



LANDSCAPE 2024

**AGROECOSYSTEMS IN TRANSFORMATION:
VISIONS, TECHNOLOGIES AND ACTORS**

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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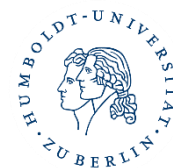
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Conference chairs:

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Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

Eberswalder Straße 84 | 15374 Müncheberg, Germany

T +49 (0)33432 | 82 200

E zalf@zalf.de

W www.zalf.de

PLACES is adaptable to different contexts, as such, we have applied it to the agricultural landscape in the Dutch province of Noord-Brabant at a mixed stakeholder workshop. There, we gathered data to evaluate its usefulness to facilitate communication and understanding of landscape complexity. PLACES provided insights on spatial processes and sparked a discussion on the societal goals for the landscape. For future applications of PLACES, we derived several points for consideration, including a careful tailoring of the landscape representation and the land use impact simulations to the knowledge of the respective users.

Review of Methods and Tools of Science Policy Interactions in the Living Labs

Keerthi Kiran Bandru

Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany

The science policy interactions are becoming dynamic with the additional demands for the evidence based policy process at difference scales. EU mission „A Soil Deal for Europe” is applying the living labs to drive the agri-food system transformation. Soil governance in Europe faces multifaceted challenges, ranging from soil degradation to biodiversity loss and climate change impacts. Addressing these challenges effectively requires a comprehensive approach that integrates scientific knowledge with policy development and implementation. Living labs have emerged as dynamic ecosystems for fostering innovation, collaboration, and co-creation of solutions to societal challenges, serving as ideal settings for science-policy interactions.

This abstract presents a comprehensive review of methods and tools employed in facilitating science policy interactions within living labs, focusing on their applications, effectiveness, and implications for advancing soil governance in Europe. Key findings highlight the importance of participatory approaches in fostering collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge exchange within living labs across Germany, Spain, Hungary, the Netherlands, and Estonia. Participatory workshops and co-creation sessions emerge as effective mechanisms for bringing together diverse stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and local communities, to co-design and co-implement soil governance strategies. The review also identifies the importance of integrating diverse perspectives, knowledge systems, and value considerations into the policy development process within living labs. The insights gained from this review can inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of future living lab initiatives aimed at addressing complex societal challenges, including soil governance.

Developing visions for rural areas through science, society and policy interfaces

David Miller¹; Gerald Schwarz²

¹ James Hutton Institute, Scotland; ² Thünen Institute of Farm Economics, Germany

Keywords: Science, society, policy interfaces, co-creating knowledge, sustainability transition

This paper describes deliberative processes in two EU funded projects which align with characteristics set out by the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition, FAO and Gliessman [1]. SHERPA (Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors) and UNISECO (Understanding and improving the sustainability of agro-ecological farming systems in the EU) operationalised science, society and policy interfaces for actors to co-construct sustainable futures. Development of these interfaces adopted a multi-actor approach, providing contextualised solutions to local problems, and bottom-up and territorial processes. They reflected the concepts of Gliessman [1] in their roadmap to agroecological transitions which includes interactions between consumer and producer, and consideration within food systems of issues of 'equity, participation, democracy, and justice'.

Experiences in UNISECO and SHERPA show that the potential of deliberative democratic processes should be understood in four domains: i) improving policy; ii) boosting connectivity; iii) enriching rural dialogue; and iv) supporting action on the ground. Feedback on the multi-actor approach for participatory agenda setting revealed insights that deliberative democratic processes can provide on needs of rural areas and their citizens, at different levels and types of governance, with remits at local, national and EU levels [2]. The approach had an empowering effect, sparking local interest in policy processes, with the prospect of building capacity to driving sustainability transitions. This all contributes to depolarization and bridging gaps between local, regional, national and EU policy making.

Feedback received reflects local knowledge and priorities, and point to needs for systems thinking in designing policy which is coherent across scales. Examples of gaps in knowledge identified in SHERPA and UNISECO structures were: i) how knowledge is transferred within and between countries and regions, at different levels of governance, and the types of models which might be most impactful in agriculture and more broadly; ii) the levels of risk of where and what types of actors may be left behind during transitions in farming systems; iii) the roles of training and education in identifying opportunities, and designing and implementing activities that facilitate transitions to sustainable agriculture [3].

Conclusions presented on findings from the transdisciplinary forums provide evidence of how they can be used to co-construct knowledge and recommendations, and identifying pathways for creating long-term visions that contribute to achieving policy aims.

References:

- [1] Gliessman (2016). doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2015.1130765
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- [3] Zawalińska et al. (2022). doi.org/10.1111/1746-692X.12378