

Pathways to Advance Pesticide Policies

Only second-best solutions possible?

ETHZ Webinar October 20th 2020

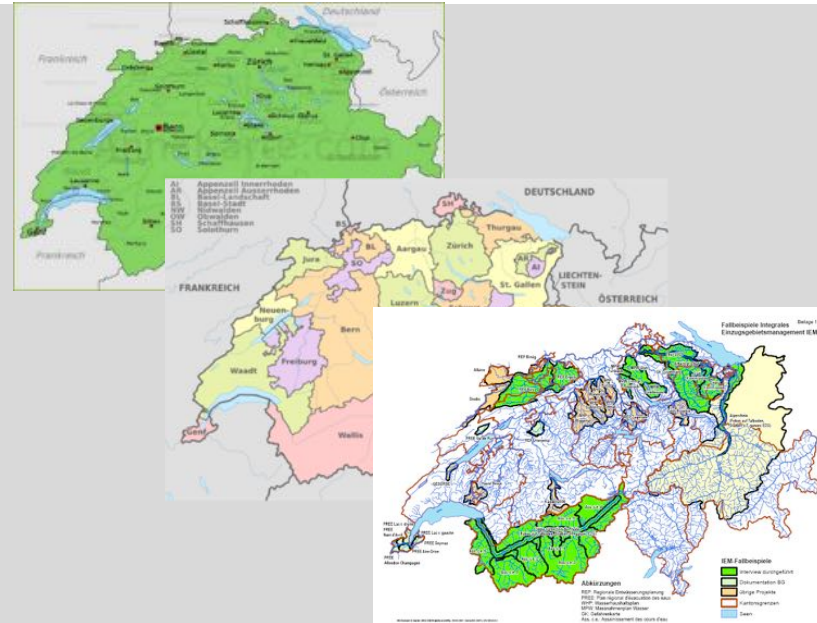
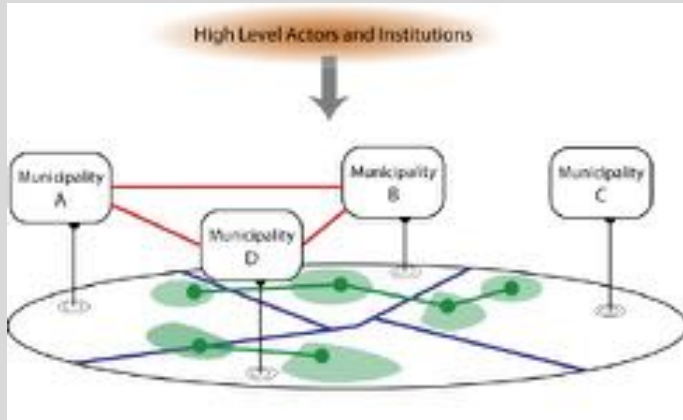
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Policy Analysis and
Environmental
Governance (PEGO)

Claim in the literature

The nature of the problem should guide the nature of the solution



Bergsten, 2014

Aschwanden, BAFU, 2010

Step 1: Identifying the problem characteristics

A complex problem to govern, to steer



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On the necessity of connectivity: linking key characteristics of environmental problems with governance modes

Karin Ingold, Peter P.J. Driessen, Hens A.C. Runhaar & Alexander Widmer

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Step 1: Identifying the problem characteristics

Uncertainty (Science-Policy Interface, Lemos et al. 2012; Learning and social participation, Newig et al. 2005, Pahl-Wostl 2006; Precautionary principle; Metz/Ingold 2017 in Policy Science)

Mismatches across sectors, levels, space and time (Polycentricity, Pahl-Wostl 2002 ; Collaborative Governance Ansell/Gash 2008; Herzog/Ingold 2019 in Policy Studies Journal; Social-Ecological Networks, Ostrom 2009, Bodin et al. 2019 in Nature Sustainability)

Plurality of norms, views, ideologies (Driessen and Glasbergen 1995)

In the case of pesticides?

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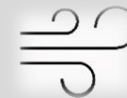
Plurality of norms, views, ideologies (Driessen and Glasbergen 1995)



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Different sectors and levels



Pestrop @eawag.ch



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Plurality of norms, views, ideologies (Driessen and Glasbergen 1995)



Disentanglement between space and time



Chronology

Step 0: Is it a problem?

Step 1: Identifying the characteristics of the problem

Step 2: Setting the “right” targets (legal thresholds?)

Step 3: Choosing policy instruments in accordance

Taking action at the source, or end-of-pipe?

- Very often, both: policy mix (Metz and Ingold 2017; Metz and Leifeld 2017)
- Different than economic theory and empirical evidence
- Performance of a pesticide tax (Finger et al. 2017, 2018; Pedersen et al. 2020)

But policy mixes have also their advantage

- Higher acceptance, can prepare the target group for further regulation (Dermont et al. 2017)
- Can take “target group heterogeneity” into account (Pedersen et al. 2020)

Still some challenges...

- Policy mixes are very often comprised by several “second best” solutions; least common denominator
- No surprise: the political game can end up in a compromise: highly accepted, but not very sober, innovative or effective (Schmidt 2019)
- “Constructive destruction” is missing (Kivimaa and Kern 2016)

