

Forum on Sustainable Technological Development in a Globalising World

First workshop of the forum on Rationality in an Uncertain World (Budapest, 4-6 December 2003)

A consortium of Institutions (see below) intends to develop a *Forum on Sustainable Technological Development in a Globalising World* (Key aspects: humanities, social sciences, sustainable development, economics, sciences, engineering sciences, legal and policy aspects) through a series of yearly workshops.

The *first workshop* is to be held in Budapest, 4-6 December, 2003.

1. Why do we need a forum on technological development?

Modern societies are engaged in innovation. A substantial part of innovative efforts is technological innovation. *So, we live more and more through technology. Developing any new technology, as any innovation, is also engaging in a semi-structured social experiment with its possible, partly unforeseeable impacts that realises through the interaction of technology with its natural and social environment. Hence we need profound accompanying reflection on (intended and non-intended) social implications and implications on nature of those new technologies.* While this social experimentation through developing new technologies repeatedly opens new possibilities for society even to develop new social values, all these raises the problem of safety. But using or abusing technological development for mankind gets a new, shocking dimension by the threat of worldwide terrorism too. So, sustainable technological development for a sustainable society (including its nature dimension) needs balancing innovative efforts and anticipative actions with safety and security on a global level. This balancing effort can only be realised through the co-operation of every actor in the “technological arena”. Hence, all social agents, from individuals, through firms, movements, institutions, states, etc. should be called upon for conscious reflection and for ongoing co-operative discussion of the complexity of both strategic and tactical measures for sustainability.

The problem of sustainable relation to nature has proved to be and widened to the problem of sustainable societies. Among other things a deeper understanding of the problems of poverty is needed to the construction of these expected sustainable societies. Quick technological progress brings with itself the new problem of inclusion and exclusion, on a worldwide, regional, and country level, down to individuals (i.e. the digital divide...). To repeat it, managing the recent problem of worldwide terrorism constitutes an important element of this complex picture. The original problem of sustaining nature as basis of all social development is a problem to handle through a complexity of considerations of the most different types of social sustainabilities and becomes itself a part of it by now. Sustainability of the major social institutions, i.e. sustainable financing is to realise and transition management should be found. Balanced technological development is a main element of successful transition toward sustainable societies. To develop balanced technological development needs the realisation of a controlled co-evolution of technology

and society toward sustainable development and requires transdisciplinary research what is by now often called as “prospective technology studies” that unifies understanding of the technology – society relations with interest in its political regulation and policing.

A global regard on balanced technological development seems to offer an important cognitive element to solve societal problems, provided a really holistic approach is realised, trying to properly assess the possible consequences and to prepare through the possible anticipation for what is called “genuine surprises”. The main perspective should be the deep-going simultaneous assessment of the possible consequences of new technologies and the objectives of the human societies in our globalised world.

2. What is the aim of the forum?

1. The proposed series of workshops is conceived to *set up a multi- and transdisciplinary forum developing a wide range discourse and special knowledge on the social role of technological development in the age of globalisation*. Assessing this development needs *multiple perspectives from science* to utilise them to find results with practical importance. Clearly, the forum is intended to be not only multi-and transdisciplinary but also *heterogeneous* in terms of participants. It will include not only university scholars and PhD students, but also stakeholders such as representatives of civil organisations, corporate representatives and policy makers, etc. from different countries. The forum is intended to become a continuous “market-place” of ideas and proposals by highly competent participants and the outcomes should be presented to a heterogeneous public.
2. Examining *possible actions based on widely shared consensus* is its main goal. It also tries to include social actors, less usual in earlier periods, working for sustainability. So, the first Budapest workshop will also focus on the questions of *good corporate citizenship*, and of *long-term corporate responsibility*.
3. *Transatlantic discussion and consensus* is the most important in our time. The forum realises it in issues of sustainable technological development.
4. *Discussion and consensus among the technologically leading countries and European countries in transition*.
5. The *due follow-up of the outcomes* of the workshop is also absolutely dealt with and stressed.

See below the topics and preliminary program of *the workshop 2003*. The *target group* is heterogeneous, this is important for a real dialogue. We invite participants from the research communities of:

- the Central-European countries,
- the countries of the former SU,
- the Balkans.

3. The organising committee of the workshop is set up as follows:

Prof. Dr. Imre Hronszky, Budapest University of Technology and of Economics (BUTE), as co-chairperson

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Banse, Forschungszentrum/Karlsruhe (FZK/ITAS), as co-chairperson

Dr. Gilbert Fayl, foreign secretary of the European Academy of Sciences and the Arts (EASA)

Mr. Peter Gresiczki, Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO

Prof. Gordon Nelson, Florida Institute of Technology (FIT)

Prof. Nicanor Ursua Lezaun, University of Basque Country

4. The topics for the first year workshop focus on:

- How to make *rational decisions for technological development under conditions of uncertainty* (the problem of understanding, living in and managing an Uncertain World)
- Problems of *technological innovation* in a changing social environment mainly from point of view of *environmental sustainability and its social prerequisites*

