

Abstract

As inserted in the framework of STS studies, the following work constitutes an effort to understand the intermediary spaces between knowledge production and policy application communities. More narrowly, it proposes to focus on forest related ERA-NETs, a case study that has not received attention of that field of studies yet. Besides their common role on being funding tools between European Union (EU) member countries, they could be understood as research coordination arrangements that imagine and set in motion notions of how bridging processes between forest research and policy oriented communities should work in transnational arenas. In that sense, I will explore the rationales of that bridging processes embedded in the development of the Sumforest ERA-NET information and activities, as well as on the prospected implementation of its main outputs. By addressing materials of the ERA-NET work packages, as well as opinions of key actors who participated in their preparation, I expect to get consistent and valuable insights on how the problem of employing research information, and information about research for policy goals, is understood in the framing of its work. At the same time, I also aim to have a clear picture on what are its most important roles in mobilizing such information in national and European policy contexts. Finally, resulting from these attempts, it is also possible to understand the criteria to assess the effectiveness of this bridging processes, which in this case required doing an analysis of external actors (institutions, organizations, strategies, etc.) having a central stake in the reception of information produced by Sumforest.

From a practical point of view, the results of this thesis could help to understand funding tools as institutional arrangements able to mobilize relevant knowledge for policy decisions. From a theoretical STS approach, it can increase the understanding of the science-policy boundary demarcation practices inserted into such dynamics, as well as the potentialities of co-production that could be displayed between them.