



DIRECTORY

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A Directory of Information Sources

The purpose of this note is to provide guidance on some of the sources of information that you may find helpful when exploring international policy comparisons. It is by no means exhaustive. If there are sources that you find particularly helpful and that we have not listed here - or if you would like to add comments about some of those that we have included - please let us know. A contact address is given at the end: get in touch, and we will include your suggestions in future versions of this guidance. Alternatively, you can post your observations directly on the Policy Hub website, at www.cmps.gov.uk/policyhub.

The note is presented in four sections:

Scanning the horizon

resources that will help you find out in general terms what other countries are doing in particular policy areas.

Contacts

resources that will help you locate contacts in other countries, in order to obtain more detailed information about their policies and programmes.

Specific topics

advice on identifying specialised sources of information relevant to your particular organisation.

Background

a bibliography of general background reading on international policy transfer and lesson-learning.

These are not, however, hard and fast categories; some of the resources listed will serve more than one purpose. If you are just beginning the process of seeking out information about international approaches to a particular policy issue, the best advice, as ever, is to start by consulting the experts. In this case that means your organisation's library and information specialists, who will be able to help you locate the most appropriate available resources to meet your needs. This brief guidance is not intended to be a substitute for good professional help.

Government's Centre for Management and Policy Studies

CMPS

A. SCANNING THE HORIZON

There are many web sites which will provide you with valuable overview information about developments in a number of countries. Some of these are listed below. There are also a number of guides available which may help you in carrying out research on the internet, such as:

Ó Dochartaigh, N. (2001), *The Internet Research Handbook*. London: Sage.

International and Supranational Organisations

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

ASEAN was established by treaty in 1967 and now has 10 member countries; the Association's aim is to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development of the region, and to promote regional peace and stability. Its web site is somewhat heavily dominated by transcripts of set-piece political speeches, but does provide some useful insights into policy developments, particularly those involving co-operation between member countries. It also gives access to some detailed statistical data, and links to member countries' own web sites.
<http://www.aseansec.org/1024x768.html>

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation of 43 member states. Its principal focus is on protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, but it is active in a wide range of policy areas. Its web site makes reference to policy initiatives and projects in individual member states and across Europe, to comparative studies of differing policy approaches, and to the collection of information on good practice on many issues. It provides, however, little in the way of downloadable material or links to substantive sources.
<http://coe.int/portal.T.asp>

EUROPEAN UNION

Europa is the portal site of the European Union (<http://europa.eu.int/>), and provides up-to-date coverage of European affairs. It is, as one would expect, principally concerned with the institutions and policies of the EU itself, but much of the information that

can be accessed through the alphabetical index on the Commission's site provides indications of current developments in member and candidate states. For example, the section on enterprise policy includes a category on innovations and measures to improve outputs in public administration; the second link below provides a digest of candidate countries' initiatives in this field.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise_policy/bestdirectory/en/administration/index.htm

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise/policy/enlargement/cc-best_directory/index.htm

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

The IMF is a specialised agency of the United Nations system of organisations, and came into being as a result of the 1944 Bretton Woods conference. It has a membership of 183 countries, and is the central institution of the international monetary system. It promotes sound macroeconomic and financial policies amongst its members, as well as providing temporary financing for countries with balance of payments difficulties. Its web site provides access to a large amount of background information on the economic and financial performance of member countries, though little insight into detailed policy initiatives.
<http://www.imf.org/external/country/index.htm>

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The OECD is a group of 30 member countries from across the world that share a commitment to democratic government and the market economy.

As its web site says, "its work covers economic and social issues from macroeconomics, to trade, education, development and science and innovation. The OECD plays a prominent role in fostering good governance in public service and corporate activity. It helps governments to ensure responsiveness of key economic areas with sectoral monitoring. By deciphering emerging issues and identifying policies that work, it helps policy-makers adopt strategic orientations." The OECD is well known for its publications and its statistics, including its individual country surveys and reviews, and a wealth of material is available through the web site. The home page is a good place to start, with a lot of useful links: <http://www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/home>

PUMA - THE PUBLIC MANAGEMENT SERVICE OF THE OECD

PUMA reports and analyses information on public management and governance developments in OECD member countries. Its mission is to assist governments in building and strengthening efficient and transparent government structures; to map and analyse diverse approaches to governance challenges; to produce guidelines for use in designing or evaluating policies; and to create a forum for the exchange of ideas. PUMA frequently publishes comparisons of public sector developments in OECD countries. <http://www1.oecd.org/puma/links.htm>

