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Trends in Telecommunication Reform 2002: Effective Regulation 4th edition, 2002



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The fourth edition of *Trends in Telecommunication Reform* is dedicated to the theme of effective and independent regulations. Since the beginning of the 1990s, the number of regulatory institutions has increased from 13 to more than 110, with many of them having been created in the past five years. But merely creating a regulatory body without empowering it to be effective is not enough. The report looks at the need for regulators; the process of creating a regulator; definitions of independence; why effectiveness may be more important than independence; powers and functions of the regulator; transparency in the decision-making process; organizational structure and finance issues. It is structured into nine chapters.

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In the last decade, the reform of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector resulted in major changes at the regulatory and institutional levels. One of the most striking changes has been the rise of regulatory agencies for telecommunications and related industries. More than 110 governments around the world have created regulatory entities and many more are planning to do so in the near future. The rise in regulatory agencies is due to the fact that countries have recognized that the most fundamental task of ICT sector reform is to establish an effective and transparent regulatory authority.

The means by which each country creates, structures and implements its regulatory body is one of the most important factors in the success of its reform process. It is one thing for countries to make a policy decision to create a regulatory agency, and quite another to empower the agency to act independently and effectively. Regulatory agencies are not created in vacuums. Inevitably, they are the products of political, social, legal and economic conditions that exist at fixed points in time in each country. Of course, these conditions are not static: regulatory approaches and policies change, and agencies change with them.

Trends 2002 includes one chapter highlighting global trends in market reform. The other chapters explore why regulators are needed, the institutional framework of regulation, general and specific regulatory functions and powers, transparency and fairness, staffing and financing. The final chapter highlights best practices to achieve effective and transparent regulation.

Trends 2002 is an invaluable guide and reference document for regulators, policy-makers and operators.

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