

short professional history

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

Between 1968 and 1974 he worked as a researcher - in collaboration with the University and other specialised institutes in Italy - on the least developed regions of Italy. The main themes of 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 Planning in Togo in the preparation of the 1976-80 five-year investment plan, with a focus on agricultural development and regional planning. He continued to work in the region (mainly Togo and Ghana, but also Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso) for a number of years until 1981, particularly on issues relating to regional integration. In the meantime, he began to work in southern Africa, namely in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, where he went shortly after independence, as a consultant on policies for the least developed areas. In 1982 he wrote a book on the Zimbabwean model of "growth with equity".

In the early eighties, Enzo decided it was time to take a sabbatical. In 1981-82 he spent a year as a full-time student in Development Economics at the Ecole de Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, where he obtained a Master of Science (DEA). He then continued at EHESS for a few more years with Prof. François Bourguignon, obtaining a Doctorate in Economic Analysis and Policy in 1987.

In the mid-1980s, Enzo worked mainly on the Sahel region for the OECD, CILSS, FAO and other international institutions. He conducted and published research and papers on regional cereal markets and informal financial markets. He then extended some of the experience gained in this area to the Horn of Africa.

In 1984, he began an important institutional experience with the Istituto Italo-Africano, which had signed a convention with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the aim of setting up a development studies centre for research and postgraduate training focusing on two African regions: the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. Enzo was appointed Director of the Centre. He selected and consolidated a team of high quality experts, carried out important research, published a book on cereal markets in West Africa and another one critiquing the structural adjustment programmes then supported by the IMF and the World Bank in poor countries. He also wrote various articles and papers and held specialised seminars and postgraduate courses that filled an important gap in Italy at the time. During this period he was also a visiting professor at various Italian universities - in Florence, Cosenza, Venice, Rome II and others - an activity that has continued until recently, teaching development economics.

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

Meanwhile, the implosion of the Soviet Union created an urgent need for new expertise in the field of transition and development. In the early 1990s, Enzo was one of the first Western experts to go to Russia and work on transition policies and programmes, in particular on promoting food and agricultural markets in the major urban areas of Moscow, St Petersburg, Kemerovo and Yekaterinburg.

Throughout the 1990s, Enzo's company worked in various geographical areas, from the Central and Eastern European countries to the Newly Independent States (former Soviet states), the Balkans, the Mediterranean, Latin America and the Far East, and of course he returned to Africa many times for important assignments. This wide experience has given him the ability to take a comparative approach, transferring lessons from one geographical area to another.

Over the past twenty years, he has specialised in comprehensive development and transition policies and programmes at regional and country levels, including policy and programme identification, evaluation and capacity building, through consultancy contracts with the European Commission, DFID, the UN system, the World Bank and various research institutes. Some of the major professional experiences as a study director during this period are listed below:

Evaluation of budget support (2004-2024):

- 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 of the study aimed at establishing a new methodology for the evaluation of budget support operations (the 3-step approach), on behalf of the EC, in the framework of the DAC Evaluation Network.
- From 2008 to date, 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, the two EC-World Bank Joint Evaluation of budget support at country level in Uganda and Ghana.
- Since 2014, he has worked at the consolidation and updating of the methodology, through advisory, supervision and training.

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 external support for the preparation of the first KDSP document (on behalf of DFID).
- Study on Priorities for Assistance to the Western Balkans (2004-2006). Team leader of a major study funded by the EC and used extensively by the EC and Member States to review assistance priorities in view of the establishment of the new IPA programme in the Western Balkans (after CARDS).

Evaluation of policies and complex programmes

- 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 and included hundreds of projects and actions in 7 countries/entities.
- Evaluation of the TACIS National Programme in Russia (1999-2000). Team leader for the evaluation of the entire assistance programme for the period 1991-2000. In 2006 he was also appointed quality assurance supervisor for the evaluation of the 2001-2005 programme.
- Evaluation of the implementation of sector approach by the European Commission in the IPA II countries (Western Balkans and Turkey).

Africa

- Policy support for rehabilitation and development in Togo. Team Leader advising the Government on the preparation of an international conference in 2009 on the political and economic rehabilitation process to date and the establishment of a comprehensive international partnership for the completion of the PRSP and the implementation of the HIPP initiative.
- European Commission Country Programme 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 participatory approach involving the country's best universities and extensive civil society consultations at national, state and local levels. It included institution building and budget support in six Nigerian states.
- Development of regional food markets in Central and West Africa. Team leader of the study carried out by 17 national teams and a synthesis group of African and European research institutions. The study was carried out in the framework of the Conference of the Ministries of Agriculture of West and Central Africa (1996-1998).

Other regions and issues

- Cotonou Partnership Agreement - Strategic Evaluation (2015 to date). The study synthesises more than 100 strategic evaluations at country, regional and sectoral level, with the aim of providing important input to the review of the CPA.
- Study on a performance-based mechanism in the allocation of the European Development Fund (2014-15). The study aims to identify possible mechanisms for allocating 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 was developed on behalf of EuropAid and successfully tested in Ukraine, Bolivia and Chad. It allows the institutional impact of specific development interventions to be assessed quickly and cost-effectively.
- Evaluation and subsequent reformulation of the EUROSOCIAL programme (2008 and 2011). Team leader of the mid-term evaluation of the EU-Latin America interregional programme for the development of social cohesion in public policies in LA. The programme is very innovative, has a budget of 33 million euros and involves several international bodies (EC, CEPAL, ILO, IADB). It is implemented by EU-LA consortia of public institutions and involves 18 LA countries. It is based on the exchange of experience and good practice between public administrations in LA, with the participation of EU public administrations.
- Local and international networks for knowledge exchange. He has developed and promoted this approach and model of horizontal cooperation between EU Member States and transition/developing countries. The model consists of establishing cooperation links between peer private or public institutions on the basis of their respective interests. It has been successfully tested in various programmes since 2006, involving national and international cooperation agencies.
- Evaluation of European Cooperation in Asia and Latin America (1991-2001). As team leader of this complex evaluation, he developed specific approaches for the evaluation of complex programmes. The programme included two regional programmes with a total value of about €12 billion and an inventory of more than a thousand projects.

Major assignments over the last decade have also included Algeria's investment priorities in the agri-food sector (UNCTAD), IFAD and FAO country programmes in the Balkans, DFID support to the 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 left DRN. He has returned to professional networking, individual research and freelance work in order to have more flexibility and freedom to choose research opportunities and jobs. He has resumed research that is not only instrumental to his professional activity, such as the work on Italian development studies in the 1950s, which was completed in 2012.

He has then reduced his professional activities and moved from Rome to Montalcino in Tuscany, where he can enjoy fantastic landscapes, local high quality food and drink and a slower dimension of life, including a close relationship, despite the distance, with two fantastic sons, their three daughters and one son and their partners.