

**EXPLORING BRIDGING PROCESSES
BETWEEN RESEARCH AND POLICY
COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY OF THE
SUMFOREST ERA-NET**

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QUICK INTRODUCTION ON STS STUDIES

THREE MAIN PILLARS:

- TECHNO-SCIENCE AND SOCIETY: COMMUNICATING & INTERACTING
- KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY CULTURES
- POLITICS OF INNOVATION AND ITS INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSIONS

RESEARCH QUESTION

‘How is the bridging process between forest research and policy oriented communities addressed in the Sumforest ERA-NET framework?’

RESEARCH SUB QUESTIONS

FOREST
RESEARCH
COMMUNITIES

WHAT ARE
THE GAPS?

POLICY
COMMUNITIES
(WHICH ONES
ARE
ADDRESSED?)

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF
SUMFOREST IN BRIDGING
THEM?

HOW DOES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROCESS
COULD BE UNDERSTOOD?

MATERIALS OF ANALYSIS

- WP3. D3.1. “Characterisation of the forest-related policy framework European Forest Related Policies – A cross-sectoral review. Filip Aggestam and Nataša Lovrić. Report, December 19 th 2014.
- WP3. D 3.2. “SUMFOREST Foresight Panel and Foresight Workshop Results on “Emerging Issues in European Forest-Based Sector and Research Priorities”. Lauri Hetemäki and Nataša Lovrić. European Forest Institute February 13, 2015.
- WP3 D3.3. “Future forest policy and policy makers knowledge gaps”. Vera Steinberg (BLE) and Thorsten Hinrichs (BMEL). June 29, 2015.
- WP4 D4.1 pp., DRAFT. “Report from the workshop on strategic activities. Part 1: SWOT analysis of Forest research in Europe”. Jean-Luc Peyron and Annabelle Amm. (ECOFOR). Draft, July 2015, 14th .
- WP4 Deliverable 4.3. “The Sumforest Strategic Action Plan 2016-2018” Mipaaf-DISR IV Annamaria Marzetti & Elena Capolino May 2016.
- Seven qualitative semi structured interviews.

