

STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL SETTING FOR REGULATORY REFORM

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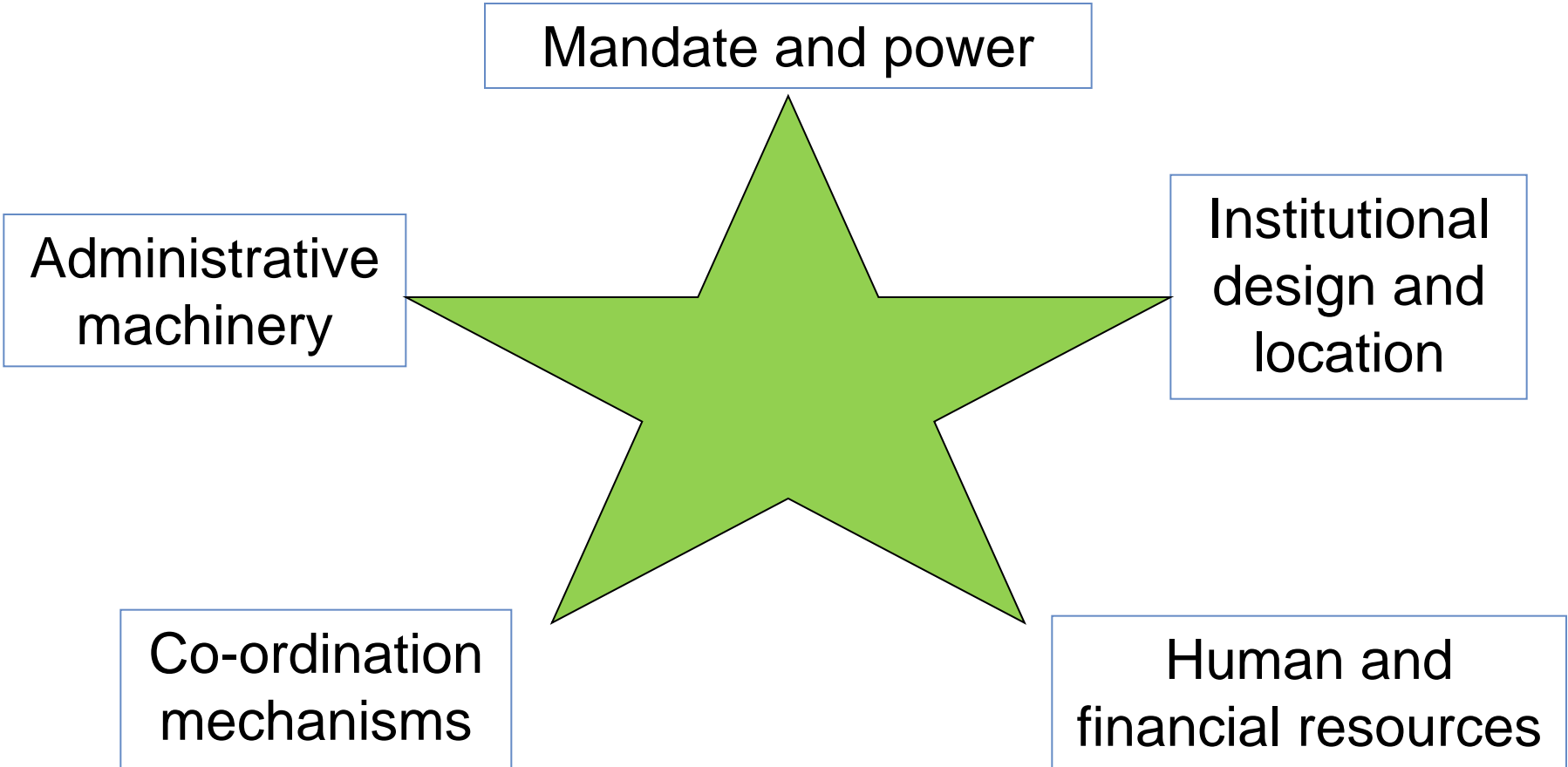
OECD

Regulatory Policy Division

Governing Regulatory Oversight

- An explicit focus on key institutional design issues:
 - units, agencies, committees, advocacy bodies
 - Within the executive or at arms' length from government
 - With or without a Secretariat
- Four key functions:
 - Co-ordination (most widespread)
 - Challenge function (fairly common, but to which extent?)
 - Training and advice (less)
 - Advocacy (but also other institutions)
- Recent empirical study with C. Cordova-Novion. Building also on previous OECD work on regulators (2005).

Key elements of institutional design



Assessing institutional performance

- Policy coherence & co-ordination
- Stability
- Adaptability and responsiveness
- Implementation strategies
- Forging a political constituency

Lessons from implementation

- ✓ Similarities and differences
 - *Tradition and constitutional aspects*
 - *Controlling the 'regulators of regulators'*
- ✓ Networks versus centralisation
- ✓ Addressing trade-offs
 - *'Low hanging fruits' Vs 'big prizes'*
 - *Ensuring stability while seizing opportunities*
- ✓ Balancing the need for evidence base and political relevance

Scope for autonomous bodies

- ✓ Significant trend: Germany, Sweden, UK, Netherlands
- ✓ To which extent regulatory quality oversight can really be decentralised?
Technical expertise versus formal assessment
- ✓ Political discretion versus rule-based systems
- ✓ Role in terms of advocacy and reaching out to a wider public

Addressing broader challenges

- ✓ Moving into compliance: compliance costs
- ✓ Broader perspective on regulators: integrity, conflict of interest, enforcement
- ✓ Links with *ex post* review mechanisms
- ✓ Role in terms of advocacy and reaching out to a wider public
- ✓ Establish capacity for strategic foresight

CONCLUSION

- Institutional creativity across the globe
- Beyond political cycles
- Links with trust in government, accountability and transparency

... Report will soon be out (as soon as the conference is over).