



Development of a Forecasting Framework and Scenarios to Support the EU Sustainable Development Strategy

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SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME PRIORITY 8.1

**Policy-oriented research, Scientific support to policies,
Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area**

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Workshop 1 AGRICULTURE

**Development of core elements of integrated sustainability scenarios for agriculture
(Goal definition & Pre-Backcasting)**

19 - 20 October 2006

Università degli Studi di Firenze, Aula Camino - Villa Ruspoli

Piazza Indipendenza 9 - Firenze

General objectives of the Agriculture Workshop

- Translation of the policy objectives of topic complexes to goals for major activity and policy fields;
- Description of Agriculture Sustainability Scenario Elements (SSEs);
- Development of Narratives of Integrated Sustainability Scenarios (ISS) for Agriculture;
- Pre-Backcasting: addressing requirements and potential measures deemed promising to reach the defined ISS, focussing on cross-cutting measures

FORESCENE - Work framework

In the last months the FORESCENE project focussed, with a problem-oriented perspective, on three particular aspects:

- Landscape, biodiversity and soil,
- Resource use and waste generation,
- Water use and pollution,

The most important activities and underlying factors have been highlighted and agriculture appeared as one of the most relevant activities to be considered in a sustainable development strategy.

With the organisation of three workshops the perspective will now shift towards activity and policy fields.

The activities that has been chosen as the most relevant are:

- agriculture (workshop in Florence 19-20 October),
- industry/economy (workshop in Vienna 23-24 October)
- infrastructure/land use (workshop in Budapest 26-27 October).

During the workshop sessions for these three activity fields the essential elements of sustainable development has to be defined in a positive manner, i.e. not only in the sense of avoiding and mitigating current problems but also through answering what the desired future should look like and which prerequisites are deemed essential for sustainability.

Key questions to be discussed during the workshop

The workshop will be a two days event, where the long-term sustainability goals shall be discussed (mainly on the first day), and the necessary measures to reach them (discussed mainly on the second day).

First Day WHERE SHALL WE GO TO?

Key questions:

- How a desired long-term vision of sustainability for agriculture look like (paying attention to the environmental, economic and social development aspects)?
- Which essential elements of agriculture sustainability that are integral part of the vision can be defined for the purpose of developing sustainability scenarios?
- How can current policy objectives of topic complexes be translated to match with the objective sustainability scenario?

Second Day HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Key questions:

- Which requirements and potential measures can be described that are deemed promising to reach the defined sustainability scenario (pre-backcasting)?
- Which measures address activities or driving forces that show cross-sectoral impact and hence are potentially of multi-beneficial effect without shifting problems?

Expected input by the experts

It is a target of the workshop to collect and review the knowledge on existing scenarios relevant for the activity fields and important elements for agriculture. The experts are working on running research projects strictly related to the agriculture sustainability question.

Each expert will provide after the workshop a written input of 10-15 pages on essential sustainability scenario elements and on the requirements and potential measures deemed promising to reach these integrated sustainability scenarios. These papers shall serve as input to formulate narratives of sustainability scenarios.