The concept of policy learning & transfer and how it is applied in the Policy Laboratory

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Part I

An introduction to the concepts of policy learning & transfer
Policy learning and transfer is...  

- a process in which knowledge about policies in one political setting (past or present) is used in the development of policies in another setting.
- Knowledge and experience makes it easier for policy development in other countries, institutions (policy transfer)
- Source of policy change
Policy learning and transfer

What are the aspects

Who learns...

✓ **Individual:** mutual / two-way learning process among peers
✓ **Communities:** wide range of different stakeholders

What is learnt...

✓ **Instrumental learning:** learning about how to redesign the policy (goals, content, implementation)
✓ **Social learning:** redefinition of policy problems via new policy discourses

What is the outcome...

✓ **Policy change:** through policy transfer
✓ **Policy convergence:** ideas, discourses, paradigms
Policy learning and transfer
How it works and what is necessary

- **Learning at home:** looking at one’s *own institutional and organizational past, innovation, success and “failures”*

- **Learning from others:** learning from the experience of others is *efficient* because one does *not have to wait for catastrophes at home before lessons are learned.*

- **Structures for learning:** Activate learning processes *via organizational networks and tools for exchange; solutions to policy problems are somewhere* in the network, but no one knows where they are.
Policy learning and transfer

What are the challenges

- **Uninformed transfer**: insufficient information about the policy/institution and how it operates in the country from which it is transferred.

- **Incomplete transfer**: Crucial elements of what made the policy or institutional structure a success in the originating country may not be transferred.

- **Inappropriate transfer**: Insufficient attention may be paid to the differences between the economic, social, political and ideological contexts in the transferring and the borrowing country.
Policy learning and transfer
Applying concepts in practical terms

- **In-depth comprehension**: understand how the policy works and what are its goals
- **Success factors**: identify crucial factors (internal & external; institutions or processes) for achieving the outcomes of the policy
- **Framework conditions**: reflect on framework conditions that define why and how a policy approach was successful in a country
Part II

Applying the concepts:
Policy Laboratory approach and Policy Lab sessions
The Policy Laboratory Approach

A Rationale for policy learning

**Status Quo**

- Lack processes and instruments providing an in-depth understanding
- Lack contextualisation of broader enabling framework conditions
- Policy learning simply as a form of technology transfer or dissemination

**MIN-GUIDE solutions**

- Applying facilitation models for informal and interactive exchange
- Looking into broader success criteria facilitating transferability
- Enabling hands on learning with peers (experiences of practitioners)
The Policy Laboratory Approach

Roadmap for Policy Laboratory 1

Day 1

Experiencing the Online Minerals Policy Guide

Policy Labs: Experimenting on good practice

Day 2

Identify gaps and exploring future pathways
The Policy Laboratory Approach

Focus 1: Facilitate case understanding
- **In-depth comprehension** of good practice cases
- **demonstrate success criteria and elaborate framework conditions** (administrative set-up, institutional arrangements, political culture)

Focus 2: Enable knowledge co-creation among learners
- **Social process:** put’s the learners role (both presenter and participant) in the centre
- **Process-oriented:** learner’s define goals and content
- **Facts & intangible knowledge:** facts as well as personal experience
Part 1: “Listening, exchanging, and learning”

- Get down to the nitty-gritty of good practice cases
- Discuss about success factors & framework conditions

Part 2: “Exploring transferability”

- Engaging in discussions on differences between the economic, social, political contexts of the case country and your country
The Policy Lab sessions
Where are my preferences? What to choose?

Policy Lab 1:
Policy strategies
SE: Sweden's Minerals Strategy
PT: National Strategy for Geological Resources-Mineral Resources
FI: Making Finland Leader in Sustainable Extractive Industry Action Plan

Policy Lab 2:
Permitting procedures
IE: Licensing system exploration
DK: Parallel processing of applications
BE (Flanders): One-door-authority for permitting procedures

Policy Lab 3:
Stakeholder involvement
AT: Austrian Raw Material Alliance
FI: The Network for Sustainable Mining
GR: National Committee for Mineral Resources
Thank you for listening

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Let’s experiment!

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