



# Participatory Scenario Development – a tool for inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge integration (Module 2)

(Resource ID: 124)

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This teaching resource is allocated to following University:

**BOKU – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna**

Institution:

**Institute for Sustainable Economic Development**

<http://www.sustainicum.at/en/modules/view/124.Participatory-Scenario-Development-a-tool-for-inter-and-transdisciplinary-knowledge-integration-Module-2>



**Group work**



**5 to 10 students**



**Up to 3 lecture  
units**



**Internet  
connection  
necessary**



**English**

Many decisions in the field of sustainable development have to be taken in the context of uncertain and incomplete knowledge. In this situation, a systematic integration of a range of research-informed judgments, expertise from different disciplines and experienced-based knowledge is often the best way forward. The scenario technique offers several tools to strengthen inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge integration and to deal with

uncertainty. Two of these tools are presented in two modules. Each module consists of a theoretical introduction (25%) and an interactive part (75%). Participatory exercises serve to deepen the knowledge of the technique acquired and put it to practical use. Both modules can be implemented separately as well as consecutively (module 2 after module 1). 1. Cross-Impact Analysis (knowledge integration, understanding the complexity of a system and the options of action) 2. Scenario Development (knowledge integration, ranking, deriving simple scenarios)

By working with scenarios of various different futures, the analytic focus shifts from trying to estimate what is most likely to occur towards questions of what are the consequences and most appropriate responses under different circumstances. Scenario processes help to integrate knowledge, provoke the imagination on unknowns, limit inconsistencies, create a unified language, structure common thoughts, and enable decision-making. From a learning perspective, the technique helps to understand how the world could unfold, and how that understanding can be incorporated into decision-making.

In this module 2, selected tools of the scenario process are applied to integrate diverse knowledge into consistent and plausible scenarios of the future. Different moderation techniques help to identify, discuss and rank driving forces. Finally, consistent scenarios are derived. A brief outlook explains how this method can be extended and applied in research, planning, in business, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

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## Teaching Tools & Methods



Written material

## Learning Outcomes

The students know how to apply some basic tools for participatory scenario development to support decision making in contexts of incomplete, uncertain and diverse knowledge.

## Relevance for Sustainability

Sustainability asks decision making under uncertainty, incomplete and ambiguous knowledge, inter- and transdisciplinary participation.

## **Related Teaching Resources**

No specific previous knowledge / related resources required

## **Preparation Efforts**

Low

## **Access**

Free

## **Funded by**

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