



## Call for Abstracts Conference on

# Governance of Natural Resources in a Multi-Level Context

19 - 22 January 2010, Leipzig, Germany

**EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:**

**\*\*\*\* JULY 15 \*\*\*\***

GoverNat invites the research community, administrators and NGO representatives to discuss the project's results and present own approaches and experiences in natural resource governance in an attempt to bridge the present distance between abstract theoretical formulations and specific but isolated case descriptions.

### Important dates:

- Abstract submission: 15 July 2009
- Authors' notification: 15 October 2009
- Early Registration: 31 October 2009
- Full paper expected: 3 January 2010
- Conference: 19 - 22 January 2010

### Conference Topics

Within its general theme, the conference organisation welcomes answers to the following or similar questions relevant to multi-level governance of natural resources:

- How do information flows and formats influence decision making?
- Does the concept of legitimacy differ across levels and sectors?
- Which impact does the design of interfaces have on the relationships between experts, public and institutional decision-makers?
- How does the distribution of costs influence decision making?
- What role does the evaluation of policy instruments and of participatory processes play in multi-level governance of natural resources?
- Which participatory methods prove successful in multi-level conflict management?
- Which lessons to draw from case studies of governance of natural resources specifically focused on participation successes and failures?

- Which problems are encountered when adopting multi-level participatory methods in governance practice?

The Conference welcomes contributions that answer such questions with a mix of theoretical developments and empirical evidence: authors of empirical contributions are encouraged to frame their materials in such a way that allows for abstraction from the individual cases; similarly, authors of theoretical contributions are encouraged to suggest possibilities for empirical applications in their papers.

***All authors are requested to start their abstract with the question to which they aim to provide an answer.***

## **Background and Scope**

The governance of natural resources in an enlarged European Union is constantly confronted with new challenges. Currently, as the process of EU integration unfolds, an increase can be observed in the multiplicity of connections between different environmental issues and decisions of local, regional, national and supranational relevance. A need for a higher degree of coordination and exchange has emerged between administrative entities of different scale as well as between actors across the public/private and the expert/stakeholder divide: this has led to the establishment of new linkages, networks and platforms.

Participation represents the overarching conceptual framework capturing the many ways such coordination comes about. However, most of the available works in the field take the form of a purely theoretical discussion of political and philosophical implications or, alternatively, they are grounded in in-depth, single-level, single-case empirics. A systematic lack of consideration for multi-level aspects can be identified. Furthermore, studies are missing, that involve a plurality of cases.

The conference intends to provide a forum for these gaps to be filled: researchers and practitioners are invited to share their experiences and discuss novel approaches to natural resource governance. Contributions shall pay explicit consideration to the multi-level context and try to provide insights beyond the individual cases. Parallel sessions will cover contributions from relevant disciplines such as political science, ecology, economics, law and other disciplinary fields. The conference encourages in particular the integration of knowledge both across disciplines and between science, policy and the public.

The conference represents the final stage of the GoverNat project ([www.governat.eu](http://www.governat.eu)), a Marie Curie Research Training Network supported by the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme. GoverNat explores new participatory processes for multi-level environmental governance and aims at facilitating their adoption by decision makers in an enlarged EU. The main objective of the project is to achieve an enhanced understanding of multi-level governance of water and biodiversity in Europe. To do so, the project explores and evaluates different methods of public and stakeholder participation in the implementation of Natura 2000 and the European Water Framework Directive.

## Scientific Board

Prof. Mikael Skou Andersen, Prof. Paula Antunes, Prof. Susan Baker, Prof. Frank Fischer, Prof. David Gibbs, Prof. Geoffrey Gooch, Prof. Yrjö Haila, Prof. Hubert Heinelt, Prof. Andrew Jordan, Dr. Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská, Dr. Louis Lebel, Dr. Ines Omann, Prof. Jouni Paavola, Prof. György Pataki, Dr. Felix Rauschmayer, Prof. Ortwin Renn, Dr. Doug Wilson, Dr. Heidi Wittmer.

## Abstract Submissions

Contributions should relate to the conference themes and be submitted electronically in the form of a short abstract (up to 350 words). The abstract should be submitted before 1 July 2009 via the website: **[www.governat.eu/conference](http://www.governat.eu/conference)**

## Conference Venue

The conference will be held in the Leipziger KUBUS (<http://www.leipziger-kubus.ufz.de>) at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ, Leipzig.

## Registration

Participants are encouraged to register early via the online registration form available at: **[www.governat.eu/conference](http://www.governat.eu/conference)**

## Fees

Registration before October 31, 2009	Full fee	250 EUR
	Student reduction	150 EUR
Registration after October 31, 2009	Full fee	300 EUR
	Student reduction	200 EUR

The conference fee includes welcome reception, lunch, coffee breaks and the conference dinner.

## Further Information

The latest information concerning conference and social programme updates, accommodation and travel information can be found at: **[www.governat.eu/conference](http://www.governat.eu/conference)**

## Partner Institutes in GoverNat

- Helmholtz - Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Leipzig, Germany
- Ecological Economics and Environmental Management Centre, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, New University of Lisbon, Portugal
- National Environmental Research Institute, University of Aarhus, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Sustainability Research Institute, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
- Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
- Centre for the Sustainable Water Management, Lancaster University, United Kingdom
- Institute of Social Sciences, University of Stuttgart, Germany
- Institute for Forecasting, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia
- Environmental Social Science Research Group, St. Istvan University, Gödöllő, Hungary
- Institute for Structural Policy, Bratislava, Slovakia

## Contact

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