WORLD BANK

The World Bank Group (which includes the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) is another agency within the UN system of organisations. Like the IMF it had its origins in the Bretton Woods conference, and now has 183 member countries. The overarching goal of its work is poverty reduction: within this its activities include lending to developing countries and countries in transition to finance infrastructure projects, the reform of sectors of the economy, and broader structural reforms. Its web site provides access to

more than 14,000 documents and reports on-line, covering developed as well as developing economies, and including research material and comparative studies relevant to a wide range of policy issues. <http://www.worldbank.org/>

Research Institutes

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

EIPA is a training, consultancy and research institute established to meet the needs of public officials in the European institutions, member states and accession countries. Its work has a very strong comparative focus, which is reflected in the Working Papers that can be accessed through its web site. http://eipa-nl.com/public/public_publications/working_index.thm

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES

The IGS is part of the University of Berkeley at California. Its web site has a very strong focus on US, and specifically Californian, political and policy issues. It provides access to a large number of working papers, and although these are by no means exclusively American in content the site is probably most useful as a window into the current state of policy debate in the US. <http://www.igs.berkeley.edu/>

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES (IIAS)

IIAS is an international association linked to the United Nations system of organisations. Its purpose is to bring together researchers and practitioners in the fields of public administration and public sector management, and to disseminate innovations. Its quarterly journal, the *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, publishes research from around the world, and it maintains an extensive network of experts which may be of assistance in establishing international contacts. <http://www.iiasiisa.be/iias/aiacc.htm>

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

IIASA is a non-governmental research institute, sponsored by scientific member organisations from 17 countries, and located in Austria. Its web site provides access to research reports, including some comparative studies of differing national policy approaches in a number of areas of policy interest, including air pollution, land use, rural development, social security reform and long term care.
<http://www.iasa.ac.at/>

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT (NIRA) REVIEW

NIRA is a Japanese institution which provides some exemplary English-language comparative material. The NIRA Review is a quarterly journal of debate and analysis on current policy research worldwide, edited by the Center for Policy Research Information.
<http://www.nira.go.jp/publ/review/>

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT (NIRA) WORLD DIRECTORY OF THINK TANKS

A very useful site which provides access to the web sites of think tanks throughout the world. The section on the US details such organisations as the Brookings Institute, the Center for International Policy and the Institute for Policy Studies. Fourteen entries are provided for the UK including the Adam Smith Institute, the Centre for Policy Studies, the Institute for Public Policy Research, and The Policy Studies Institute.
<http://www.nira.go.jp/ice/tt-info/nwdtt99/index.html>

UK Government Resources

HM TREASURY

For users connected to the UK Government Secure Intranet (GSI), the Treasury's GSI web site provides access to a good range of international reference material on public spending and public services, including links to the sites of many of the other

organisations listed in this Directory.
http://www.hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk/psd/intl_issues/intl_issues_home.htm

POLICY HUB

The Policy Hub area of the UK Centre for Management and Policy Studies web site is intended to support improvements in policy making. Many of the materials to which links are provided as resources for evidence-based policy making are also listed in this Directory as sources of international comparative information.
<http://www.cmps.gov.uk/policyhub>

Other Organisations and Information Sources

ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT

As its own web site declares, the US-based Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) "aspires to be the leading professional organization dedicated to blending the talents of researchers, educators and practitioners in the production, dissemination and application of analysis bearing on public concerns. The Association is and aims to remain much more than an interdisciplinary umbrella. Through APPAM, public policy analysis and management will continue evolving toward an integrated field of study that supports the applied professions that address societal problems and opportunities."
<http://www.appam.org>

COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT (CAPAM)

CAPAM seeks to develop public management and promote democracy and good governance throughout the Commonwealth by encouraging the "exchange of experience among its extensive network of senior elected and appointed public officials, academics, and representatives of non-governmental organisations and the private sector."
<http://www.capam.comnet.mt/>

GLOBAL POLICY FORUM

The GPF is an independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to monitoring global policy making at the UN. It publishes on its web site a very large amount of information about the work of the UN and its agencies and programmes, including a catalogue of web links to relevant sites sorted by policy topic.

