

short professional history

Enzo started his professional activity in the late sixties, during his last years of University in Rome, where he graduated in Social Sciences (1968).

He worked as a researcher – in connection with the University and other specialised Institutes in Italy – between 1968 and 1974 on Italian least developed regions. The main subjects addressed in his research were: regional development and the relationship between rural and industrial areas.

In 1975, he accepted a challenging long-term assignment as team leader of a group of experts to assist the Ministry of Plan in Togo in the preparation of the 1976-80 five year investment plan, with a focus on agricultural development and regional planning. He continued working in the region (mainly Togo and Ghana, but also Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso) for a few years, until 1980, particularly on matters related to regional integration. In the meantime he started working in Southern Africa, namely in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, where he went just after the independence, as an advisor on policies for the least developed areas. In 1982, he wrote a book on the Zimbabwe model of “Growth with Equity”.

In the early eighties, Enzo decided it was time to go on a sabbatical. In 1981-82 for a year, as a full time student in Development Economics at the Ecole de Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris he got a Master of Science (DEA), and then carried on with the EHESS, for few additional years with Prof. François Bourguignon, former chief economist at the World Bank, and got a PhD (Doctorat) in Economic Analysis and Policy in 1987.

In the mid-eighties Enzo worked mainly on the Sahel, on behalf of the OECD, the CILSS and other international institutions. He carried out and published researches and papers on the regional grain markets and the informal financial markets. He then extended some of the experience acquired in this area to the Horn of Africa.

In 1984, he started a significant institutional experience with the Istituto Italo-Africano, which had signed a Convention with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the aim to set up a Development Studies' Centre for research and post-graduate training on two African regions: the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. Enzo was appointed to the office of director of the Centre. He selected and consolidated a team of high quality experts, carrying out significant researches, publishing papers and conducting seminars and courses that filled an important gap in Italy at that time. During this period he also took on the activity of visiting professor at various Italian Universities – in Florence, Cosenza, Venice, Rome and others – activity that he still carries out today, teaching development economics. The period 1985-91 was also the most productive one in terms of research and publications, with two books and a number of articles.

In 1990, the financial and political conditions of the Italian cooperation were no longer able to ensure the necessary independence of the Centre at the Istituto Italo-Africano. Enzo then resigned and founded Development Researchers' Network, a company that built its strength on the wide network of expertise created through the Centre, especially in Europe.

In the meantime, the implosion of the Soviet Union created an urgent need of new expertise in the sector of transition and development. In the early nineties, Enzo was among the first Western experts going to Russia and working on transition policies and programmes, namely on promoting food and agricultural markets in the largest urbanised areas of Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Kemerovo and Yekaterinburg.

In the nineties, through his company, Enzo worked in various geographic areas, from the Central East European countries to the Newly Independent States (former Soviet States), the Balkans, the Mediterranean basin, Latin America and Far East, and —of course— he went back to Africa many times for important assignments. From this wide experience he has gained the ability to establish comparative approaches, transferring the lessons learned from one geographical area to the next.

In the past fifteen years, he has specialised in regional and country level comprehensive development and transition policies and programmes, including policies and programmes' identification, evaluation and capacity building, through consultancy contracts with the European Commission, DFID, UN system, World Bank and various Research Institutes. Some of the most significant professional experiences as study director in this period, are listed below:

- Evaluation of budget support (2004-2015):

- responsible for the methodology and member of the synthesis team in the Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support (DAC- 2004-2005).
- in 2007-2008, team leader in the study aimed at the establishment of a new methodology for evaluation of budget support operations (the 3-Step approach), on behalf of EC, in the framework of the DAC Evaluation Network.
- after 2008 up to now, has led the application of the approach to the evaluation of budget support in Tunisia (1995-2008), South Africa (2000-2012), Uganda (2004-2013) and Burkina Faso (2015), the synthesis of the results of three case studies (Tunisia, Zambia and Mali) on behalf of the DAC, and the consolidation of the methodology for training and further development.

