

Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building

Anne Purcell White
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DOJ-FTC Technical Assistance Report

- After nearly 500 long and short-term technical assistance missions, over two decades, we held a workshop to review our work and chart a course for the future.
- Nearly 100 participants. Panelists from other competition agencies, multilateral organizations, academics and business community.
- Report issued last month.

Findings

- Interaction is a two-way street – technical cooperation is a better way to describe what we do.
- Long-term engagement and planning is necessary.
- Effectiveness depends on the quality of the advisor. Experience at a competition agency counts a lot.
- Training “supporting institutions” essential.

Capacity Building – Organizational Issues Faced by New Agencies

- Hiring: Who will you hire?
- Organization: Functional or sectoral lines? Dedicated cartel unit? How will you integrate economists?
- Training: Internal and external training needed.
- Turnover/Maintain “Institutional Memory”

Capacity Building -- Priorities

- Setting Priorities
- Communicating them
- Don't be afraid to bring cases but choose first ones carefully

Capacity Building – Transparency Issues

- Transparency: How will you inform the public what you are doing, what your priorities are, what your substantive standards are, and what can be expected from a procedural standpoint?
- Transparency: How will you communicate with parties under investigation? How will they know what your concerns are so they can attempt to address them?
- Press policies
- Maintain important balance between transparency and respect for confidentiality

Capacity Building -- Effectiveness

- How will you monitor compliance with your orders and settlements?
- How will you evaluate the effectiveness of your work?
Important to assure outsiders of your value but also critical to guide agency planning and priorities.

Sources of Information

- OECD and ICN (e.g., Agency Effectiveness Working Group, Experience Sharing Calls)
- Other competition agencies are happy to help