

Multi-Actor Approaches for Land Use Policy and Community Engagement

Land use and its changes are a crucial part of the sustainable and green transition towards zero-emissions and circular economy in the European Union. As the land use and land use policies tackle a wide range of diverse stakeholders and often conflicting interests resulting in important trade-offs, a participatory approach to policy design and implementation is vital to ensure effective and efficient solutions. LandShift project offers a good example of application of multi-actor approach for land use policy creation and community engagement in this process.

In LandShift project Living Spaces are at the center of the whole process of creating community-led solutions climate-resilient land use management and supporting the New European Bauhaus. The Living Spaces are so important for achieving the project's objectives as they offer inclusive, multi-actor platforms for discussion, co-creation and co-governance in line with the regional specificity of land use and its transformation needs. The members of Living Spaces were invited to participate in their activities based on multi-actor approach applied in LandShift which is in line with the Quintuple Innovation Helix.

The inclusion of such a diverse group of actors, including policymakers, researchers, farmers, foresters, and representatives of other sectors of the economy as well as civil society representatives and environmental actors, helps to build awareness and common understanding of challenges faced and possible solutions to land use management problems. As LandShift focuses on nature-based solutions, the multi-actor platforms enable presentation, training and tailoring these solutions to specific regional contexts and the needs of different actors.

LandShift Living Spaces are also accompanied by Community Labs and Policy Labs. These platforms increase not only the project's outreach but also ensure the engagement of local communities and policymakers for co-defining problem-solving and for co-creating activities for designing regional strategies supported by insights, needs, and trade-off analysis.

All these multi-actor bodies created and operating within LandShift help bridge the gap between the key actors within the regional Quintuple Innovation Helix. Thus, they foster common understanding, co-tailoring and co-ownership of the solutions proposed by LandShift outcomes. This multi-actor approach ensures solutions that are fully in line with environmental and socio-economic characteristics of the regions participating in the project.

The nature-based solutions developed in such a co-operative, participatory and deliberative way will be easily applicable in other regions not represented in LandShift. This would be possible because the potential replicators will be able to tailor the created nature-based solution using the LandShift multi-actor approach model to fine-tune the proposed solutions to their socio-economic fabric and environmental needs.

Keywords

multi-actor approach, co-governance, engagement, participation, LULUCF

Authors

Barbara Wieliczko, Paweł Chmieliński and Marcin Żekało
European Rural Development Network

Contact Information

barbara.wieliczko@erdn.eu

