

Reza Lahidji

Head, Evaluation and Governance Practice
International Development Assistance Services



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EXPERIENCE

Reza Lahidji is an economist specialised in policy analysis and evaluation and the head of the Evaluation and Governance Practice at KPMG IDAS. Throughout his career, Reza has provided advice to a large number of government agencies in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America and to international organisations such as the OECD, the IMF and UN agencies. He has hands-on experience in advising policymakers on governance issues in a development context, including on taxation, risk management, fragility and conflict. He has led more than twenty evaluations and reviews of organisations and programmes in the government and NGO sectors, and authored or edited several key publications. Reza has a detailed understanding of Agenda 2030 and has carried out research on the measurement of progress towards SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

An economist by background, Reza is a recognized expert in policy analysis and evaluation methods. He devoted his PhD thesis to the study of policy evaluation and assessment tools and has extensively worked on theory-based evaluations. He has also led several futures studies and is familiar with systems analysis, having published a flagship OECD report on a systems approach to the management of emerging risks, including natural disasters and infectious diseases. Reza has often collaborated with scientists, engineers and lawyers inside multi-disciplinary teams and is regularly consulted by technical regulatory bodies.

Reza has a master's degree in econometrics and statistics from the Ecole nationale de la statistique et de l'administration économique (ENSAE, Paris), a master's degree in development economics from the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS, Paris) and a PhD in decision sciences from the Ecole des hautes études commerciales (HEC, Paris).

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

KPMG International Development Assistance Services, Oslo, 2019 –
Head, Evaluation and Governance Practice

Partner, Menon Economics AS, Oslo, 2016 – 2019
In charge of leading and developing Menon's international activity

Director of quantitative research, International Law and Policy Institute, Oslo, 2014 – 2016
In charge of leading and developing ILPI's activity in quantitative policy analysis (economic and statistical studies, policy evaluation, risk assessment, strategic foresight)

Independent expert on governance and policy evaluation, 2006 – 2014
Advisor to various government agencies and international organisations, including the OECD and the UN OCHA
Team leader for the OECD review of governance in the central administration (2011) and the OECD-IMF evaluation of social welfare (2012-13) in Greece, set up on the request of the government of Greece and the European Commission

Principal administrator, OECD, Paris, 2000 – 2006
Principal Administrator at the OECD International Futures Programme, responsible for the development and management of the Futures Projects on Emerging Systemic Risks and on Risk Management Policies

Deputy-head of service, Commissariat Général du Plan, Paris, 1998 – 2000

Administrator, OECD, Paris, 1996 – 1998
Administrator at the OECD International Futures Programme, responsible for two Futures publications on the future of energy and the future of food.

Economist, Banque Indosuez, Paris, 1991 – 1996

EDUCATION

Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC School of Management), Paris, 2012

Doctorat en sciences de gestion – sciences de la décision (PhD in Management Science – Decision Sciences). Thesis title: Incertitude, causalité et décision : le cas des risques sociaux et du risque nucléaire en particulier (Uncertainty, causality and decision: The case of social risks and nuclear risk in particular)

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, 1991

Diplôme d'études approfondies Analyse et politiques économiques (Master's degree in Economics)

Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique (ENSAE) Paris, 1991

Diplôme de statisticien-économiste (Master's degree in Statistics and Econometrics)

Université de Paris XI, Orsay, 1988

Maîtrise de mathématiques appliquées (Bachelor degree in Mathematics)

RECENT PROJECTS OF RELEVANCE

- Team leader for a research project on the determinants and socioeconomic outcomes of access to justice. OECD, 2021.
- Senior advisor for an evidence background paper to develop a Governance and Social Development Business Case in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office (FCDO), 2021.
- Team leader for the evaluation of the research programme "Sustainability and Resilience – Tackling Environmental and Climate Change". Swedish Research Council, 2020.
- Team leader for the end-term evaluation of the project "Empowering Agents of Change for Freedom of Religion and Belief". Stefanus Alliance International, 2020.
- Team leader for a strategic review of pro-health taxation in low-income countries for Norway's Tax for Development programme. Norad, 2020.
- Team leader for a strategic review of taxation and inequality in low-income countries for Norway's Tax for Development programme. Norad, 2020.
- Team leader for the external review of the Institute for Security Studies. ISS and Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2020.
- Team leader for the evaluation of the International Pollutants Elimination Network. IPEN and SIDA, 2020.
- Evaluation expert and Quality assurer for the Evaluation of the United Nations Center for Counter-Terrorism's 5-year Programme 2016-20. UNCCT, 2020.
- Evaluation expert and Quality assurer for the Evaluation of the Clingendael Institute Conflict Research Unit, Clingendael Institute and Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2020.
- Member of the scientific committee overseeing the socioeconomic evaluation of the deep geological disposal of nuclear waste in France. Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs (Andra), France, 2018-20.
- Author of the OECD White Paper on the Business Case for Access to Justice. OECD, 2019.
- Evaluation expert for the Evaluation of access to justice reforms in Portugal. OECD, 2019.
- Evaluation expert and Quality assurer for the Evaluation of Organisational Aspects of Norwegian Aid Administration. Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), 2018.
- Evaluation expert for the Evaluation of human rights and business in Norwegian cooperation. Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), 2017-18.
- Team leader for the review of central planning, policy evaluation and risk management in the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. OECD, 2017-18.

