



Reflexive Governance as Governance in the Public Interest

Sabine Weiland

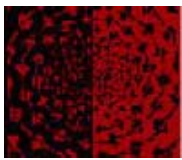
REFGOV Project ('Reflexive governance in the public interest')

Centre de philosophie du droit (CPDR)
Université catholique de Louvain
Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium

email: sabine.weiland@uclouvain.be

Currently: Visiting Fellow
Governance & Sustainability Programme
Centre for the Study of Democracy
Westminster University, London, UK

*"Change in Governance as Collective Learning Process: Management, Politics and Ethics in Forestry" –
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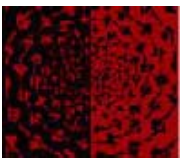
REFGOV Project

- Sustainability transformation as 'public interest governance'
- 'Public interest' – resulting from harmonisation of individual interests, or imposed by an authority?

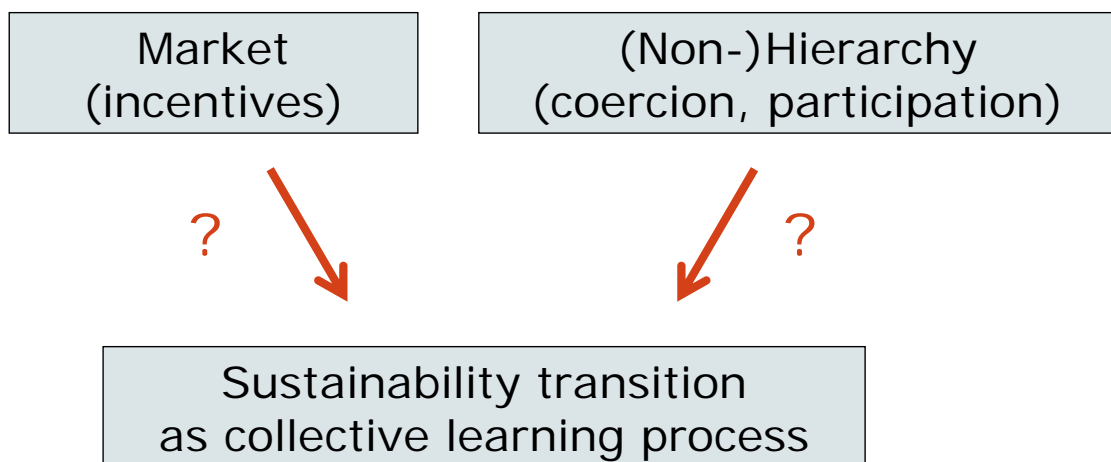


REFGOV Project

- 'Reflexive mechanisms' to improve sustainability governance
- Analytical focus: Link between structures and normative + cognitive actor orientations



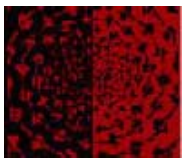
Reflexive Governance





Reflexivity and Reflectiveness

- Reflexivity:
Perspectives, values and norms of variety of actors are included
- Reflectiveness:
Object of governance is fully represented



Four Governance Situations

		cognitive dimension	
		unreflected	→ reflected
social dimension	unreflexive	I.	II.
	↓ reflexive	IV.	III.

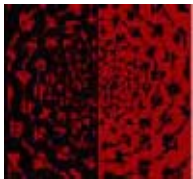


Summary REFGOV

- Reflexive governance: cognitive/discursive change embedded in social and political context
- Link of 'reflectiveness' and 'reflexivity'
- Conditions for 'successful' governance?

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Forest Policy Reforms in Albania: A Case of Reflexive Governance?

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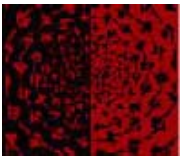
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Forest Policy Reforms in Southeastern Europe

- Building of environmental governance as key challenge in these transition countries
- Forest policy reforms → sustainability as an express objective
- European and international level as main driver of reforms



Research questions

- What is the impact of European and international injunctions on national forest policies?
- What forms of sustainability governance are built up?
- Can we discern instances of reflexivity in the governance arrangements?

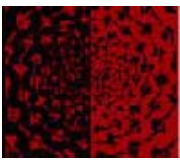


Transition countries of Southeastern Europe



Weiland: Forest Policy Reforms in Albania – A Case of Reflexive Governance?

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Forest Management in Albania

- Forest as socio-economic factor
- Overuse of forest resources, severe degradation, particularly around communities
- 2003: Decree forbids cutting of wood
- Major problem: weakness of the state

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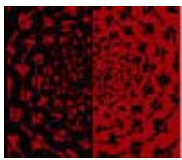


Forest Management in Albania

S'ka shteti, s'ka ligji!

[There is no state, there is no law!]

– Albanian saying after 1990



Decentralisation of Albanian Forest Management

- World Bank projects
- Transfer of management responsibilities to the local level
- Lack of participation culture as obstacle
- Crucial question: communal management with private user rights, or further devolution to private property?



Conclusion

- Reflectiveness of the policy



Protection of forests
AND enhancement
of people's economic
prospects and
living standards

- Reflexivity of the governance arrangement

Albanian
Government

**World
Bank**

- > Decentralisation
- > Commitment among local people
- > Capacity-building?