

Task 2.1 TA Practices in Europe

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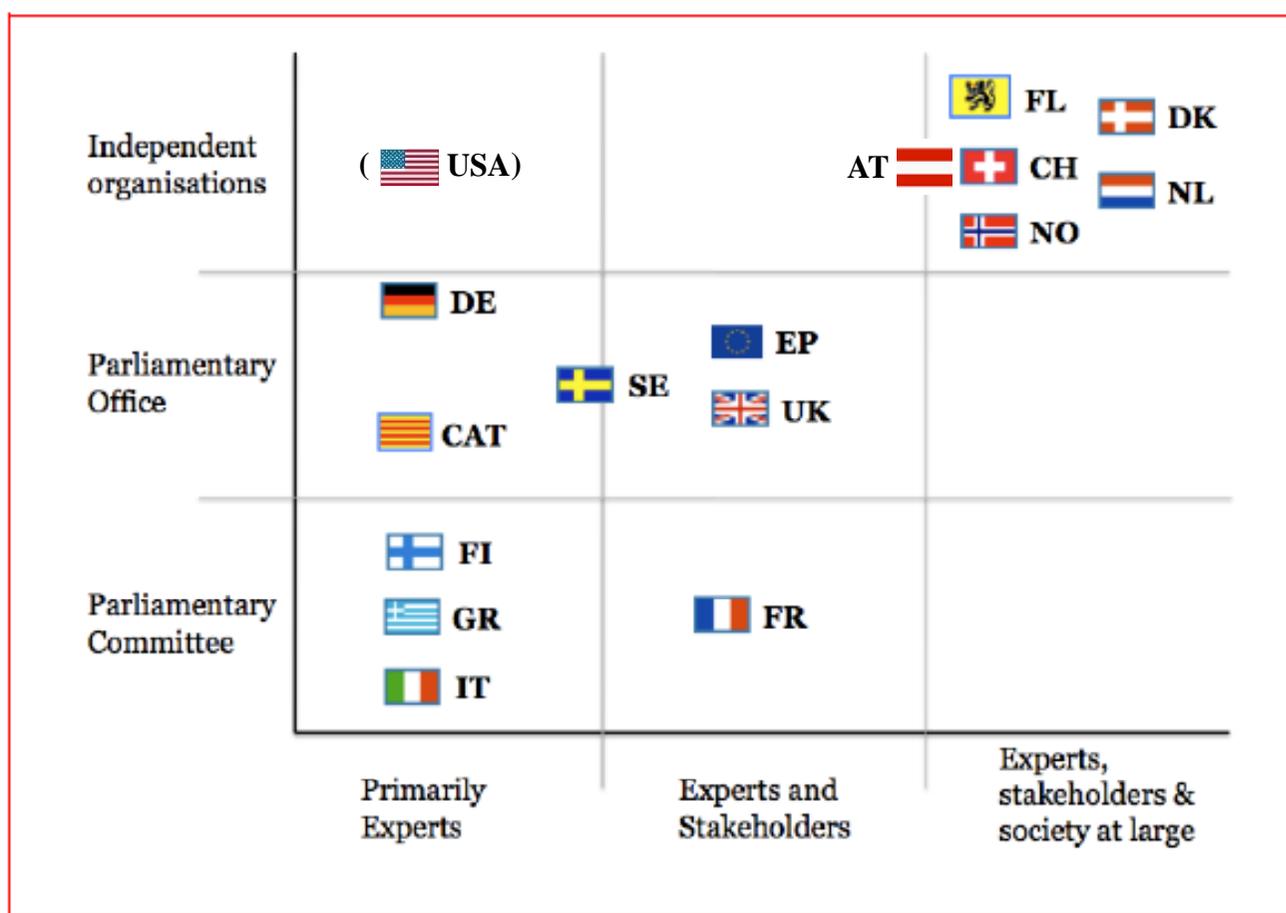
Outline

- Parliamentary TA in Europe
- Task 2.1: describing and comparing existing practices
- Basic model: 4 societal spheres
- Extended model: institutional, organizational and project level
- Approach: mutual learning
- Interviewing and describing the dynamics
- Result: eighth country and region reports
- Analytical comparison (work in progress)
- In conclusion



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Parliamentary TA in Europe



Adapted from: Technopolis Group

Aim of Task 2.1: describing and comparing existing practices

- Several models of Parliamentary TA exist
- Mainly a static overview
- Stronger deconstruction of macro, meso & micro dynamics desirable
- Goal: clarifying options & choices for establishing new Parliamentary TA functions in Europe



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PACITA approach: pairing up experienced partners with 'new' countries and regions



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Approach: pairing up experienced partners with 'new' countries and regions



Approach: pairing up experienced partners with 'new' countries and regions

TEKNOLOGI-RÅDET



Zentrum für Technologiefolgen-Abschätzung
Centre d'évaluation des choix technologiques
Centro per la valutazione delle scelte tecnologiche
Centre for Technology Assessment



