

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT and POLICY AREAS OF GREAT TRANSITIONS

13 – 15 March 2013, Prague

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**Session XIV: “Sustainable Development and
Consumption”**



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“The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.”

Carl Sagan, Pale Blue Dot, 1994



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The Concept

The “Sustainable Development and Consumption” session will focus on **multiple aspects and challenges** related to the **sustainable development** of the society, which means meeting human needs while preserving the environment. Different approaches and novel / emerging technologies in areas such as water treatment, renewable energy sources, sustainable agriculture or food safety will be presented. One of the important aspects that will be **discussed** in the session is **communication of new solutions to the general public**, as well as the **public acceptance and policy support to the new technologies**.



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The Grand Challenges - Horizon 2020

- Health, demographic change and wellbeing
- Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy
- Secure, clean and efficient energy
- Smart, green and integrated transport
- Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials
- Inclusive, innovative and secure societies



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Challenges

“The transitions required to an economy which sustainably uses scarce natural resources is dependent for success not alone on technological breakthroughs, changing consumer behaviour and market reforms, but also on the successful operation of some **system of multilateral governance** that will promote consultation and cooperation between nations.”

Sustainable food consumption and production in resource-constrained world. European Commission – Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR), 2011.



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Challenges

“It must be made clear that the use of STI for addressing global challenges cannot be reduced to a simple “technology fix”. Any strategy for using STI to address global challenges must also address potential unintended negative effects, since many of today’s global challenges are partly effects of the use of new technologies and innovations. **This calls for an integration of ecological and social sciences and technology assessment approaches in technology development projects and for an enlightened STI policy dialogue with international partners.**”

International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation: Strategies for a Changing World. DG Research and Innovation, 2012.

Speakers and presentations

Part 1: 10:00 – 11:15 am

J. Lemm / U. Rübsam / G. Seide / T. Gries
Clean water - Energy for our everyday life

D. Siswartonová/ M. Rice
Using beauty to achieve true sustainability

E. Bongert / S. Albrecht
**Towards the great transitions of the Food & Health
Nexus: Rethinking the key role of sustainable
agricultures for healthy societies**



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Speakers and presentations

Part 2: 11:30 am – 13:15 pm

P. Vergragt

TA and sustainable consumption

J. Schmidl / K. Schilcher

Central European stakeholders propose clear priorities for further development of bioenergy markets

F. Sehnal

Assessment of the environmental impact of genetically modified crops

Discussion



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Questions for discussion

1. Communication of new solutions to the general public and public acceptance of new technologies
2. Policy support to the new technologies
3. What is the role that TA can play in ensuring the policy coordination at the international level in addressing the global challenges?

