

Overview

The partners of the FP7 European project «PACITA» (*Parliaments and Civil Society in Technology Assessment*) are happy to announce the organisation of the first European Summer School on Technology Assessment (TA). The event is organised around three and a half days of cutting edge training, practical exercises, mutual reflection, and networking – all focused on TA in relation with the underlying theme of renewable energy systems when it comes to meeting transition objectives or critically assess energy technologies. The Summer School will bring together various stakeholder groups from around Europe and who have an interest in learning more about TA, its methods, and its tools for reflection and problem solving. It is of particular interest to stakeholders from policymaking, policy advising, academia, industry, civil societal, and the media. The University of Liège, Belgium, will host the event from the 25th until the 28th of June 2012 in the exceptional venue of Château de Colonster. Attendance at the Summer School is free of charge. In addition, the organisers will provide complimentary transport and catering during each day of the event. A limited number of scholarships for travel expenses¹ are available to qualifying individuals.

Objectives

The Summer School will distribute knowledge and create awareness of the potential of Technology Assessment among various target groups in Europe. Participants of the Summer School will be part of an international mix of individuals from diverse backgrounds. Lecturers, workshops, and social events will allow participants to discuss, trial, and learn about the usefulness and the relevance of TA activities for their own activities and for their wider organisational or national contexts. The Summer School will provide insights from leading TA professionals into TA activities, rationales and methodologies, but it also aims to create awareness and interest, mobilize new actors, and strengthen networking activities around TA in Europe.

Focus

Energy systems encompass a variety of interrelated and mutually dependent energy chains spanning over national borders, influenced by international evolutions. For current and future generations, renewable energies are probably one of the biggest challenges for policy, economy and society worldwide. This challenge refers to the interplay of actors, technologies, policies, worldviews and institutions engaged in the field of energy debates, policies and production.

“ All energy technologies are controversial, whether new or old, grey or green. The root of the problem is the lack of a sense of urgency felt by both the public and policymakers, resulting in collectively shared myths about an easy and painless transition to sustainable energy systems”. Jurgen Ganzevles, Senior TA-Researcher of the Dutch Rathenau Institute and Energy expert

However, this is not without its own difficulties, controversies and unknowns: discussing renewable energy systems opens up a variety of issues such as energy independence and security, climate change, sustainability, competitiveness, quality of life and a greater accessibility and justice in the distribution of the costs and benefits of natural energy resources. Technologies play an important role in coping with such issues, as they offer potential solutions like energy saving, smart grids, controversial carbon capture or recycling techniques. At the same time, technologies are also part of the problem because they have external costs and harmful effects like waste production and greenhouse gases. In order to capture the complexity of what is at stake, TA's rationale, methods and techniques offer powerful tools that are essential for both analysts and solution-oriented professionals.

The Summer School will provide the participants with comprehensive insights into knowledge

¹ In return it is requested that beneficiaries propose a valorisation of the workshop back home.

production on opportunities and consequences of technologies, by relying on the great diversity of TA practices utilised across Europe. This will enable the participants to combine a forward-looking perspective on new scientific and technological developments with the ambition to influence their embedding in society. As such, TA aims to avoid potential negative impact, to diminish the economic and societal costs of trial-and-error, and to (re)align them with public demands and socially desirable outcomes.

Participants of the Summer School will be offered the opportunity to sharpen their analytical skills and they will be encouraged to simultaneously consider socio-cultural, economic, ecological, technological, infrastructural and institutional factors in order to determine barriers and opportunities for future social and technological evolutions. Throughout a stimulating learning process, TA rationales, methods and techniques will be mobilised to address questions such as:

- What is the social basis for renewable energies?
- How can ecological awareness and the energy problem be brought more convincingly into the public awareness?
- What role can public participation play, knowing that civil society is increasingly making its (divergent) voice heard?

By combining high-profile lectures with interactive workshops, participants from different stakeholder groups will learn how TA can provide them with meaningful insights and valuably contribute to public and policy opinion forming on science and technology in society. The participants will be able to discuss and learn about the usefulness and the relevance of TA activities for their own professional activities on a micro-level and in a wider organisational or national context.

Wishing to Participate?

The Summer School is neither practitioner training for TA experts nor is it an academic Summer School with strong theoretical emphasis. Instead it focuses on individuals who may have an interest in TA or TA related topics, processes or outcomes in their own country. Summer School participants will come from:

- Public authorities (policymakers, civil servants, policy-advisers, ...)
- Academia and the scientific community (including PhD students)
- Civil society representatives from industry and NGOs
- Science journalists, writers or communicators

Applicants do **not** need to have a strong background in the field of renewable energy systems nor in the practice of Technology Assessment. Motivation and acquaintance with TA or TA related topics and issues surrounding the impact of science & technology, policy-making and society are welcome. The Summer School definitely wishes to take advantage of a diversity of expertise and backgrounds as a working resource.

Interested? Please send your CV and short motivation letter to benedikt.rosskamp@ulg.ac.be and aline.thiry@ulg.ac.be **before the 15th of May 2012**. In total, 35 participants will be selected, including 20 scholarship attributions. All participants will receive materials in advance, including a reference USB stick containing an introduction to the topic of the Summer School and a portfolio with information and learning material. Participants will also get a formal certificate of attendance to the Summer School. Notification of acceptance and attribution of scholarships will be communicated by the 24th of May 2012.

