Junior research group CIVILand – Subproject 4:
Monitoring and Evaluation
Effects on environmental Grantmakers and their Beneficiaries
Dipl.-Pol. Thomas Krikser

Research Questions

- What types of environmental grant makers exist and what forms of monitoring and evaluation instruments do they use?
- What strategies do beneficiaries use to cope with the requirements of monitoring and evaluation, how do these influence their processes in the projects and how do they respond to the donors’ view on evaluation?
- What influences do monitoring and evaluation instruments have on the innovation potentials and what is the effect of the influence on the achievements of objectives in the nonprofit sector?

Assumptions

- Environmental grant makers implement monitoring and evaluation instruments in their work for various reasons. The role of monitoring and evaluation has become significant.
- Beneficiaries have developed different strategies to cope with monitoring and evaluation. These strategies exert influence on their work.
- Monitoring and evaluation instruments have different forms of evidence for donors and beneficiaries. Donors intend to reach their aims more effectively, for beneficiaries this means a deprivation of innovation.

Objectives

- Provide evidence-based knowledge for the stakeholders of civil society initiated and supported environmental projects
- The results should be useful for creating monitoring and evaluation arrangements that work for the grant maker and the beneficiary in the context and the circumstances of the particular project.
- Some statements as to what professionalization through monitoring and evaluation means for the nonprofit sector will be provided through analyzing interviews with donors and beneficiaries.

Theory

The theoretical framework is based on two main theories:

1. Principal-Agent-Theory: 
   - Assumptions (about Donor and Beneficiary): Extrinsic motivation, interests and goals are at odds, short-term-approach, risk shifting, idea of man: homo economicus
2. Stewardship-Theory (Principal-Steward): 
   - Assumptions: Intrinsic motivation, same interests and goals, long-term-approach, risk taking, “coalition for high performance”, idea of man: social-psychology

Methodology

Case Studies: The case studies will take place in Germany and the United States. The theoretical framework will be set by the Realist Evaluation Cycle.

Survey Methods:
- Participatory Observation
- Qualitative interviews

Evaluation Methods:
- Objective Hermeneutics
- Qualitative Content Analysis

Databases and Survey:
- Through the quantitative data the spectrum of environmental grantmakers that use monitoring and evaluation will be analyzed.
- Survey Methods: Transfer exiting data to a dataset
- Online-survey

Explorative Expert Talks:
- Through explorative talks priorities for the case studies and the analysis of the quantitative data will be set.
- Evaluation Methods: Qualitative Content Analysis
- Grounded Theory

Approach

- Environmental Grantmakers
- Realist Evaluation
- Monitoring, Evaluation
- Online-survey (GERUSA)
- Design for case studies
- Results
- Case studies
- Explorative Expert talks
- Desk research

About me

Contact: Thomas.Krikser@zalf.de

Thomas Krikser is one of CIVILand junior research group’s PhD students at the Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research.

Focus of research: Monitoring and Evaluation, Sustainable Development, Empirical social research.