Summary

The course offers an introduction to technology policy and regulation with a particular focus on the infrastructures. In these infrastructures technology policy and regulation basically translates into sectoral (e.g., energy, transport, water) and cross-sectoral approaches (information society).

Content

This course introduces the participants to the issues of technology policy and regulation from a political science and an institutional economics perspective. It will focus mainly on the infrastructure industries, where technology policy and regulation is particularly relevant, such as energy, transport, communications, along with some environmental industries (water, wastewater, waste).

Participants will, in particular learn about the main policies in these areas, especially at European, but also global levels (if available), as well as about policies at selected country levels (United States, Switzerland, etc.). A special focus of the course will be the issue of regulatory policies and regulation of these infrastructure industries, driven, as they are, by the European Commission (e.g., electricity and gas market regulations).

The course is organised around the policy and regulation in the main infrastructures, namely:
- module 2: energy policy and regulation (electricity, gas, coal, oil) (4 hours)
- module 3: transport policy and regulation (road, rail, air, urban public transport) (4 hours)
- module 4: communications policy and regulation (telecommunications, postal services, internet) (4 hours)
- module 5: environmental services policy and regulation (water, wastewater, waste) (4 hours)

In addition, there will be an introductory and a concluding module along the following topics:
- module 1: introduction (infrastructure) technology policy (2 hours) and regulation (2 hours)
- module 6: a conceptualization and critical analysis of (infrastructure) policy and regulatory change from both a government (2 hours) and industry (2 hours) perspective.

The class is organised in blocks, and students are evaluated on a term paper. The paper should analyse policies and regulations in a particular infrastructure sector from either the perspective of government (national, EU), an industry (associations) or a firm in a given industry.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
- be knowledgeable about the various infrastructure policies and regulations, the nature of policies and regulation in these sectors, as well as the dynamics of both the industries and corresponding policies and regulations; capable of executing a corresponding personal analysis

Keywords

Policies for infrastructures; regulatory policies; regulation; energy, transport; communications

Resources

Bibliography

Ressources en bibliothèque

• The Routledge Companion on Network Industries