TARN Activity Report

2015-2018

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

projectnumber GA 565023
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About TARN

Mission statement
The Academic Research Network on Agencification of EU Executive Governance (TARN) aims to promote multi- and interdisciplinary research about the agencification of EU executive governance and to encourage a dialogue between academia and practitioners.

TARN is a research, information and agenda-setting network informing agency operation within the EU in a transnational setting. It brings together renowned and young academics and practitioners from various disciplines and policy areas and pools knowledge on research and legal provisions, policy documents and information on the practical operation of EU agencies.

People and Institutions
TARN collaborates with the following partners and institutions:

Project Partners

- Ellen Vos
- Loïc Azoulai
- Giacinto della Cananea
- Deirdre Curtin
- Mark Dawson
- Renaud Dehousse
- Morten Egeberg
- Michelle Everson
- Herwig C.H. Hofmann
- Christian Joerges
- Johannes Pollak
- Jarle Trondal
- Esther Versluis
- Bruno de Witte
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maastricht University</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hertie School of Governance</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>University of Luxembourg</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>European University Institute</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ARENA Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Centre for Critical European Legal Studies, Birkbeck College, School of Law, University of London</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institute for Advanced Studies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Centre d’études européennes de Sciences Po</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The University of Rome, ‘Tor Vergata’</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
TARN achievements

EU agencies have become a core element within the EU's institutional setting. They carry out a mixture of tasks, varying from provision of information to decision making in various policy fields, such as food and air safety, medicines, environment, telecommunications, disease prevention, border control, trademarks and banking. Agencification has thus become characteristic of the EU executive. TARN studies this phenomenon.

Agencification is also a cause for critical concern. TARN fills two particular lacunae in current agency research by:

- Promoting in-depth multi- and interdisciplinary research to integrate isolated disciplinary approaches;
- Encouraging interaction between academia and practitioners that is needed to enhance the democratization of the EU in scholarship and practice.

The Academic Research Network on Agencification of EU Executive Governance, TARN has promoted excellence through its website, enhancing knowledge on the operation of EU agencies, collating existing research and promoting new interdisciplinary, transnational and multilingual perspectives; it has fostered dialogue between senior and junior scholars and practitioners and provided a platform for exchange of knowledge and ideas. Its research databases provides for a catalogue of relevant literature on EU agencies and agencification.

TARN has focused on four research themes:

1. the conceptualisation of agencification;
2. the constitutional position, hybrid nature and legitimacy of agencies;
3. their increasing global utility; and
4. their functional operation and effectiveness.
These themes have been addressed in 43 events (1 launching event, 2 dissemination events, 5 workshops, 4 conferences, 3 dialogues sessions, 1 debate, 27 lectures). It has resulted in the publication of 27 working papers, 2 edited volumes (forthcoming) and 25 blogs.

TARN has been further been active in the social media and has created and maintained a website. It has produced 10 briefs so as to allow teachers and anyone interested in EU agencies and agencification more generally to learn the main issues at stake in relation to EU agencies.

TARN partners have been invited to write reports and speak before the European Parliament. TARN was moreover asked to organise a debate on EU agencies with academics, practitioners and students. In addition TARN was asked to co-organise with the EBA a conference on financial regulation. TARN partners were invited to speak on EU agencies at a summer school on EU reform and TARN has allowed students to participate in this summerschool by awarding a grant.

The long-term impact of TARN’s will be to shape the manner in which agencies are conceived of in theory and practice. TARN has been actively discussing with various stakeholders on how EU agencies should be conceived in practice. TARN will continue in doing research and organising dialogue events in the future. TARN aims to play a major part in reshaping the EU institutional landscape.

**TARN Young Researchers Platform**

TARN’s Young Researchers Platform (TARNYRP) is composed of young researchers in the field of agencification of EU executive governance and provides a platform for exchange with fellow researchers in the beginning of their career, as well as, the opportunity to connect with leading experts in the field.