GROUNDING THEORY

DATA

Codes

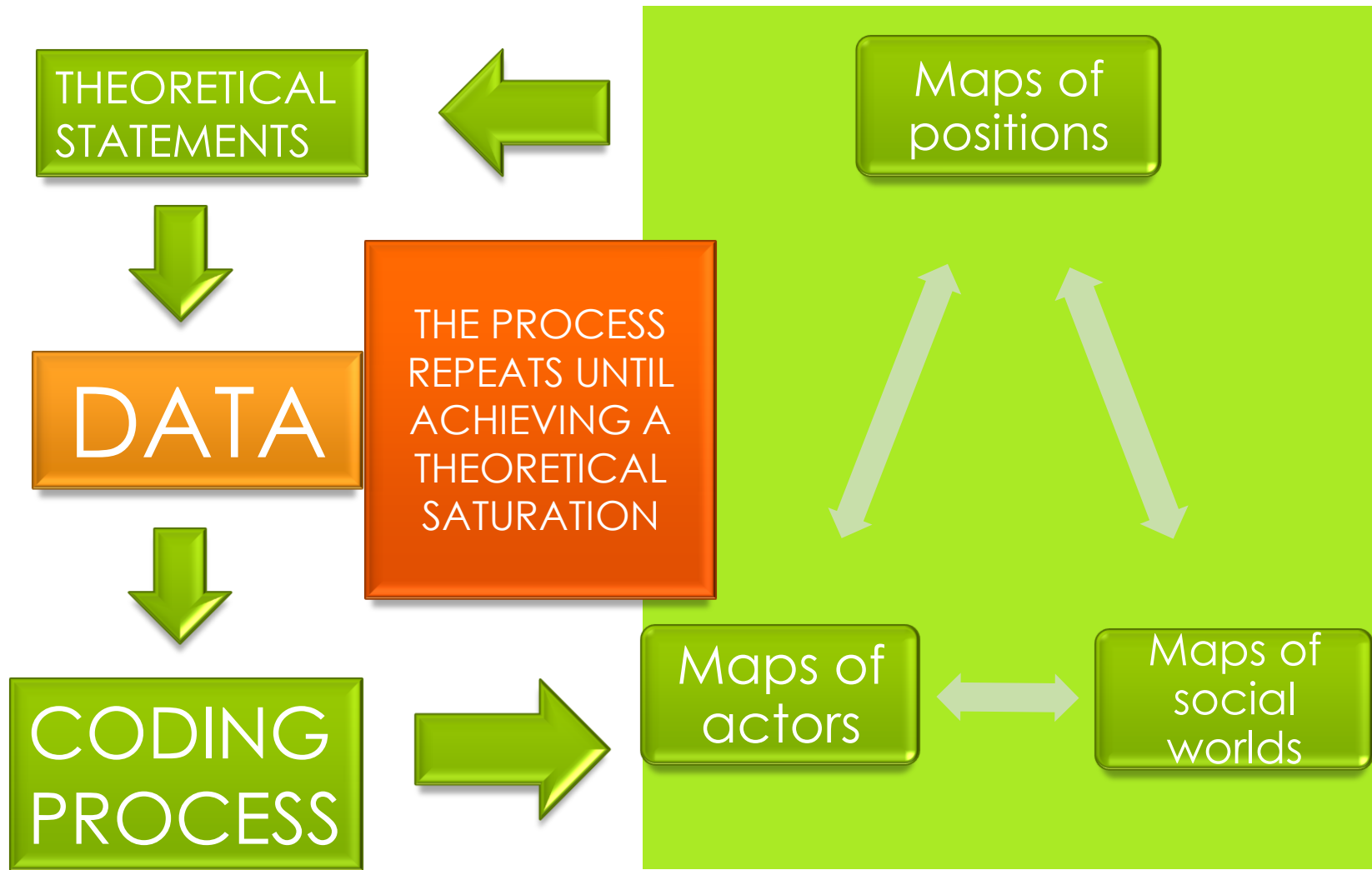
Categories

Concepts

Statements

THE PROCESS REPEATS UNTIL
ACHIEVING A THEORETICAL
SATURATION...

SITUATION ANALYSIS



FOCUSSED ADDRESSEES AND DRIVERS

- ADDRESSEES IN THE EUROPEAN SCALE
 - FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES
 - ERA LEARN PLATFORM
 - JOINT PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK
 - EUROPEAN FOREST STRATEGY
 - BIO ECONOMY STRATEGY
 - FOREST EUROPE PROCESS
- NATIONAL POLICY ORIENTATIONS

GENERAL AIMS

- CONSTITUTING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA.
- TACKLING SOCIETAL CHALLENGES MORE EFFECTIVELY.
- PROVIDING RESEARCH BASED INFORMATION.
- CONTRIBUTE IN BUILDING COHERENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES.
- IMPROVING FOREST RESEARCH CAPACITIES.

IDENTIFIED GAPS

POLICY FRAMEWORK

- ABSENCE OF A COMMON EUROPEAN FOREST POLICY.
- POLICY FRAGMENTATION.
- POLICY CONTRADICTIONS.
- PERCEPTIONS ABOUT FOREST RESEARCH (TOO SMALL, NOT STRONG ENOUGH).

