Proposition de recherche doctorale

Telecommunications technologies reforms in Africa

Résumé du projet de recherche (Langue 1)

The motivation for this research takes its roots in my strong conviction that in order to enhance the pertinence of the by now well established normative framework developed by the new economics of regulation for the reforms of public utilities conducted in Africa, amendments need to be made to it so as to account for the specific characteristics of markets and institutions in these countries. This work seeks to demonstrate the need for such an “African approach” to regulation by empirically revisiting in light of the new developments, some of the important issues surrounding market reforms in telecommunications that have initially been developed in the context of advanced economies. From a public policy objective viewpoint, the aim is to analyze the economic properties and evaluate the relative performance of mechanisms that promote access to telecommunications in Africa. For this purpose, firstly I conduct a literature review where I analyse in detail quantitative and qualitative research on the two-way relationships, on the one hand, between telecommunications deployment and economic growth and, on the other hand, between telecommunications deployment and telecommunications reforms. This analysis provides the motivation to explore the privatization reform in the fixed-line incumbent in African countries since the literature on the impact and its determinants is ambiguous. We perform an empirical analysis on the impact of privatization on telecommunications deployment across different regions in the world finding that this relationship depends on regulatory, demand and political endowments. We then explore qualitatively the determinants of privatization in Africa to have a better understanding of succeed and failed reforms. We question whether donors should continue supporting privatization by default to reform fixed-line in Africa.