



Junior Research Group CIVILand - Subproject 7:

Governmental initiated Payments for Ecosystem Services
Systematization and performance assessment in the United States of America, United Kingdom and Germany

Claas Meyer



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Background

Protection of the environment as well as the **preservation of common resources** is mainly initiated, governed and financed by the state, due to the perception of environmental problems as **public goods**

A big part of the remuneration instruments for environmental services ("Payments for Ecosystem Services" - PES) is **state-initiated**

There is ample and increasing literature regarding PES, but most of the cases are examined individually, especially the ones in developing countries

A **systematic overview of state PES** as a function of the institutional framework as well as a **systematic analysis of strengths and weaknesses** are lacking

Concept

Categorization of the main structural elements of ES and **depiction** of the sources in the United States and European Union governmental programs and policies

Systemization of governmental PES and **assessment** of how they work. **Comparison** of the instruments of the case study regions Germany, Great Britain, and the United States.

Focus on similar PES programs that are aimed at **water services** in the different case study areas to determine in a **detailed manner the strengths and weaknesses** of these particular instruments.

Generate **specific statements** regarding the idea, the construction, the strengths and weaknesses, and the potentialities of state initiated PES

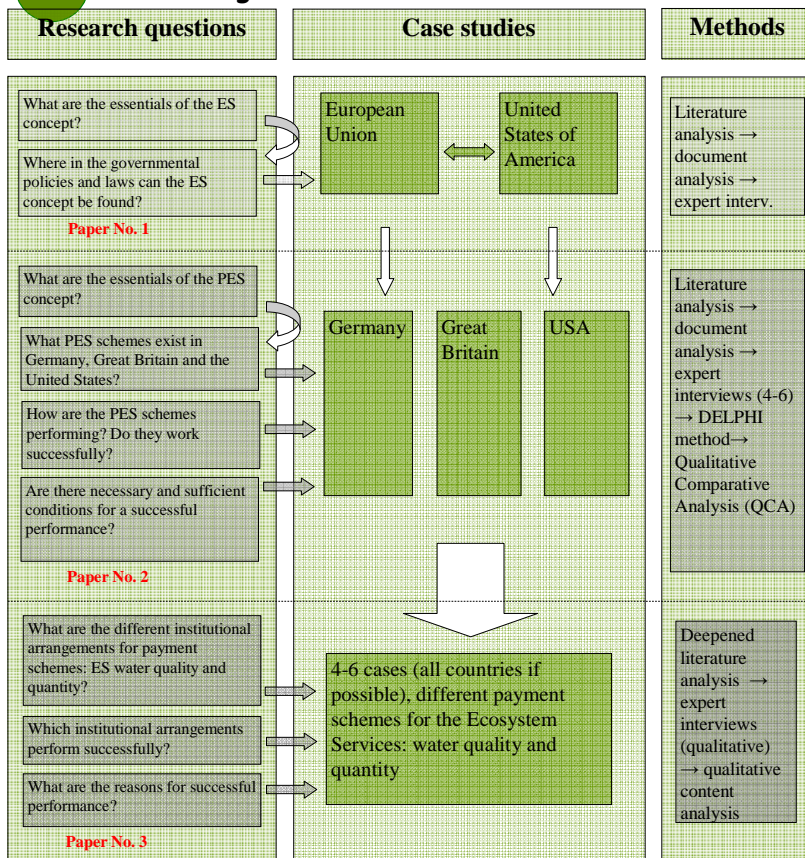
Research questions

- Which governmental initiated PES schemes exist within the research regions?
- How do the governmental initiated PES perform?
- What are the institutional aspects of good and bad performance?

Made concrete through refined research questions as e.g.:

- Where in the EU and US governmental policies and laws can the ES concept be found?
- What are the essentials of the PES concept?
- How are the PES schemes performing? Do they work successfully?
- Are there necessary and sufficient conditions for a successful performance?

Research design overview



Theoretical approach

The **New Institutional Economics (NIE)** will be drawn on theoretically. The term includes such different approaches as transaction cost economics, property right theories, and principal-agent theories.

Institutions govern the relationship between people and natural resources. They are defined as **'the rules of society'**.

The aim during the research process is to focus on some important aspects of the chosen case studies and take them as the basis for the analysis. The theoretical approach will be more precisely determined according to this focus.



Claas Meyer is a doctoral candidate of the junior research group CIVILand at the Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research.

He studied law and agricultural sciences at the Universities Osnabrück, Milan, and Berlin. He completed his legal training at the Berlin District Court of Appeals.

His scientific focus is on governance and institutional economics.

Kontakt: Claas.Meyer@zalf.de