

R&Dialogue

**A LOW CARBON SOCIETY NEEDS DIALOGUE: CHALLENGES AND
BENEFITS OF A DIALOGUE WITH KEY ACTORS FROM SCIENCE
AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

Anna Ernst

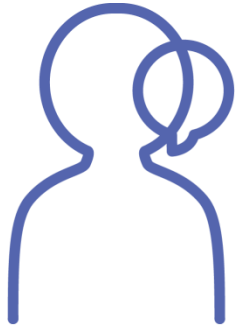
Aim of the R&Dialogue

- Bringing together different actors with complementary knowledge and experiences
- Establishing dialogue and partnerships between research organisations and different societal actors

- Wicked problems
 - concept originally introduced by Rittel and Webber in 1973
 - ‘ill-defined, ambiguous, and contested, and feature multilayered interdependencies and complex social dynamics’
(Termeer, Dewulf et al. 2013)
- Lack of communication and cooperation
 - ‘failure of scientific and policy institutions to place their own science-policy institutional culture into the frame of dialogue’
(Wynne 2006)

APPROACHES AND TOOLS

- Different understanding and role of science → post normal science
 - takes different values and interests into account
 - Knowledge co-production
- Dialogue as a tool to regain trust and reconfigure relationship



- Most densely populated federal state
- 1/3 of Germanys overall Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Generates 1/3 of Germanys power demand



Organisation in charge	Forschungszentrum Jülich
Participants	Experts
Timeframe	March 2014 – November 2014
Topic	Low Carbon Society
Impact	Mutual learning
Outputs	Discussion paper, vision
Methods	Meetings and possibility to comment on discussion paper, vision

3 PROCESS PHASES

Preparation

- 43 Interviews
- Decide on Topics

Building Trust
Problem framing

Dialogue

- 6 Meetings
- Creating messages that were assembled into a discussion paper

Mutual learning

Evaluating

- Online questionnaire

Reflection

Challenges

- Stakeholder burn-out
- To create consensus and overcome contradictions
- Dilemma between necessity of funding and openness

Approaches

- Preparation phase
- Meaningful impact
- Face-to-face meetings
- Flexibility to adjust the process to the needs of participants

- Improved concepts to evaluate what are the possibilities and limitations of transdisciplinary research:
 - levels
 - themes
 - degree of involvement of practice
- Methods for science-practice interfaces

- Common agreement: dialogue and knowledge co-production are necessary
- Dialogue needs open project planning
- Mutual learning enough to mobilise?
- Overcoming controversies is not the main goal

- Goldschmidt, R. (2014). „Kriterien zur Evaluation von Dialog- und Beteiligungsverfahren“ Springer VS.
- Lang, D. et al. (2012). „Transdisciplinary research in sustainability science: practice, principles and challenges.“ Sustainability Science 7: 25-43.
- Rittel, H. & Webber, M. (1973). „Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning.“ Policy Sciences 4: 155-169.
- Termeer, C. J. A. M., et al. (2013). "Governance Capabilities for Dealing Wisely With Wicked Problems." Administration & Society.
- Wynne, B. (2006). "Public engagement as a means of restoring public trust in science--hitting the notes, but missing the music?" Community Genet 9(3): 211-220.

R&Dialogue

THANK YOU

Anna Ernst
Forschungszentrum Jülich
Institute for Energy and Climate
Research – Systems Analyses and
Technology Evaluation
a.ernst@fz-juelich.de