possible improvements in the choice of regulatory options adopted at international level for the regulation of specific issues or economic sectors.

The Expert Group will survey the types of regulation selected by national governments (re-regulation, de-regulation, co-regulation, self-regulation, etc.) and the peculiar context in which regulatory efforts take place, as resulting from the information collected in the DIADEM. The Expert Group will present its findings during the ENBR Workshop on Regulatory Processes taking place in Lisbon in June/July 2007.

Third EVIA Meeting in Brussels

Evaluating Integrated Impact Assessments (EVIA), a two-years project (until January 2008) funded by the European Commission under the sixth Framework Programme, recently held its third meeting in Brussels. The project aims at strengthening the knowledge on the overall practice of integrated impact assessment across Europe and more specifically on its actual effects, quality standards and institutional practices. The project is coordinated by the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU) of the Freie Universitaet Berlin and groups six other partners in Germany, the UK, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands.

EVIA's forthcoming activities include the completion of country case studies and the drafting of research papers on how the outcome of IAs is affected by different types of regulation, the overall institutional setting, and the methods and tools that have been employed.

More information is available on the project's website: <http://web.fu-berlin.de/ffu/evia/index.htm>



Colloquium on better regulation in Exeter

The Centre for Regulatory Governance at the University of Exeter is organising an Advanced Colloquium on Better Regulation.

The event will take place on January 25-26, 2007 and is funded by DG Enterprise, European Commission. The colloquium will bring together graduate students, academics and policy-makers to discuss better regulation topics, specifically regulatory impact assessment, consultation, market-friendly alternatives to regulation, simplification, regulatory compliance and the link between regulation and competitiveness. Students will present their work in progress to an audience of academics and policy-makers, thus combining the benefits of scientific peer-review and the advantages of co-production of knowledge with policy-makers. A call for papers has been issued and eight travel scholarships are available. Further information available at: <http://www.huss.ex.ac.uk/politics/research/cerego/advcoll.htm>

Evaluation of the Commission's Impact Assessment system

The Secretariat-General of the European Commission is funding an ex-post evaluation of the Commission's impact assessment system.

The study will be carried out by The Evaluation Partnership, a private independent company based in the UK. The project started in early September and possible synergies with ENBR and EVIA will probably emerge in the future.

Better Regulation Conference in Warsaw

The Department of Economic Regulation of the Polish Ministry of Economy hosted the conference "Regulatory Reform in practice: New EU Member States experience" on October 9.

Academics, officials and experts from the new member states and the OECD presented the different approaches to better lawmaking and regulatory reform adopted in Central European countries. The speakers identified successes and failures of the better regulation agenda in those countries. The conference also aimed at creating a basis for future EU level activities that take into account the common experience and specific interests of the new member states. All the presentations are available on the ENBR website.

RIA training course in Bruges

The College of Europe and Jacobs and Associates Europe invite you to participate in a 5-Day Regulatory Impact Analysis Training Course.

The course will focus on the principles, procedures, and methods of RIA on 5-9 March 2007. This practical, hands-on course by the most experienced public policy and RIA trainers in Europe is expressly designed for policy officials and executives who use RIA to improve policy results. The course will benefit any official using RIA in environmental, social and economic fields as well as stakeholders such as business associations, NGOs and consultants who want to understand better how to use RIA constructively. The course is open for subscription worldwide and will be presented in Bruges, Belgium. A discount is offered for early registration. For further details and registration: <http://www.coleurop.be/ria>

ENBR PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Coordinator

Centre for European Policy Studies - Brussels

Partner Institutions

Institute for Advanced Studies - Vienna

LUISS Guido Carli - Rome

Erasmus University Rotterdam

London School of Economics

University of Manchester - IARC

New University of Lisbon

Praxis Institute - Tallinn

Polytechnical University of Milan

Jacobs and Associates - Dublin

Haifa University

Slovak Governance Institute - Bratislava

University of Exeter

National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

Instituto de Empresa - Madrid

Warsaw School of Economics

University of Osnabrueck

Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies

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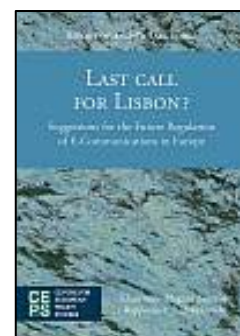
Please visit our website at www.enbr.org



Featured publications

Magnus Lemmel (Chairman) and Andrea Renda (Rapporteur)
Last Call for Lisbon? Suggestions for the future regulation of e-communications in Europe
CEPS Task Force Reports, June 2006.

Over the past few years, the European ICT sector has undergone dramatic changes. The advent of technological convergence, the increased penetration of broadband, the emergence of new business models and the migration towards IP-based networks are blurring the boundaries between markets and creating new forms of competition. The combined effect of these changes calls for a thorough reconsideration of the 'rules of the game'. Has the current EU regulatory framework delivered the expected results? Is it geared towards encouraging investment and competition to the benefit of European consumers? Is Europe on the right track to achieve its ambitious goal to realise the "information society for all" by 2010? The CEPS Task Force on electronic communications brought together 54 participants and 28 invited guests and speakers, including representatives of European telecoms operators, telecoms manufacturers, industry associations, consultancies, law firms, distinguished scholars, the European Commission and the European Parliament. The results of this wide-ranging debate are outlined in this Final Report, which contains a set of policy recommendations for Europe to respond to the "last call for Lisbon".



Scott Jacobs

Current trends in Regulatory Impact Analysis: the Challenge of Mainstreaming RIA into Policy-Making
Available on www.regulatoryreform.com

RIA is evolving quickly as it is mainstreamed into policy processes around the world. In this report, Scott Jacobs examines current trends in the process and methods of RIA by the top RIA performers in the world. The particular contribution of this report is that it assesses the most recent trends (2002-2006) in many of the most advanced countries, and identifies lessons for governments who wish to be at the forefront of good regulatory practices. The conclusion of this paper is that, to reach a sustainable level of RIA quality, governments need a clear strategy aimed at the institutionalization of capacities and incentives within the machinery of government. Such a strategy rests on a whole series of good RIA practices: clearer targeting strategies, development of multi-level consultation strategies, more attention to data collection and data quality issues, much more investment in training, more effective quality control through central RIA units and ministerial accountability, better use of scarce scientific resources, and better technical RIA manuals.



Andrea Renda

Impact Assessment in the EU. The State of the Art and the Art of the State
CEPS Paperbooks, January 2006.

Policy-makers increasingly see impact assessment it as the philosopher's stone that will enhance the quality of EU legislation in the years to come, leading Europe back onto the Lisbon track. But does the EU's impact assessment model actually possess the virtues ascribed to it? This new book by Andrea Renda offers a scorecard analysis of the first 70 Extended Impact Assessments performed by the European Commission. Renda's analysis of international best practices reveals that impact assessment is far from being a panacea, especially when built on shaky methodological and organisational grounds. The book proposes ten roadmaps to improve the current model, aiming to contribute to the upcoming review of the EU's impact assessment model, scheduled for early 2006.

