

## Call for Post-Doctoral Research Position

### ***Assessing and improving the coherency of policies in front of climate change using two-level socio-political experiments (governance & implementation)***

This research aims at designing and implementing new protocols for social experiments, which should assess the coherency and conditions for improvement of the different policies faced by various stakeholders in relation with ongoing or potential climate change. It targets both the policy making (governance) groups and the implementation groups (field actors). Such two-level process seems to have never been applied to this kind of stakeholders, and for this highly relevant issue. The challenge is the design and implementation of an efficient, acceptable and observable protocol, providing insights both in terms of analysis and improvement of the integration and coherency of the policies. The main outcome is a joint assessment from the policy making level and the end-users (implementers) level.

#### **Context**

This research takes place as a methodological contribution to a European working group from the PEER research network ([www.peer-initiative.org](http://www.peer-initiative.org)), dealing with “Policy Integration, Coherence and Governance” in front of climate change. Led by Per Mickwitz from SYKE (Finland), it associates ALTERRA (NL), CEH (UK), Cemagref (F), NERI (DK), JRC-IES (I - EC) and UFZ (G). As stated in its initial description: “the project will first and foremost aim at an increased understanding of the features and conditions for better integrated and coherent policies and governance processes. In addition the goal is also prescriptive, i.e. which methods approaches and institutions, at different levels, could contribute to foster climate change policy integration and increase coherence.”

The main outcomes are expected already at the end of 2008.

#### **Background**

The “two-level experiments” (2LE) (Ferrand, 2008<sup>1</sup>) are an instance of social experiments (cf. policy exercises, experimental economics, role playing games, business games), where two sub-processes are coupled, one including policy making (or shaping: i.e. transposition) activities, the other their implementation processes by field actors. Both processes evolve dynamically and interact via information, regulation, and voting processes. They are designed to represent the actual activity of the policy making groups, on one side, and of the “end-users” of the policies (farmers, consumers...) on the other side.

In terms of assessment of policy integration and coherency, this method exhibits different assets:

- For the policy makers, and around an abstracted case, it is an opportunity to procedurally explore and formulate the main constraints and uncertainties they encounter while designing climate change related regulations. This is done with the support of external observers and experts, and without the critical risk of direct implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Ferrand, N., 2008, **Designing Two – Levels – Experiments for Water Policy Design and Implementation**, in Actes des Journées de Rochebrune 2008 sur les Systèmes Complexes Naturels et Artificiels, Paris : ENST.

- For the end users or target groups, they can assess and respond to the emerging policies, integrating their practical “day-life” constraints. This is an opportunity to check the acceptability or conditions for appropriation for the new change-inducing strategies
- Between both groups it should facilitate a dialogue where parties can improve their mutual understanding and communicate their rationales.

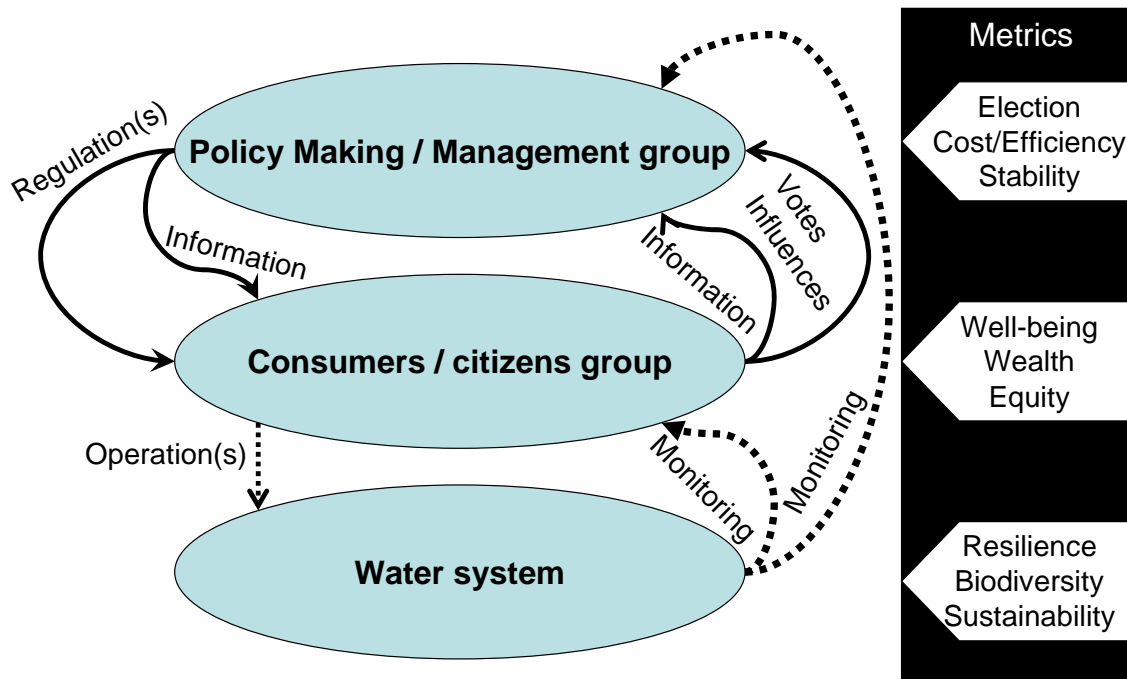
The background main assumption of following this kind of approach is that the problems encountered with policy integration and coherency are not only linked to content or structure of the policies themselves, but also to their implementation, adaptation and appropriation processes at meso (regional) and micro (individual) scales. The final expectations would be to demonstrate how such two-level experimental approach could be actually integrated in the institutionalized policy-making processes.

