



FAIRWAY

EU POLICY MAKERS

Effectiveness of agricultural and water governance approaches can be improved through transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches, over scales and sectors.

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FURTHER DETAILS

[Boekhold, S. et al. \(2021\) From farm to drinking water - fit for the future? FAIRWAY Project Deliverable 6.5, 9 pp](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



FAIRWAY received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727984

KEY MESSAGE

Good drinking water quality delivery requires sufficient capacity at the local level to ensure that implementation of policies and law results in effective local action. This includes feedback mechanisms and intersectoral learning.

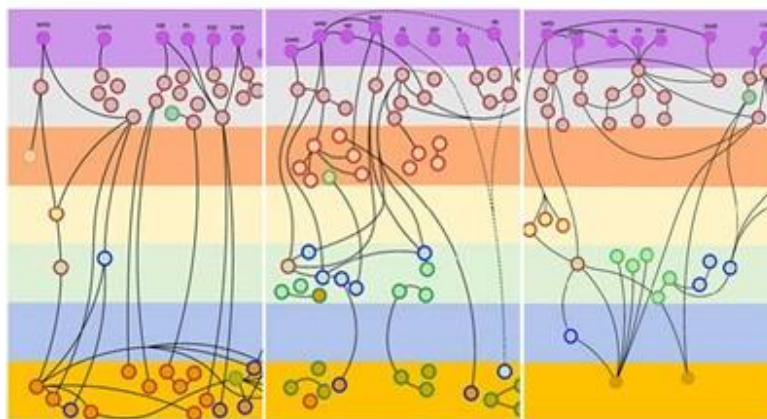
EXPLANATION

Agricultural and water governance is complex with a plethora of policy and legal instruments provided by the EU and national governments to control the quality of drinking water. These policies and instruments are integrated differently at regional and local levels by different Member States, leading to highly diverse implementation across Europe. However, it is difficult to visualise this complexity in a meaningful way.

EVIDENCE

FAIRWAY has developed a new methodology to visualise how water and agricultural governance cascades down from the EU to farm level. The method takes a bottom-up approach and includes active engagement with local actors. By taking account of stakeholder perceptions, a different picture of the reality of governance may be provided.

The impressions may help to determine weaknesses in the effectiveness of governance approaches and policy implementation especially if caused by lack of capacity at local level. They can contribute to impact and actions to either reduce the complexity or facilitate how to deal with it supported by well-designed feedback mechanisms and intersectoral learning. They also highlight the risk for core messages to become lost if they are delivered exclusively top down and sector by sector.



Example impressions from three EU countries that visualise the governance cascade from EU level (on top, purple) to national, multiple regional levels and finally farm scale level (on bottom, orange).