The members of TARNYRP actively contributed to TARN activities in various ways. They assisted in the collection and categorisation of literature and research for the research database developed and hosted by TARN. Moreover, they contributed to disseminating information on the
agencification of EU executive governance through diverse media platforms, including blogging and videography, in order to provide insights into EU agencies for practitioners, stakeholders and the general public. In addition to that, TARNYRP attended many of the events, seminars, workshops, and conferences on EU agencies organised by TARN, TARN partners, other research organisations and EU institutions and bodies.

At the moment TARNYRP is composed of 34 members, of which 9 are in the Steering Committee. They come from more than 20 different universities from Europe, thus assuring a diverse and international composition of the team.

TARN Research and Activities

Whilst much research has already been undertaken on EU agencies and the agencification of EU executive governance, this has often been conducted within single disciplines. TARN integrated a multi- and interdisciplinary perspective to encourage in-depth research on agencification of EU executive governance.

TARN has stimulated specific research on the following four themes:

1. Conceptualizing research on agencification of EU executive governance;
2. Constitutionality, powers and legitimacy of EU agencies;
3. International dimensions of European agency activity;
4. EU agencies’ functional operation and effectiveness.

TARN’s research has, amongst others, resulted in a literature database, briefs, blogs, and a working paper series. In addition, TARN has hosted and organized a multitude of events relating to its research themes, including lectures, dialogue sessions, workshops and conferences.
TARN Publications

TARN Working Papers
The TARN working paper series aims to further excellence in scholarship on EU executive governance. Submission is open to scholars who would like to share their research on EU agencies and EU executive governance. Today, 28 working papers have been published.

- **TARN Working Paper 3/2018**
  Tobias Tesche

- **TARN Working Paper 2/2018**
  Linking EU and National Agencification Processes: A Growing Need to Overcome Inconsistencies
  Joan Solanes Mullor

- **TARN Working Paper 1/2018**
  The EU Agencies’ Role in Diffusion of Policy beyond the EU: EEA, EMA and EFSA
  Sevasti Chatzopoulou

- **TARN Working Paper 16/2017**
  The European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex Beyond Borders: The effect of the agency’s external dimension
  Vittoria Meissner

- **TARN Working Paper 15/2017:**
  Normative power FRONTEX? Assessing agency cooperation with third countries
  Helena Ekelund

- **TARN Working Paper 14/2017:**
  The Role of EU Agencies in the Acquis Transfer: The Case of the European Neighbourhood Policy Countries
  Dovile Rinkute and Karina Shyrokykh
TARN Working Paper 13/2017:
The External Projection of EU’s Agencies: An Emphasis on the Ombudman’s Role
Marco Inglese

TARN Working Paper 12/2017:
Procedural Rule-Making of European Supervisory Agencies (ESAs): An Effective Tool for Legitimacy?
Maurizia de Bellis

TARN Working Paper 11/2017:
Constitutional Limits to the EU Agencies’ External Relations
Merijn Chamon and Valerie Demedts

TARN Working Paper 10/2017:
Networks, Committees, or Agencies?: The Many Faces of the EU Regulatory Space
Emmanuelle Mathieu

TARN Working Paper 9/2017:
Regulation After Agencification: Hierarchy and Uncertainty in the Case of Energy
Bernardo Rangoni

TARN Working Paper 8/2017
Becoming a Powerful Regulator: The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) in European Financial Sector Governance
Aneta B Spendzharova

TARN Working Paper 7/2017
Accountability in the Context of Transgovernmental Networks: A Conceptual Approach
Daniëlle van Osch

TARN Working Paper 6/2017
The Commission as a network orchestrator in EU multi-level governance? The case of the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)
Marta Migliorati
• TARN Working Paper 5/2017
  The international dimension of the EU agencies: Charting a legal-institutional ‘twilight zone’
  Florin Coman-Kund

• TARN Working Paper 4/2017
  Procedural decision-making and the Banking Union: The accountability mechanisms
  Marco Macchia

• TARN Working Paper 3/2017
  Some reflections on the governance and accountability of the Single Resolution Board
  Marta Božina Beroš

• TARN Working Paper 2/2017
  Opening the black box of participation in the institutional practice of European agencies
  Sara Pernuš

• TARN Working Paper 1/2017
  The European Central Bank (ECB) under the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM): Its functioning and its limits
  Paul Weismann

