

The European awareness scenario workshop methodology

Introduction

Sustainability is a general principle to be implemented in all areas of social life and as such it involves a process of comprehensive transition which is based on the dissemination of information and awareness raising about the environment.

In this context a method was developed by DGXIII -D "Innovation" program which originally was used for identifying future scenarios for sustainable urban living.

This method called European Awareness Scenario Workshops - EASW- rises the challenge of facing the environmental problems of our living areas (towns - cities or villages) by their own inhabitants.

All involved actors (residents - decision makers - technocrats - commerce and industry) participate in round - table discussions and present their proposals, which, following the EASW methodology, are evaluated and reformulated by the same participants during a two - day process.

This procedure promotes dialogue between all interested parties and local groups, enhances understanding of local conditions or problems and facilitates consensus on proposed solutions.

The method proved to be a much stronger tool than its original application and as the examples in the case studies will prove, is a valuable tool in different circumstances whereas information, dialogue, participation and co-operation between groups of local actors, as well as decision makers and planners, is requested-

According to its application, the EASW method could be a tool for:

- information and learning,

- understanding and participation in the decision making process, common planning for the future
- identifying responsibilities and priorities or just any combination of the above.

The original EASW method takes place in two days and involves four groups of participants: **the residents, the policy makers, the technology experts and the private sector representatives.** The groups discuss the given issues, following a defined methodology and present their first results. These results are restructured and reprocessed during the second part of the workshop, in which the participants are divided in theme-groups. Following the four major sustainability issues of modern city planning: **living conditions, energy consumption, water management and waste disposal.**

Proposals are presented in the form of posters and could be subjected to voting, thus providing for the prioritisation of the subjects. In the end, responsibilities are defined and a commitment is held by the participants to follow the proposed actions.

The EASW Methodology

Sustainable Development of a city is possible only when it is rooted in the concerted efforts of residents, public and private companies, local authorities and experts in technology and the environment.

Thus the main objective of the Local Scenario Workshop Method is to establish sustainable development in city planning and to resolve Local environmental issues in the coming decades, in the light of the Bruntland Report "Our Common Future 1987" of the International UN Committee. In this report sustainability constitutes a general principle applied to all aspects of social life, ensuring that development will meet current exigencies without jeopardising the potential of future generations to deal with their needs.

The aim of the Workshop

- the exchange of ideas, views and knowledge among residents, technology experts, policy makers and representatives of the private sector.
- the definition and discussion of similarities and differences regarding problems and solutions, as these are perceived by the various participating groups.

- the definition and discussion of the major obstacles to sustainable urban development.
- the promotion of new ideas and directions for future actions, policies and initiatives, a local and Common levels.
- The instigation of public discussion in the local community with respect to sustainable urban development in the near future and the respective role technology has to play.

Implementation

In order to implement the Local Workshop the following are necessary:

- **a group of 24 in 32 participants** (representing all aspects of the local community).
- **the local organiser** (an individual selected by the local organisation) who will be responsible for managing the workshop.
- **the National monitor**
- **the Co-ordinator**
- **adequate time** for preparing and conducting the workshop.
- **a secure budget** (financial support) for the preparation, implementation and dissemination of the workshop's results.

Organisation of a scenario workshop

TIME: Two or three days

PROCEDURE: During the Workshop participants are divided into four groups, where they discuss current and future problems, seek solutions and suggest changes that are crucial for the improvement of their city and its sustainable development.

Phases of a Workshop:

Introduction and Incentive

Short presentation of the previously read by their participants scenarios. Comparison to local situation by local authorities, who present the current state of affairs and plans for the future development of the city.

Stating ideas in role groups

Participants divided in four role groups, according to their expertise i.e. residents, professionals, decision makers and experts, express their ideas with regard to the sustainable

city of 2010. This is based not only on the scenarios but also on factors such as their own experience, criticism on the proposed plans and personal frame of reference. The technique of two by two persons discussions (double interviewing) is used in order to formulate the best and worst future scenario. Finally, through round table discussions held separately in each of the groups, the main objectives for a sustainable future are selected and registered on a poster.

