

Managemnet of Urban Infrastructures *A Massive Open Online Course by EPFL - MIR - IGLUS*

In recent years, online courses have emerged as a game changer in the educational landscape. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), covering a wide variety of subject matters, are now available to practitioners, as well as academics, and continue to attract increasingly large audiences via online education platforms such as Coursera and EdX. These online courses enable learners to choose from a diverse array of subjects and to freely explore those that are most interesting to them at their own pace. The combination of the flexibility associated with online education and the high quality of courses offered by world-class universities, have turned MOOCs into an appealing learning reference for many. As a result, these courses have become particularly invaluable to those practitioners who have limited time and tight schedules restricting them from attending conventional training programs, but still feel the need to stay up to date with the cutting edge knowledge in their fields.

As of February 2016, the Chair Management of Network Industries (MIR), is offering a free online course on the [Management of Urban Infrastructures](#) as one of the products of a global action research initiative relating to the Innovative Governance of Large Urban Systems, called [IGLUS](#). This free, and on-demand, course covers the basic principles of the management of urban Infrastructures and illustrates these principles through a deeper investigation of two of the most important urban infrastructures- the urban energy and transportation sectors.

In this online course we, at EPFL, have worked with a series of our partners in the [IGLUS project](#), namely the World Bank, The Veolia Environment group, Swiss Post, City-Canton of Geneva, Boston Consulting Group, and City University of New York. By providing a combination of inputs from both academia and industry experts, we have tried to give a balanced overview of the basic principles of urban infrastructure management and to also illustrate how practitioners make use of these principles in the real-world.

In about six months from the launch of the course, more than 16'500 learners had visited in the course and the feedback from this large audience is quite promising ([Click here to see the feedback](#)). The online learning forum associated with this course provides us with a unique opportunity to host discussions and hear a range of diverse perspectives on the managerial issues raised in the course. People attending the course represent more than 90 different nationalities, and the debates centered around the course materials reflect this diversity and are in themselves an immense learning opportunity, both for us and our learners. You can find more information about free registration in this course by [visiting the IGLUS webpage at: http://iglus.org/mooc](http://iglus.org/mooc)

We are currently planning the second part of the course that is set to go online Spring 2017. The second part of the course will have a more keen focus on the Management of Urban Infrastructures in presence of disruptive innovations introduced by the ICT sector; which can be labeled as [Management of Smart Urban Infrastructures](#).

Online courses that cover managerial, regulatory and governance issues in different network industries are becoming increasingly more prevalent. So, as of this issue of NIQ we will introduce a new section that closely follows the world of online education and reviews the currently available, and the upcoming, MOOCs that might be useful for academics and practitioners active in the field of Network Industries.

If you would like to write a review about a MOOC and publish it in an upcoming issue of NIQ, please send an email to mohamad.razaghi@epfl.ch.



The Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation

The Florence School of Regulation (FSR) has been created in 2004 as a partnership between the European University Institute (EUI) and the Council of the European Energy Regulators (CEER). Since then, the Florence School of Regulation has expanded from Energy regulation to Telecommunications and Media (2009), Transport (2010) and Water (2014). The Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation (FSR Transport) is concerned with the regulation of all the transport modes and transport markets (including the relationship among them). It currently focuses on regulation and regulatory policies in railways, air transport, urban public transport, intermodal transport, as well as postal and delivery services.

The aim of FSR Transport is:

- to freely discuss topics of concern to regulated firms, regulators and the European Commission by way of stakeholder workshops;
- to involve all the relevant stakeholders in such discussions; and
- to actively contribute to the evolution of European regulatory policy by way of research.

The core activity of FSR Transport is the organization of policy events, where representatives of the European Commission, regulatory authorities, operators, other stakeholders, as well as academics in the field meet to shape regulatory policy in matters of European transport.

The results of FSR Transport's activities are disseminated by way of policy briefs, working papers and academic publications. All FSR Transport materials are open source and available on the FSR Transport webpage, as they aim to involve professors, young academics and practitioners to become part of a unique open platform for applied research.

To learn more visit our website: www.florence-school.eu or contact us at FSR.Transport@eui.eu.

Highlight



Executive Seminar on EU Road Transport: Driving change for business and people

Organised jointly by the Cabinet of Commissioner Violeta Bulc, the European Commission Directorate General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) and the Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation at the European University Institute (FSR Transport), this executive symposium explored the challenges for EU road transport in the current regulatory context with the purpose to prepare for a series of EU Road Transport Initiatives, which are already under discussion.

FSR-Transport events 2016:

Date	Title
29 February 2016	4th Florence Intermodal Forum
9 March 2016	Executive Seminar at the World ATM Congress in Madrid
2 May 2016	12th Florence Rail Forum
3 May 2016	Executive Seminar: ERA and the Digitalization of Railways
23 June 2016	Book Presentation: Routledge Companion to Network Industries
24 June 2016	5th Conference on the Regulation of Infrastructures
11 July 2016	Executive Seminar on EU Road Transport: Driving change for business and people
21 October 2016	8th Florence Air Forum
25 November 2016	13th Florence Rail Forum

For more information about our activities please contact: FSR.Transport@eui.eu.



