WILDFIRES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The cohesion of the European Green Deal policies to prevent them

INTRODUCTION

Environmental context:

- Demographical movement, specifically rural exodus.
- Forest management has lead to an increase of forests.
- Climate change effects increased high-to-extreme fire danger.

Management context:

- EU focuses on mitigation plans.
- €1 in prevention can save up to €4-€7 in mitigation/recovery.

Research Question:
Are the strategies of the EGD coherent to prevent the complex problem of wildfire prevention?

Objectives:

- Examine the level of coherence.
- Observe if the policies can comprehensively solve the complex problem.
- Identify synergies and gaps between policies.

ANALITICAL FRAMEWORK

Coherence:
Process where policymakers design a set of policies in a way that, if properly implemented, they can possibly achieve a larger goal and solve a complex problem in this case wildfire prevention.

Cejudo & Michel (2017) Model

European Green Deal:
Holistic initiative towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

Target areas:

- Combat climate change
- Biodiversity loss
- Environmental degradation

} While fostering economic growth and social equity

European Commission (2021)

Scientifical evidences:

- Landscape planning wildfires
- Planning risk assessment in rural-urban areas.
- Resilient forest management → election of species, discontinuity of inflammable fuels.
- Increase of research and public awareness.

EU Scientifical Booklet (2021). Land-based wildfire prevention measures.

METHODOLOGY

Analysis of the coherence elements, Cejudo & Michael model (2017).

- Policy Objectives
- Policy Instruments
- Policy Target

Analysis of 4 strategies of the EGD, that mention

- Forest Strategy 2030
- Biodiversity Strategy 2030
- Adaptation to Climate Change Strategy
- Farm to Fork Strategy

	No overlapping	Simultaneous operate	Contribute to the complex problem
Level 1			
Level 2			
Level 3			

RESULTS

Policy Objectives				
	FS 2030	BS 2030	ACCS	FFS
FS 2030	-	2	2	1
BS 2030	2	-	2	2
ACCS	2	2	-	1
FFS	1	2	1	-
Total	**5**	**6**	**5**	**4**

Policy Instruments				
	FS 2030	BS 2030	ACCS	FFS
FS 2030	-	2	1	1
BS 2030	2	-	2	1
ACCS	1	2	-	2
FFS	1	1	2	-
Total	**4**	**5**	**5**	**4**

Policy Target: The primary focus does not lie on the delineation of policy targets themselves. The principal targets in all the strategies are the Member States and the policy areas are Agriculture and Rural Development and Environment.

CONCLUSIONS

- **High levels of coherence**, especially in Adaptation Climate Change Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.
- Better results have been shown in pairs of policies, where the general objectives create **synergies** with the wildfire-specific ones.
- Presence of **overlapping objectives**, in the case of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Forest Strategy 2030.
- **None of these policies fully deal with the complex problem** of wildfires and achieve totally comprehensive management in the prevention phase.

LIMITATIONS

- The methodology employed recognizes the effects of subjective biases to influence conclusions.
- Further expert assessment is needed to determine if these policies collectively suffice to address the complex issue of wildfires in scientific terms.
- Other factors that might influence the outcome → funding and Member State's implementation.

REFERENCES

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