Discussion of ideas, General Assembly

Poster presentation and discussion of the role groups' ideas follows. Results will be taken as the starting point for the next day's work.

Theme groups: "What should be done?"

On the second day, work will focus on determining the manner in which ideas can be realised. Participants will be divided into four different theme groups related to what "should be done" about implementing their views in the following areas: living conditions, use of energy, water circle and waste disposal[. The technique of writing cards to propose actions is used. Each participant records his ideas for actions on equivalent cards. The group co-ordinator presents all the ideas to in the group. whereas the feasibility of each idea is discussed and actions are proposed.

The selected in each group actions are presented on a poster. Special care should be taken in the poster presentation in order to make the proposals explicit and appealing to the rest of the workshop participants, as the final actions proposed by the workshop will be defined by general voting.

Selection and Assessment of ideas

The ideas expressed by the working groups will be presented to the General Assembly in the form of posters. This presentation also includes the feasibility assessment for the realisation of these ideas. A general votes prioritises the proposals. Participants are requested to cast a given number of voles (5 or 6). They can vote any proposed actions, which are presented - except their own groups.

Final steps

Participants evaluate the prioritised actions of the scenario workshop. "Who and How" is the next step. Definition of the responsibilities (individuals or community), and if high or low

technologies is used should be assessed. The follow up process and, if possible, assignment of a group or committee to continue the task, is advisable.

Dissemination

The ideas and conclusions of the workshop are presented to the local and regional authorities, to the public and to the Press.

The participants

For the implementation of a workshop most important requirements are, the co-ordination and support of local authorities (or some other organisational group), and the selection and participation of 24 to 32 committed citizens for the different groups.

24 to 32 people participate in every workshop at least 6 for each group. Traditionally four groups of participants are required:

Decision Makers Group

Technology Expert Group

Residents Group

Private Sector Group

Main techniques

Scenarios presentation

Participants are presented with four Sustainable Urban Development scenarios. They are asked to give their personal view of the sustainable city. The scenarios presented may be criticise and extended on the basis of the participants' expert opinion, experience or preference. The primary objective is that the particular scenarios become functional or provide a stepping stone towards realising the participants' personal vision.

A schematic representation of the four scenarios in reference to the dilemmas of individual vs. local authorities and high vs. low technology is used:

INDIVIDUAL SOLUTIONS

NEGLIGIBLE	2	1	KEY ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY
ROLE OF			
TECHNOLOGY	4	3	

SOLUTIONS AT THE
LOCAL AUTHORITIES
LEVEL

THE 4 SCENARIOS ARE:

- Scenario 1: The smart house
- Scenario 2: The solar house
- Scenario 3: The apartment complex
- Scenario 4: Low height - large density housing area

Double interviews

Role group participants discuss in pairs the best and the worst scenarios for the future. The discussion takes the form of an interview, during which they alternate roles. This helps clarify each one vision (and nightmares) for the future evolution of the area and helps the acquaintance between participants.

Round table discussions

All group sessions finalise their proposals by round table discussions, during which all visions or action plans are presented, discuss, evaluated and common proposals are defined.

Poster production

All group sessions end with a poster created by all the participants. whereas the final sessions proposals are presented. Posters have to show ideas in a clear and explicit form, simple wording, laconic description and attractive graphic representations. It is very important to

"pass the message" to the rest of the groups participants and attract their votes. This technique familiarises people to the "marketing process" in order to defend their cause.

Writing cards session

Group participants are requested to write down their action proposals in small individual cards and present them for round table discussion. Thus, they have to summarise and point out only the main ideas of their action plans.

Poster presentation

It is requested to be done by the participants of each group - but not the group leader or co-ordinator. It is the co-ordinator's responsibility to appoint the most appropriate representative of the group for the presentation.

