

**COORDINATION BY  
HIERARCHY AND NETWORKS  
IN POLICIES RELEVANT FOR  
THE FORESTRY SECTOR:  
ACTORS, RELATIONS,  
PROCESSES**

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# Introduction

- Improving policy coherence by integrating policy goals from other fields into forest policy is affected by number of other policies.
- There is the need of policy coherence when formulating strategic documents to achieve sustainable forest management.



# Main Aims

analyze the behaviour of relevant actors and their interactions in relation to the integration and coordination of policies relevant for the forestry sector in the Slovak Republic

- identify relevant political science theories
- identify relevant actors
- analyze the behaviour and interaction of actors in selected policies relevant for the forestry sector
- synthesis of theoretical and empirical findings and „success factors“ identification

# Theoretical Approach

## **Theories applied**

- Forest Policy Analysis
- Advocacy Coalition Framework
- Actor Centered Institutionalism

## **Mechanism to achieve policy coherence (Hogl, 2002)**

- Hierarchy
- Bargaining
- Networks

# Methodology

- Triangulation of methods
- Multiple case study approach
- Qualitative documents analysis
- Standardized interviews with experts in the field of forest policy, nature conservation policy and rural development policy

# Case Studies



## National Forest Programme



## NATURA 2000



## Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic 2007-2013

# Research Questions

- How are forest policy goals integrated in Rural Development Policy and Nature Conservation Policy documents?
- How is forest policy integrating the goals of Rural Development Policy and Nature Conservation Policy?

# Hypotheses

**H1** Strategic documents declare the need of cross-sectoral coordination but do not create specific mechanism to achieve it.

**H2** Formal coordination mechanisms are insufficient to ensure policy coherence and informal coordination mechanism are not created because actors fear the loss of their power in the sector.

**H3** Belief systems of sectoral actors do not allow policy coordination.

**H4** Distributive strategic policy documents improve bargaining conditions for the integration and coordination of policies.

**H5** Strategic documents are formulated by hierarchy.



# Results

- Forest policy integrated NCP and RDP goals only partially as a result of the hierarchic decision by the Ministry of Agriculture and without the involvement of other actors from different policy fields. The goals were integrated mainly because of international commitments.
- The analysis of the SCI list formulation revealed that real cross-sectoral coordination between forestry and nature conservation was absent. Not all relevant stakeholders (mainly land and forest owners) could participate in the process. In the field of integrated use of forest resources in terms of biodiversity conservation and forest management the belief systems of actors did not allow policy coordination.
- Rural Development Policy incorporated policy goals of several sectoral policies, including forest policy. The formulation process shows signs of cross-sectoral coordination between various actors, in our case mostly from forestry and agriculture in the form of bargaining, as well as signs of hierarchic coordination between state and non-state actors.

# Conclusions for improving policy coherence

Success Factors	Impeding Factors
EU Legislation	Time pressure
Intergovernmental Comment Procedure	Actors' belief systems
Bargaining in working groups	Hierarchy
Coordination in networks	Negative Coordination

**Thank you for your attention!**

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