

The Agri-Environmental Schemes: a governance perspective on public policy and biodiversity protection

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1. WHAT IS THE AES GOVERNANCE?

Systematic literature on AES governance

THE RESEARCH GAP:

Defining governance is often complex and does not stop to one meaning and usage (Hills et al., 2016)¹, and governance behind Agri-Environmental Schemes (AES) is not an exception. AES governance literature, even if often converging on similar aspects (e.g. plurality of actors, complex interactions, set of institutional arrangements), has not yet a common framework.

MATERIALS & METHODS

STEP 1: KEYWORDS & DATABASE

STEP 2: SCREENING & SELECTION THROUGH PRISMA GUIDELINES

STEP 3: CODING

I AM HERE!

STEP 4: ANALYSIS & IDENTIFICATION OF AES GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

FIRST RESULTS

The screening phase allowed to select 57 peer-reviewed articles. The coding phase identified two main dimensions characterizing the AES governance:

STRUCTURE

1. Actors
2. Institutions
3. Levels

PROCESS

1. Interactions
2. Steps

2. WHY AES GOVERNANCE FAILS IN DELIVERING ON EU BIODIVERSITY OBJECTIVES?

Barrier analysis of AES governance

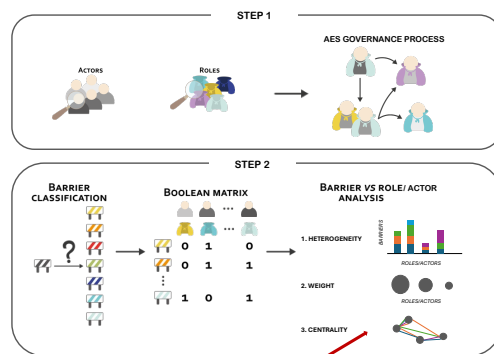
THE RESEARCH GAP:

AES are often criticized as for their lack of environmental achievements. Yet they represent the 'jewel in the crown' of the CAP green architecture. Scientific literature often criticize their performance under either an ecological or economic perspective, focusing on failures either at farm or policy level. A recent literature has focused on failures under an institutional perspective, focusing on the governance system linking the farm level to the policy level. Yet, a systematic (and systemic) methodological approach to such failures is missing.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Two-step methodology:

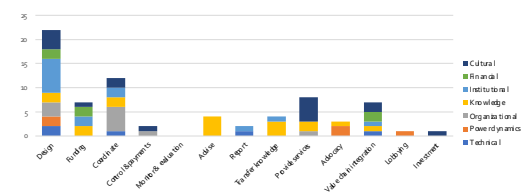
1. Identify the AES governance structure & process
2. Conduct a barrier analysis linking barriers and AES governance



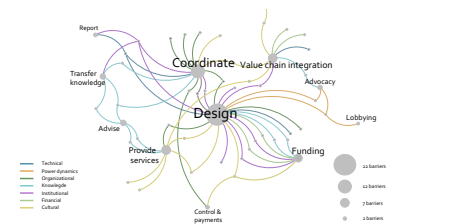
I AM HERE!

FIRST RESULTS

We have identified 40 barriers, which are distributed heterogeneously across roles and actors composing the AES governance



A network analysis allowed to identify how both roles and actors are intertwined one another, paving the way to build a strategy of levers



3. DIFFERENT TYPE OF GOVERNANCE MEANS DIFFERENT TRADE-OFFS TO ACHIEVE BIODIVERSITY OBJECTIVES?

Comparative analysis across EU governance systems — ANY THOUGHTS?

FIRST REFLECTIONS:

- Different EU context, entail different governance approaches (i.e. centralized vs decentralized) and might affect the ties between AES governance and AES environmental outcomes
- Some hypothesis to test under a comparative analysis framework, could be:
 - Different type of AES governance means different distribution of barriers across AES governance' actors and roles
 - Different type of AES governance means different trade-offs conducted at AES design (as part of the roles building the AES governance)
- ...

SUGGESTED METHODOLOGY:

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

research method that combines qualitative and quantitative approaches to identify patterns and causal relationships across cases by examining combinations of conditions that lead to specific outcomes

¹ Hill, M., Hill, M., & Varone, F. (2016). The Public Policy Process (7th ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315693965>