Voting

This final procedure helps produce the proposals through a truly democratic process. Participants are requested to cast 5 to 6 votes on the proposed by the other groups actions. They are not allowed to vote their own groups proposals

Tools

The EASW Method is presented in the form of a CD and an accompanying Video. The CD includes the following material:

- self training manual
- organising manual
- Sustainable Living Scenarios book set of slides
- advertising brochure

All these materials are available to individual and groups concerned with concrete initiatives
Commission of the European Communities DG XIII, Telecommunications, Information
Market and Exploitation of Research

The Innovation Programme Mr. Francisco Fernandez Office EUFO 2288 Rue Alcide de
Gasperi L-2920 Luxembourg <http://www.cordis.lu/easw/home.html>

National monitor ,

Few persons from each country have been assigned as National Monitors, after gaining experience on the EASW Method through training and involvement in the Methods

applications. A Network is being established and information is available on the EASW Method and Network.

In France, the national monitor is Dominique LEGUY, Adage environment, 4 bis Rue Poirier, 94 160 Saint-Mandé – France – tel 33 (0)4 41 74 19 96 - fax 33 (0)4 41 74 19 95

The local scenario workshop in PAMIERS

1. The context

The Region Midi-Pyrénées is involved in a sustainable development policy since ten years.. Following a regional conference on “environment and sustainable development” in January 1996, the Region has decided:

- to train the cities of the Region on sustainable development
- to help innovative experiences
- to disseminate principals and the results of such experiences

ARPE, “Agence Régionale pour l’Environnement” is the technical body of the Region for the implementation of the Regional policy.

To achieve these objectives, the Region Midi-Pyrénées is willing to implement the methodology of local scenario Workshop “EASW” developed by EC, DGXIII – D “innovation” program. ARPE was in charge of this project.

A first local scenario workshop was held in the city of Pamiers in the Region Midi-Pyrénées, the 2 and 3 of July 1998. This first workshop had three main objectives:

- to train the persons in charge of regional environmental policy within ARPE,
- to propose regional actions for sustainable development of the cities of the Region
- to build prospective scenarios for Pamiers.

The report presents the main results of the workshop and the priorities pointed out by the participants.

These elements are a basis for future discussions between the municipality and its different partners .

the participants

Decision Makers Group

The Policy role group includes the following type of participants: local policy makers, local politicians and representatives from local administrative authorities specialised in environmental issues and urban planning.

Technology Expert Group

The technology expert role group is comprised of the following type of participants: technology experts, researchers or technology consultants - with expertise in energy and water supply, waste management, solid waste management, housing, architecture - as well as representatives of local energy, water and waste disposal administrations.

Residents Group

The residents' role group is composed of the following type of participants: well informed and "educated" citizens and residents, possibly one or two representatives of the local or regional environmental movement, active residents or member of a community group.

Private Sector Group

The private sector role group includes business people who represent the local or regional business community in one of the following sectors: environmental industry, works contracting, construction or investments.

Junior Group

A group of young citizens from 14 to 18 years participates to the workshop representing the youngest population of the city.

Seminar program

Day 1 : 2 july

15h.30 registration café

15.50 Opening session

Mr TRIGANO, Mayor of PAMIERS, Mrs DUBALIN , Regional Counsellor, Mr FERNANDEZ , European Commission

16.0 Introduction to the local scenario workshop

Francisco FERNANDEZ, EC DGXII XIII, D2

Dominique LEGUY, National Monitor, ADAGE Environment

Anne GED, moderator , AGORA

- Presentation of the program
- Context of the workshop
- objectives
- Presentation of the original methodology

16. 30 Vidéo tape "Green up your town"

16.55 : "a urban sustainable development en Midi Pyrénées, the regional network of sustainable cities"

by Madame Arlette DUBALEN, in charge of the network of sustainable cities in the Region