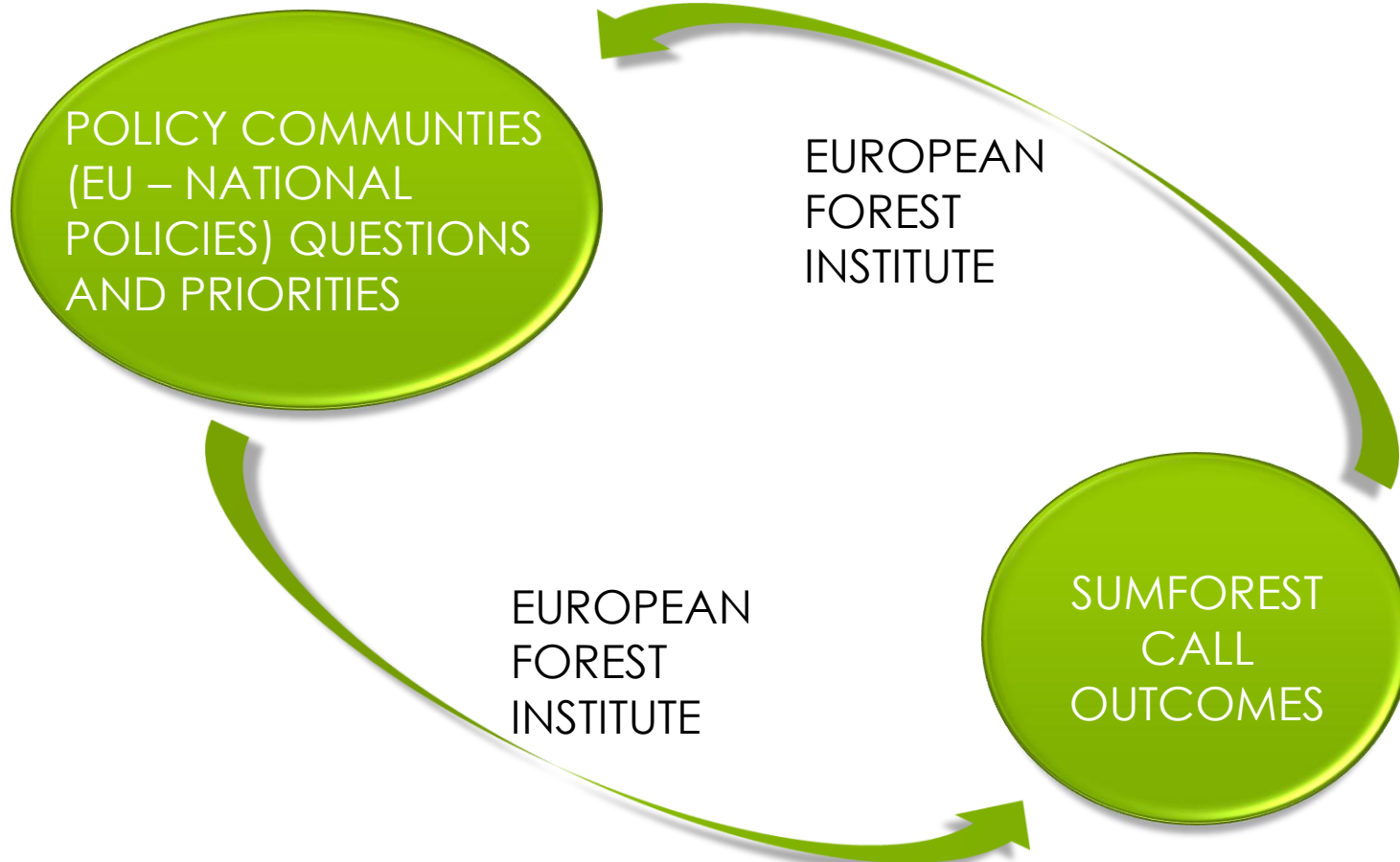
- SCARCE FUNDING ALLOCATION
- LOW POLITICAL WEIGHT OF FOREST ISSUES

- NOT CLEAR MESSAGES AND ADVICE

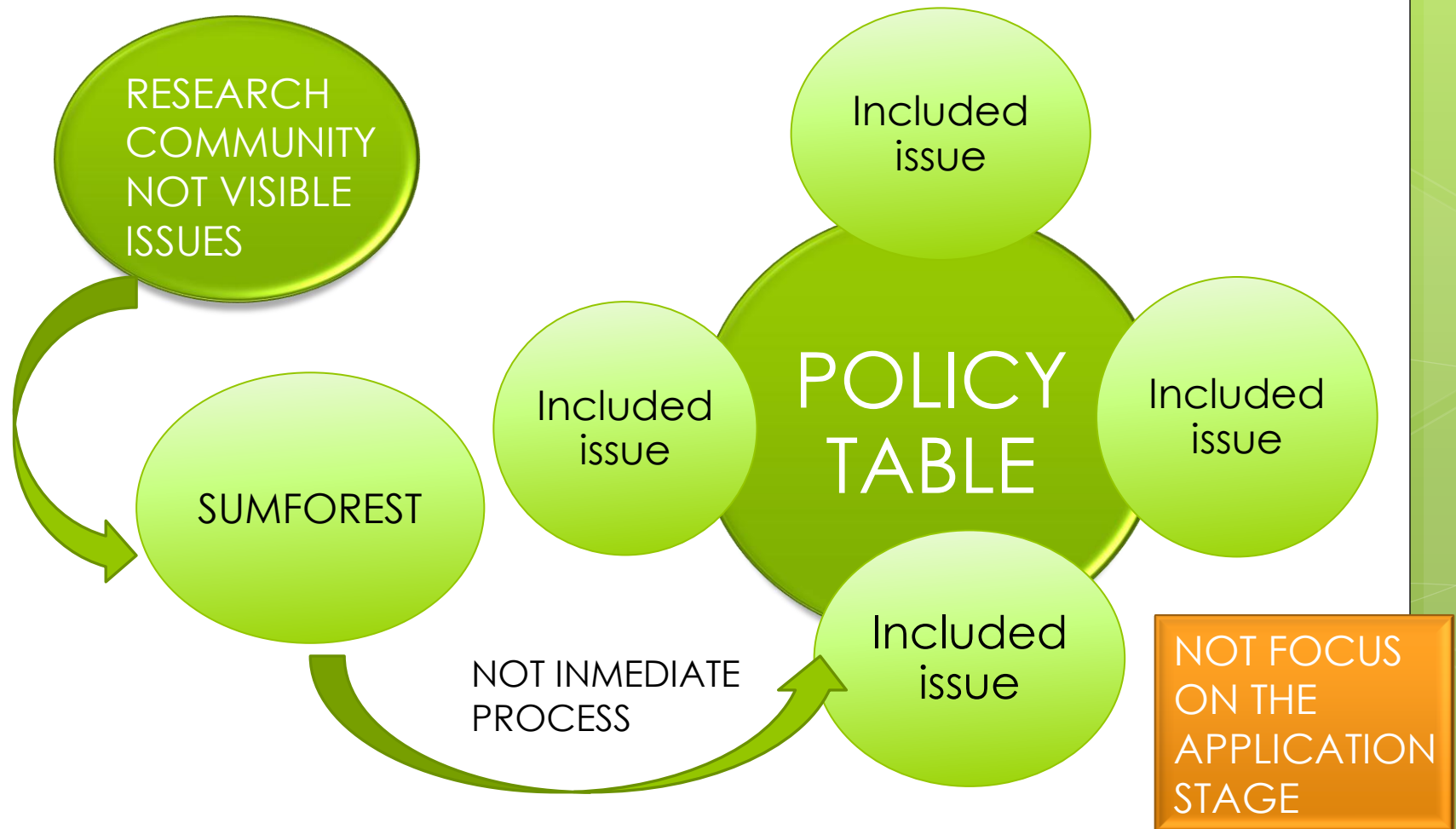
RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

- STILL NOT ENOUGH COMMON VISIONS ON FOREST RESEARCH.
- PROBLEMS ON RESEARCH CAPACITIES (PROBLEMS FOR RESEARCH FUNDING).
- NOT ENOUGH COLLABORATION.
- NON DIGESTABLE PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

SUMFOREST MOVILIZING RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE



SUMFOREST MAKING FOREST RESEARCH ISSUES VISIBLE



CO –
PRODUCTIVE
CAPACITIES

Canalized
funding resources



Collaborative/mutual
learning process



NORMATIVE SCIENCE
– POLICY INTERFACE
FEATURES (MOSTLY)



Participation of
researchers and
stakeholders



Sumforest strategic
research



Broad scope for
policy application

FURTHER PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE BRIDGING PROCESSES BETWEEN RESEARCH AND POLICY COMMUNITIES IN COORDINATION TOOLS

- TRANSFORMING INTO MORE STABLE STRUCTURES FOR THE CREATION OF POLICY RELEVANT RESEARCH.
- INCREASING THE PARTICIPATION OF FOREST POLICY MAKERS IN THE DEFINITION OF RESEARCH TOPICS (TRADE – OFF BETWEEN RELEVANCE AND CREDIBILITY?).
- INCREASING THE AWARENESS OF NATIONAL POLICY MAKERS ON HOW TO WORK WITH ERA-NETS AND OTHER COORDINATION TOOLS OUTPUTS.



THANK YOU