TRAVELLAB TRANSDISCIPLINARY METHOD FOR PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

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Background and objectives of the TRAVELLAB

TRAVELLAB – transdisciplinary approach for participatory research within FACESMAP COST Action
- The method consists of two parts: i) excursions, and ii) focused discussions with stakeholders
- Participatory research focuses on use of local knowledge and perspectives
- Interdisciplinary group of researchers is working together

Objectives of the TRAVELLAB
- To assess region-specific issues
- Gain knowledge about forest management approaches
- Recording experience from practice
- Focus group facilitation
- Joint development of new solutions

Objectives

- The aim of this poster is to present the analysis TRAVELLAB methodology and to provide guidelines for improving the method in order to ensure better understanding of the diverse forestry issues across Europe. The analysis is done on the basis of the observation notes and participant feedback after the field visits and discussions with stakeholders
- Specifically, it presents the contribution of the TRAVELLAB to the participants understanding of the forest ownership changes in Europe

Material and methods

- This poster presents the findings of the qualitative analysis of the TRAVELLAB notes taken during the 3 FACESMAP meetings (Solsona, Spain; Helsinki, Finland; and Freiburg, Germany)
- The coding is done based on the research questions and participatory research literature
- The analysis is done with NVivo and MAXQDA software
- The TRAVELLAB notes include parts:
  - Observation notes from observers and note takers
  - Reflections from the researchers

Results

- Sucess of assessing the region-specific issues and local knowledge is often connected with the **way questions are asked** and **interaction** between participants.
- **Facilitation** is needed to ensure interaction.
- **Transdisciplinarity** of the researchers requires more loose structure of the method (topic vs. questions). On the other hand more structural approach was found more important.
- The notes showed that **contribution of the method** mostly relate to **access to local knowledge and understanding regionally specific information**. To certain extent, method also contributed to the group management skills of the participants.
- **Group size** is considered important and affect attention and involvement of the participants.

Conclusions

- The method should be **more structured** in order to ensure good implementation, while taking into the account transdisciplinarity of the researchers.
- Preparation of **questions**, type and the way they are asked influence the data received.
- **Facilitation** should be ensured at all stages. If the interaction is good facilitator does not need to get involved.
- **Interactions** during the process are important to get better understanding of region-specific issues.
- **Stakeholders** play a big role in the TRAVELLAB and good selections is contributing to the success of the method.

Facesmap
Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management and Policy
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