

ERSCP 2012: Workshop Design Sheet

Workshop Design and Content

Title of Workshop *

Pathways, scenarios and backcasting for sustainable and low-carbon lifestyles: a dialogue on related FP7 research projects

Short Description of Workshop Outline (max. 2000 characters) *

In 2009 the call 'ENV.2010.4.2.3-1 Foresight to enhance behavioural and societal changes enabling the transition towards sustainable paths in Europe' was launched. It called for bottom-up approaches addressing the question of how to overcome the gap between awareness of the behavioural and societal issues at stake and the concrete engagement in sustainability driven action, as individuals and as a society. Analysis of enabling and constraining factors for pathways towards low-carbon and sustainable lifestyles should be fed into scenario development and backcasting exercises in order to identify potential paths to engaging on an integrated effort to support the transition to a sustainable Europe. The research should include questions such as how to engage individuals and collectives on sustainable paths; what is needed in order to address the barriers and make the most of the drivers for sustainable development in terms of a) new policy mixes and b) new and innovative mechanisms for cooperation and partnerships between actors in public, private sector and the civil society.

In this call three projects were granted. InContext (<http://incontext-fp7.eu>), Low Carbon at Work (<http://www.locaw-fp7.com>) and CRISP (<http://www.crisp-futures.eu>)

InContext stands for Individuals in Context: supportive environments for sustainable living and focuses on the interaction and reconciliation of internal and external contexts for individual and collective pathways to sustainable living. It includes local transition experiments and backcasting in three communities in three different countries, analysis of less-resourceful low-carbon consumption practices and aims at developing an action-based methodology that communities can apply themselves.

Low Carbon at Work (LOCAW) focuses on the drivers of and barriers to sustainable lifestyles and how these constrain and enable the everyday practices and behaviours within large scale organizations. The project includes

- (i) the analysis of the patterns of production and consumption in the workplace and their resulting GHG emissions;
- (ii) organizational strategies to reduce emissions and implement EU regulations regarding the greening of their production processes
- (iii) everyday practices and behaviours at work of employees on different levels of decision-making within the organization, and the relationship between behaviours and practices at work and behaviours and practices outside work, as well as the drivers and barriers for implementation of sustainable practices and behaviours in the workplace.

CRISP stands for 'CReating Innovative Sustainability Pathways' and seeks to identify potential pathways that will aid the EU towards the transition to a sustainable, low carbon Europe. CRISP works on developing profoundly different visions – and their implementation trajectories and has adopted Transition Management (TM) as a reflection of both, the need for change and the need to develop practical, radical and implementable visions. Transition management (TM) distinguishes between three interdependent levels, namely macro (society and economy overall), meso (organisations and specific entities within the macro level) and micro (lifestyles, individuals, households) and it will be combined with innovation system elements.

The aim of the session is to exchange and compare concepts, methodologies and first results of the three projects and to discuss them with an audience of academic peers and potential users (business, government, ngo's) as well as to find synergies and collaboration opportunities with the audience as well as between the three projects.

Inputs:

Author(s): Zaneta Stasiskiene et al (full list of authors in the abstract)

Title: Pathways to Sustainability: CRISP approach

Author(s): Wehrmeyer, W; Fudge, S; Stasiškienė, Z; van de Lindt, M; Emmert, S; Kondili, E;.; Papathanasopoulou, E;

Title: Designing Effective Visioning Workshops

Author(s): Adina Dumitru, Ricardo García Mira (University of Corunna)

Title: Creating and testing visions of the future: the use of back-casting scenarios in promoting sustainable change in organizations

Author(s): Ricardo Garcia-Mira, Pedro Vega, Adina Dumitru, Amparo Alonso-Betanzos (University of Corunna) in collaboration with all the Project partners

Title: Low Carbon at Work: changing large-scale organizations to achieve a low-carbon Europe

Author(s): Felix Rauschmayer and Niko Schaepeke,

Title: Why behave sustainably? Including altruistic motivations for lifestyle changes

Author(s): Tom Bauler, & Ariane Debourdeau,

Title: Exploring the added value of quasi - ethnographic case studies on the emergence and upscaling of grassroot innovations: some lessons to be learned from the InContext project

Author(s): Julia M. Wittmayer¹, Frank van Steenberg¹, Jaco Quist², Lisa Bohunovsky³, Stefanie Baasch⁴

Title: The Community Arena: Application of transition governance in local communities