• TARN Working Paper 8/2016
  The Agencification in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy: The European Defence Agency
  Antonio Calcara

• TARN Working Paper 7/2016
  The appeal of independence: Exploring Europe’s way of political legitimacy
  Antoine Vauchez

  Redundancy in multilevel energy governance: Why (and when) regulatory overlap can be valuable
  Martijn Groenleer
• **TARN Working Paper 5/2016**
  Agencies in the European Regulatory Union
  Herwig C.H. Hofmann

• **TARN Working Paper 4/2016**
  Differentiating multi-level administration: Patterns of administrative co-ordination in the European Union
  Arthur Benz

• **TARN Working Paper 3/2016**
  The multi-level administration of the EU: Transnational coordination through national and supranational bureaucracies
  Tobias Bach and Eva Ruffing

• **TARN Working Paper 2/2016**
  European integration and its modes: function vs. territory
  Giandomenico Majone

• **TARN Working Paper 1/2016**
  Agencification of the European Union administration: Connecting the dots
  Morten Egeberg and Jarle Trondal

**TARN Books**

TARN’s research has resulted in two edited volumes: M. Chamon, H. Hofmann and E. Vos (eds.), *The External Dimension of EU agencies and EU bodies: Law and Policy*, Edward Elgar forthcoming 2019; J. Pollak and P. Slominski (eds.), *Agencification in Times of Crisis*, to be submitted

**TARN Blogs**

In addition to the working paper series, TARN maintained a blog which enabled scholars to share their research, knowledge and ideas about the EU agencies. So far there have been 25 entries,
covering a diverse range of subjects, all being available online on http://eutarn.blogactiv.eu/.

The following blog posts have been published:

- **Katrijn Siderius and Miroslava Scholten**: "Appointment of EU Agency Directors" (11 October 2018)
- **Andreas Eriksen**: “‘Accountability Overload’: Too Much of a Good Thing?” (17 July 2018)
- **Tobias Tesche**: “‘When one size doesn’t fit all”, the European Fiscal Board and the rise of national fiscal councils in the European Union’ (23 May 2018)
- **Ilaria Graceffa and Maia Ignatenko**: ‘EU Agencies: Problem-Solving, Performance & the Accountability Overload: Squaring the Impossible Circle?’ (30 April 2018)
- **Charicleia Vlachou**: ‘The Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group for Europol: a successful institutional innovation? (20 April 2018)
- **Sabrina Röttger-Wirtz**: ‘An open door to more open access to Agency documents? The General Court rulings on the EMA transparency policy’ (29 March 2018)
- **Ixchel Pérez- Durán**: ‘Politicians, Stakeholders and Professional Trajectories in European Union agencies’ (19 February 2018)
- **Marko Milenkovic**: ‘European Union agencies and third countries – Increasing opportunities with differentiated integration’ (26 January 2018)
- **Emilia Korkea-aho and Päivi Leino**: ‘Is Glyphosate Safe? We Have a Right to Know’ (15 December 2017)
- **Florin Coman-Kund**: ‘The Future EASA Regulation: Enhancing the Union’s Aviation Safety System through ‘Agencification’? (26 October 2017)
- **Vittoria Meissner**: “‘Frontex’s Pool of Return Experts: The Performance of the EU Border Agency’ (12 October 2017)
- **Vigjilenca Abazi**: ‘EU Agencies: What Protection for Whistleblowers?’ (8 August 2017)
- **Joan Solanes Mullor**: ‘Linking the EU and National Agencification Processes: A Growing Need to Overcome Inconsistencies’ (13 July 2017)
• Merijn Chamon, Sabrina Wirtz and Jacopo Alberti: ‘The External Dimension of EU Agencies and Bodies’ (6 July 2017)


• Lilian Tsourdi: ‘The European Asylum Support Office in Action: Comments on the Changing Nature of Practical Cooperation in the EU Asylum Policy’ (10 April 2017)

• David Fernández Rojo: ‘The European Border and Coast Guard: Towards the Centralization of the External Border Management?’ (7 February 2017)

• Torbjørg Jevnaker: ‘What next for ACER?’ (11 January 2017)