5. The first draft of the programme

Date of the workshop: *4-6 December 2003*

Venue: *Budapest, Hungary, at the premises of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BUTE).*

4th December

14:00 *Opening* by the vice-rector of the BUTE, the director of ITAS, and the president of Hungarian UNESCO-Commission

14:15 *Opening Lecture*: Rationality in an Uncertain World, Armin *Grunwald* (D)

15:00 Discussion

Chair: Gilbert *Fayl* (#)

14:35 *Break*

15:30 *Session I*: Rationality under Conditions of Uncertainty
(Changing requirements for and forms of rationality under conditions of uncertainty, applying results to technological development)

Chair: Gordon *Nelson* (USA)

Imre *Hronszky* (H): Discursive Variables in Calculations

Frank *Fischer* (USA): Citizens in an Uncertain World: Is there a Role for Participation?

Gotthard *Bechmann* (D): Risk and Rationality in an Infinite World

16:45 Discussion

17:30 *Break*

18:00 *Opening and Welcome Reception* given by the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Science

5th December

09:00 *Session II: Sustainable Technological Innovation in a Changing Social Environment*
(Rethinking the problem of environmental sustainability and the tasks and possibilities of technological development)

Chair: Nicanor Ursua *Lezaun* (ES)

René *Schomberg* (EC/DG Research): Sustainable Development, are we coming closer?

Harald *Rohracher* (A): Energy Systems in Transition, organizing social learning Process

Lorenz *Hilty* (CH): ##

10:00 Discussion

10:45 *Break*

11:15 FIT (Riley *Dunlap?*) (USA): ##

János *Szlávik* (H): ##

Les *Levidow* (UK): Which Sustainability?

12:15 Discussion

13:00 *Break*

14:30 *Session III: Politics of Technology in a Globalising World*

(Problems of sustainable technological policy, assuring intellectual property rights and corporate responsibility a.o)

Chair: Gerhard *Banse* (D)

Ignacio *Ayestarán*, Nicanor Ursua *Lezaun* (ES): Environmental Conflicts in a Globalising World: Biodemocracy or Technodemocracy?

Frieder *Meyer-Krahmer* (D): ##

15:15 Discussion – a.o. Gordon *Nelson* (USA)

16:00 *Break*

17:00 Variant I: *Round-Table: Managing Rationality in an Uncertain World – Experiences and Problems in Eastern European Countries*

Chairs: Imre *Hronszky* (H), Gerhard *Banse* (D)

Participants: Andrzej *Kiepas* (PL), Jiří *Loudín* (CZ), Irina *Novikova* (UKR), Joachim *Petsche* (D)

Variant II: *Presentation of Audi Hungary “Sustainable Production”*

6th December

09:00 *Session IV: Conclusions for Policy Making*

(Drawing first conclusions for policy making in terms of courses, topics to include a.s.o.)

Chair: Peter *Gresiczki* (H)

Pal Tamas (H): ##

Hans Luidger *Dienel*, Heike *Walk* (D): New Participate Tools for Sustainable Technology Policy on a Transnational Level

09:45 Discussion – a.o. Irina *Novikova*

10:30 *Break*

11:00 *Session V: Conclusions for Higher Education*

Chair: Joachim *Petsche* (D)

Tom *Marczinkowski* (USA): ##

Armin *von Gleich* (D): ##

Laszlo *Molnar* (H): ##

12:00 Discussion – a.o. Andreas *Metzner* (D)

12:45 *Break*

13:00 *Closing and Farewell Reception* by General Secretary of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, representatives of Florida Institute of Technology, European Academy of Sciences and the Arts, University of Basque Country

7th December

09.00 *Meeting of the programme committee*

Objectives:

1. Drawing the scientific conclusions, drafting the Summary Document.
2. Preparation of a book of the selected presentations in CD form.
3. Preparation of the next workshop.

The next workshop is intended to be hosted by the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in Melbourne, Florida, 16-18 September 2004. The main topic will focus on the main actors of a co-operative strategy, needs and possibilities, the role of firms, governments, movements and the public, all this from a transatlantic perspective.

6. Participants

- 17 Speakers (1xA, 1xCH, 6xD, 1xEC, 1xES, 3xH, 1xUK, 3xUSA)
 - 6 Organising Committee (1xD, 1xEASA, 1xES, 2xH, 1xUSA)
 - 2 from Germany
 - 1 from Czech Republic
 - 4 from Hungary
 - 1 from EC/JRC/IPTS
 - 1 from Poland
 - 1 from Ukraine
 - 3 from USA
 - PhD-Students from Hungary, Germany and USA (attending a semester at the BUTE)
- together: 50**

7. Publications

- (a) Abstracts to the Workshop (ca. 1 page per presentation)
- (b) Short Texts as an IPTS-Report (ca. 5 pages per presentation)
- (c) Book in the ITAS-Series (ca. 15 pages per presentation)