

Regional policy networks and environmental governance: the case of sustainable construction in Spain

Conference Paper

***EU-SPRI PhD and Early Career Researcher Conference
20-23-09-2011, Manchester Business School***

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Inspiration

- Internationalization of construction system (Gann 1998,2003;Miozzo and Dewick 2002, 2004)
- Understanding of networks on Multilevel Environmental governance system (Bulkely an Betsill, 2005; Cofee-Morlot et al , 2009)
- Integrate a complementary innovation approach to improve the private sector perspective on Green Building Technologies(Gann 1998,2003;Miozzo and Dewick 2002, 2004; Blayse and Manley, 2004)

Aims of the paper

- Provide a theoretical framework to understand the notion of multilevel environmental system and the main characteristics of BCI.
- Explore elements of institutional capacity building approach and its connections with concepts of environmental governance.
- Highlight key elements of the case of Valencia region as well as new question to drive further research on the formation and operation of networks as mechanism of problem solving.

Outline

- Theoretical background
 - Environmental governance and policy networks in the building sector
 - Institutional Capacity Building
- Methodology
- Empirical case: Valencia Region
 - 1) Policy Background, 2) Networks : activities and affiliations
- Highlighting evidence of institutional capacity building
- Conclusion

Theoretical background

- Environmental governance and policy networks in the building sector
 - Technological development, transnationalization of BCI companies and new international commitments
 - Broader economic and political context to understand the changes
 - Role of government. Traditional and new policy instruments
 - Formation of networks on BCI. Traditional structures, new levels and actors
- Hampering factors on networks formation and operation
 - Conflict between actors (public vs. private, short and long term)
 - Misfits between policies at different levels (energy, sustainability and local development vs. commitments)
 - Lack of institutional capacity

Institutional Capacity I

- Key elements :
 - Intellectual, social and political capital
 - absorptive capacity and organizational resources
 - innovation strategy and openness
- Gaps:
 - Better understanding of networks formation, operation and the set of activities and instruments
 - Implementation problems at the local level are a critical issue to understand multilevel governance configurations. There is decoupling between general recognition of problems and the assumption of the capacity of existing institutions to solve them (Hajer, 1995, Hajer and Versteeg, 2005, Sørensen and Torfing, 2009).

Institutional Capacity II

Dimensions of institutional capacity building. Healey et al (2003)

Knowledge resources	The range of knowledge resources, explicit and tacit, systematized and experiential, to which participants have access
	The frames of reference which shape conceptions of issues, problems, opportunities and interventions, including the conception of place
	The extent to which the range and frames area shared among stakeholders, integrating different spheres of policy development and action around place qualities
	The capacity to absorb new ideas and learn from them (openness and learning)
Relational resources	The range of stakeholders involved, in relation to the potential universe of stakeholders in the issue or in what goes on in an area
	The morphology of their social networks, in term of the density (or “thickness”) of network interconnections and their “route structure”
	The extent of integration of the various networks
	The location of the power to act , the reaction of power between actors and the interaction with wider authoritative, allocative and ideological structuring forces
Mobilization capacity	The opportunity to structure
	The institutional arenas used and developed by stakeholders to take advantage of opportunities
	The repertoire of mobilization techniques which are used to develop and sustain momentum
	The presence or absence of critical change agents at different stages