• Sabrina Wirtz and Merijn Chamon: ‘Complex procedures as hurdle to accountability: verticalization of pharmaceutical enforcement’ (30 November 2016)

• Sabrina Wirtz: ‘Hello from the other side: conflicts of interests of staff leaving an agency’ (10 October 2016)

• Zheni Zhekova: ‘The future of Europol’s Cooperation Agreements and the New Europol Regulation’ (13 September 2016)

• Merijn Chamon: ‘Consequences of Brexit for EU Agencies’ (4 July 2016)

• Giandomenico Majone: ‘European Integration and Its Modes: Function vs. Territory’ (15 June 2016)

• Ellen Vos: ‘EU Agencies: In need of Further Constitutionalisation’ (30 May 2016)

TARN Research Database

The TARN Research Database forms a point of reference for research relating to EU agencies and the agencification processes. It includes an overview of recent publications and is updated regularly. The publications are classified into topics such as Accountability & Legitimacy, Autonomy and Independence, Constitutionality, Delegation & Control, Institutionalisation and International Dimension.
TARN Briefs

The field of study of EU agencies has vastly increased. This has increased the need for creating more clarity with regard to some of the fundamental notions about agencies in the EU. The TARN Briefs provide basic definitions and knowledge about the essential aspects of EU agencies. To this end, TARN information sheets aimed to increase the understanding of EU agencies based on the findings of the TARN research events. In this manner these information sheets are of high relevance for teachers and everyone with an interest in EU agencies to gain knowledge and insights into the challenges posed by the agencification process of EU executive governance.

The **TARN Briefs** address the following themes:

- Conceptualisation of EU Agencies
- Types of EU Agencies and Functions
- Organisation of EU Agencies
- EU Agencies in the EU’s Institutional Landscape
- EU Agencies and Banking
- EU Agencies and Transparency
- EU Agencies, Procedure and Courts
- EU Agencies, Accountability and Legitimacy
- EU Agencies, Participation and Independence
- External Dimension of EU Agencies and Bodies.
Lectures and Educational Involvement

Lectures

TARN has hosted a series of lectures featuring renowned academics and practitioners to discuss salient issues of agencification of EU executive governance. Between 2015-2018, there were 27 lectures organised throughout the EU.

The lectures had been organised by the TARN partners in Berlin, Florence, London, Luxembourg, Maastricht, Oslo, Paris, Rome and Vienna:

- 31 August 2018: Reflections on Agencification of EU executive governance from an American perspective (Paul Tucker, Harvard Kennedy School, Systemic Risk Council) in Maastricht
- 21 June 2018: A New Approach to Comparison in Administrative Law (Prof. Giacinto della Cananea, University of Bocconi of and Prof. Peter Lindseth, University of Connecticut), in Paris
- 24 May 2018 Transparency and legitimacy inside the EU and its institutions, Emily O’Reilly (European Ombudsman)
- 3 May 2018: European Agencies and Technical Expertise: The Case of the European Food Safety Agency (Prof. Jacques Ziller, University of Pavia), in Rome
- 2 March 2018, European Administrative and Regulatory Law and Fundamental Rights Protection (Prof. H. Hofmann), in Luxembourg
- 6 February 2018: Inside the EU Commission (Prof. Jens Blom-Hansen, Aarhus University), in Oslo
- 7 December 2017: Keeping Up with the Times: New Accountability of EU Financial Supervisors (dr. Despina Chatzimanoli, EBA), in Florence
- 7 December 2017: in the context of the event: EU Agencies in the Future Europe EU Agencies: Mission, Tasks and Future), in Maastricht, four lectures:
  - Europol (Luis de Eusebio Ramos, Deputy Director Europol)
  - The European banking Authority (Adam Farkas, Executive Director EBA)
• The European Food Safety Authority (Alberto Spagnolli, Head of the Executive Office Unit EFSA)
• The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (James Calleja, Executive Director Cedefop)
• 10 November 2017: FRONTEX (Prof. Loïc Auzoulai, Sciences Po), in Paris
• 6 November 2017: An Integrated Border Management System – An Answer to the Migration Crisis? (Mr. Berndt Körner, Deputy Executive Director of Frontex), in Vienna
• 27 September 2017: International Organizations and Bureaucratic Modernity (Prof. Jens Steffek, Technical University Darmstadt), in Berlin
• 30 May 2017: One EU civil service or many? The General Secretariat of the Council and the European Commission Compared (Prof. Hussein Kassim, University of East Anglia), in Oslo
• 12 December 2016: Is Risk Assessment a Scientific Discipline? (dr. Hubert Deluyker, Scientific Adviser to the EFSA Executive Director), in Maastricht
• 18 November 2016: Europe’s Executive Order (Prof. Loïc Azoulai, Sciences Po), in Paris
• 14 October 2016: European Administrative and Regulatory Law and Fundamental Rights Protection (Prof. H. Hofmann) in Luxembourg
• 12 October 2016: The Ongoing Crisis of Migration Policy and the Fundamental Rights Agency: Tasks and Challenges Ahead (Prof. Michael O’Flaherty, Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights), in Vienna
• 21 September 2016: The Appeal of Independence: Europe’s Way of Political Legitimacy (and its Current Crisis) (Prof. Antoine Vauchez, Director of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), in Berlin
• 13 September 2016: The Role of EU Agencies in the Current Migration Crisis (dr. Georgia Papagianni, European External Action Service, François Bienfait, European Asylum Support Office, dr. Sergio Carrera, Centre for European Policy Studies), in Maastricht
• 16 June 2016: Can the EU Regulate a Financial Crisis? (Prof. Ellen Vos, Maastricht University), in London
1 June 2016: *European Agencies and EU Procedural Law* (Prof. della Cananea, Tor Vergata, Prof. Vos, Maastricht University, Prof. Everson, Birkbeck University, Prof. Macchia, Tor Vergata, and Prof. Chiti, University of Tuscia), in Rome