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Call for Papers

Special issue on: Network Industries in Latin America

Guest Editors

Joisa Campanher Dutra, Getulio Vargas Foundation, Rio de Janeiro Matthias Finger, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne and European University Institute, Florence

Miguel Angel Montoya Bayardo, Tecnologico de Monterrey, Guadalajara

Abstract

The network industries in Latin America (from Mexico to Chile) are undergoing substantial changes, marked in particular by their liberalization but also their privatization. Similarly, the re-regulation of the network industries' sectors is gradually being institutionalized following European, American, but also endogenous approaches. Overall, however, the de- and re-regulation of the network industries in Latin America follows no clear model and results are mixed, at best. This special issue of Utilities Policy aims at shedding light at the de- and the re-regulation practices in the different network industries and in the different Latin American countries, notably Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Chile and others. This special issue is especially dedicated to critically analyzing these practices, along with the policies that have inspired them.

Topics Covered

- Description and critical assessment of the different network industries' de- and re-regulation policies and practices in Latin America, notably Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Argentina and Chile
- Sectors covered: telecommunications, postal services, electricity, gas, air transport, rail transport, road transport, urban public transport, water and wastewater
- Comparative studies across sectors and countries are particularly welcome

Notes for Prospective Authors

All papers must be submitted through the Utilities Policy website: <http://ees.elsevier.com/juip/>. Make sure to upload your paper to the special Issue "Latin America".

Submitted papers can be in early draft versions, but should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. All papers will be selected through a peer-review process. For more information, please see the Author Guidelines page. The authors of the selected papers will be invited to either a conference in Guadalajara, Mexico, on November 21st, 2016 or a conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on November 23rd, 2016, during which their papers will be presented and critically discussed before a final submission to the special issue.

Important Dates

- Draft paper due on 30 September, 2016
- Notification of acceptance to the Conference on 15 October, 2016
- Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 21 November, 2016 or in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 23 November 2016
- Submission of revised paper on 31 January, 2017 Notification of acceptance on 15 April, 2017 Publication date: August to September 2017

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quarterly

Network Industries Quarterly, Vol. 18, issue 4, 2016 (December) “Reform of the Railway Sector and its Achievements”

Presentation of the next issue

In the last three decades the railway sector has reformed its institutional forms in many countries.

Prior to other countries, the Japanese National Railways (JNR) were divided and corporatized in 1987. In the following year, the Swedish National Railways (SJ) was reformed by introducing vertical separation, and this case had large influence for stipulating the EU railway policies. It is true that the EU railway policies had large impacts on the railways of the Member countries, and their results were discussed accordingly. Nevertheless, there are several other countries, where the railways were reformed in different models and could improve the efficiencies by some measures such as inviting private investments, introducing intra-modal competition, avoiding cross-subsidies, and liberalizing the management.

As the railway sector is required to compete with other modes especially roads to attain environmental circumstances, it is beneficial for the policy makers and experts to learn the lessons from the other countries' experiences. Thus, this issue of the Network Industries Quarterly aims to gain the lessons from the past experiences by covering different models of railway reform in Europe and other five countries: USA, Japan, Russia, Mexico, and Vietnam.

More information

The guest editor for the next issue of the Network Industries Quarterly is Dr Fumio Kurosaki (Institute of Transportation Economics, Japan). Should you be willing to contact him regarding this publication, please send an email to FumioKurosaki@itej.or.jp with cc Ms. Nadia Bert at FSR.Transport@eui.eu.

OPEN CALL FOR PAPERS

Implementation of the liberalization process has brought various challenges to incumbent firms operating in sectors such as air transport, telecommunications, energy, postal services, water and railways, as well as to new entrants, to regulators and to the public authorities.

Therefore, the Network Industries Quarterly is aimed at covering research findings regarding these challenges, to monitor the emerging trends, as well as to analyze the strategic implications of these changes in terms of regulation, risks management, governance and innovation in all, but also across, the different regulated sectors.

The Network Industries Quarterly, published by the Chair MIR (Management of Network Industry, EPFL) in collaboration with the Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation (European University Institute), is an open access journal funded in 1998 and, since then, directed by Prof Matthias Finger.

ARTICLE PREPARATION

The Network Industries Quarterly is a multidisciplinary international publication. Each issue is coordinated by a guest editor, who chooses four to six different articles all related to the topic chosen. Articles must be high-quality, written in clear, plain language. They should be original papers that will contribute to furthering the knowledge base of network industries policy matters. Articles can refer to theories and, when appropriate, deduce practical applications. Additionally, they can make policy recommendations and deduce management implications.

Detailed guidelines on how to submit the articles and coordinate the issue will be provided to the selected guest editor.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MORE INFORMATION

- network-industries.org
- mir.epfl.ch
- florence-school.eu

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS?

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Published four times a year, the **Network Industries Quarterly** contains short analytical articles about postal, telecommunications, energy, water, transportation and network industries in general. It provides original analysis, information and opinions on current issues. Articles address a broad readership made of university researchers, policy makers, infrastructure operators and businessmen. Opinions are the sole responsibility of the author(s). Contact fsr.transport@eui.eu to subscribe. Subscription is free.



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