

C.F.J. (Ynke) Feenstra¹, I.G. Bunzeck²

COPY & PASTE POLICIES?! AN ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSFERABILITY OF SUCCESSFUL LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLICIES RELATED TO ALTERNATIVE FUELS

¹ Energy research Centre of the Netherlands, the Netherlands, +31-224-568262, feenstra@ecm.nl

² Energy research Centre of the Netherlands, the Netherlands, +31-224-568263, bunzeck@ecm.nl

OVERVIEW

This paper focuses on the transferability of governmental policies that support the use, technology development and implementation of alternative fuels and alternative fuel technologies within the EU. We investigate in this paper to what extent successful existing policies related to this field can be transferred to other situations, f.e. other geographic locations and/or other fuels or fuel technologies. The outcomes of this research are translated into concrete recommendations for policy makers in the EU to support them in the creation and improvement of successful governmental policies to promote alternative fuels and fuel technologies on local, regional and national level.

METHODS

To analyse the transferability of policies, first a literature research is performed focusing on the concept of transferability (for example [1], [2] and [3]) and the application of it in the field of policies related to alternative fuels and fuel technologies. Based on this literature review a questionnaire is designed to collect data about existing successful policies, the alternative fuels or fuel technologies they target, the policy measures these policies consist of, the external factors influencing these policies, and the transferability of (elements of) these policies. The data collection is performed via this questionnaire which is filled in by local and national policy makers, policy observers (researchers) and policy users (representatives of transport companies) in different EU countries. The questionnaire focuses on the two most successful existing policies according to the respondent and included both open and closed (multiple choice) questions.

RESULTS

In total 61 questionnaires covering 11 EU countries and 113 successful policies on local, regional and national levels were analyzed. The outcomes show that most of the successful policies target more than one alternative fuel or fuel technology. The policies that target only one fuel are mostly promote of electric vehicles. About half of the successful policies consist of one policy measure (e.g. a fiscal or legislative measure). The other half of the policies consists of a combination of policy measures (e.g. a fiscal measure in combination with information dissemination and awareness raising). Focusing on the external factors that influence the success of the policies, we see that all categories of external factors (financial or economic factors, cultural or demographic factors, technical factors and social or ecological factors) play a large and almost equal role. Some individual factors are however playing a much larger role than others (see figure 1). 80% of the respondents conclude that the successful policy that they describe can be transferred to other situations as well. However half of them state that not the complete policy, but only some elements can be transferred. The German national plan for electric mobility for example is not completely transferable to another country because it is very much linked to existing industries and other German

circumstances. The policy goals and institutions involved however can be transferred and form the basis for a comparable policy in another country.

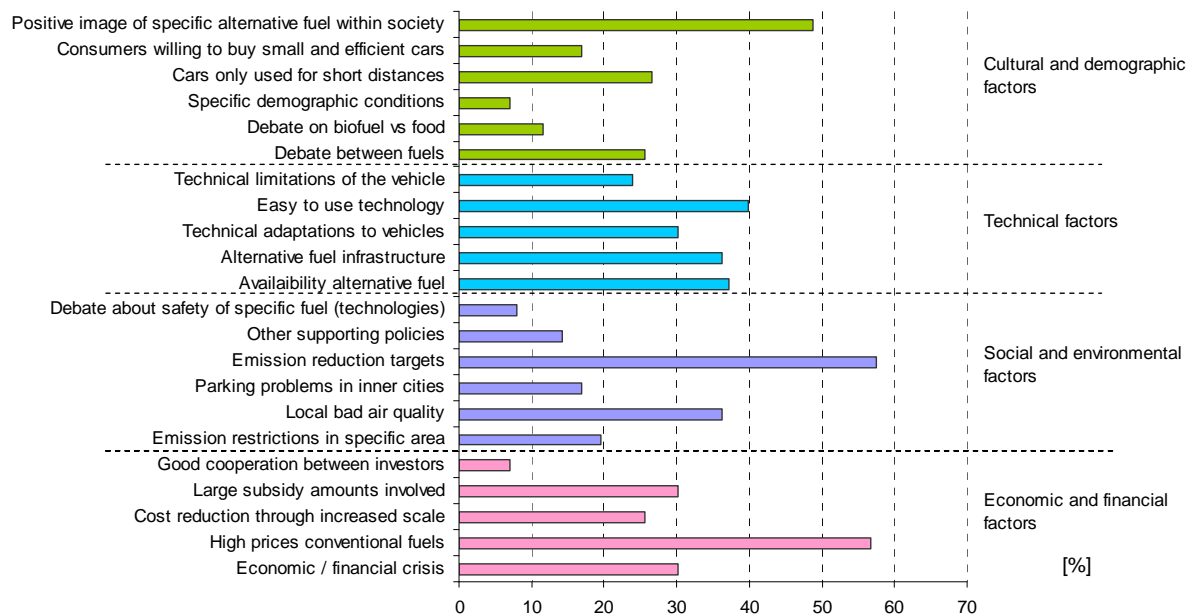


Fig 1: external factors influencing the successful policies analyzed

The successful policies can be categorized based on the phase in the fuel chain that they focus on (feedstock, fuel production, fuel distribution and sales, vehicle and end user). This categorization provides some more insights in the different characteristics and transferability of specific policies, f.e. policies related to fuel distribution and sales are mostly targeting biofuels and can more often be completely transferred to another situation.

CONCLUSION

From the literature we can conclude that limited knowledge is available on the transfer of policy in general and the transfer of policies related to alternative fuels and fuel technologies in particular. The data collected via the questionnaire provide insights in the existing policies on this field, their characteristics and the options for policy transfer. The existing successful policies have some common characteristics which can be translated into policy recommendations, f.e. the need to learn about the external factors influencing a policy that you want to copy and compare these to your own situation. Additionally the focus on the different categories of successful policies provides more detailed insights and concrete recommendations about specific policies.

REFERENCES

1. Dolowitz D.P. and Marsh, D. (2000). Learning from Abroad: The Role of Policy Transfer in Contemporary Policy-Making. In *Governance*, 13 (1), p. 5-24.
2. Dolowitz D.P. and Marsh, D. (1996). Who Learns What from Whome: a Review of the Policy Transfer Literature. In *Political Studies*, XLIV (2), p. 243-57.
3. Rose, R. (1991). What is lesson-drawing? In *Journal of Public Policy*, 11 (1), p. 3-30.