

In general terms

Researchers are currently trying to work out the ways in which the participation of civil society organizations, or “NGOs”, occurs and the ways in which such an engagement influences contemporary environmental governance. One of the objectives of this project is to look at these processes in four different counties - Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Sweden – and produce a report and summaries accessible to different audiences.

Please feel welcome to sign up for our newsletter on www.website.com, where we circulate information about the project outcomes and future events.

For policy-makers

The aim of this project is to analyse the **issues around participation and environmental governance**. The project will generate short briefs and longer case study reports about environmental governance and contemporary issues with participatory processes in selected case studies. Decision-makers wanting to learn about these topics or developing participatory processes might find these documents interesting. Also, ENGOs, evaluators, donor and funding agencies might find these briefs and reports useful in their work.

All documents are accessible on the project website free of charge: www.website.com.

Environmental governance in context: a study of process dynamics, contextual features and outcomes in four empirical cases



For researchers

In the past decades societal changes contributed to what Pierre and Peters (2000) conceptualise as a move from government to a governance.

In this sense scholars have often pointed at the European Union as an interesting case of a multi-layered system, which allows the distribution of power (Bache and Flinders 2004; Sbragia 2000). Non-state actors' involvement is emphasized in many policy documents such as directives, action programs and protocols, which in principle offer a range of opportunities to citizens and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) to influence policy objectives.

However, such opportunities are not equally accessible across the member states and not for all types of issues of public interest. This is assumed to be, among others, the result of social and political aspects which characterise each member state.

Yet, a detailed analysis of issues and opportunities for non-state actors' participation across European countries has not been done. Such a comparison could help to identify causal mechanisms and relations between democratic ideals, institutional maturity, participatory performance and environmental quality.

It is the aim of this project to further the understanding of participatory governance by deconstructing, and comparing issues and opportunities for participatory processes in established democracies (Sweden, Italy) and new democracies (Slovenia, Croatia). This will be undertaken by focusing on i) the **context** (institutions, law, social capital, etc.), ii) the **process** (who participates, how the discussion takes place etc.) and iii) the **outcomes** (final decisions, environmental outcomes, legitimacy). In this study, attention will be given to the social and the political process that underpins participatory governance and the type of outcomes that are generated for the community as well as for the environment.



This research project will bring together case studies from four European countries; Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Sweden.

It is funded by the **Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies**, 141 89 Huddinge, Sweden.

For any further information regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact Romina Rodela (romina.rodela@sh.se), or visit our website:

www.website.com