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A Foursquare Quality of Life Agenda: Governing European Neighbourhood Policy, Open Method of “Neighbourhoods” Coordination, Smart “Cross-Continental Regions” Specialisation, and an “Adaptive Synchronous” European Strategic Energy Technology Plan

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OBJECTIVE

The objective of this paper is to re-construct the sphere of European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), Quality of Local Governance (QoLG) and Governance research and technologies with respect to the empirical evidence collected from Web of Science which is systematically (temporal, spatial (geographical), organisational and contextual dimensions) meta-analysed, and by doing so, to be able to detect main sectoral gateway between the ENP and QoLG to observe the interaction potential. The other objective is then to observe to what extent theoretical debates of Bureaucratic Planning, Public Choice Theory, Structuralist Critiques and New Regionalism are complete to grasp this emerging sectorial sphere between ENP and QoLG. By doing so, to construct a new conceptual framework based on this empirical evidence and observe technological and social innovation dimension of this sectorial sphere in this new framework. And finally to provide recommendations that enlarge our understanding of what is possible to expand or improve the achievements within the framework of the ENP.

MAIN RESULTS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The European Neighbourhood Policy, Quality of Local Governance, Technology research areas in Governance indicate the multi-level (international, supranational, national and regional) importance of the sphere of Environment / Energy and Ecology (EEE), and technological and social innovation. A Foursquare Quality of Life Agenda is constructed as follows:

The European Neighbourhood Policy Knowledge Asset, Stock and Flow

- There is a fluctuating trend in the field of ENP knowledge asset.
- Scholarly response in the field of ENP is highly synchronous with and sensitive to (not necessarily as immediate content) to the developments in the realm of ENP.

- Approximately 2 publications-per-month routine on the aggregate level of the field to a degree, indicate that scholarly response is challenged by the lack of funding, which is a statement backed by the evidence that none of the 175 publications reported a funding source.
- Researchers in Germany (22.288%), England (17.143%) are the most active ones in the ENP topic.
- Responsiveness to the ENP knowledge asset is low in ENP partners/countries.
- Although with low percentages, researchers in Ukraine and Israel are relatively more responsive.
- There is a need for initiation or enhancing the conditions of cooperation/co-creation for widening and deepening the ENP knowledge asset in both EU and European Neighbourhood.
- University of London (6.286%), London School of Economics (4.571%), in England and Free University of Berlin (4.571%), in Germany, and Ghent University (4.571%) in Belgium are the most active organisations in the ENP topic.
- These results represent the visible capacities developed by University of London, London School of Economics, Free University of Berlin, Ghent University and the other top 10 organisations in the field of ENP.
- The ENP topic is of Political Science (58.857%) and Government Law (66.286%). This dominating cluster is followed by Area Studies (16.571%) and International Relations (16.571%). Economics (11.429%) and Geography (9.143%) constructs the following third cluster, whereas Law (7.429%) and Public Administration (7.429%) form the fourth cluster.
- Environmental studies, environmental sciences/ecology (EEE) emerges as the first sectorial indicator and urban studies, social issues and interdisciplinary social sciences follow this sectorial indication for ENP.
- Environment/Energy/Ecology (EEE) forms the initial sectorial layer of ENP and should be the focal sectorial gateway between ENP and quality of local governance.
- The geographical dimensions of EEE sphere as an initial sectorial layer exceeds the EU-borders.

Quality of Local Governance Knowledge Asset, Stock and Flow

- There is an increasing trend in the field of Quality of Local Governance.
- Approximately 60% of the production is realized in the last 4 years (2008-2013) in the field of QoLG.
- England is the most active country in the field of Quality of Local Governance, whereas Germany loses its position with respect to the performance shown in the ENP.
- The response rate of sixteen countries which are covered by the ENP to quality of local governance, falling into two regional groups: The ENP-East countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. For the ENP-South countries: Algeria, Egypt (0.571%), Israel (0.444%), Jordan, Lebanon (0.444%), Libya, Morocco (0.444%), the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria and Tunisia.
- University of London (6.222%) is the most active organisation in the QoLG topic; London School of Economics (1.556%), University of Amsterdam and

University of Oxford reappear in the Top 10 for both ENP and QoLG. These results represent the visible capacities developed by these universities.

