Evaluation by Simulation – Methodological Innovations for the Assessment of Regional Development Processes

Tilman A. Schenk
Institute of Geography, University of Leipzig, Germany

Abstract

In the past two to three decades, communicative procedures have had an increasing impact on spatial planning strategies. The regional development programmes for rural areas of the European Union have also adopted policies to replace comprehensive planning acts by cooperation and open strategic discussions. For evaluation, this bears the challenge to come to precise conclusions despite lacking measurable information of results. This contribution examines the potentials of agent simulation to solve this dilemma and elaborates on how it helped stakeholders in a rural area in Saxony to self-evaluate their process of cooperation.

Keywords: Regional Development, Communicative Planning, Agent Simulation, Saxony