Empirical exploration

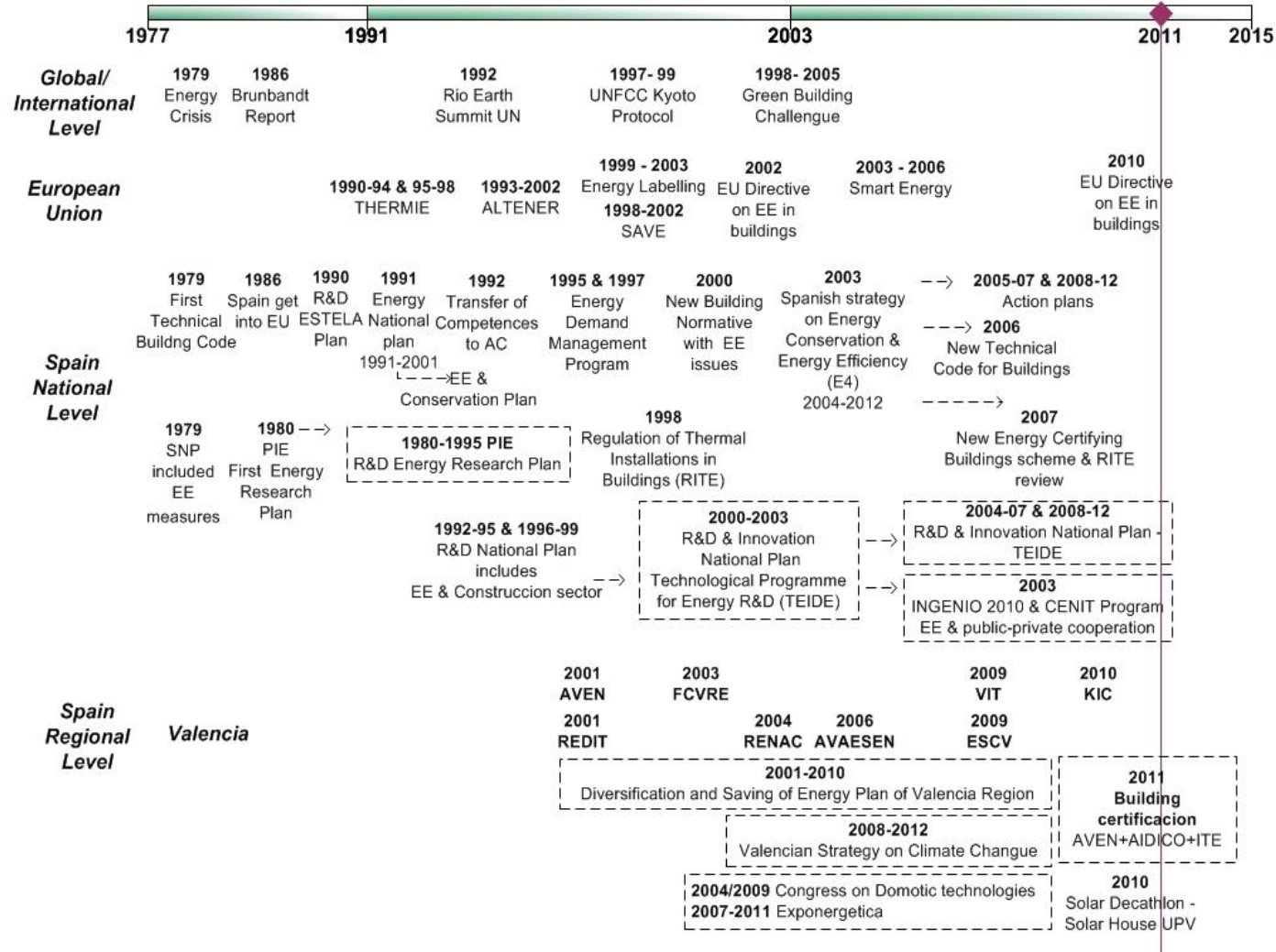
- Four steps:
 - Description of the key events, policy and programs at national and international level to understand the change operated in a multilevel perspective.
 - Valencia region and the formation of new networks.
 - Focus on Networks: the analysis of the member's affiliation and the set different set of activities and instruments involved.
 - Pick up elements referring to the dimension of institutional capacity
- Data gathered through websites, policy documents, normative and projects memories.
- Analysis of data: content analysis and basic statistical procedures under a case study approach.