27 April 2016: *European Integration and its Modes: Function vs. Territory* (Prof. Giandomenico Majone, EUI), in Berlin

12 April 2016: *Unravelling Multi-Level Administration: Patterns and Dynamics of Administrative Coordination in European Governance* (Prof. Dr. Arthur Benz, Technical University Darmstadt), in Oslo

8 March 2016: *The Role of Europol in the Refugee Crisis* (Mr. Oldřich Martinů, Deputy Director of Europol), in Maastricht

25 October 2015: *European Administrative Law- System of Implementation, Enforcement and Modes of accountability* (prof. H. Hofmann), Luxembourg

**TARN Young researchers workshops/master classes**

**Florence – ‘Young Researchers’ Master Class on Agencification of EU Executive Governance’**

On 9 November 2016 TARN hosted a Master Class at the EUI in Florence. The Master Class was intended for young researchers, that is PhD researchers and researchers who have recently defended their PhD. At the masterclass, young researchers had the opportunity to present their research relating to EU agencies or agency-like bodies which was commented on by senior academics.

**Brussels – ‘Current and Future Challenges of EU Agencification’**

On 20 November 2017 TARN organised an early career researchers’ workshop in Brussels, in which PhD candidates or academics which had recently obtained their PhD presented their papers. Subsequently, the papers were discussed and commented on by their peers. The event was divided into five sessions, covering a variety of topics, namely, ‘EU Agencies within the EU..."

**Educational Involvement**

The following courses, taught within the partner universities of TARN, have particularly profited from TARN research activities (courses in alphabetical order):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Type of course</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administering Europe: Inside the European Union</td>
<td>Masters course</td>
<td>SciencesPo</td>
<td>Institutes d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, Sciences Po</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Governance in Europe</td>
<td>Research Masters course</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences</td>
<td>Maastricht University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Law of the EU</td>
<td>Masters course</td>
<td>SciencesPo</td>
<td>Institutes d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, Sciences Po</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Topics in EU Governance and Policy</td>
<td>Masters course</td>
<td>SciencesPo</td>
<td>Institutes d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, Sciences Po</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics of European Integration</td>
<td>Masters course</td>
<td>SciencesPo</td>
<td>Institutes d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, Sciences Po</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU and the Nation-states: policy formulation and implementation</td>
<td>Masters course</td>
<td>ARENA</td>
<td>Universitet I Oslo</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU Law: Foundations</td>
<td>Bachelors course</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
<td>Maastricht University</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Administrative Law</td>
<td>Bachelors course</td>
<td>Faculty of law</td>
<td>Maastricht University</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Administrative Law</td>
<td>Masters course</td>
<td>School of Business</td>
<td>Tor Vergata University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European competition Law and Regulation</td>
<td>Masters course</td>
<td>School of Business</td>
<td>Tor Vergata University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union Law</td>
<td>Bachelors course</td>
<td>School of Law</td>
<td>Birkbeck College, University of London</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Union Governance</td>
<td>Masters course</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
<td>Hertie School of Governance</td>
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TARN organised a launching event on 29 June 2016 in Brussels. It disseminated its results on 19 June 2018 in London. It presented its policy recommendations on 31 August 2018 in Maastricht.

