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Journal of Environmental Planning and Management >

Volume 51, 2008 - Issue 6

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Why is integrating policy assessment so hard? A comparative analysis of the institutional capacities and constraints

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Pages 759-775 | Received 01 Oct 2007, Accepted 01 Feb 2008, Published online: 20 Nov 2008

66 Cite this article ▶ https://doi.org/10.1080/09640560802423541



Abstract

Full Article

Widely advocated as a means to make policy making more integrated, policy assessment remains weakly integrated in practice. But explanations for this shortfall, such as lack of staff training and resources, ignore more fundamental institutional factors. This paper identifies institutional capacities supporting and constraining attempts to make policy assessment more integrated. A comparative empirical analysis of functionally equivalent assessment systems in four European jurisdictions finds that there are wide-ranging institutional constraints upon integration. These include international policy commitments, the perception that assessment should support rather than determine policy, organisational traditions, and the sectorisation of policy making. This paper concludes by exploring the potential for altering these institutions to make policy assessment more integrated.

integration	sustainable development	institutional analysis	environmental policy
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	integration		

Acknowledgements

Keywords:

This paper was written with the financial support of the MATISSE (Methods and Tools for Integrated Sustainability Assessment) project, financed under the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme. Duncan Russel was generously funded by the UK Economic & Social Research Council ESRC (PTA-026-27-1094). The authors gratefully acknowledge the contribution of colleagues within the MATISSE consortium, especially Paul Weaver. They would also like to thank Anneke von Raggamby and Ingmar von Homeyer of Ecologic for their work on five of the EU cases as part of the European Commission's 'Sustainability ATest' project.

Notes

- 1. Interview with UK Civil Servant 'A'.
- 2. Interview with EU Strategic Officer 'B'.
- 3. Interview with UK Civil Servant 'C'.
- 4. Interview with UK Civil Servant 'G'.
- 5. Interview with German Environment Ministry official.
- 6. Interview with German Environment Ministry official.
- 7. Interview with German Environment Ministry official.
- 8. Interview with German Agricultural Ministry official.
- 9. Interview with Swedish Committee official 'B1'.
- 10. Interview with EU Policy Officer 'J'.

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