

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T18a

Policy and institutional analysis for ecosystem services provision – Conceptual, methodological and empirical inspirations of multi-level governance

Hosts:

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Abstract:

The provision of ecosystem services (ES) is largely coordinated by policies and other institutions that guide human intervention across policy sectors and from local to global level. Different policy sectors such as agriculture, forestry, nature conservation, spatial planning, energy, rural development target different types of ecosystem services. Sector-related policy objectives can be mutually supportive; however, some of them are also ambiguous, often leading to conflict after implementation. Besides a need for policy integration and horizontal interplay, vertical multi-level policy and stakeholder interactions are crucial for ES provision, because international regulations and policy strategies are translated and implemented on national, regional and local levels. Even though many ES are promoted in various international policy agendas such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the EU Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, or the EU Forest Strategy (Wolfslehner et al., 2020), the development and implementation of policy instruments at local level and the operational management that promotes ES-related land-use objectives lag behind (Angelstam et al., 2018; Lindahl et al., 2017).

In this session, we take a closer look at such horizontal and vertical policy interactions for ES provision and how they manifest on the local level of implementation. We focus in particular on concepts and methods for policy and institutional analysis that are rooted in political sciences,

institutional economics, planning, and other social science disciplines that help to better understand policy processes, strategies, and multi-sector and multi-level interactions for ES provision: How are policy instruments/policy mixes designed and combined? How are they integrated into institutional structures and adapted to concrete/diverse implementation contexts? These are only some of the questions we would like to discuss. Of particular interest are contributions that elaborate on:

- Analysis of institutional interplay and fit
- Translation of policy objectives across levels (from policy design to implementation)
- Trade-offs in policy design and policy mixes
- Policy design: From ideal models to real-world adaptation

Throughout the session, an overview of concepts and methods for empirical policy and institutional analysis shall be gained. Besides conceptual-methodological inspirations from social science disciplines, empirical findings on multi-sector and multi-level interactions can help us to demonstrate challenges of policy design, trade-off negotiations and stakeholder inclusion.

The mosaic of papers seeks to broaden the perspective and understanding on how ES provision in Europe can be more effectively, efficiently (or cost-effectively) and equitably coordinated by policies. These insights serve as the basis for a more targeted policy design and development to address the main societal challenges and needs for sound ES provision.

Goals and objectives of the session:

The goal of the session is to gain insights into policy analysis, policy design, and policy interactions. Therefore, the session seeks to provide an insightful view of recent research and approaches from ES sciences, policy and practices. It further aims to facilitate a debate on possible ways forward in terms of policy analysis and policy design.

Planned output / Deliverables:

The outcome might be a Special Issue on Insights into policy analysis and policy design for sound ES provision.

Session format:

Standard session (presentations)

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

[Thematic Working Groups: TWG 18 – Governance & Institutional aspects](#)