- CEECs, NIS, Balkans

National and regional policy development

- Kosovo Development Strategy and Plan (2005-2006). Advisor on the design of the Kosovo Development Strategy and Plan (KDSP) process, and then coordinator of the external assistance for the preparation of the first KDSP document (on behalf of DFID).
- Study on the priorities for assistance to the Western Balkans (2004-2006). Team leader in a comprehensive study financed by the EC and largely used by the EC and the member states to review the assistance priorities in view of the establishment of the new IPA programme in the Western Balkans.

Policies' and complex programmes' evaluation

- Evaluation of the CARDS programme in the Western Balkans (2003-2004). Team leader of the mid-term evaluation of the EC assistance to the Western Balkans: the programme under evaluation was worth about 6 billion Euros and included hundreds of projects and actions in 7 countries/entities.
- Evaluation of the TACIS country programme in Russia (1999-2000). Team leader of the evaluation of the overall assistance programme over the period 1991-2000. He was also appointed in 2006 as supervisor for quality assurance in the evaluation of the programme over the period 2001-2005.

- Africa

- Policy support to Togo for rehabilitation and development. Team leader to advise the government in the preparation of an international Conference in 2009 on the political and economic rehabilitation process so far, and the establishment of a comprehensive international partnership for the finalisation of the PRSP and the achievement of the HIPP initiative.
- Country programme of the European Commission in Nigeria. Team leader of the identification and formulation studies. The country programme formulated for the period 2002-2007 was worth about 700 million Euros. It was prepared through a complex two-year participative approach involving the best country universities, and wide civil society consultations at national, state and local level. It included institutional building and budget support in six Nigerian states.
- Developing regional food markets in Central and Western Africa. Team leader of the study, which was carried out through 17 national teams and a synthesis group composed by African and European research institutions. The study took place in the framework of the Conference of the Ministries of agriculture of the Western and Central Africa (1996-1998).

- Other regions and themes

- Cotonou Partnership Agreement - Strategic Evaluation (2015 to date). The study synthesises more than 100 strategic evaluations, at country, regional and sectoral level with a view to provide an important impact for the review of the CPA.
- Study for a Performance Based Mechanism in the European Development Fund allocation (2014-15). The study aims at identifying possible mechanisms to allocate a share of the EDF according to performance in governance and other areas.
- Identification and testing of a methodology for rapid assessment of Capacity Development, The methodology has been developed on behalf of EuropAid and has been tested successfully in Ukraine, Bolivia and Chad. It allows to assess through rapid and low-cost methods the institutional effects of specific development interventions.
- Evaluation and then reformulation of the EUROSOCIAL programme (2008 and 2011). Team leader in the mid-term evaluation of the EU – Latin America inter-regional programme on developing social cohesion in public policies in LA. The programme is very innovative, is worth 33 million Euros and involves various international bodies (EC, CEPAL, ILO, IADB). It is run by EU-LA consortia of public institutions and involves 18 LA countries. It is based on the exchange of experiences and best practices among public administrations in LA, with the participation of EU public administrations.
- Local and International Networks for Knowledge Sharing. He has elaborated and promoted this approach to- and model of- horizontal cooperation between EU member states and transition/developing countries. The model consists in the establishment of cooperation links between peer private or public institutions, based on the respective interests. It has been tested successfully in various programmes since 2006, with the involvement of national and international cooperation bodies.
- Evaluation of the European Cooperation in Asia and Latin America (1991-2001). As team leader in this complex evaluation, he has developed specific approaches to evaluate complex programmes. The programme included two regional programmes for a global amount of about 12 billion Euros, and an inventory of more than one thousand projects.

Important assignments in the last decade have also regarded Algeria investment priorities in the agri-food sector (UNCTAD), IFAD and FAO country programmes in the Balkans, DFID support to local development strategy in Albania, post-conflict policies and programmes in Lebanon (EC), WB support to private services in agriculture in Romania, and many others.

In 2012, Enzo has left DRN. He has gone back to professional networking, individual research and freelance work, in order to be more flexible and freer to select research opportunities and jobs. He has re-engaged in researches which are not just instrumental to its professional activity, as the work on Italian development studies in the '50s, which has been finalised in 2012.