### ***Protocol***

The fundamental practical rule of the two-levels experiments is to convene two different groups gathering real policy makers or water managers in one, and consumers (farmers, households, etc) in the second, and to organize structured sessions where they go through various stages and sequentially exchange results and information.

Following the principles of experimental economics and field experiments, each player gets a real payoff at the end, based on a predefined paying rule, designed to represent and trigger some given behaviours. This payoff would for instance favour pro-social behaviours within the consumers and would mimic the responsibility of policy makers for maintaining the good environmental status. It is an incentive for the players to exhibit realistic and efficient behaviours

The evaluation of the results for the scientists has to be done on the basis of generic criteria not presuming the actual political choices of a given society. Therefore different observatory metrics are to be used for generic and comparative description. This doesn't preclude the explicit choice of given metrics within the payoffs of the decision processes, as an expression of a social or political choice to be tested. Two categories of metrics are therefore required. Sessions are repeated with different groups in order to increase statistical accuracy of the results. In the case of the 2LE this can't be done as easily because of the presence of real policy makers or managers, whose time is tight.



## Action plan

The researcher in charge of the action will have, under supervision of Dr. Nils Ferrand from Cemagref UMR G-EAU, and in collaboration with other colleagues, to:

- establish the links with other partners and participate to the group's meetings
- based on a literature review, finalize a methodology and validate it with the partners
- define the evaluation protocol
- organize a pre-test with controlled participants (colleagues, students)
- transfer the methodology to the partners who are interested to repeat the process in their countries, through a course
- select participants among real stakeholders in a region and organize the logistics for the process
- animate the experiments in France and participate to other countries' cases.
- collect and process results
- contribute to the final publications of the group and to the specific ones of the experimental process.

## Profile and conditions

The candidate must have already a phd and experience with similar topics: policy exercises, field experiments, scenario building, business games, companion modelling, role playing games, participatory methods... She / he should have demonstrated her / his capacity to design and conduct (facilitate) interactive or participatory processes with "real" stakeholders (not only students). She / he should also have shown her / his analytical capacity based on a background curriculum in political sciences, sociology, management sciences, operational research or other socio-environmental sciences.

Some knowledge of climate policies and issues would be useful.

Good English speaking and writing. Ability to communicate in French → some experiments will be in French.

Based in Montpellier, Méditerranée seaside, France. Travels in Europe required (no visa constraints).

French public short-term contract (CDD) at Cemagref – 18 months **starting march 10, 2008**– gross salary : base 26400 €/ year, 20400 €net salary (social security, unemployment security and pension included) for 134 h / month – 47 vacation days / year.

### ***Selection procedure***

1 Send a cv + refs + application by email, **before February 12, 2008** to:

Dr. Nils FERRAND : nils.ferrand@cemagref.fr

Chargé de Recherches (Researcher)

UMR Gestion Eau Acteurs Usages

Cemagref Irrigation Montpellier

BP 5095 361, rue J.F. Breton

34196 MONTPELLIER CEDEX 5 - FRANCE

Tel.: +33/(0)4 67 04 63 20

2. One candidate will be selected and all will be informed on February 13. **NB: The selection can be stopped before this date if adequate candidate is found before.**

3. The selected candidate will have to extend the description of the position and include her / his own proposals and contribution in the working plan. The final research proposal of the candidate will be submitted for review to the scientific board of Cemagref. This document will have to be finalized for February 19.

4. Contract will start on march 10, directly for the kick off meeting of the PEER project in Finland.