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Centralised Regulation, Involvement of Local People, Leadership of Key Policy Actors or All? Conditions of Successful Environmental Policy Integration in Turkey

Traditional organization model of bureaucracy is based upon a top-down hierarchy, specialization and division of work and complex and interdependent nature of environmental problems pose a major challenge to this model. Since environmental problems are related to a number of policy areas and sectors, integration of policy areas and sectors, co-ordination of environmental problem solving efforts and the co-operation of actors have been major policy prescriptions for the solution of environmental problems. Policy-makers and policy-documents, like the Brundtland Report, have highlighted policy integration as a solution to environmental problems.

Yet again, environmental policy was developed as a separate area of public policy and sectoral policy integration become a difficult task. As a result most of the studies in environmental policy reported failures in policy integration and prescribed policy integration as a panacea for complex and interdependent environmental problems. However, policy analysis is not only about keep reporting failures of implementation and prescribing similar policy recommendations. Policy analysis should focus on successful examples of integration and identify the conditions of success.

In this paper, two successful cases of environmental policy integration in Turkey, namely Ankara Air Pollution and Izmit Integrated Environmental Protection Projects, will be analysed and conditions of policy success will be identified. As these cases suggest, though they are necessary factors, strategies of centralised regulation and existence of a legal and institutional framework are not sufficient and do not guarantee sectoral policy integration. Involvement of local actors and most important of all existence of strong policy actors play a decisive role in the process of policy integration and environmental policy success.