



Perception and Implementation of Agricultural Interests in Austria's Local Spatial Planning



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Background

Fertile soils are being lost worldwide. One of the main drivers in Europe is the conversion of farmland for construction purposes (FAO 2015). This endangers not only the survival of agricultural enterprises, but also the environment and subsequently the security of food supplies (FAO 2015; Gardi et al. 2015; Razpotnik Visković 2017).

While there is a broad variety of studies identifying and assessing areas affected by farmland conversion (see e.g. Gardi et al. 2015; Skog and Steinnes 2016; Gottero 2019), there is little insight into the actual planning processes at the local level. However, those local planning processes seem to be decisive regarding the preservation of agricultural land and the associated farms (Skog and Steinnes 2016; Falkowski 2017).

Aim of the study

Determining

- agricultural spatial planning interests
- the perception and implementation of these interests in the Austrian local spatial planning processes

Research Questions



How are agricultural interests implemented in local spatial planning processes?



How are agricultural interests perceived in local spatial planning processes?



How are agricultural interests articulated in local spatial planning processes?



Which spatial planning related interests are expressed by farmers, owners of agricultural land and agricultural interest representatives?



QUALITATIVE APPROACH

Exploratory cross-case comparison

Case Studies	(1) Aderklaa	(2) Leopoldsdorf
Inhabitants 2017	206	5.081
Agricultural quota 2017	36,59%	0,34%
Farmland conversion 2007-2017	~ 3%	~ 15%



(cf. Statistik Austria s.a.; BEV 2008; BEV 2017)

Data collection:
 10 -12 problem centered interviews per municipality

Sampling: Purposive sampling of local spatial planning stakeholder (farmers, planners, municipal council members, citizens, members of the chamber of agriculture)

Data analysis: Qualitative content analysis guided by the Institutional Analysis and Development framework (IAD-framework) (Ostrom 2005)

Material and Methods

RESULTS

- **Agricultural spatial planning related interests:** fitting road infrastructure - preservation of coherent areas of farmland - reduction of immigration - keeping (dense) housing at a distance - ...
- **Main actors:** mayor - municipal council – farmers - local chamber of agriculture
- **Perception and implementation of agricultural spatial planning related interests depend on:** history of municipality - agricultural quota in municipal council - profitability of agriculture - ...

QUANTITATIVE APPROACH

Questionnaire survey

Data collection: standardized online questionnaire
Sampling: Target group are farmers, planners and municipal council members → link sent out through associated interest groups (e.g. Chamber of Agriculture)
Data analysis: descriptive and interference statistics

Content analysis of the texts of regulation from community development plans

Data collection and sampling: community development plans of two Austrian federal states
Data Analysis: Qualitative and quantitative content analysis

References

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Jackdt	„Die Shopping City Seiersberg im Süden von Graz, in Seiersberg“
Langenstein Sascha	„FNP Stadt Koblenz, stark vereinfacht“
Ledl Thomas	„Siedlung Friedensstadt“
Nash Andrew	„Vienna aerial OMV refinery Zaug14 -4“
Rosso Robot	„Positionskarte von Wien“
Silveira Isabel	„Green Grass – Wisconsin“
Tatschl Gregor	„A4 Ostautobahn“