

## Policy instruments and implementation: SoCo case studies

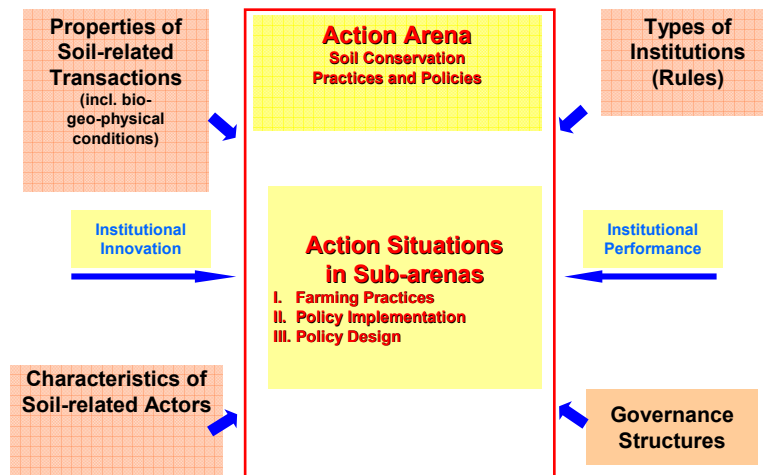


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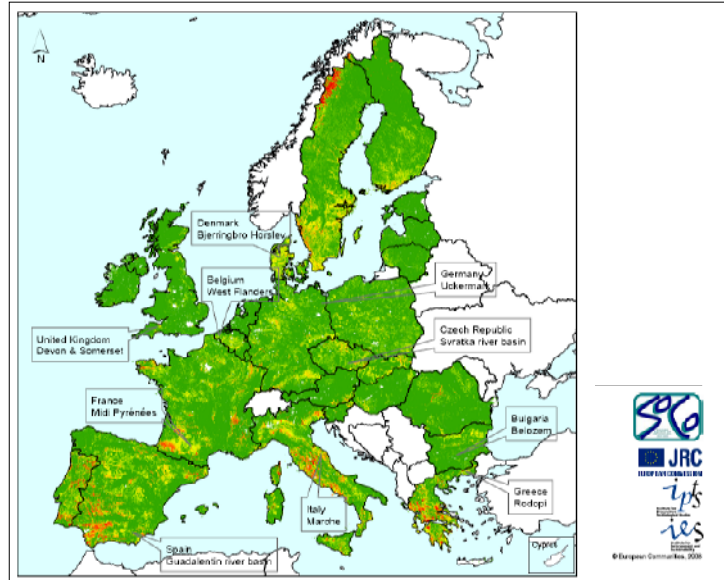
## Analytical framework



Hagedorn, 2008



## Location of the case studies



## Selection criteria

- Significant soil conservation issues
- Territorial balance
  - *Soil conservation problems*
  - *Farming systems and agricultural management practices*
  - *Agrarian and social institutions*
  - *Political institutions and types of governance*
  - *Expertise and experience of local case study partners*

## Soil degradation processes in case study areas

Five prevalent soil degradation issues:

- Soil erosion
- Decline in organic matter
- Soil compaction
- Diffuse soil contamination
- Salinization



in line with those highlighted in the Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (COM2006)



## Methodological approach

- Literature review
- Template sheet for the evaluation of farming practices (experts)
- Semi-structured interview form for three groups of stakeholders with different modules:
  - farmers and related stakeholders
  - administrative and governmental stakeholders
  - non-governmental and civil society actors.
- Face-to-face or telephone interviews (~1h)





## Methodological approach

Regional workshops in macro-regions:

- forum to discuss and disseminate the research findings
- Explore the robustness of the technical and policy recommendations
- Expertise of the participants



## Soil conservation policies in the case studies

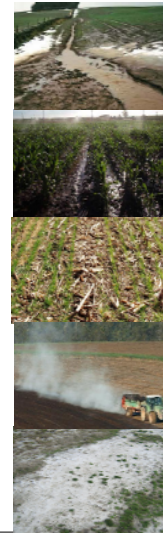
- The extent of the soil degradation problems
- Differences in farming systems
- Policy examples for soil conservation from the case studies





## Important soil degradation issues

- Water erosion in all case study areas except Bulgaria
- Compaction and organic matter decline less visible, but prevailing throughout all case study areas
- Diffuse contamination widespread with extremes (West-Vlaanderen)
- Soil salinization in Spain and Bulgaria (irrigation)



## Czech Republic



Farming system: arable farms

- Law on soil protection
- Land consolidation (compulsory measures for soil conservation)
- Agri-environmental schemes
  - conversion of arable land to grassland
  - Cover crops





## Belgium



Farming system: intensive pig farming, vegetables, arable farms

- Erosion Decision
  - Municipal Erosion Plan
  - Small infrastructural works (erosion ponds, erosion dams, grass corridors, grass buffer strips)
- AES Erosion
  - Source oriented schemes (non-inversion tillage, zero tillage)
  - Symptom treatment (grass buffer strips, grass corridors, erosion pools)



## Eastern-Germany



Farming system: large-scale, arable and mixed farms

- German federal soil protection act
- GAEC (soil cover)
- Brandenburg AES: soil conservation as a by-product (intercrops and undersown crops)





## Bulgaria (Salinization)



Farming system: irrigated small-scale agriculture

- Well registration
- Establishment of water user associations
- Financial support for purchasing farm equipment
- GAEC



## Different approaches against soil erosion

- UK: rather voluntarily with intensive farm extension programmes
- Some countries have distinct soil legislation
- Incentives for conservation tillage are being phased out
- Czech republic: land consolidation
- Municipal soil erosion plan in Flanders
- Difficulties with implementation of GAEC minimum soil cover in Spain and Greece





## Conclusions

- Existing suite of policy measures are diverse and reflect regional conditions

However, there is a lack of:

- Robust monitoring of soil degradation
- Outcome orientation of incentive measures
- Flexibility regarding local specificities
- Advice and knowledge support
- Coordination of relevant policies



**Thank you for your attention!**