Exploratory questions

- Have stakeholders involved in Building and Construction Industry (BCI) sought allies, shared resources, developed complementary strategies and, thereby, formed regional networks to introduce innovation in Green Building Technologies? Why? How?
- Secondary questions
 - How do the selection and application of activities and policy instruments facilitate the articulation of different stakeholders and, therefore, the formation, maintenance and evolution of network?
 - To what extent do different pre-existent industrial structures and regional political economy strategies influence the formation of networks, their evolution and, therefore, the capacity of network as a mechanism to solve conflict between public and private stakeholders?

The background

Key events in International, National and Regional Level



Valencia region

- BCI performance:
 - Urban area has increased 27% 1990-2006
 - Mayor rate of BCI as share of GDP among Spanish regions
- Policies implemented: Energy and Climate Change
- Creation of networks and Business Association:
 - Networks: FCVRE, RENAC, Forum ESCV, VIT Energia, REDIT
 - Business association: AVAENSEN, TECNIMED
 - Others: FEVEC

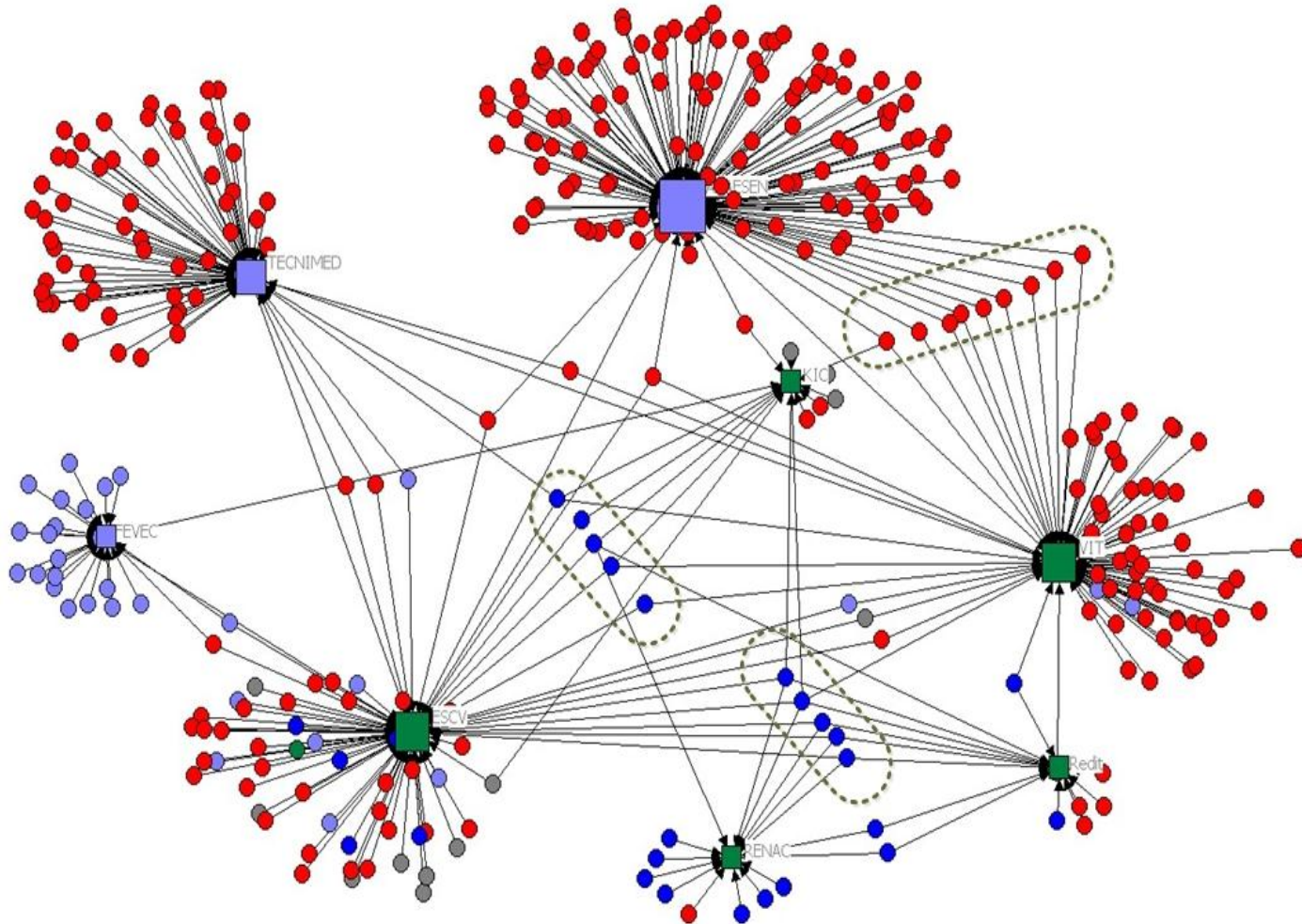
Networks activities

Main activities of BCI networks and business associations

Activity	FCVRE	RENAC	Forum ESCV	VIT Energia	AVAESEN	TECNIMED	FEVEC
R&D	Dissemination partner	Applied research	-	EU Applied & social research	EU Applied & social research	-	-
Regulation & legal advice	EU programs		Building directives	-	Legal and technical	Legal advice	Legal and labour advice
Technical support	-	High tech laboratories	-	-	Financial, IPR, Insurance, subventions	-	Insurance
Networking	Partners search	Members	-	Partners search	Internationalization, Partners search, trade missions	Internationalization, Partners search	Internationalization, Partners search
Formation	-	-	Workshops and seminars	Workshops and seminars	Workshops, courses and seminars	Workshops, courses and seminars	Workshops, courses and seminars
Information & dissemination activities	R&D program diffusion	Online info & Newsletter	Events and online Info, & technical documents	Newsletter & technological surveillance	Events, newsletter and online	Events, newsletter and online	Events, newsletter and online

Affiliation analysis

Affiliation Scheme of BCI networks and business



Highlighting evidence of institutional capacity building

- Knowledge resources
