The European Governance Monitor (EGM) is a tool designed for both policy analysts and practitioners to understand how EU member states and EU institutions work together in designing and implementing EU policies – a process we call co-governance.

The EGM
- maps the key institutions involved in co-governance
- measures their performance, and
- offers best-practice insights for improvements

Clearly, European governments must work together closely to implement EU policies in efficient and effective ways. This is where the European Governance Monitor (EGM) comes in: it brings to light central performance measures on how key institutions across Europe actually do work together when designing and implementing EU policies. By providing such critical information, the EGM helps member states to benefit from the knowledge and experience of their European counterparts.

The alternative to good co-governance performance at the European level is a scenario where each member state 'goes it alone' and to the detriment of policy cohesion. EU governance has received a wake-up call with British citizens voting for Brexit. Governments and Institutions must work more effectively together, while guarding national interests, for the EU to be fit for purpose and live up to its potential. However, such co-governance must be evaluated in all relevant policy areas, on a regular basis, and communicated to key stakeholders. By showing how co-governance works "on the ground," and how it can be improved by way of best-practice examples, the EGM seeks to contribute to better understanding of the complex policy processes linking EU institutions and member states.

In this context, the EGM will initially focus on two key areas of co-governance that so far have received little systematic attention by policy analysts and experts:

1. **European Semester**, the process during which key actors at EU and national levels negotiate the Country Specific Recommendations. Based on these negotiations and their outcomes, member states are expected to implement relevant policies and measures.

2. **Network participation**. EU representatives set up task-specific networks to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, information, experiences, best practices and offer guidance with regards to EU policy.   The goal is mutual support among member states and European Commission representatives.

The two main networks in the employment policy field are the **'Mutual Learning Program'** (MLP) and the **'Public Employment Service'** (PES) networks. The EGM evaluates these two networks, as well as the **Benchlearning network,** which is part of the PES, between 2006-2016. Once fully documented and analysed, these findings will offer vital **'best practice recommendations'** for experts and practitioners for improving EU policy implementation and co-governance performance.

The findings from this network analysis will be presented at a Dahrendorf Forum workshop for public sector experts and practitioners on 28 June 2017 at the Representation of the European Commission in Berlin.

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