



PRACTICE ABSTRACT № 10

Keywords

Policy Innovation Lab, policy analysis, policy design, policy process, collaboration

Tools and techniques to initiate a policy dialogue on innovative agri-environment-and-climate contracts

Creating and implementing agri-environmental-climate contracts is a challenging political process, shaped by several actors and diverse interests (e.g. different economical, ecological and social perspectives, small-scale and large-scale farmers, extensive and intensive production). Analyzing this process and its outcomes (i.e. policies, measures and contracts) helps to understand the current situation and design better contracts. However, it is equally important to engage policy makers and other stakeholders in a process of joint thinking, because such a collaboration can more effectively identify challenges of, and innovative solutions for agri-environmental and climate contracts and can also facilitate their successful implementation at wider scales.

Several tools and techniques are available to initiate collaboration between policy makers and other stakeholders. Selecting the most suitable tools depend on: a) which question we want to answer; b) how much time we have; c) how big the group is; d) how well participants know each other, and e) how strong our facilitation skills are.

Main question to answer	Some suggested tools
What are the challenges, and where are the key intervention points?	Intervention Logic, Five Whys, Evaluation Diagram, etc.
How do contracts fit into the policy mix?	Screening the policy mix, Co-creation workshop, etc.
How can contracts be better implemented?	Policy Canvas, Empathy Building, Rapid Prototyping, etc.

More background and practical factsheets of proposed tools are available in the [Contracts2.0 Deliverable D4.1](#).

Author(s)

Erling Andersen
(University of Copenhagen, DK)

Eszter Kelemen & Boldizsár Megyesi (ESSRG, HU)

Contacts

eran@ign.ku.dk

kelemen.eszter@essrg.hu

Country/Region

European Union

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The policy process can be divided into five consecutive stages: agenda-setting (where the problem is identified), policy formulation (where policy options are formulated), decision-making (where specific solutions are selected), policy implementation (where the chosen policy solutions are put into effect), and policy evaluation (where results are monitored). The evaluation phase often leads to the identification of new problems, so a new cycle of the policy process can start.

Policy Innovation Labs have emerged in the 21st century as a new element in the public policy process. Policy Innovation Labs invite diverse actors at the different stages of the policy process to improve the knowledge and expertise base of the decisions and to create novel solutions.

The Contracts2.0 project applies a Design Thinking-approach to co-create innovative solutions for agri-environmental-climate contracts. Policy Innovation Labs have been established in nine countries and invited policy makers and experts to a dialogue where new contractual models – designed on the ground by farmers and stakeholders – can be further improved and enter the policy process.



Designing innovative agri-environmental-climate contracts in the field. (Source: Andreas Lund Povlsen)

ABOUT CONTRACTS2.0

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Contracts2.0 aims to develop innovative contract-based solutions, which increase the motivation for farmers and land managers to produce more environmental public goods and allow them to reconcile the profitability of their farms with sustainability objectives. To do so, 28 research and practice partners closely cooperate to co-design and evaluate the novel contracts. Lessons learned from successfully tested contracts will also provide support for policy makers on local, national and EU-Level.

 www.project-contracts20.eu
 [contracts2_0](https://twitter.com/contracts2_0)
 contact@project-contracts20.eu

Research partners



Action partners



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All Practice Abstracts prepared by the contracts2.0 project can be found here: <https://www.project-contracts20.eu/practice-abstracts/> & <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/contracts20-co-design-von-innovativen>