

Terra Mosana: A “good governance” approach

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Abstract

Terra Mosana is a collaboration project (2018- 2021) between municipalities, heritage sites, museums, universities and citizens in order to reinforce Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR) tourism and the formation of a shared identity through the digital exploitation of its cultural heritage. Based on this experience, the aim of this study is to describe how the governance structure of the Terra Mosana project has been developed to sustain the use and maintenance of the key deliverables of the project. In order to achieve this, a structured approach was followed based on the eight good governance principles: participation, consensus oriented, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, effective and efficient, equity and inclusiveness and rule of law has been employed as governance qualities. These governance qualities have been complemented with structural and managerial instruments that work as governance dimensions. The Structural instruments are: S1. Establishment of coordinating functions or entities, S2 Reshuffling division of competences, S3. Establishment of a legal framework, S4. Regulated markets, S5. Systems for information exchange and sharing, S6. Entities for collective decision-making and S7. Partnerships. While the managerial instruments are: M1. Strategic planning, M2. Financial management: input-oriented, M3. Financial management: performance-oriented, M4. Financial management fostering joined up working and cooperation between organizations, M5. Inter-organizational culture and knowledge management, and M6. Capacity building. The composition of both instruments allows to underpin institutional arrangements in the public sector via three governance mechanisms: hierarchies, markets, and networks. Through our analysis we identified that S3. Legal Framework, S5. Systems for information exchange, M1. Strategic Planning, and sharing, and M5. Inter-organizational culture and knowledge management have required the most attention when implementing the governance instruments in the context of Terra Mosana. In addition, S1. Establishment of coordinating functions or entities, S6. Entities for collective decision-making and Instrument S4. Market regulation needed least attention in the governance arrangement of Terra Mosana. Finally, most good governance principles are relevant for the implementation of the instruments. In particular, participation, accountability and transparency are very relevant for several governance instruments.

Bio Joep

I am professor and research manager on ‘Information Management in the Public Sector’ at the Public Governance Institute in KU Leuven. I am also secretary-general of EuroSDR – an European Spatial Data Research network linking national mapping and cadastral agencies with academic institutions across Europe for doing applied research. My main research topics refer to e-governance, digital transformation, and (spatial) data infrastructures. Finally, I have been involved in numerous (inter)national projects somehow related to my research topics.

Bio Cesar

I am a postdoctoral researcher at the Public Governance Institute in KU Leuven. I focus on the governance aspects of green and digital solutions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. My research covers Europe, Latin America and Africa. Among my research topics are climate change adaptation, blue-green infrastructure, land policy, the challenges of small and medium-size cities and smart cities. I am a member of the National Researchers System in Mexico (SNI-CONACYT) and a holder of the University Teaching Qualification certificate from the Netherlands (UTQ/BKO).