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/resource/weblinks/index.htm>

INTERNATIONAL REFORM MONITOR

The International Reform Monitor is a project of the German Bertelsmann Foundation. It aims to identify promising systems and innovative ideas for reform as early as possible in order to provide valuable input for social and political debate. Its web site provides selected information on labour market policy, industrial relations and social policy (health care, pensions provision, family policy, welfare) in 15 OECD countries:

Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and USA. It also provides links to the responsible government departments in the countries concerned and to relevant research institutes and non-governmental organisations.

<http://www.reformmonitor.org/>

LEXISNEXIS

This is an American commercial venture offering a vast range of products and services, including access to newspaper editorials, official documents, reports and conference proceedings. Its services are available on a subscription or pay-as-you-go basis: your library may already have a subscription.

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/academic/universe/CurrentIssues/features.shtml>

POLICYBRIEF

Policybrief is a co-operative project by 16 independent policy institutes in the UK to provide access to their research reports and briefings. It makes a wide range of material available, but only a minority of this contains any comparative element or reference to developments outside the UK.

<http://www.policybrief.org>

POLICY LIBRARY

The Policy Library is owned by Policy Solutions, a public policy consultancy. It aims to provide on-line access to a comprehensive range of policy and research papers, from universities, independent research institutes and government departments. Its coverage includes resources in the UK, the wider English-speaking world, and Europe. The web site comprises a database and search facility, and reviews of the literature in some main policy areas.

<http://www.policylibrary.com/>

POLICY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The Policy Research Initiative is a project of the federal government of Canada, launched by the Clerk of the Privy Council, which aims to increase the government's capacity to identify, understand and address longer-term policy issues. Its web site provides insights into current areas of policy development in Canada.

<http://policyresearch.gc.ca/>

REFDESK

Refdesk is a privately-owned, US-based undertaking that aims to index and link to a wide range of internet sites. It provides easy access to selected news media from around the world and to various reference sources.

<http://refdesk.com/fastfact.html>

B. CONTACTS

This section includes both internet and printed sources of information that may help you track down the people with whom you need to make contact, in order to learn more about the policies and programmes you are examining.

The Research Community

The World of Learning 2002 (2001).
London: Europa Publications.

A standard reference book in most libraries and updated annually, this is an indispensable guide which permits the user to locate academic institutions throughout the world. It is divided by country and lists universities and colleges; learned societies; research institutes; and libraries and archives. It may help you to locate sources of academic expertise in the field which you are examining. This publication is also available on-line (at the same price as the print version) from January 2002.

FUTURE GOVERNANCE

This research programme, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, comprises 30 individual research projects in the social sciences which explore "the scope for drawing policy lessons from cross-national experience". The web site provides information about both the programme and its constituent projects, and thus a valuable indication of where research expertise relating to some major policy areas is located in the UK.
<http://www.futuregovernance.ac.uk>

Benchmarking

PUBLIC SECTOR BENCHMARKING SERVICE

The Public Sector Benchmarking Service is a joint venture of the UK Cabinet Office and HM Customs and Excise. It aims to provide a focal point for managing knowledge about benchmarking and related improvement initiatives, and for the exchange of information about modern public service delivery. The web site provides, for registered members, access to a database of source materials and to news, discussion and interest groups. The focus of this service is primarily on service delivery and business process improvement, but the various community groups may prove a useful means of locating contacts in other countries with knowledge of specific developments.
<http://www.benchmarking.gov.uk>

National Governments

For many purposes it will prove possible to identify suitable contact points through the portals maintained by or on behalf of national governments.

For example:

AUSTRALIA

The general point of entry to the web sites of the federal, state and territory governments.

<http://www.gov.au>

CANADA

The federal government portal, which also provides links to provincial and territorial government web sites.

<http://canada.gc.ca>

NEW ZEALAND

NZGO - New Zealand Government Online is the official gateway which provides access to both central and local government web sites.

<http://www.govt.nz>

USA

FirstGov, the US federal government portal, is a public-private partnership administered by the General Services Administration. It also provides links to state, local, territory and tribal web sites.

<http://firstgov.gov>

There are also some extremely useful printed resources, for example:

Europa World Year Book 2001, 2 vols. London: Europa Publications.

