

ERSCP 2012: Workshop Design Sheet

Workshop Design and Content

Title of Workshop *

„From less resource use via new economic and business systems to a good life for all“

Objectives

With this workshop we want on the one hand present the SERI approach of a sustainable development and a transition toward a more sustainable society and on the other hand critically reflect upon this approach and think about implementation options with the participants.

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

The first part will consist of 3 inputs from SERI colleagues (15 min each - plus time for questions of understanding):

1. Sustainable Resource Use: Strategies for a sustainable use of natural resources

It will be shown how the use of natural resources, on which the functioning of our economy and society is based, can be measured and analysed. In particular methods and indicators for the resource use of countries, sectors, companies and products are presented as well as international data banks. Environmental, social and economic problems are often in direct relation to human resource use. Measures are explained which try to reduce these problems by addressing their causes.

2. A sustainable economy: Strategies, implementation and communication

The current resource use in industrialized countries is way too high to allow for a good life for everybody now and in future. Aiming for intra- and intergenerational justice, economic strategies as well as production and consumption patterns on micro, meso and macro levels that are innovative and resource saving and in addition meet the real needs of humans are presented and communicated in a language that can be understood by stakeholders and decision makers.

3. Sustainable Quality of Life: Solution oriented processes for a high quality of life

Our hypothesis is that a sustainable lifestyle leads to a higher quality of life for all by recognising one's own needs and searching for strategies that meet those needs and use less resources simultaneously. A transition towards sustainable lifestyles requires a reflection on values, culture, belief systems of individuals as well as of societies and it requires bottom-up as well as top-down approaches. The links between sustainable development and quality of life and appropriate lifestyles will be presented.

Our research deals with those three themes but also with the relations between those. In the workshop we want to focus on these links and discuss how solutions, strategies, measures can be found and implemented that allow via a systemic and holistic view supporting the great transformation.

In the second part of the workshop we plan to get interactive with the participants. We will work in groups by using different methods (such as dynamic facilitation or a dialogue) to critically reflect on the inputs and search for ways to implement the presented approaches in our surroundings (regional, local, company, neighbourhood).

Expected Outcomes and Results

Feedback on the different approaches used at SERI to support a transition to sustainable development. Learning by all participants including the presenters how those approaches can be implemented in real life.