



Scientific Workshop 7-8 October 2013, Netherlands
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND PARTICIPATION

Pathways, scenarios and backcasting for sustainable and low-carbon lifestyles: Comparing methods, cases and results

Introduction

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 address 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 that started late 2010 or early 2011: InContext (<http://incontext-fp7.eu>), Low Carbon at Work (<http://www.locaw-fp7.com>) and CRISP (<http://www.crisp-futures.eu>) and they are briefly described in the box below.

<p><i>InContext</i> 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</p>
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of alternative consumption and production 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 larger 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 methodology 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 will be combined with innovation system elements.

Workshop: Aim & focus

By now (mid 2013) the three projects have generated most of their results with regard to bottom-up vision and pathway development towards sustainable lifestyles, not only within communities and regions, but also at work. Moreover, several other initiatives like transition towns and grassroots innovations have diffused further and many more research projects in which pathways and transitions are key, such as SPREAD and RESPONDER, have been started or completed. Therefore, it is a good moment to bring together results and approaches from all these different participatory and bottom-up endeavours.

The **aim** of the workshop is therefore to present and discuss papers and results in order to exchange and compare concepts, methodologies and results from the three projects mentioned, as well as from related projects and to discuss and disseminate them among the participants of the workshop. An additional aim is to search for similarities, complementarities and further lessons to be learnt, not only for researchers and practitioners, but also to develop additional recommendations with regard to pathway development and facilitation to the EU. It is expected that this workshop will shed more light on developments in Transition Management and backcasting with regard to involvement of end-users, citizens, employees/workers, consumers and communities and how this can and should complement more widely applied multi-stakeholder led initiatives and top-down initiatives led by the government targeting the provision system rather than the consumption system or empowering local communities.

Two types of contributions are welcomed:

1. Full papers that present comprehensive results and/or methodologies and that will be fed in paper presentation and discussion sessions. Deadline for abstracts of 500 words is on **August 20**, deadline for full papers between 6,000 and 8,000 words is on **September 28**, 2013.
2. Short papers, case descriptions or methodological evaluations that will be fed into working sessions evolving around (i) bottom-up & participatory vision and scenario development, (ii) scenario & backcasting analysis, as well as pathway development, (iii) drivers for and barriers to transitions towards sustainable lifestyles and communities, (iv) potential of individual change and alternative consumption niches.

Deadline for abstracts of 500 words maximum is on **August 20**, deadline for full drafts of between 4,000 and 6,000 (short paper) and 8,000 (full paper) words is on **September 28**, 2013.

The abstracts can be handed on the following registration form:
<http://registration.ecologic-events.eu/incontext-scientific-workshop>
All questions can be send to incontext@ecologic.eu.

Workshop format

The workshop is inspired by earlier SCORAI Europe workshops. SCORAI workshops are designed to maximize discussion and interaction. Space is limited to 25-30 participants, including authors, and will be filled on a **first-come-first-serve basis** and **accepted abstracts**. All participants are strongly encouraged to **read the papers in advance**, which will be distributed one week prior to the event. In each panel, authors will be asked to briefly introduce their key points; discussants assigned to each panel will lead the debate, with participants also engaging in the exchanges and capturing summaries. In the participation form that follows, **we are asking for volunteers to act as discussants and note-takers**.

Focus

What can be learnt from the ongoing research is that the (active) involvement of citizens, employees, consumers and end-users as the next challenge in sustainability transitions. Moreover, the workshop may include, but is not limited to the following topics:

- Cases and methods applied to local transitions or consumption transitions, focusing on participation, visioning, and pathway development.
- Conceptualization of the individual consumer-citizen and how this relates to grassroots and alternative consumption practices.
- Comparison of methodologies addressing individual actors such as citizens or consumers in influencing transitions including lessons learned

- from other participatory methodologies addressing local communities and consumers, such as participatory backcasting, and Local Agenda 21.
- Cases exploring niches of alternative consumption, grassroots innovation niches, and local communities as sites of social innovation and their relevance for pathways towards low-carbon and sustainable lifestyles. In particular, we seek to compare and learn from cases in Energy and Food.

Organisers & Practicalities

Main organisers from the InContext project include Jaco Quist (TU Delft), Julia Wittmayer (Drift Erasmus University), Tom Bauler (ULB), and Katharina Umpfenbach (Ecologic Institute), but the programme has been developed together with the project coordinators of the LoCAW and CRISP projects and with SCORAI.

It will be a workshop of 1.5 days, starting at 12.00 hr on October 7 and ending on October 8, 18.00 hr. It will take place in the Netherlands, in Rotterdam at the Erasmus University. Participation will be on invitation and costs of accommodation will be funded by the InContext project. There will be some options for reimbursement of travels costs of participants having accepted abstracts and having no access to funding for their trip.

Timeline

July 26	Workshop Announcement / Call for Papers
August 20	Deadline for Abstracts / Expressions of Interest to attend
August 30	Notification of accepted abstracts & participation
September 28	Deadline for full and short papers
October 1	Intended distribution of papers & abstracts
October 7-8	Workshop of 20-30 people in Rotterdam, The Netherlands

We look forward to your participation in this important event.

On behalf of the organizing team from the InContext project,

Jaco Quist (TU Delft)
Julia Wittmayer (Drift Erasmus University)
Katharina Umpfenbach (Ecologic Institute)
Tom Bauler (ULB)

In collaboration with

SCORAI Europe (Sylvia Lorek, Marlyne Sahakian)
CRISP project (Walter Wehrmayer, University of Surrey)
LoCAW project (Ricardo Garcia Mira, University of Corunna)