



PRACTICE ABSTRACT № 17

Keywords

Institutional analysis, Net-Map method, social network analysis, result-based agri-environmental schemes, Burren Programme Ireland

An institutional analysis of the Burren Programme (Ireland) to reveal the variety of actors and their interactions

For the institutional analysis seven actors involved in the Burren Programme (BP) were interviewed using the Net-Map method for social network analysis. Based on the interview results, 14 key actors from all governance levels (local to international) with different professional background in agriculture, nature conservation, and tourism were identified. These actors cooperate with one another through a dense network of formal (i.e. based on written contracts and formal agreements), and informal ties (e.g. based on exchange of information or resources).

Involved actors name diverse motivations for their involvement, which include ecological and economic aspects, knowledge transfer, local connections/love for their region, social/networking, as well as obligation through assigned duties or mandates. Named challenges relate to the strict frame set by the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, the Covid-19 pandemic, unsustainable tourism in the Burren region, missing marketing concepts for local produce in the region and issues related to the current design of the BP. Main success factors of the BP are the high level of trust and commitment of actors, local connectedness and love for their region as a powerful motivator to become involved, as well as the layered payment design, the flexibility, the ambitious standards, and long-term duration of the BP. The acquired knowledge gained through the institutional analysis may be used to strengthen ties among actors (e.g. between agriculture and tourism), raise awareness of the importance of informal ties, and suggest ways to enhance organizational performance of the BP.

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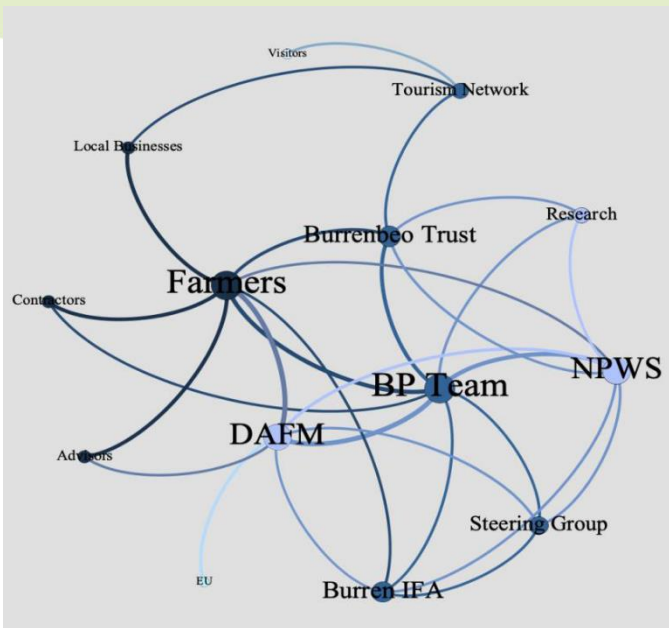


Fig. 1: Formal interactions between BP actors

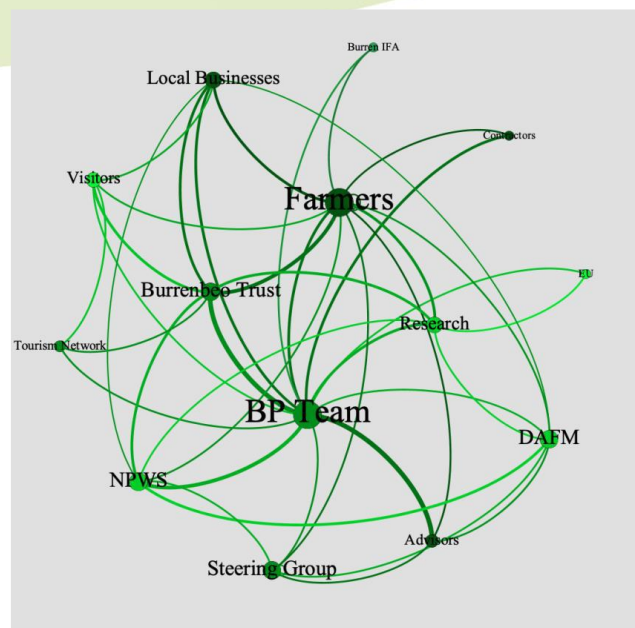


Fig. 2: Informal interactions between BP actors

For a more detailed description of the method and the results see the corresponding [research note](#).

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.

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