- Environmental studies, environmental sciences/ecology (EEE) emerges as the first sectorial indicator and urban studies, social issues and interdisciplinary social sciences follow this sectorial indication also in the field of QoLG.
- Environmental/energy/ecology (EEE) sectorial indication is followed by a vector of health issues and research, and then educational issues and research
- Sphere of environment, energy and ecology (EEE) form an important gateway for introduction of an increase in quality of local (such as urban studies) governance (such as interdisciplinary social sciences around social issues).
- These findings suggest that the EEE Sphere is a topic that exceeds the EU borders, it is international, the ENP tries captures this situation, but at the same time, Environment is regionally embedded in the local frameworks, and QoLG tries to capture this situation. The main finding is the ENP and the QoLG can integrate their knowledge bases over Environment/Energy and Ecology (EEE) sphere.

Citations for the ENP and QoLG: A Broader Influence Field

- There is an increasing trend in citing the ENP items.
- When we deepen the analysis into citations, Average citation per an ENP item is 3.83. We can detect at least citation level responses from Belarus and Tunisia for the ENP.
- We cannot observe a different pattern than cited ENP knowledge asset. Environmental Studies, Environmental Sciences and Ecology (EEE) form the initial sectorial field.
- There is an increasing trend in citing the QoLG items.
- Average citation per a QoLG item is 6.74. Citation responses are from Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Ukraine for QoLG.
- We cannot observe a different pattern than of cited QoLG knowledge asset. Environmental Studies, Environmental Sciences and Ecology (EEE) form the initial sectorial field. Environmental studies, environmental sciences/ecology emerges as the first sectorial indicator and urban studies, social issues and interdisciplinary social sciences follow this sectorial indication. Environmental/energy/ecology sectorial indication is followed by a vector of health issues and research, and then educational issues and research.
- “Environmental Science Ecology” has gained the second place (16% in the year 2012) in Governance research, in the last 20 years, just after Business Economics (28%) of produced knowledge asset.

Constructing a Quality of Life Framework: Theories and Technologies

- Primary constituents of quality criteria for our local governance conceptual framework are i) local areas and business economics, ii) local areas and environmental ecology, iii) local areas and government law, iv) local areas and public administration, v) local areas and international relations, vi) local areas and geography, vii) local areas and social aspects, viii) local areas and urban aspects, and ix) local areas and sociological aspects. Bureaucratic Planning (before and during 1950s); Public Choice Theory (1960s-1970s), Structuralist Critiques (1970s-1980s) become incomplete to grasp these dimensions listed. (Brenner, 1999; Mollenkopf, 1992; Hutchinson, 2010).

- “New Regionalism” concept (literature entry 1980s-1990s) intends to portray these dimensions in local governance through stressing economic competitiveness (Business and Economics, *development of economic networks*), social equity (Sociological and social aspects; *socio-economic disparities among regions and social exclusion*), sustainable land use and infrastructure development (Business and Economics, Public Administration, Government Law, Environmental Sciences and Ecology, Urban Aspects, Geography, *public–private partnerships for urban development, debating or a bargaining mode between public and private actors*) (Wallis,2010). Moreover, restructuring/establishment of local governments (Public Administration, Government Law, *decentralisation, project-based decision-making processes other than bureaucratic planning*), the allocation of the sovereign authority with supra-national organizations (Government Law, International Relations, *the collaboration among the state and non-state (domestic, foreign, supra) actors, multi-level governance*), the construction of new actor groups (Sociological and social aspects, *inclusive and participatory forms of governance with opening up to new actors, the complexity of new forms of citizenship*) (OECD, 2000; Boudrea, 2010; Mayer 1994) are in the conceptual framework of New Regionalism.
- However, the way that the man interacts with nature and environment, is a concrete indicator on the degree of democracy, human rights, governance, and principles of market-state, network interactions (Marcuse, 1964). The crisis of crisis management in environmental issues depending on layering of urbanization of nation-state, labor and capital are visible in the European Neighbourhood (Sengul, 2013). Onis, in his review article, *The logic of developmental state*, indicates a fundamental question that centres around the compatibility of developmental state with political liberalization and democratic form of governance (Onis, 1991) given that the quality of democracy not only directly related to political issues (such as free elections) but also directly related to social and environmental issues.

