



Gaining Insight on Climate Policy Transfer: Opportunities and Challenges



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Abstract

The 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) marked a milestone in the course of international efforts on global climate action. In order to implement the Paris Agreement and reach its overall objective to limit global temperature increase to well below 2°C significant effort is needed at the international level and more so at country level. The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted by 188 Parties ahead of COP21 are very different and, thus, a key challenge is to better understand the specific policies and measures adopted to achieve these varying pledges.

In order to harmonize the efforts towards tackling climate change, it is highly probable that climate policies within different regions interact in many ways. International bilateral and multilateral cooperation towards policy transfer are crucial in supporting the different activities related to INDC. Beyond direct country support, knowledge sharing activities, peer to peer learning, as well as policy experiences exchange could be helpful. Europe, as a frontrunner in climate policy, can therefore share its experience gained, while stakeholders and policy-makers can extract lessons from climate policy insights from non-European frameworks in different climate policy fields.

In the above framework, the aim of this paper is to build a conceptual framework on how the climate policy transfer could be implemented among regions and in different climate policy fields. This approach is implemented within the framework of the just completed “POLIMP – Mobilizing and Transferring Knowledge on Post-2012 Climate Policy” project, funded by the European Commission 7th Framework Programme for Research.

The paper proposes concrete steps, based on the policy transfer theory, starting from the region’s needs identification and the policy selection to the policy evaluation, providing answers in questions, such as who transfers policy, what elements of policy are transferred and through which channels, what factors enable and constrain transfer, etc. This conceptual framework is applied in the case of industry sector examining several policy options, in order to prevent carbon leakage, within the frame of the emissions trading system (ETS). Finally, this study could serve as a channel for policy transfer between European and non-European frameworks, and therewith assisting in identifying and overcoming the barriers that exist for mutual interaction.

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