

RESCUE Working Group “Collaboration between the natural, social and human sciences in global change studies”

WG leaders: Chair: Rik Leemans; Vice-Chair: Sierd Cloetingh

In nearly all domains of **Earth System science**, the role of **humans is a key factor** as, e.g., a driving force, a subject of impacts, or an agent in **mitigating** impacts. Effective research collaboration can take shape only if programmes are developed in **pro-active collaboration** of scientists of different disciplines from the very start in order to develop a joint research framework including **agreed semantics and a common agenda**. This Forward Look has an important role to play in proposing a **strategic vision to break down the individual and institutional barriers** that hamper collaboration across Europe between the **physical, natural, medical and social sciences and humanities** in global change studies.

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Key questions to be addressed (1 / 2)

- What is the **state-of-the-art** about the definition and mapping of the **interfaces between disciplines**, and the related barriers, and the **gaps in knowledge** for global change?
 - There is a best practice case to be learned from with the IPCC
 - Since FP4 there have been integrated projects. The lessons learned could be learned from
 - There are many examples of societal issues that can not be resolved by the efforts of an individual scientist or one discipline all of these are gaps.

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Key questions to be addressed (1 / 2) continued

- Which disciplinary areas are already engaging in **cooperative, integrative** efforts in global change research?
 - Since FP4 nearly all traditional disciplines can be found in integrative efforts
- What is the international agenda of the disciplines involved, and of those not involved but required in the **collaboration**?
 - The agenda is unfortunately funds driven and limited by resources
- Can existing **building blocks** be identified in each contributing discipline that **optimise the strength** of the global change research in Europe?
 - Programs that can facilitate and enable transdisciplinary research

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Key questions to be addressed (1 / 2) continued

- What should the balance be between **“classical” discipline-based research and inter-disciplinary research**?
 - This point has not been resolved. Disciplinary experts are needed with interdisciplinary experience. based upon the experience of interdisciplinary GCR groups.

Key questions to be addressed (2 / 2)

- How is it possible to **trigger** effective and fruitful collaboration at the interface between different fields?
 - Sandpit model from the UK
 - Research Hotel
 - Concrete cases of bottom up teams facilitated from the top.
- What **means** exist to identify and mobilise “disciplinary” scientists, funding agencies and stakeholders to participate and contribute to this joint effort right from the start?
 - The ability to address long term research agenda with short term (within corporate and political timeframes) successes
- How might **improved** interdisciplinarity be targeted within specific domains?
 - Lessons learned from previous projects
 - Be pragmatic and HAVE FUN!!

Key questions to be addressed (2 / 2)

- What are the various **scales**, i.e. space and time dimensions of processes, envisaged in the various disciplines involved in global change research?
 - A process oriented approach is necessary
 - All from corporate quarters to decades or geologic timeframes
- Overall, how can **best practices** be promoted between European research organisations to fund activities that could better contribute to **solving the RESCUE challenges**?
 - Actively promoting all levels of excellence. From the junior researcher to the senior
 - Actively promoting cross professional cooperation: industrial representation at meetings such as these

VC. Prof. Sierd Cloetingh reporter: Prof. Michael Goodsite

10 participants at 2d. meeting

FOR TODAY: As the goal of the **Forward Look RESCUE** is to develop a series of key recommendations aiming at improving the development and the impact of the RESCUE-related science community, each Working Group should build up a balanced membership and is currently discussing and preparing:

IN PROGRESS

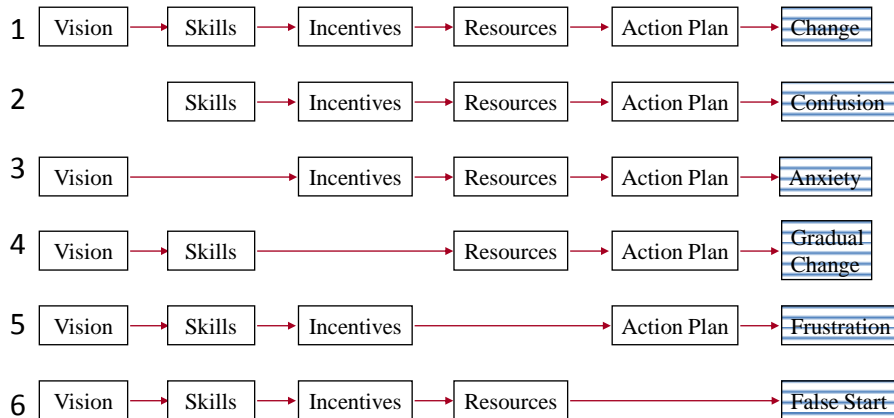
• **a detailed work plan**

- We should first put together the TERMS OF REFERENCE
 - Aims (general: based on RESCUE and specific of WG2: “Change the way GCR is done” – Evt. Use Prof. J. Kotters methodology to get to change) therefore WG2 Vision is needed
 - What do we want to spend the 20k€ on in our WG? (2 WG meetings with travel costs paid for WG members) 2 workshops: 1) feb. 2010 regarding survey 2) april 2010 reg. 1st draft: contacts at ESF and COST via Dr. AVRIL

• and the corresponding **foresight methodologies**, what invitees are expected to prepare and bring to FL launch events is needed. We should have been given the reference to the last ESF foresight initiative FL report.

- Do we aim to build on that report or give a “fresh new look”?
 - What is our view of the future? Recognize that our disciplines are under development
- Identify the demand, our status with respect to our demand: what successes and barriers. IPCC is perhaps the best practice case. WG2’s aim is perhaps a set of best practice working model for the future of GCR, populated with examples of successful cases
- A best practice survey is required: requirements, pitfalls, things that make a difference: ownership
- Define what GCR is for this project – should be the same across the group
- ESF and COST requested to furnish us with relevant reports.
 - Bringing the literature together its-self is a service

Managing Complex Change



Courtesy of Prof. M. Teagarden, THUNDERBIRD

- a draft **schedule of activities**, with their anticipated outputs,
- an **realistic action plan** with clear tasks and term of reference,
- an **implementation and monitoring strategy** for the long-term perspective,
- a draft list of **missing actors and partners** (science communities, key actors, stakeholders such as industry)
- a clear **reporting** mechanism to ESF and COST.
- **A quality assurance mechanism and WG structure** (as part of structure and also of field, gender and geographical balance and perhaps sector?). The standing committee member is going to be part of the QC mechanism.

The WGs' **membership** should take into account the issues of balance between expertise representation in “natural” and “social / human” sciences, and also of gender and geographical balance.

What is our shared vision of our whole process?

Need for a writing group 2 deliverables: a report and associated short (10 pg max) science policy briefing plus input to the FL executive summary. See rescue web page with timelines and deliverables. (10 persons maximum)

Humanities need to be represented. A psychologist is perhaps needed

Working group volunteers

AS is happy to volunteer

AG is happy to volunteer

Note from BK, a STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER can be expected to join the WG

BK (SSU) has experience with FL and is happy to help the WG with its actions.

Next workshop is the forum where external experts are invited. Convince a member organization of ESF to launch a project on experience or best practice and the FL can learn from that

Whom to invite, who else to invite

(Prof. L. Mermet – mermet@engref.fr - , from France, reserves his commitment for later as he just joined the efforts today)

UNESCO representative can offer intellectual support but not a member of the WG, is willing to be a member of the review committee. Happy to contribute as a ghost writer

KY is happy to be volunteer

BV is happy to volunteer

MG is happy to volunteer

ALL: input with literature, personal knowledge, success stories, lessons learned, barriers

SC will write a consensus report on the 1st meeting and circulate it.

Office Contact Persons:

Bernard Avril and Celine Seewald (ESF); Carine Petit (COST)