Arguably the most authoritative and comprehensive reference guide of its type, and again a standard reference book in most libraries, this Year Book comprises an alphabetical survey of the countries of the world (from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe). Individual chapters contain details of the country's recent history, government, economic affairs, social welfare, education etc, which may prove helpful in a general scanning for comparative

information. Of particular relevance, however, is a directory section which records the names, addresses and other useful facts (including web site addresses where available) for government ministers and departments; political parties; diplomatic representatives; the judiciary, and so on. This is updated annually.

The International Directory of Government (1999), 3rd edition.

London: Europa Publications. Another large reference work, not updated annually. It provides a description of the system of government of every country in the world, together with details of government departments and other public bodies, and the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of principal officials.

Turner, B., ed. (2001), *The Statesman's Yearbook 2002*, 138th edition. Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave and *Whitaker's Almanack 2001* (2000). London: The Stationery Office

are rather smaller reference books, and possibly therefore more widely available, but contain correspondingly less detailed contact information for organisations in the countries surveyed.

If you need to establish contact either with other countries' diplomatic missions in London or with UK representation abroad, the indispensable reference sources are:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2001), *The Diplomatic Service List 2002*, 37th edition. London: The Stationery Office.

This annual list gives details of UK diplomatic and consular representatives abroad, and their staff.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (December 2001), **The London Diplomatic List 2002**. London: The Stationery Office.

This list of the representatives in London of foreign states and Commonwealth countries, and their diplomatic staff, is updated six-monthly.

Finally, it is possible that on some occasions the various national schools of public administration, and equivalent organisations, may be able to provide information about specific current policy developments in their countries, and the details of appropriate contacts within government. A selection of web sites is shown below.

AUSTRIA

Verwaltungsakademie des Bundes (VAB); Federal Academy of Public Administration
<http://www.vab.ac.at>

CANADA

Canadian Centre for Management Development (CCMD); Centre canadien de gestion
<http://www.ccmd-ccg.gc.ca>

DENMARK

Danmarks forvaltningshøjskole; Danish School of Public Administration (DSPA)
<http://www.dspa.dk>

FINLAND

Hallinon kehittämiskekus (HAUS); Finnish Institute of Public Management
<http://www.haus.fi>

FRANCE

Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA)
<http://www.ena.fr>

GERMANY

Bundesakademie für öffentliche Verwaltung (BAKöV)
<http://www.bakoev.bund.de>

ITALY

Scuola Superiore dell'Amministrazione dell'Interno (SSAI)
<http://www.ssai.net>

Scuola Superiore della Pubblica Amministrazione (SSPA)
<http://www.sspa.it>

NETHERLANDS

Institute for Public Administration (ROI) <http://www.roi-opl.nl>

PORTUGAL

Instituto Nacional de Administração (INA)
<http://www.ina.pt>

C. SPECIFIC TOPICS

The resources listed in the preceding sections are potentially valuable sources of information in relation to a wide range of possible policy topics. In addition to these, individual departments and organisations will have sources that are particularly relevant to their specific areas of policy interest. It is impossible to provide a comprehensive listing of these, but if you know of particular items that you think we should mention here please let us know.

Examples of this kind of specialised information resource include the following web sites:

CEDEFOP

Cedefop (the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training; Centre Européen pour le Développement de la Formation Professionnelle) is the European agency established to support decision-making in the field of vocational training. It offers information about publications and access to ETV, an interactive web site for the exchange of information.
<http://www.cedefop.eu.int/>

In many areas there are also specialised printed reference works, such as:

Performing Arts Yearbook 2001 Edition (2000). London: Arts Publishing International Ltd.

International Directory of Arts (2001), 26th edition. München: Saur Velag.

EURYDICE

Eurydice is part of Socrates, the Community Programme on Education run by the DG Education and Culture of the European Commission. It provides detailed and highly-structured comparative information about the education, initial training and adult education systems, and ongoing reforms, in all of the member states, EFTA/EEA countries and candidate countries.
<http://www.eurydice.org>

In order to track down the best equivalent sources of comparative international information relevant to your particular policy concerns, the best place to start is by consulting your own organisation's library and information specialists. As when seeking specialist advice in any discipline, be sure to brief them carefully on the context of your enquiry and what it is you really want to know. Remember that they may well have dealt with similar enquiries before. They may also be aware of some of the differences in technical terminology, even between English-speaking countries, that would reduce the usefulness of too narrowly focussed a search.

