

The Community Arena: Application of transition governance in local communities



Data of Your Paper



Topic

- Resilience
- Lifestyle
- Building
- Resources
- Tourism
- Energy

Title of the Paper

The Community Arena: Application of transition governance in local communities

Form of Presentation

- Poster
- Presentation

Short Description (maximum 2500 characters)

Recent shifts in focus of participatory processes aiming for sustainability transitions include shifts from sectoral to geographical processes; from a focus on the technological and environmental domain to a focus on the social domain; and from involving professionals and organizations to communities and individuals. To accommodate these shifts in transition governance, we argue that new and/or adapted methodologies are needed.

The EU-funded InContext project coins such a new methodological approach, which theoretically and methodologically is based on elements of transition management, backcasting and social & environmental psychology. This methodological framework, the community arena, is an innovative method to meet societal challenges in that it supports local communities in co-creating sustainable behaviour. In short, the participatory community arena takes the individual inner contexts (like feelings, values, etc.) into account so as to support participants in (collectively) reflecting on their (un-)sustainable perceptions and behaviours. The premise is that by raising awareness and sensitivity amongst engaged citizens about other ways of perceiving reality, they open up to new ways of thinking about their individual behaviour in the broader societal context and of playing an active role towards a more sustainable development in their community.

After shortly outlining the theoretical basis, we focus in this paper predominantly on outlining the methodology of the community arena, and on discussing the first results from three pilot areas in the Netherlands, Austria and Germany.