D2.1 Summary

Overview of institutions and governance structures at various levels
This report provides an overview of institutions and governance structures regarding land use and landscape change. WP2.1 proposed an explorative study of existing papers and reports on institutions and documented cases of land use and landscape change as a result of European (and national) policy.

The study is done in the countries involved in the WP2, i.e. in Denmark, Greece, Romania and the Netherlands. However, the respective countries have, where possible, also covered other countries for relevant literature, e.g. Sweden, Belgium, Italy, and Cyprus were also covered.

So this study provides a comprehensive overview of papers, reports, case study descriptions dealing with landscape change, governance structures and the spatial impact of in relation to policies. The literature list has been made available on the VOLANTE website.

The focus of this study was as much as possible on:

- Papers which deal with specific areas or regions in the respective countries
- The structure of government, and how land use policy is shaped
- Policies with most impact on the landscape, in particular the Common Agricultural Policy, Natura2000 and the Water Framework Directive.

The results of the different country studies are rather diverse. The countries are in different stages in policy development, the governance systems differ, and political culture is quite diverse. This makes it hard to draw general conclusions. However, outstanding from these studies is:

- The publications which describe a link between land change dynamics and policy are very few. The quality of the identified studies is also limited due to the lack of in-depth spatial inventories of the policies impacts. However a small number of studies include detailed spatial inventories and are of good quality. These are mostly scientific articles.
- The overview of policies indicates that there is a knowledge gap concerning the impact of several policies. Some policies have been studied better; this is the case of the Common Agriculture Policy and Natura2000 legislation. Other policies are relatively few times studied.
- Countries are in different stages of transposition of European policy and policy implementation. In particular in southern Europe progress is relatively limited, and policies tend to be overlapping, or sometimes contradictory.
- Considering the investment made in e.g. the CAP, it is rather surprising that so little result-oriented research takes place; the larger evaluation programs rather focus on ‘output’ measurement and evaluation than on real impact at a local or regional level.
- The link between policy and impact on landscape is not very good documented. It appears to be a sectoral approach, studies being focused on landscape or policy analysis. There are made cross-references, but in a general way, the socio-economic and political issues are indicated as drivers for land-use / land-cover change, but a specific policy is not studied in a detailed spatial analysis of impacts.
- In Romania, Malta and Cyprus the accession to the EU is fairly recent and the transposition of EU-law, the implementation of policies and enforcement of EU acquis are still in the initial stages, and therefore not well documented.