Technological and Social Innovation

- For this balance, OECD, 2000 underlines these economic and social dimensions of local (especially metropolitan) governance under “competitiveness” and the “liveability” and indicates the need for “adaptation and promotion of use of new technologies for the benefits of whole society, the mobilization of social, political and economic resources in a coherent institutional framework and the strategic planning in order to support sustainable urban development” (OECD, 2000).
- Candidates for technological and social innovation projects in local or regional level for they have already introduced governance concept in their fields are other than general engineering, Information Communication Technologies (ICT), Environmental / Energy Technologies, Transportation Technologies, Health Technologies, Food Technologies.
- These research areas are indeed inline with the societal challenges defined by Horizon 2020, Inclusive, innovative and secure societies (ICT, e-governance technologies), Secure, clean and efficient energy; Smart, green and integrated transport; Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials; Health,

demographic change and wellbeing; Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research& the bio-economy.

Enhancing European Neighbourhood Policy, Open Method of Coordination, Smart Specialisation and the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan

- European Neighbourhood Policy, Quality of Local governance, Technology research areas in Governance indicates the multi-level (international, supranational, national and regional) importance of the sphere of Environment / Energy and Ecology (EEE) and technological and social innovation in this EEE sphere.
- Given the global, international/intergovernmental and supranational, national and local/regional features of EEE sphere (with social and technological aspects), the main question is how European Neighbourhood Policy, Open Method of Coordination in governance, Smart Specialisation in technological cooperation, and European Strategic Energy Technology Plan may interact and be enhanced/expanded?
- The European Neighbourhood Policy, Open Method of Coordination, Smart Specialisation and the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan should institutionally and synchronously interact with each other and be instrumentally (information and finance-based instruments) expanded to cross-continental regions with policy intelligence and institutional interaction.
- ENP partners, regions of ENP partners can be accepted / invited as observers, partners for Open Method of Coordination, and ENP Partners can actually form an *Open Method of EU Neighbourhood Coordination*. Analysed dynamics indicate that these two policy instruments can be recommended at cross-continental regions levels.
- Technological and social innovation through modernization cooperation can be extended by *Smart “cross-continental regions” specialisation*. Smart Specialisation can be an instrument for modernization between European and ENP regions. External (technological and social) dimension of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan can be enlarged to ENP partners by adaptation and synchronization with the ENP. Analysed dynamics indicate that these two policy instruments can be recommended at cross-continental regions level, towards an *Adaptive Synchronous SET PLAN (ASSET Plan)*. Technological cooperation for initiation and modernization with ENP Partners is recommended.

A Foursquare Quality of Life Agenda

- For a foursquare quality of life agenda, the sphere of EEE should be an active component in direct political (political science, government law), economic (business economics) and social (urban studies, interdisciplinary social sciences) negotiation and cooperation agenda of the European Union.
- Politics of Environment (with respect to democracy and human rights), Public Administration of Environment (with respect to rule of law, network governance), Economics of Environment (with respect to state-market or network economy principles) and Technology of Environment (with respect to new generations for sustainability, transitions, modernizations) construct the main sphere which defines a foursquare Quality of Life agenda for both EU and European Neighbourhood, as well as for their interaction between.

- EEE sphere goes beyond and could integrate existing political, public administrative, economic, and technological relationships with its active environmental, energy, and ecology related (EEE) content and offer a deeper and an innovative political relationship and economic integration, therefore, social progress for the EU and European Neighbourhood Countries.