FSM KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The FSM Knowledge Exchange Global Tax Forum is an initiative of the OECD, through the Forum on Strategic Management, to provide a place where revenue authorities can quickly research new developments and best practice approaches in relation to tax administration. This is a multilingual web site.
<http://www.fsmke.org>

In government departments the use of intranets to disseminate departmental briefing material and background information is developing rapidly. For example, the DWP/ DfES Joint International Relations Unit is making available on the DWP intranet from April 2002 a database of international material (such as reports of visits, contacts etc) that could not otherwise be accessed. Do make sure that you are making full use of in-house resources of this kind.

BACKGROUND

This section provides a bibliography of general background reading. It reflects some of the large body of academic research into international policy transfer and lesson-learning that has been conducted in recent years. It also lists some recent reports (for example by the Cabinet Office and the National Audit Office) which establish the part that an outward-looking perspective and the effective use of international comparisons can play in improving policy making.

- Bennett, C. (1991)**, "How States Utilise Foreign Evidence", *Journal of Public Policy*, 11 (1), 33-54.
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- Brückner, L., Jordan, J., Wurzel, R. and Zito, A. (2001)**, "Policy Learning and the Transfer of New Environmental Policy Instruments (NEPI) in the European Union", Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- Bullock, H., Mountford, J. and Stanley, R. (2001)**, *Better Policy-Making*. London: CMPS.
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- Civil Service College (1997)**, *Policy Work Processes in the Home Office: A Report by the Civil Service College*.
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- Dolowitz, D., Hulme R., Nellis M. and O'Neill F. (2000)**, *Policy Transfer and British Social Policy: Learning from the USA?* Buckingham and New York: Open University Press.
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- Evans, M. and Davies, J. (1999)**, "Understanding Policy Transfer: a Multi-level, Multi-disciplinary Perspective", *Public Administration*, 77 (2), 361-385.
- Freeman, R. (1999)**, "Policy Transfer in the Health Sector", Social Learning in the Health Sector working paper, University of Edinburgh, <http://www.pol.ed.ac.uk/research/freeman/sociallearninghealth/workingpaper.html>.
- Furlong, P. (2000)**, "Constitutional Change as Policy Transfer; Policy Transfer as Constitutional Change", Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

- Geertz, C. (1975),**
The Interpretation of Cultures.
London: Hutchinson.
- Goetz, K. and Philip, G. (2000),**
"Transferring 'Good Governance' to Emerging Democracies: Ideas and Institutional Change", Paper presented at the ESRC Future Governance Workshop on Policy Transfer.
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"Learning to Learn: Improving International Governance",
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1 (3), 255-284.
- Hall, P. (1993),**
"Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State",
Comparative Politics,
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- Hogwood, B. and Peters G. (2000),**
"Diffuse or Diverse? Explaining Patterns of Public Employment", Paper presented at the ESRC Future Governance Workshop on Policy Transfer.
- Jones, T. and Newburn, T. (2002),**
"Learning from Uncle Sam? Exploring U.S. Influences on British Crime Control Policy",
Governance,
15 (1), 97-119.
- Jordan A., Wurzel, R. and Zito, A. (2000),**
"Innovating with 'New' Environmental Policy Instruments: Convergence or Divergence in the European Union", Paper presented at the ESRC Future Governance Workshop on Policy Transfer.
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Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law,
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Washington, D.C: Georgetown University Press.
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Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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"Learning Lessons and Transferring Policy, across Time, Space and Disciplines",
Politics,
19 (1), 51-59.
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"Learning Lessons, Policy Transfer and the International Diffusion of Policy Ideas", University of Warwick, CSGR Working Paper No. 69/01.
- Strassheim, H. (2001),**
"Siren Call – The Dynamics of Political Benchmarking and the US-Welfare Reforms", WZ Berlin, Working Paper FS II 01-201.
- Thatcher, M. (2000),**
"Cross-national Linkages and Regulatory Reform in Europe", Paper presented at the ESRC Future Governance Workshop on Policy Transfer.
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"State Intervention Policies in the Field of Work-oriented Additional Training",
Vocational Training European Journal,
13, 44-55.
- Wolman, H. (1992),**
"Understanding Cross-national Policy Transfers: the Case of Britain and the US",
Governance,
5, 27-45.