*Dynamic knowledge
verandering
innovatie
debat
technology & science*

Rathenau Instituut



Teknologirådet



Instituut Samenleving & Technologie



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Basic model: 4 societal spheres

Parliament

Government

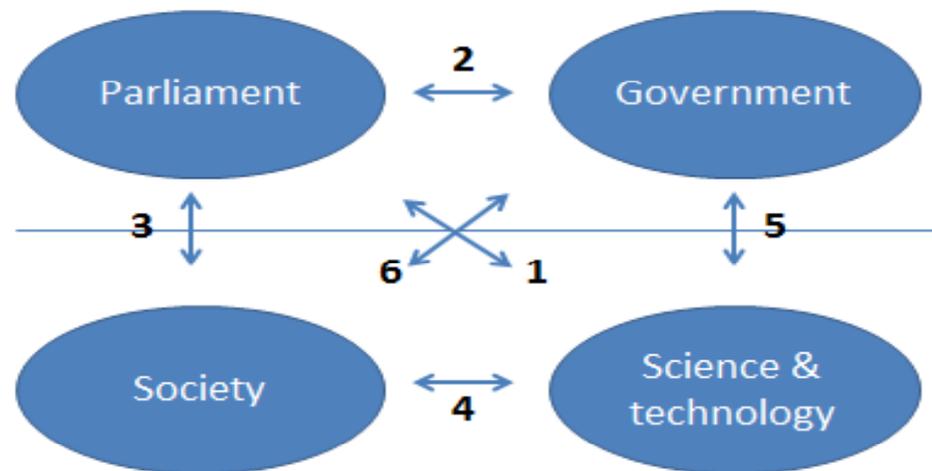
Society

Science &
Technology



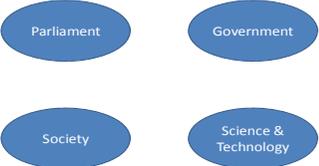
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Basic model: 4 societal spheres

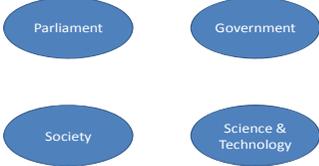


Extended model: 3 interaction layers

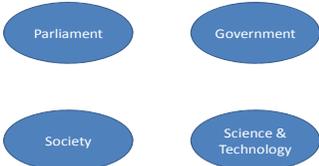
Macro: institution



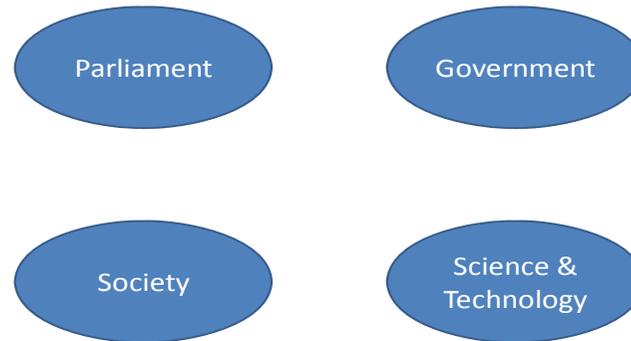
Meso: organization



Micro: project



Interviewing and describing the dynamics



- Interviews in pairs
 - Insider view: interviewing Technology Assessment practitioners
 - Outsider view: interviewing stakeholders
- Paired responsibility in describing each country or region, based on a template
- Exemplified by a case study

Eighth country and region reports (draft)

Austria

Catalonia
(Spain)

Denmark

Germany

Switzer-
land

Flanders
(Belgium)

The
Nether-
lands

Norway

In-depth and colorful descriptions of context,
nuts & bolts



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Some illustrations from country and region reports

- Importance of linkages with European Commission (Austria)
- Shift from advising presidency of government to parliament (Catalonia)
- Development towards a foundation model (Denmark)
- Outsourcing of research follows regional, national and European procurement procedures (Flanders)
- Political consensus principle for TA projects (Germany)
- Historical importance of oil, gas & IT sector for developing societal research programs – including TA (Norway)
- TA-Swiss has become an independent competent centre of the Swiss Academy of Arts and Sciences (Switzerland)
- Task of Science System Assessment added, slowly merging with Technology Assessment task (The Netherlands)

Overview of case studies

- Technology and autonomous living (Austria)
- Genetically Modified Organisms (Catalonia)
- Future energy system (Denmark)
- Digital inclusion (Flanders)
- Large-scale outage in the electricity supply (Germany)
- Online gambling (Norway)
- Anti-Ageing Medicine (Switzerland)
- Global trade in human biological material (The Netherlands)



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Overview of case studies

- Technology and autonomous living (Austria) **user interviews**
- Genetically Modified Organisms (Catalonia) **parallel research**
- Future energy system (Denmark) **future panel**
- Digital inclusion (Flanders) **technology festival**
- Large-scale outage in the electricity supply (Germany) **expert consult.**
- Online gambling (Norway) **start-up conference**
- Anti-Ageing Medicine (Switzerland) **PubliTalks**
- Global trade in human biological material (The Netherlands)
media campaigning