Throughout the duration of the project, TARN has organised a variety of events concerning the topic of EU Agencies and the agencification phenomenon.

TARN Workshops
Oslo - ‘Conceptualization of Agencification of EU Governance’
Between 1-2 February 2016, in Oslo, TARN, together with ARENA Centre for European Studies, organised a workshop on the topic of “Conceptualization of Agencification of EU Governance”. Both academics and practitioners, from both legal and social sciences backgrounds were present at this event, which primarily addressed the idea of conceptualization of agencification.

The workshop was divided in 4 sessions on different topics: agencification and EU administration; EU agencies and the international & transnational perspective; legitimacy and administrative power; accountability of EU agencies. It also included empirical papers, that focused on specific agencies such as ESMA and ACER and on issues of oversight by the European Parliament.
Rome – ‘European Agencies and EU Administrative Procedural Law’

On 1 June 2016 TARN organised a workshop in Rome. The event started with an introduction by TARN partner Giacinto della Cananea, after which a debate was held with Ellen Vos, Michelle Everson, Marco Macchia, and Edoardo Chiti acting as discussants.

Brussels – ‘EU Agencies: Problem-Solving, Performance & the Accountability Overload: Squaring the Impossible Circle?’

On 11 April 2018, a TARN workshop took place in Brussels. Academics and practitioners participated in several panels to discuss a variety of current topics related to problem-solving, operability and accountability overload of EU agencies and to take a closer look at the current challenges which EU agencies are facing in their operations and to ask the complementary question of whether we must modify the legitimating concept of ‘agency accountability’ in order to facilitate complex agency operations. The workshop also investigated the potential for further institutional innovations within the context of EU operation.

Florence – ‘Information Sharing and European Agencies: Novel Frontiers’

On 23 May 2018, TARN organised a workshop in Florence. The purpose of the one day doctoral and post-doctoral workshop was to debate the role and constitutional challenges of information-sharing in EU governance. It aimed to bring together early career researchers who examine information exchange from a variety of interdisciplinary, empirical, theoretical, doctrinal and cross-sectoral perspectives.


On 18 July 2018, TARN hosted a workshop at the University of Rome on the role and involvement of EU Agencies such as BEREC, ACER, and SRB within the context of European financial governance. Academics discussed, amongst others, the reform of the European Supervisory
Authorities, Accountability within the Single Supervisory Mechanism, and EU Agencies’ Boards of Appeal.

TARN Conferences
Florence - ‘Constitutionality, Powers and Legitimacy of EU Agencies or Agency-Like Bodies’

On 10 and 11 November 2016, a two-day conference took place in Florence. The topic of the conference was position of EU agencies within the EU’s constitutional framework. The event started with a short introduction about the EU agencies in the EU’s institutional landscape, with a focus on the delegation of power and the institutional balance. In addition, EU agencies’ legitimacy, accountability and transparency were discussed. Later, the participants met in 6 panels to further discuss on the following topics: EU agencies in the EU’s institutional landscape, EU agencies and banking, EU agencies and transparency, EU agencies, procedure and courts; EU agencies, accountability and legitimacy; EU agencies, participation and independence.

The event ended with a plenary closing where the final remark and conclusions of this event where drawn.

