

European Union Public Policy

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Lecture 9

Policy implementation

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A) Categories of difficulties:

- territorial and institutional differentiation;
- questions relating to structure and agency

B) Framework of public policy implementation

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1. The issues and problems arising from territorial and institutional differentiation

- 'long chain' of increasing decision points in policy implementation

- a) additional institutional bodies of the E.U.

- tensions between E.U. institutions

- b) territorial basis/nature of E.U.

- tensions between E.U. institutions and Member state institutions (national, regional, city, town, local)

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2. Questions relating to structure and agency

- a) inter-institutional relationship within the E.U.;
- b) inter-institutional relationship between E.U. institutions and policy implementing institutions of national Member states

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Agency – ‘role of the individual’

- increased policy implementation ‘actors’ at increased decision points
- increased opportunities to re-fight battles lost in the policy formulation stage
- the problems of rigidity and flexibility

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Successful policy implementation and the complexity and multifaceted E.U. process

1. Method
2. Strategy/tactics
3. Objectives and milestones
4. Patience and the long view
5. Teams and functions
6. Structures
7. A set of rules

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E.U. public policy implementation:

- a) faces many difficulties/ by no means perfect;
- b) transfer E.U. law into Member state law imperfect;
- c) implementation interpretation issues;
- d) institutional policy implementation issues;
- e) cultural institutional implementation interpretation issues;
- f) inadequate E.U. implementation monitoring