Analytical comparison (work in progress)

- Collective PACITA learning experience
- Further elaboration of three layer model
- Tracing down relevant variables for every layer
- Iterative loops between descriptions & analytical comparison
- Interim results discussed at PACITA consortium meetings



Provisionary insights for the institutional layer

- Relevance of political framing
 - Technology Assessment strongly related to complex of challenges in the innovation system
 - Societal support for controversial S & T developments
 - Change power balance between Parliament & Government
 - Additional scientific support for policymaking
 - Relationship with innovation discourse
- Optional tasks of a new institution
 - Perform interdisciplinary impact analyses of S & T
 - Be relevant for policymaking
 - Stimulate societal debate
 - Watch trends in S & T



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Provisionary insights for the institutional layer

- Establishment of a new institution
 - Which societal sphere to empower?
 - Often: competing propositions enter the political debate
 - Democratic decision required: long term process
- Further institutional evolution
 - Continuous trust building towards different societal spheres
 - Institutional positions alter, in interaction with external changes



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Provisionary insights for the project layer

- Project agenda
 - Trend-setting vs trend-following
 - Focus vs broadness
 - Systematic work plan vs ad-hoc requests
- Project activities
 - Research
 - Participation of experts
 - Participation of other stakeholders
 - Participation of citizens
 - Balance between in-house and outsourced work



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Provisionary insights for the project layer

- Project results
 - Scientific quality control
 - Political relevance
 - Communicative quality control
- Project dissemination
 - Towards political system
 - Towards society at large
 - Towards scientific community



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Models of organization (provisionary)

	Client	Funding	Evaluation	Board, Committee or Platform	Working program	Project team	Project advisory committee
Parl.							
Gov.							
S & T							
Soc.							

- Match between theoretical models & actual situation in countries and regions still under discussion within PACITA
- Some examples...

Organizational model France (OPECST)

	Client	Funding	Evaluation	Board, Committee or Platform	Working program	Project team	Project advisory committee
Parl.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Gov.							
S & T							
Soc.							

- Full parliamentary control over Technology Assessment

Organizational model Germany (TAB)

	Client	Funding	Evaluation	Board, Committee or Platform	Working program	Project team	Project advisory committee
Parl.	+	+	+	+	+		+
Gov.							
S & T					+	+	
Soc.							

- Shared parliamentary – science control over Technology Ass.

Organizational model Netherlands (Rathenau Inst.)

	Client	Funding	Evaluation	Board, Committee or Platform	Working program	Project team	Project advisory committee
Parl.	+		+				
Gov.	+	+	+	+/-	+/-		+/-
S & T		+/-	+	+	+	+	+
Soc.	+		+/-	+/-	+/-		+/-

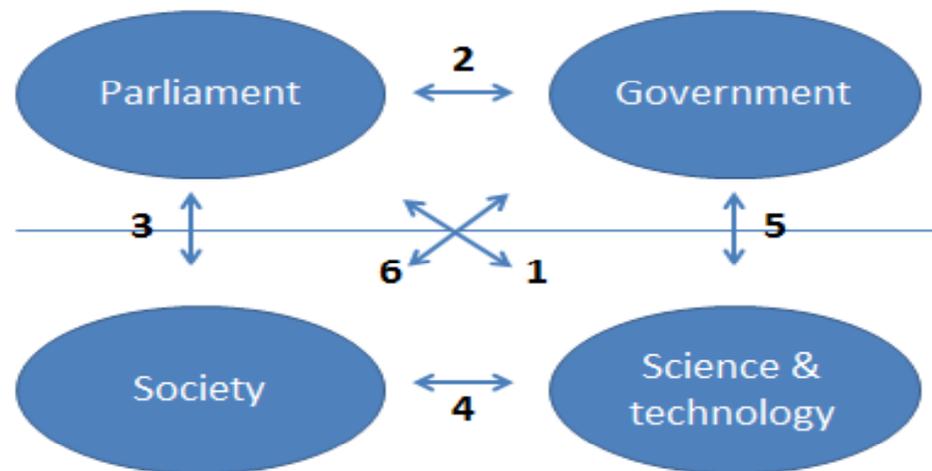
- Shared parliament-government-science-society control
- Not independent, but inter-dependent

Organizational model Austria (ITA)

	Client	Funding	Evaluation	Board, Committee or Platform	Working program	Project team	Project advisory committee
Parl.	+/-	+/-					
Gov.	+	+		+/-			+/-
S & T	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Soc.	+/-	+/-					+/-

- Mainly shared science-government control
- Developing towards society and parliament

Basic model: 4 societal spheres



In conclusion

- Parliamentary TA characterised by strong interplay between parliament, government, science & technology and society
- Technology Assessment continuously builds bridges between these spheres
- Political demand for Technology Assessment may change (exemplified by Austria)
- Existing institutional settings can relatively easy be adjusted to meet new political demands (evolution)
- Shared PACITA learning experience – both for experienced & new partners
- Desirable to describe and build connections to other practices of Parliamentary TA in Europe (France, UK and other)