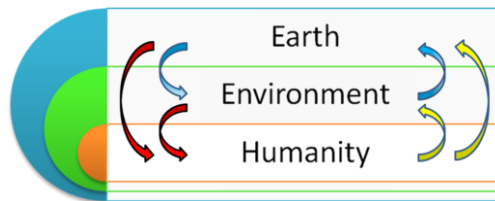


RESCUE Stakeholders Conference (16-17 May 2011)

Inputs from the RESCUE Working Group “Interface”



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Last update: 16th May 2011

Mission / Challenges

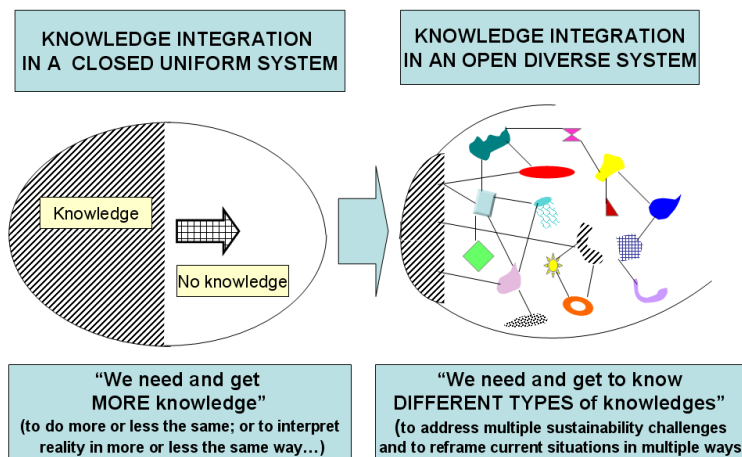
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- To assess and make recommendations about the requirements for interfaces between the production and use of knowledge in order to deal with the challenge of sustainability.
- Research over the last two decades has documented that the Earth is undergoing major environmental and socioeconomic changes.
- The gap between knowledge and action has not been bridged.

Context and Rationale

1. A linear model of knowledge production and use is still widely accepted as a basis for defining the roles of different research institutes and researchers and their relation to societal groups, policy-makers and business.
2. Instead the production, distribution and use of knowledge must deal with: *Legitimacy; Pluralism; Credibility; Independence; Relevance; Participation; Accessibility; and Accountability.*

Vision




Two visions and practices of knowledge and of knowledge integration

Different types of learning and integration processes are necessary to gain different types of context-based knowledges for sustainability (after Tåbara, 2005).

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Proposed Responses / Solutions




RESCUE WG/TF inputs (4/5)

- **Far-reaching institutional change:** new, flexible forms of institutions are needed.
- A knowledge democracy will not flourish without long-term funding mechanisms (10 years and more).
- An effective and fair evaluation system for integrative research on societal themes is needed.
- Research for sustainable development must start with a collective problem-framing process, including scientists from natural and social sciences/humanities as well as actors from civic society, the private and the public sector.

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Proposed Responses / Solutions




RESCUE WG/TF inputs (4/5)

- A set of 10-20 long-term demonstration projects covering different scales, sustainability needs/problem domains and policy contexts across the world.
- To demonstrate different mechanisms of engagement and cooperation in knowledge production, learning and evaluation in tackling sustainability concerns in different places.
- Ensure that these demonstration projects are carefully monitored and regularly compared and that their processes and results are disseminated widely.

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Proposed Responses / Solutions



RESCUE WG/TF inputs (4/5)

- It will be important to respond to challenges posed by the growth of the Internet as a means of access to knowledge, as a repository of knowledge, as a research tool and as an agora, which all have profound implications for production, diffusion and use of knowledge in responding to societal problems.
- A differentiated strategy for changing the education system will be required.

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Recommendations & Roadmap



RESCUE WG/TF inputs (5/5)

- Development of a common vision of an open knowledge system through a dialogue process between the science policy makers, science funders and sustainability science community, together with a broader range of societal stakeholders in Europe.
- Establish a set of 10-20 long-term demonstration projects.

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Recommendations & Roadmap

RESCUE WG/TF inputs (5/5)

- Establish an international working group to consider the challenges posed by the growth of the Internet.
- Education policy makers and educators engage together with a broad range of societal actors in a facilitated dialogue on the changes required for a transition to an open knowledge democracy with a focus on sustainability issues.

10/10

Overall Contribution to RESCUE

RESCUE WG/TF inputs (optional)

- The challenges of dealing with persistent problems of unsustainability require drastic changes in knowledge systems and thus in the interface between science and society
→ a new, open knowledge system
- **Needs:** integrative research, integration of knowledge, collective problem framing, plurality of perspectives, better treatment of uncertainty and values, extended peer review, broader and transparent metrics for evaluation, dialogue processes, societal agenda setting, and stakeholder participation.