



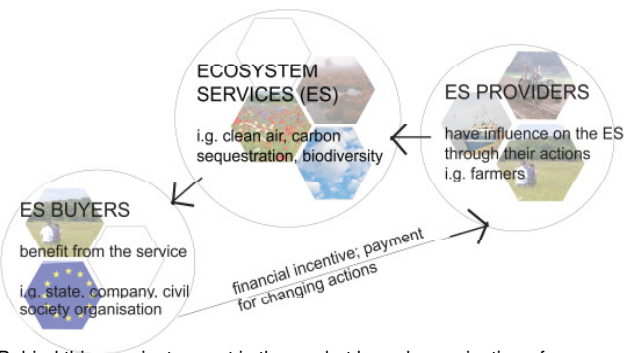
# Participation in the designing of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) – A comparison of PES design processes in Germany and Great Britain

Junior Research Group CIVILand, Subproject 5  
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## Background

With **Payments for Ecosystem Services** an innovation in environmental protection has been developed on which the expectation to provide a solution for the preservation and protection of ecosystems is linked.



Behind this new instrument is the market based organisation of environmental properties that are used by humans or required as a basis for life. The protection of Ecosystem Services is realised with a financial incentive given to those who are able to secure and conserve ecosystems by changing their actions. Payments should come from those, who benefit from the ecosystem services.

Recently some **critique** concerning the perception of PES solely as market instruments arose. The critique refers mainly to the masking of underlying social relations and power asymmetries that are achieved by focussing on the efficiency of PES instruments.



The research project assumes that a **deliberative approach in the design of PES** can have a corrective effect on power asymmetries and offer a chance for positive impacts on the success of PES.

For that reason the research work will analyse:

- design processes of PES
- pose question regarding participation possibilities in these processes, their pre- and general conditions, the motives behind the decision for a participatory approach and their impacts ( the theoretical concept of deliberation should serve within the scope of the research to develop the 'highest level' in participation, to enable the assessment and evaluation of the investigated participatory processes)

Participation should always be considered against the backdrop of its cultural and political context which offers insights on the basic conditions for participation. That is why the research work is structured as a **comparative study**. The study will compare PES design processes in **Germany and Great Britain** (as they are different in their historical development of the public sphere and their democratic structure and they vary in participation possibilities in environmental decision-making).

Because of the underrepresentation of discursive or cooperative approaches in state-run PES, **civil society** will be examined within this focus, to see if they are opening up new perspectives for participation within PES.

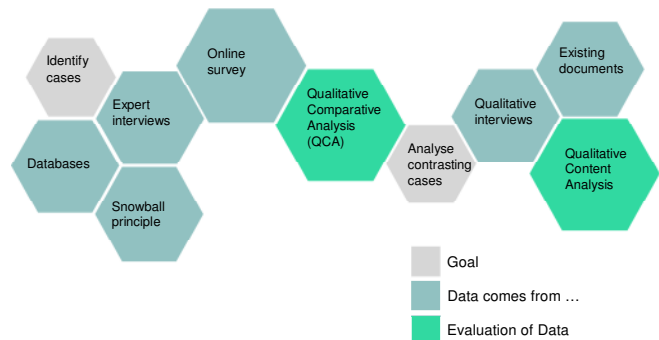
## Research Questions

What are the possibilities and limitations of participation in the PES design processes?

Further research questions aimed at the details beneath this question are:

- What does participation mean within the context of deliberation in environmental decision-making?
- Which approaches are used to design PES in a participatory manner?
- What motives lead to the decision of designing PES with a participatory approach?
- What impacts does participation have on the success of PES?
- How do participatory PES design processes differ between Germany and Great Britain? (Why are they different?)
- Which role do civil society organisations play within the PES design process in Germany and in Great Britain?

## Methods



Environmental organisations that could be potential users of PES-schemes are extracted from the databases of civil society organisations Germany and Great Britain. PES-cases are additionally exposed through the snowball principle and expert interviews. An **online survey** will be sent to the filtered organisations. The goal is to identify organisations in both countries that use participatory approaches for designing of PES. In this way the participatory methods used and a valuation of the success of the PES will be surveyed. The evaluation of the online survey will be conducted with the **qualitative comparative method (QCA)**. Afterwards contrasting cases will be selected and examined in a case study. Data will come from existing documents and will be collected through qualitative interviews of participants of the design processes. The generated data will be evaluated using **qualitative content analysis**. The aim of the analysis is to find, recognise and evaluate patterns behind such processes.

## About me



Kristin Nicolaus is a PhD candidate in the CIVILand junior research group at the Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF). She studied landscape planning at the Technischen Universität Berlin, which included a research exchange at the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi, India.

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