

Analyzing Governance Capacities of Public Actors for Supporting Forest-Based Social Innovation Initiatives – Moving Beyond Lead Roles of Public Actors to Building New Collaborative Governance Arrangements

Dr. Todora Rogelja from the University of Padova, Italy, visited the University of Freiburg, Germany, 25.11.-16.12.2018

Todora Rogelja from the Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture, and Forestry (Doctoral School Land, Environment, Resources, and Health) of the University of Padova worked on analysing governance capacity of public actors involved in the socially innovative Charcoal land initiative. She visited the University of Freiburg in Germany, where she was hosted by Prof. Dr. Margaret Shannon. The visit took place from 26-16 December, 2018.

The SSV is part of a broader Ph.D. research aiming to explore governance capacities of the public actors for supporting social innovation in the forest-based sector. The main objective of the proposed visit is to understand how public actors create the linkages among governance capacities vested in various actors to create socially innovative governance arrangements, using empirical data from a case study of the Charcoal Land initiative in Slovenia. To fulfill the main objective, specific objectives of the conducted visit were to identify governance capacities of key public actors in the Charcoal Land initiative. and to analyze how they link together governance capacities into a socially innovative governance arrangement.

For answering research questions, Todora used event sequence analysis, network and narrative analysis. Results indicate that the initial stages of the Charcoal land initiative were characterized by the growth of agency and deliberation of newly engaged actors. The knowledge and structural position of the innovator enabled access to new actors. The Charcoal land idea was composed of seven major themes, that were strategically used in persuading other actors to support the initiative.

The EFI SSV also opened many opportunities for sharing the research and networking with colleagues. Once again, EFI SSV proved as inspirational and helpful for strengthening and furthering my research.