17. 15 Diagnosis of the city of Pamiers

17. 30 Coffee break

17.40 Role group session : Creating the vision of a sustainable environment for Pamiers in 2010

Role Group : Residents

Role Group : Decision makers

Role Group : Experts

Role Group : Professionals

Role Group : Junior

20 00 diner

Day 2 : 3 July 1998

9.00 Plenary session

Presentation of posters by each group- explanation – discussion

9 .45 Session by thematic groups "How to meet the challenge of sustainable development in the cities of the Region"

Thematic group 1: Water circle

Thematic group 2 : Solid waste and recycling

Thematic group 3 : Energy supply and use

Thematic group 4: day living

11 15 Selection of the five best propositions

Preparation of posters presenting the 5 best propositions

12.00 Plenary session : Presentation of posters by each thematic group – vote

12.30 Lunch

14 00 Plenary session

Presentation of the 5 best proposals among all the thematic proposals

14.45 Plenary session – explanation - discussion

- Feasibility of the proposals
- Conditions, obstacles
- First draft of an action plan

16 00 Synthesis

Preparation of a presentation of the results

17 00 Presentation of the results to the mayor – Press conference

17.30 end – informal cocktail

Synthesis of the workshop

Five priorities

- 1. Global management of water**
- 2. Valorisation of water in the city**
- 3. Energy diagnosis of municipal buildings**
- 4. Local parliament for sustainable development**
- 5. Creation of the basic conditions for waste recycling**

These five proposals have been presented to the mayor and discuss between the participants.
The following poster presents the synthesis of these proposals.

PAMIERS 2010

Evaluation

Global evaluation

Broadly speaking, the method called European Awareness Scenario Workshop - EASW - as applied to the study case of Pamiers went well.

Some major methodological issues came out of this case study.

- **Duration of the workshop** : 1,5 days was too short. A two days process should be better to let the participants go further on into the debate.
- **Procedure of the workshop** : the procedure promotes dialogue between all interested parties and local groups and it ran well. It's articulation in two main issues «vision making» and «ideas generating» was appreciated by a large majority. Nevertheless some criticisms appeared dealing with :
 - **the necessity to shorten** the part of the session dedicated to the study of the scenarios, and to adapt this ones to the regional context,
 - **the themes** energy consumption, water management, waste disposal, and living conditions, arguing that economy, employment, or transportation for instance are basic subjects to be considered in a vision of whatever the futur could be,
 - **the final vote**, the procedure of which, speed and global, appeared quite contradictory with the very philosophy of sustainable development requiring to hierarchize all the valuable ideas with sharp criteria rather than take five out of them and give the impression to chase the others,
 - **the tools**, arguing that the video « green up your town » is too much a northern european approach of the subjects, and quite obsolete, and that some slides were of too little help

- **Number and quality of the actors** : 40 participants was a good number and all the actors involved had a very rich dialogue. They accepted the procedure. The particular innovation tested in Pamiers consisting in adding a group of young residents led to very interesting vision and proposals. It's a point to be carried out for further workshops. The difficulty to find enough persons to constitute the experts/technocrats group, in relation with the small size of the city, has to be pointed out. The help of the regional environmental agency ARPE was very important to cope with the problem. And other innovation as to be sorted out concerning the fact that policy-makers from some other regional towns were invited and played their own part in the workshop.

Dissemination of the EASW methodology

The Midi-Pyrénées environmental agency, ARPE, who promoted the CCE methodology et co-organised the workshop with the city of Pamiers and IRC, is very satisfied with the workshop and the local results for the town of Pamiers. This double conclusion lead her to plan the generalisation of the EASW methodology for all the towns and rural territories within the regional area, for which necessity would arose. ARPE so plans to adapt the running methodology to the very specific needs of the region but intends to do it with the continuing support of the CCE. Two local authorities Tarbes and District de Castres-Mazamet have already decided to run as soon as possible the «EASW regionally adapted» methodology for their own needs.