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# The interplay of vertical, horizontal and temporal policy dynamics

New insights in the implementation of European Union policies

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# SETTING THE SCENE: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN THE EU

## EU legislative tools

regulations, directives, decisions, recommendations, opinions



NATIONAL AND LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION  
Coordination, integration, coherence



## DIVERGENCE OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PROCESSES

EU level:  
Innovative  
policy intentions

neutralization

drifting

national and local  
levels: traditional  
policy approaches

? EU policies' effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy

? possibilities and limitations of EU novel policy approaches



# PROBLEM STATEMENT

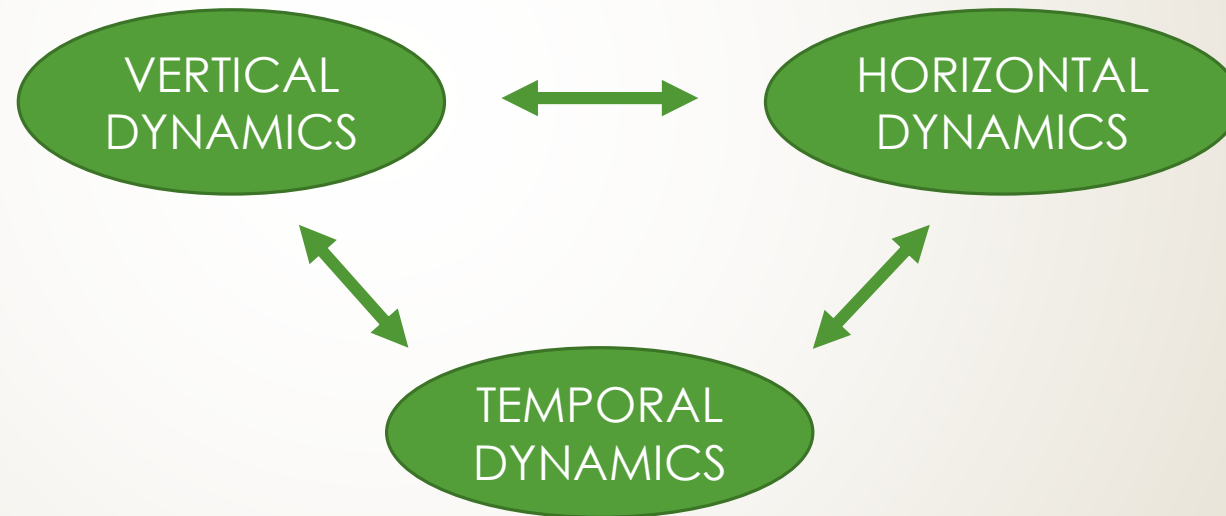
INNOVATIVE RESEARCH APPROACHES NEEDED FOR THE STUDY OF COMPLEX IMPLEMENTATION PROCESSES AND OF THEIR OUTCOMES.

## **Scientific gap: fragmentation of implementation studies**

- Different theoretical approaches and empirical studies often focusing on single policy levels
- Few focusing on hierarchical interrelations between processes at different levels
- Even less focusing on different but contiguous policy arenas
- Limited attention towards temporal dynamics of policy implementation

# MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS



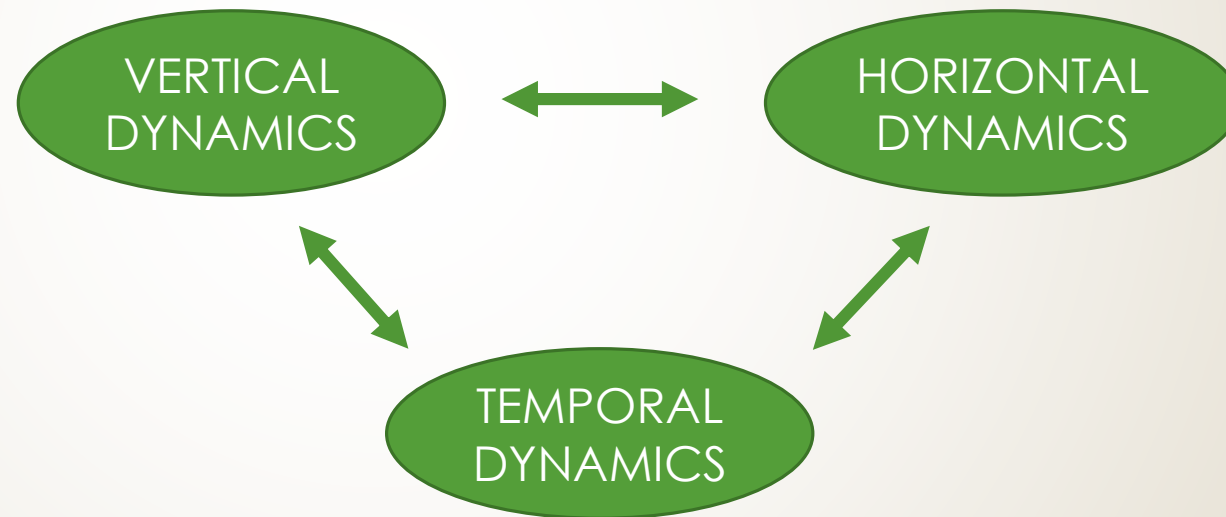


# Glossary

- **Policy "dynamics"**: all policy-related processes taking place in different policy levels, different policy contexts or different policy time frames that are having an effect on the translation of policy goals into practical outcomes.
- **Vertical dynamics** are those processes in which not only higher policy levels influence lower ones, but also lower levels have the power to affect decision making processes taking place at higher levels.
- **Horizontal dynamics** are processes which function by involving in the implementation of a policy also policy realms others than that of the policy at stake.
- **Temporal dynamics** are processes which establish mutual dependencies between old and new governance settings (no sudden changes but gradual evolution).
- **Interplay of different types of dynamics**: mutual relations between dynamics which make these dynamics interdependent in their functioning.

# MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS



- Better understanding of policy outcomes
- Support the improvement of policy coordination



# Research questions

- 1) Which processes influence the path followed by the implementation of European Union's policies?
- 2) How does the interplay between vertical, horizontal and temporal dynamics influence the implementation of European Union's policies and their outcomes?
- 3) How can the interplay between vertical, horizontal and temporal dynamics be used to understand the outcomes of European Union's policies?

# THEORETICAL APPROACH

- Focus on complexity of policy dynamics and change
- No failure in low fit of policy goals and outcomes
- Implementation as a process (not a straightforward application of legal texts)
- Governments at higher levels are not the only determinants of policy processes
- Importance of power relations and of their consequences
- Influence of exogenous policy processes in the implementation of a specific policy (contiguous contexts and difference governance sites)
- Importance of temporal concatenation of nested policy events

multilevel governance

evolutionary governance

ecology of games framework

polycentric governance

discourse theory





# CASE STUDY: NATURA 2000 POLICY

European Union's Natura 2000 policy:  
network of protected areas across the European territory  
(18% of terrestrial area/ 6% of marine area)

## 3 PUBLISHED PAPERS

- ▶ Ferranti F, Turnhout E, Beunen R & Behagel JH. 2014. **Shifting nature conservation approaches in Natura 2000 and the implications for the roles of stakeholders.** *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 57(11).
- ▶ Ferranti F, Beunen R & Speranza M. 2010. **Natura 2000 Network: A Comparison of the Italian and Dutch Implementation Experiences.** *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning* 12(3).
- ▶ Ferranti F, Vericat P and de Koning J. 2017. **Discourses on sustainable forest management and effects of Natura 2000: a case study of Catalonia, NE Spain.** *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*. Online first

### **Article 1: Shifting nature conservation approaches in Natura 2000 and the implications for the roles of stakeholders.**

Temporal shifts in hegemonic discourses along Natura 2000's history and roles of a broad variety of stakeholders in determining policy implementation along the vertical and horizontal dimensions.

### **Article 2: Natura 2000 Network: A Comparison of the Italian and Dutch Implementation Experiences**

Vertical dynamics of the national implementation of Natura 2000 in 2 EU Member States and horizontal dynamics (nature conservation < > nature use). Similar implementation problems in the early application of requirements: slow and difficult implementation due to stakeholders' attempt to keep "business as usual".

### **Article 3: Discourses on sustainable forest management and effects of Natura 2000: a case study of Catalonia, NE Spain.**

Vertical and horizontal dynamics of the local implementation of Natura 2000 in a forest management context. Temporal comparison of before and after interpretations of Sustainable Forest Management concept (changes with the introduction of Natura 2000).

# PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

Vertical  
dynamics

Horizontal  
dynamics

Temporal dynamics

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**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION**