 - Industry clusters, , Specialized R&D Creation of Agencies
- Relational resources
 - Integration of actors, role of R&D institutes, Low share of multiple affiliation
- Mobilization capacity
 - Implementation process & instruments, public agencies and R&D activities
- Public interest and private making behaviours
 - Early stage: creating new capabilities (i.e.. Formation, networking and technical competences)
- Policy misfits
 - Articulation mechanism has changed beyond the governance structures

New questions

- In term of the nature and dynamics of knowledge flows:
 - which are the main relationships, differences and compatibilities between R&D strategies at different levels?
- Regarding the morphology of networks and association:
 - is there a logic behind the internal structure and the selection of activities and instruments?
 - if not, is there a relationship with the final performance?

Conclusions

- Literature on governance and environmental policy highlight new structures and context to solve problems at local level.
- Innovation studies have focus in the evolving structure of BCI
- Both set of studies has emphasised the prominence of a set of instruments designed to support and drive changes.
- By considering that perspective, this paper has applied the concept of institutional capacity building to highlight evidence on the formation of networks and Business association as mechanism to face that new context.
- The description of the case has provided a set of elements to contribute to further research on the hypothesis of networks as mechanism of problem solving.

Further research

- Further advance on this direction will require deeper understanding of relations between policies, programs and actions in term of objectives and activities developed at different levels.
- In the other hand, improve the knowledge on the nature of N&BA as well as the process of formation, maintenance and evolution will require the matching of the needs and expectation of the members and the original objectives of the N&BA.
- Content analysis and interviews are suggested to face the first challenge while a survey to all the N&BA members plus a random sample of firms and institutions not affiliated is considered appropriate to generate indicators on the second question. Currently, those activities are been undertaken.

Thank you

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EU- SPRI Conference

21st September 2011

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