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ROBERT
SCHUMAN
CENTRE FOR
ADVANCED
STUDIES

FLORENCE
SCHOOL OF
REGULATION

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE (FLORENCE), 21-22 JUNE 2018

7th Florence Conference on the Regulation of Infrastructures

New network structures: decentralization, prosumers and the role of online platforms

CALL FOR PAPERS

Introduction

The de- and re-regulation of the different network industries is an on-going process at both the national and global levels. As this process unfolds, ever new phenomena emerge, necessitating a constant reassessment of the content and objectives of regulation.

The rapidly evolving Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have significantly challenged the traditionally stable landscape of infrastructure services provision. The new data layer over the traditional infrastructure and service layers is transforming network industries: online platforms create new indirect network effects, they allow new service providers to enter the market (prosumers, sharing economy providers, etc.), and they challenge the central role of traditional infrastructure managers/service providers as entities ensuring the coordination of the sectors.

Offering traditional and new services in an innovative way is a growing trend among public authorities, traditional providers as well as new private operators, prosumers and platforms. However, together with great opportunities, disruptive innovations also give rise to new regulatory challenges, especially when it comes to infrastructure financing and the coordination of operations.

This 7th *Florence Conference on the Regulation of Infrastructures* aims at taking stock of the **major challenges infrastructure regulation is currently facing** as a result of technology, indirect network effects, **newly emerging network structures** (decentralized networks, distributed networks, sharing economy), and **new actors** (prosumers, OTTs, platforms, etc).

Papers will be presented in different parallel sessions dedicated to the following infrastructure sectors:

- **Communications and media**
- **Energy and Climate**
- **Transport and mobility**
- **Water distribution**
- **Wastewater and waste management**

We encourage contributions that link **different infrastructure sectors, especially in light of the ICTs**. Contributions utilizing **multidisciplinary as well as interdisciplinary approaches** to regulation are welcome. Papers **linking academia and practice**, as well as policy research papers are particularly encouraged.

The conference is intended for **academics** such as PhD students, PostDocs and Assistant/associate/full Professors as well as **academically minded practitioners**.

Conference structure

The format of the Florence Conference on the Regulation of Infrastructures is unique:

- Each presenter has 45', which includes 20' of presentation, 10' of qualified feedback and 15' of discussion with the audience (there are only 2 papers per session, guaranteeing high quality discussions);
- Feedback will be given by senior professors associated with the Florence School of Regulation who are specifically knowledgeable about the topic at hand;
- Papers that will be retained for publication will receive additional feedback beyond the Conference.

Timeline

- Submission of the abstract by ~~15 January 2018~~ **31 January 2018** (word format download the [guidelines](#)) using the [online form](#). For any issue regarding the submission, please contact Ms Nadia Bert at FSR.Transport@eui.eu;
- Notification of acceptance by **19 February 2018**;
- Submission of the full paper by **26 May 2018**; participants who fail to submit a full paper by this deadline will be automatically removed from the programme;
- Conference on **21-22 June 2018** in **Florence (Italy)**.

Conference fee

- 150 EUR - Partial fee waivers for PhD students are available. Please contact Ms Nadia Bert at FSR.Transport@eui.eu for further information.

Guidelines for the abstract

- 600-1000 words
- Title of the paper & keywords
- Name of the author(s) and full address of the corresponding author
- The aim and methodology of the paper
- Results obtained or expected

Publication opportunities

- Papers will qualify for the Journal [Competition and Regulation in Network Industries](#), which is published by Sage as of 2017.
- A summary of the 4-5 best papers will have the chance to be published in the dedicated issue of the [Network Industries Quarterly](#) (Issue 20, Vol 3, September 2018).

Organizing Committee

- Prof **Simone Borghesi** (EUI, Part-time professor, Energy & Climate Area of the FSR. Siena University, Professor)
- Prof **Matthias Finger** (EUI, Part-time professor and Director of the Transport Area of the FSR. EPFL, Professor and Director of the Chair of Management of Network Industries)
- Prof **Jean-Michel Glachant** (EUI, Robert Schuman Chair, Director of the FSR, Director of the Energy & Climate Area of the FSR, Holder of the Loyola de Palacio Chair)
- Prof **Pier Luigi Parcu** (EUI, Part-time professor, Director of the Communications and Media Area of the FSR, ENTrANCE, and CMPF)
- Prof **Stéphane Saussier** (EUI, Part-time professor and Director of the Water Area of the FSR. IAE de Paris, Professor and Director of the EPPP Research Group)