



FORE • SCENE

New Approaches and Recent Results of Sustainability Scenario Building and Modelling

Final Round-table Workshop

NEW preliminary programme

Date: 25 November 2008

Location: European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Objectives of the workshop

- Presentation of the the final results of the FORESCENE project
- Demonstration of the FORESCENE meta-model
- Discussion of further use and development of sustainability scenarios and modelling

Target groups

Policy makers, European Commission, Sustainability researchers, NGOs.

Preliminary program

An agenda is set up for 25 November and presented below. Please note that on the following day another FP6 project, TranSust.Scan, will hold its final conference at the same venue.

Tuesday 25 November	
14h30 – 15h00	Registration and coffee
15h00 – 15h15	Opening Nicole Dewandre, DG Research, Head of Unit I-2 Introduction to the programme by Stefan Bringezu
15h15 - 15h45	Keynote: Aims, strategies and scenarios for sustainability Klaus Koegler, DG Environment
15h45 – 16h15	The FORESCENE project: scenario building and modelling results Stefan Bringezu, Roy Haines-Young, Mats Svenson
16h15 - 16h45	Demonstration of the FORESCENE meta-model Mathieu Saurat
16h45 - 18h00	Round-table Discussion on the expected use of sustainability scenario modelling. Together with Bill Duncan, Advizors John Hontelez, European Environmental Bureau Marianne Klingbeil, Secretariat General, Director for Better Regulation, Programming and Impact Assessment
18h00 – 18h15	Wrap up and close

Venue

COVE EC building, Brussels (practical information will be communicated upon registration).

Registration

Please note that the number of participants is limited. **So do not wait to register to the FORESCENE Final Round-table Workshop!**

To register, simply send an email to finalevent@forescene.eu stating that you will attend the workshop.

The round-table workshop

Increasingly decision making is being informed by the outputs of scenario building exercises and modelling. Strategic policy design and ex-ante policy assessment therefore needs access to a range of decision support tools. Systems analysis is one important approach, as it provides a way of identifying the key factors and important processes in any problem situation. Uncertainty about interrelations and outcomes also needs to be reflected. Moreover, the transition towards sustainability requires the involvement of experts and other stakeholders in order to outline the desired future and to assess the ways towards possible ends.

This round-table workshop will present the key results of FORESCENE, a FP6 project designed to improve the sustainability assessment "tool box" and to broaden our understanding of these needs. On the one hand, the aim has been to provide a strategic overview of issues, on the other to deliver deeper insights on the potential effectiveness of selected policy measures in addressing cross-cutting sustainability problems. FORESCENE covered a broad range of environmental issues, elucidating the role of cross-cutting drivers and multi-beneficial measures for improvement. In doing so, it adopted a long-term perspective for the next 30 to 50 years.

At the workshop the modelling results shall be discussed, together with the scenario building and modelling approach of the project. Representatives from the Commission and other executive bodies, research institutes, industry and NGOs are invited to discuss how far their needs for decision support can be met through the approaches chosen, and where potential for further development may lie.

The project

FORESCENE has developed a generic framework for creating sustainability scenarios which has been applied on the EU level but could potentially be used at different scales and in various contexts. A sequence of questions was explored by combined analytical and participatory approaches.

For a comprehensive problem definition, the cross-cutting drivers of different environmental topics such as biodiversity, soil, water, resource use and waste were determined. The work sought to address the question "What is the problem?".

Experts and stakeholders were involved in a targeted process to delineate desirable goals for activity fields such as agriculture, infrastructure/land use, economy/industry. In terms of future strategies, they were asked "Where to go?". Key strategies were defined which were deemed to have cross-sectoral multi-beneficial effects. Thus the experts were asked, given the goals identified, "How to get there?".

The project team then checked the options for modelling. A new kind of meta-model was created as a heuristic tool to support policy development. The FORESCENE model allows to back-cast which combinations of strategies allow to reach predefined sustainability targets ("What needs to be done?").

Using the method of Bayesian networks the model can integrate "hard" analytical findings of existing models and "soft" expert judgement. The results are assigned a probability.

The FORESCENE model has been designed to reveal and minimize problem shifting between issues and regions, in particular to consider effects of intra EU activities to other regions.

A special focus was laid on the effects of increased resource productivity as a key cross-cutting strategy for sustainability. Land use management and increased use of biomass was considered, and the impacts were assessed with regard to biodiversity, total resource extraction, waste, and the water balance. For the EU-25, baseline and alternative scenarios were developed with long-term perspective until 2050.

First feed-back from expert reviewers indicated the promising potential of the FORESCENE model for further policy use and extended application and development.

More information and material are available at the project's website www.forescene.eu.

The FORESCENE consortium:

- Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (WI)
- Centre for Environmental Management University of Nottingham (CEM)
- Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS)
- Regional Environmental Center (REC), Budapest
- Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI), Vienna
- Agricultural and Land Economics Department (DEART), Università Firenze



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