

futureearth
research for global sustainability

REPORT FROM GROUP A

- **Disciplinary versus transdisciplinary?**

Future Earth needs both, disciplinary and transdisciplinary research.

depends on balance and context

how to build the links between disciplinary and transdisciplinary science

Transdisciplinary science vs. policy driven science vs. policy relevant science.

Integrated analysis/approach of social sciences and natural sciences- big challenge for Future Earth

Sound and clear process for Co- design. Different time scales in policy, media and science. Advocating the long-term perspective.

Workshop with td-net on transdisciplinary- not to reinvent the wheel...

-How could Future Earth contribute to existing research priorities in Europe?

Share tools and expertise: e.g. web-based mechanisms (integrated assessment models, models for comparison exercises)

Share infrastructures, observatories (promote interdisciplinary observation infrastructures)

Share metadata-knowledge management (become part of cross-cutting capabilities)

Governance of Future Earth- getting commitment from the local and national funders

Other specific stakeholders should be involved: WTO, WHO, UNDP, IEA, STS (Science and Technology Studies, private sector)

MEA report should be taken into account

- What kind of new research activities would you like to see conducted within Future Earth in Europe?

Encourage comparative studies among European countries on ways to reach sustainability.

Collaboration Europe & other regions: important role for Future Earth, creating modalities to enable collaboration: capacity building, data repositories, transferability of sustainability solutions

Use Future Earth as a shell to initiate collaborative research

Future Earth as market place to discuss trade-offs (e.g. biofuels). Include social sciences!

Community operation- avoid too rigorous application criteria for Future Earth, create an open and free program, not too prescriptive- but some rules and governance, quality insurance, priority setting.

Possibly missing in the current programmes:

- Program on water cycle
- Research on Science-policy interactions (Science Society Interactions, analogue to STS)
- Programmes on security of energy, health, food, water at the European level
- How do global environmental issues connect to local / regional governance structures?

-What kind of outreach or other activities would you like to see conducted within Future Earth in Europe?

Private sector, other bodies like the EEA (mandate to operate on the European level), Eurostat, EU in Brussels, European parliament

Engagement of our own science communities- by ideas, funding, etc.
Hosting town meetings for Future Earth (e.g. UK Science community)

“Future Earth Day” (like EU Maritime Day)

Better education in science communication

Web encyclopedia on Sustainability

Summer schools, professorships, etc...

-What would success look like for Future Earth in Europe? What would success indicators be?

Successful programs need to be convincing (vs. top down, command structure). Avoid top down language "we invite, let you in..".

How to invite already successful transdisciplinarity initiatives, encourage their participation in FE? Finding funding is crucial. Added value of co-design.

Social and natural indicators developed in FP 7 projects (CLAVIER, CHANGES, ECLISE)

Issue of quality control for integrated research: affects review system, evaluation of Future Earth research activities, approval strategy.

New programmes inspired by Future Earth: integrative science, provide options for solutions, engage young scientists.

Key performance indicators for Future Earth, e.g. number of successful transdisciplinary projects and curricula...