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- **BARRIERS TO INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING AND INNOVATION IN THE FOREST SECTOR IN EUROPE**
- **Markets, Policies and Stakeholders**

- **IDDR/AgroParisTech-ENGREF/IUFRO International Symposium**
Nancy, France, 21-24 June 2009

The COST E51 EU Concerted Action

- ‘ **Integrating Innovation and Development Policies for the Forest Sector** ’
- *objective:* to develop knowledge on innovation and entrepreneurship policies through a pan-European network of scientists and experts
- analyse key-issues and make appraisal of effects
- innovation system research with emphasis on policies
- *runs* from March 2006 to March 2010
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Institutional Innovation vs. Market

- **institutional innovations: Austria, Scotland, France.**
- **examples of the public effort in promoting institutional innovation (multifunctional forest management)**
- **examples of the basic role of the market: economic considerations intervene to impede organisational innovations (market and public policies have opposite dynamics with regard to innovation, as both drivers & barriers) an innovative mode of governance is blocked by a coalition of stakeholders.**

The Innovation Systems Theory as an Entry

- ***Innovation system*: a system made of institutional settings and of relevant actors influencing innovation in products, process and organisation**
- **analytical framework to understand how institutional actors support or block innovation and learning in different sectors**
- **key-features: knowledge process; co-evolution of firms and non-firm organisations**
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The Innovation Systems Theory: Implications

- *Sectoral Innovation Systems:*
 - support innovations in processes more than in products
 - support in priority innovations that reduce production costs (market oriented)
 - innovation in non-timber products and environmental services not-expected to be supported
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Institutional Innovations in Austria

- *Examples of Sectoral Innovations*
 - *Bio-energy production by farmers, supported from outside of the sector rather than inside: agriculture chambers promote with no support from forest sector, ‘low price’ logic instead of ‘environmentally friendly’;*
 - *Tourism and nature conservation services, forced from outside demands: biking on forest roads for paying, compensations for reserve setting.*
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Leasing Public Forests in Scotland?

- **A production-supporting institutional innovation that challenges multifunctional forestry and a territorial approach**
- **an illusive cost-saving may impede integration of forest in local economies based on multifunctional management of the local resource**
- **innovation depends upon spatial proximity, through cross-sectoral regional innovation systems**

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The Policy Network Theory as an Explanation

- **From How to Why?: the way groups of stakeholders react to change explains deviation of multifunctional policies towards market**
- **institutional innovation: a response to a perturbation**
- **stakeholders learning from each other and adapting (resilience) with re-definition of coalitions of interests**
- **this learning process produces innovation (whilst restricting it in order not to lose power and identity)**

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Power according to Foucault

- **Power relations are constructed and re-distributed in interactions among actors**
 - **stronger actors structure the field of action of other stakeholders (power)**
 - **knowledge as well as power result from a collective learning process**
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The 'Forest Territory Charters' in France

- **an institutional innovation appropriated by market**
- ***objective*: since 2000, a new participatory mode to meet stakeholders on local development**
- ***facts*: finally mainly developed for designing new clusters (eg. wood for energy) which work better at local level**
- **constructed through a coalition between the State Forest Agency (ONF) and the forest communes both sharing productivist views**

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As a Conclusion?

- **Institutional innovations often supposed to promote multifunctional forest management**
- **appropriated by stronger stakeholders and re-defined aiming at consolidating their interests (*learning process* leading to new coalitions)**
- **as major interests linked to market, promotes sectoral innovations through new wood market mechanisms**
- **finally this type of innovation directly contributes to restrict aspects linked to multifunctionality and governance**

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Thank you Very Much for your Attention

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