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WHY CARE?

- Our diets drive most health and environmental problems, accounting for 27% of global emissions¹
- Agriculture – EU's biggest spending area²
- Integrated sustainable food policy needed³

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Which **actor networks** shape the discourse on SFP?
2. Which **types** of actors dominate the discourse?
3. How are **policy actors** linked with **advocacy actors**?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

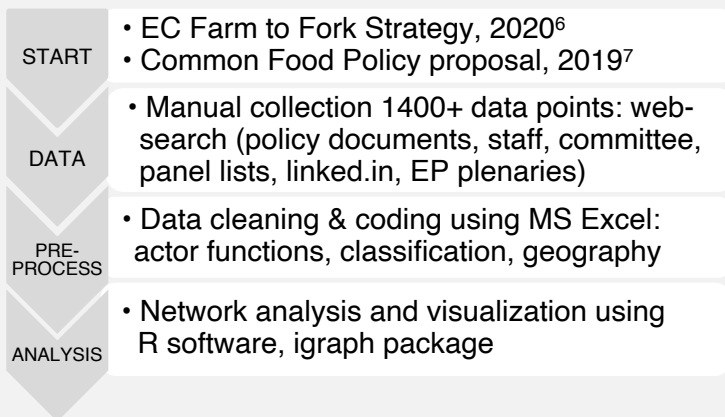
- Multi-level Governance (MLG) approach⁴
- Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF)⁵

H1: Actors at all levels of governance are involved.

H2: Academia and NGOs are prominent.

H3: Policy and advocacy actors link in various ways

METHODOLOGY



RESULTS

Figure 1.
**One-mode
Affiliation
Network**

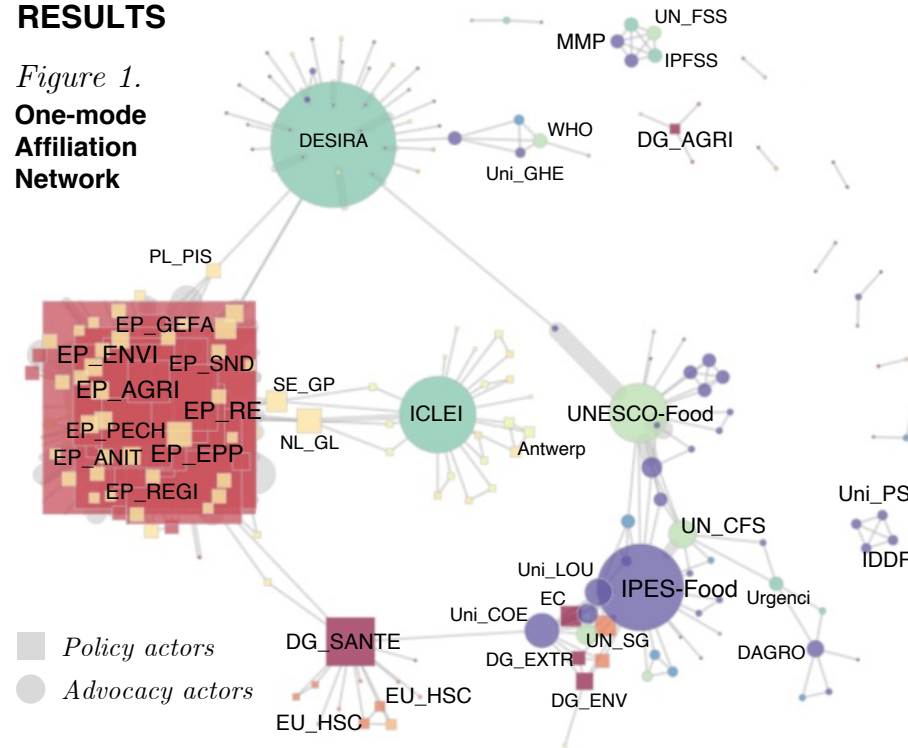


Figure 2.
**Distribution of affiliations
(N=294) across actor types**

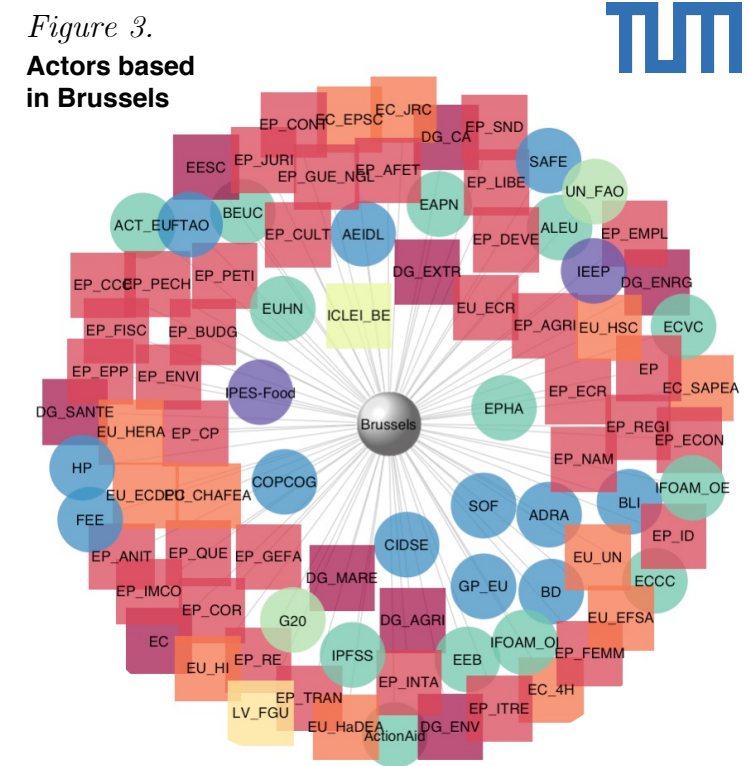
Source	Percentage
Academia	28%
National Party	21%
NGO	13%
European Parliament	12%
Networks	9%
Local Government	5%
EU Agency	4%
National Government	3%
European Commission	3%
IGO	3%

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 1

- **A policy subsystem** around **IPES-Food** following ACF theory with few links to policy actors (DG SANTE & DG AGRI);
- A tight network of Academia, NGOs and IGOs (UN)
- **Dense network around EP**, its various committees which link to ICLEI (local governments network) and DESIRA via National Parties
- Yet, **some actors** that are known to work together are **not linked**

Figure 3.
**Actors based
in Brussels**



DISCUSSION & OUTLOOK

- **H1** ✓ All levels at play (MLG)
 - **H2** ✓ Discourse is shaped by Academia and NGOs (41%), but also by EP and MS Parties*
- Figure 3*
- **H3** ✓ Figures 1 & 3 reveal that **policy and advocacy actors are linked** both via affiliations and more so via geography (H3)
 - Heavily lobbied nature of EU policy-making: **30% of actors** operate in Brussels undetected by person-based affiliation, Fig. 1
 - Narrow definition of “connection” vs. real world
 - Data collection shapes results (e.g. under/*over representation of actors)
 - Limited focus on active affiliations, which are **dynamic in time**
 - First network analysis of sustainable food policy
 - Potential for further research with a larger dataset.

References: ¹Poore and Nemecek (2018); ²Cleppe (2019); ³Arc2020 (2019); ⁴Hooqhe and Marks (2019), ⁵Sabatier (1988); ⁶EC, (2020); ⁷IPES-Food (2019)