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- Author of the Country Evaluation Brief summarising the lessons from evaluations of development aid in Tanzania. Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), 2017.
- Team leader for designing the methodology to evaluate the performance of the judiciary in the states of Mexico. OECD, 2017.
- Analysis of illicit financial flows related to extractive industries, with a particular focus on East Africa. Norway Research Council, 2015-17.
- Team leader for the methodological framework (and lead author) of the OECD States of Fragility Report – Understanding Violence. OECD, 2016.
- Team leader for the review of the International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR) and its contribution to anti-corruption and asset recovery in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, 2016.
- Assessment of multi-level governance in Lithuania in the context of the country's accession to the status of OECD Member Country. OECD, 2016.
- Team leader for the impact assessment of Norway's support to the electricity and road sectors in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), 2015.
- Team leader for the assessment of uncertainties in the long-term safety of a nuclear waste repository. Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs (Andra), France, 2015.
- Policy assessment and capacity building on good governance in the central government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. OECD, 2012-16.
- Designed the methodology for a study of women's rights in the Ethiopian justice system. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, 2015.
- Designed a survey on people's perception of the root causes of the 2012 conflict in Mali, oversaw data collection and drafted the analysis. Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2015.
- Analysis of global economic trends and their relevance for Norwegian foreign policy. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, 2015.
- Capacity-building seminar on policy analysis applied to Tanzania's development for the academic staff of the State University of Zanzibar. Danish and Norwegian embassies to Tanzania, 2014-15.
- Contribution to the Employment and social policy reform programme of the Republic of Serbia. European Union twinning project, 2014.
- Team leader for the joint OECD-IMF review of governance and public finance in the Greek social welfare system. OECD, 2013.
- Team leader for the OECD review of governance in the central government of Greece. OECD, 2011.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Lahidji, R 2019, 'Building a Business Case for Access to Justice', White Paper, OECD Public Governance Directorate.
- Lahidji, R 2018, Country Evaluation Brief – Tanzania. Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Evaluation Department.
- Lahidji, R 2017, 'The Safety of Nuclear Weapons and Materials: Lessons from the Assessment of Nuclear Power Plant Risks', in Borrie, J, Caughley, T and W Wan (eds), Understanding Nuclear Weapon Risks. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, Geneva.
- Lahidji, R (lead author) 2017, OECD Public Governance Review: Towards a more effective, strategic, and accountable state in Kazakhstan. OECD Publishing, Paris.

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- Lahidji, R (lead author) 2016, OECD States of Fragility Report – Understanding Violence. OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Lahidji, R 2015, 'Ambiguous Ambitions - The saga of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the international legal framework regulating weapons of mass destruction', Background Paper n°17/2015, International Law and Policy Institute.
- Lahidji, R 2014, 'The organisation of ministries in the government of Kazakhstan' and 'Assessment of the functions and organisation of ministries – four case studies', in OECD Public Governance Review: Kazakhstan – Review of the central administration. OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Grislain-Letrémy, C, Lahidji, R & Mongin, P 2014, 'L'action publique relative aux risques majeurs – Diagnostics et recommandations'. Risques, 98.
- Grislain-Letrémy, C, Lahidji, R & Mongin, P 2013, Les risques majeurs et l'action publique. Conseil d'analyse économique, La documentation française, Paris.
- Lahidji, R 2013, 'Les leçons de Fukushima', in Grislain-Letrémy, Lahidji & Mongin (eds), Les risques majeurs et l'action publique. Conseil d'analyse économique.
- Lahidji, R (co-author) 2013, OECD Public Governance Reviews: Greece – Reform of social welfare programmes. OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Lahidji, R (lead author) 2011, OECD Public Governance Review: Greece – Review of the central administration. OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Lahidji, R 2009, 'Measuring the Capacity to Cope with Natural Disasters', in Natural and Conflict Related Hazards in Asia-Pacific, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Norwegian Geotechnical Institute.
- Lahidji, R (lead author) 2009, OECD Reviews of Risk Management Policies: Japan – Earthquakes and Floods. OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Lahidji, R 2009, 'Infrastructure services: Lessons from 30 years of reform in OECD countries', in OECD Reviews of Regulatory Reform – China: Defining the Boundary between the Market and the State. OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Verger, P, Bard, D, Noiville, C & Lahidji, R 2008, 'Environmental Disasters: Preparing for Impact Assessments and Operational Feedback', American Journal of Disaster Medicine, vol. 3(6).
- Lahidji, R (lead author) 2003, Emerging Systemic Risks in the 21st Century – An Agenda for Action. OECD Publishing, Paris.