Luxembourg – ‘External Dimensions of EU Agencies and Bodies’:

On 27-28 June 2017, TARN organized a conference in Luxembourg in collaboration with the University of Luxembourg Robert Schuman Institute of European affairs. After the welcoming speech, the conference started with a discussion on the general aspects of the framework for the agencies’ external relations. Afterwards, the conference consisted of various panels in parallel sessions that addressed the following issues: External relations of Justice and Home Affairs agencies; EU agencies’ external dimension; Third Parties in EU agencies and agencies’ soft external action; Frontex’ external relations. The conference ended with the last panel meeting about agencies’ external relations and accountability.

Florence – ‘Information Sharing and European Agencies – Novel Frontiers’
On 24 May 2018, an expert conference took place at the EUI in Florence. This event addressed the interplay between informal governance and legal institutions, post-Brexit dynamics with reference to data protection and security, and public/private partnership in the context of the new data protection framework. It provided the setting for a broad reflection on current and future challenges of information sharing from the perspective of scholars, practitioners and policy makers involved in different policy fields related to law enforcement and security. The topics discussed were interoperability, information sharing within the EU, information sharing beyond the EU’s frontiers, information sharing and EU agencies: constitutional dimensions, interoperability of agencies and databases: the security union, information sharing in the field of migration, and novel frontiers and challenges beyond the EU. Finally, the keynote TARN lecture was given by the European Ombudsman, Emily O’Reilly.

London – ‘Financial Regulation, the Banking Union and the European Banking Authority: Lessons for the Future’

On 18-19 June 2018 a joint EBA-TARN Conference took place in London at the premises of the EBA. Academics and practitioners came together to discuss how supervision has evolved and might evolve in the future in the ever changing landscape of the European financial system, seen from the viewpoint of EU agencies’ evolution. The first session, chaired by the EBA’s Jonathan Overett Somnier focused on the challenges ahead for the EBA raised by Brexit, in particular, as an event that will influence the financial markets for years to come. The second session focused on the challenges ahead for financial services and their governance. The second day started with the third session: supervising the supervisors, in which practitioners provided an insider’s view to the theoretical discussion by looking at the adoption of EBA implementing technical standards for supervisory reporting in the EU as a case-study of how the Meroni doctrine works in practice in a particular context. The fourth session featured presentations on the work TARN has accomplished in the past years.
TARN Dialogues

TARN has organised three dialogues aimed at fostering the exchange of experiences, knowledge and expertise between academicians, policy makers, civil servants and civil society.

The first dialogue session was held on 29 June 2016 in Brussels. The event coincided with TARN’s launch, and it consisted of three groups, which discussed four topics in breakout sessions. The topics covered were ‘Interinstitutional relations, constitutionality and accountability’, ‘Power, procedures, and judicial review’, ‘International dimension of EU Agencies’, and ‘Functionality, budgets, risks and efficiency’. The conclusions of the breakout sessions can be found at the following link: Conclusions 29 June 2016

The second dialogue session was held on 21 September 2017 in Brussels. During the event a discussion took place about the future challenges of EU agencies. Academics and practitioners came together to discuss in five panels issues relating to ‘Budgets & Accountability’, ‘Performance & Effectiveness’, ‘Expertise, Transparency, & Independence’, ‘International Cooperation & Competition’ and ‘Relations with National Authorities, Stakeholders & Citizens’. The conclusions of the panels can be found at the following link: Conclusions 21 September 2017

The third dialogue session took place on 13 April 2018 in Brussels. The dialogue was held in a roundtable format, and was intended to take stock of three years of action and interaction from and between academics and practitioners. Consequently, an agenda for reform was drawn up focusing on issues such as: ‘Has the agency mandate been extended too widely?’, ‘Can other forms of institutional innovation take the strain?’, ‘Are new forms of accountability available which are more compatible with the duty of the EU executive to provide efficient and effective (good) governance?’, ‘How can we minimise politics where it is a distraction, and maximise politics when it is needed?’, ‘How does the poor bureaucratic function in a world of complex and conflicting demands for accountability and action?’. A report from the dialogue session can be found as a blog at the following link: Report 13 April 2018
An extra debate on EU agencies was organised on 7 December 2017 in Maastricht. The event, entitled ‘EU Agencies in the Future Europe’ was held in the context of the programme of ‘Europe Calling!’, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty. The debate was held in a round table discussion EU Agencies: Challenges ahead; with panellists:

