

# Panel 6: Control, accountability and coordination of regulatory agencies at the national and international level

## **Organizers:**

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Since the 1980s and 1990s, regulation has increased both in the public and private domain. Public sectors have been liberalized and marketized, leading to an increase in independent regulatory agencies on the one hand and increased regulation to protect citizens and counter unfair competition on the other hand. In private sector markets, competition is strengthened by the cartel police and other regulators. Examples of regulatory agencies can be found in for example the health sector, the labor market, infrastructure and construction sectors, and financial markets. The trend towards more regulation is not only found at the national level of states, but also at the international level of organizations like the EU and OECD. Moreover, such international organizations encourage regulation at state level as they push member states towards more liberalization and the better regulation of markets.

This panel focused on regulatory agencies, both at state and international level. Particularly, we were interested in the consequences of the creation of these new authorities both in terms of their own performance and existence, as well as the effects of their existence on public and private markets. Several topics were of interest, for example:

1. To what extent are/can (semi)-independent agencies be controlled by political principals such as ministers, ministries and parliament?
2. Regulatory agencies are non-elected bodies. How does this affect the democratic accountability of regulatory agencies and/or their political principals?
3. Has the establishment of regulatory authorities changed existing (transnational) policy networks and configurations, and if so in what manner? What is the role or position of regulatory agencies in these policy networks?
4. How do international and national regulatory agencies coordinate their activities when operating in similar or overlapping competencies/sectors?

Papers on related topics, with a national or international-comparative perspective, as well as a multi-level/EU regulation focus, or focus on specific policy sectors were welcome.

The theme of this panel was linked to the NIG research programme, in particular to the themes of public management (because of re-regulation following privatization and liberalization) and the future of the nation state (because of the advent of international regulatory authorities).