- Adam Farkas, executive director of the EBA,
- Alberto Spagnolli, Head of the Executive Office Unit of EFSA,
- James Calleja, Executive Director of Cedefop,
- Luis de Eusebio Ramos, Deputy Director Europol
- Graham Smith, Member of Cabinet, European Ombudsman
- Monique Goyens, Director General, European Consumer Organisation, BEUC
- Minas Konstantinidis, Legal Service, European Commission
- Deirdre Curtin, Professor of EU law, European University Institute

The audience was made up of academics, practitioners, and interested citizens. The themes discussed were: ‘Stakeholders and Citizens’, ‘Expertise, Independence & Transparency of EU Agencies’ and ‘Accountability of EU Agencies towards EU Institutions, Member States and Citizens’. A report from the event can be found at the following link: Report 7 December 2017

TARN Social Media

TARN has created an interactive environment that allows for transparency and active participation through its online presence. As such, even those that did not have the opportunity to directly take part in TARN’s activities, were able to participate online. Consequently, TARN has been active on all mainstream social media platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. Additionally, TARN has made video reports of its events, and was even able to livestream its debate on EU agencies in the Future Europe which allowed for real time interaction with a worldwide audience.
TARN Impact, Visibility and dissemination

Due to the increasing importance of agencies, TARN has received wide attention both from academics and practitioners. Over the years TARN has proven importance of existence and it has demonstrated its added value.

This resulted in TARN being invited to various events. TARN partners were inter alia invited to come and speak before the European Parliament and the European Consumer Organisation BEUC. TARN also received additional funding to organise an additional event, a debate on EU agencies on in the Future Europe. TARN was also invited to co-organise a conference with the European Banking Authority, an event that was not foreseen in the original application. TARN was invited to organise one day on EU agencies in a Summer School on EU reform in Montenegro. TARN offered six scholarships to students participating in this summer school to allow them to learn about EU agencies.

All this has thus led to extra activity, output and visibility of TARN. Research carried out in the framework of TARN has been put on the TARN website and is hence visible to anyone interested in EU agencies. Both the website and social media have been successful in attracting attention by interested academic and practitioners. Research output has always been discussed directly with relevant stakeholders, both in academic conferences and TARN dialogue sessions. Young researchers have approached TARN themselves to become member of TARNPYRP.

TARN's website is known in the field by now.

TARN has also received many requests for information on events held. TARN's calls for papers in relation to conferences have also added to TARN's visibility in the academic world.

TARN's research has revealed three key challenges that have to be faced by EU agencies. In a sense, agencies have been a victim of their own success. Indeed, the institutions seem them as useful instruments to address deficits in policy implementation or as answers to policy crises,
resulting in a ‘mushrooming’ of agencies in absence of a clear framework. However, a well thought out framework would allow a more considered definition of the mandates of the EU agencies and the (accountability, budgetary, etc.) requirements imposed on them. Today

1. agencies are fighting to maintain their legitimating efficiency within more stringent budgetary requirements;
2. agencies struggle to balance European and international challenges;
3. agencies are trying to satisfy, an often burdensome and counterproductive, accountability regime.

These issues have been discussed with a number of stakeholders and TARN drafted a few policy recommendations in order to address these challenges. With this TARN intends to give input to challenges faced. In this manner it aims to contribute to setting a research agenda, but also giving input to the practice of EU agencies and the debate that will continue to take place precisely on these issues within the European Parliament, the Council and the Member States, the Commission and the European Agencies.

**Sustainability: TARN 2.0**

Having set a research agenda, TARN will continue to organise conferences, workshops and dialogues beyond the EU funding. Funding will be attracted by the project partners and three scholars have formally joined the TARN governance in what is now called TARN’s steering committee: Dr. Merijn Chamon, Ghent University, Prof. Justin Orlando Frosini Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe and Bocconi University and Dr. Marko Milenkovic, Bologna Institute for Policy Research. Two events are already scheduled for 2019, whilst two new TARN working papers have appeared.