Programme

The three days of training will alternate between plenary sessions and applied workshops in smaller groups. Expert TA practitioners and members of the PACITA consortium will supervise the training sessions and assist the participants at all stages along the process.

Lectures:

During the plenary lectures, all the participants will be offered an overview of the diversity of TA approaches and the different phases of doing TA. Lecturing practitioners include:

- Dr. Johan Evers, Institute Society and Technology (Flanders, Belgium): « Technology Assessment of renewable energy systems: an introduction »
- Prof. António B. Moniz, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology - ITAS (Germany): “The problem definition and the research design in TA: the case of e-mobility”.
- Dr. Danielle Bütschi, Swiss Centre for Technology Assessment – TA-SWISS (Switzerland): “The Method Toolbox for Technology Assessment: from Science to Dialogue”.
- Dr. Jurgen Ganzevles, Rathenau Institute (The Netherlands): “Communication work and the strive for impact – lessons from the Energy in 2030 project”.
- Dr. Paidi O’Reilly, University College Cork (Ireland): “Concluding Remarks from a Non-TA Country: Insights and Future Directions”.

Workshops:

During the workshop sessions, the different target groups will have the opportunity to put into practice the different aspects of the lectures and also to actively interact with workshop facilitators around various TA assignments. The aim is to give an overview of how TA projects are set up and executed. Participants are encouraged to rely on their own disciplinary expertise (such as ethics, law, political and social sciences, STS, natural or applied sciences) and/or experience (as policy-makers, civil society organizations, media, etc.). The workshops are organized in order to reflect on the various possibilities offered by TA according to different mandates and demands.

For more information on the PACITA project, please visit the website: <http://www.pacitaproject.eu> or contact the research centre SPIRAL (University of Liège) by writing to benedikt.rosskamp@ulg.ac.be for practical details about the Summer School.

Annexes:

Biography of Lecturers

Antonio Moniz

Sociologist, specialized in the Labour and Organizations domain and presented the Ph.D. thesis about the Processes of Technological and Organisational Changes in Portuguese Manufacturing Industry (FCT-UNL). Is Associate Professor (since 1999) at the Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia (Universidade Nova de Lisboa-UNL), with habilitation for Full Professorship since 2001. Is coordinator of the PhD Programme on "Technology Assessment" (UNL) from 2009, where he is also responsible for the unit on "Methods of Foresight Analysis". Nowadays (since 2011) is also Invited Researcher of the Institute of Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. He is coordinator of IET - Research Centre on Enterprise and Work Innovation since 2002 at FCT-UNL, and founder of the Portuguese network on Technology Assessment (GrEAT) in 2010.

Danielle Bütschi

Danielle BÜTSCHI is project manager at the Swiss Centre for Technology Assessment by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. She received a doctorate in political science from the Social Sciences and Economics Faculty of the University of Geneva (Switzerland). From 1991 to 1996, she worked as a researcher at the Department of Political Science of the University of Geneva. She joined the Swiss Centre for Technology Assessment (TA-SWISS in 1997). She is project manager for interdisciplinary studies and participatory projects (consensus conferences, focus groups, etc.). She also regularly takes part in European projects dedicated to Technology Assessment: the EUROPTA project on European Participatory Technology Assessment (1998-1999), the TAMI project dedicated to methods and impacts of Technology Assessment (2002-2003), the PACITA project on the relationship between Parliaments and civil society (2011 - 2015), and the SURPRISE project elaborating an European wide participatory assessment of security technologies (2012-2014).

Since 2002, next to her activities at TA-SWISS, she has been working for other research and TA institutions (University of Lausanne, University of Geneva, Flemish Institute for Science and Technology Assessment). She is currently involved as a project manager at the University of Lausanne, in a project on international standardization and civil society participation (INTERNORM project).

Jurgen Ganzevles

Jurgen Ganzevles (1976) joined the Dutch Rathenau Institute in September 2007. His main areas of interest are energy and climate change. He is editor of the comprehensive book (in Dutch, 2011) 'Energy in 2030. Societal choices for today', addressing the societal implications of energy saving, renewable and conventional energy sources for the Netherlands. In earlier studies, he focused on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and local energy transitions. For the PACITA project, he is involved in the more theoretical reflections on Parliamentary Technology Assessment in Europe.

In 2007, he was awarded a doctorate in Science and Technology Studies by the University of Twente. This discipline is concerned with the convergence of science, technology and society. His dissertation (in Dutch) 'Technology Serving both Users and the Environment' analyses laboratory

practices of designing and testing of household energy technology. Key question was how engineers claim and realize that their prototype will benefit customers and the environment at the same time, once used in society. Prior to this research, Jurgen worked for a project development consultancy specialized in environmentally responsible energy provision. Jurgen also holds an MSc degree in Electrical Engineering.

Johan Evers

Johan Evers is a senior project manager and Technology Assessment practitioner at the Institute Society & Technology (Flanders, Belgium) since 2009. In November 2010, he organized a three day technology event in the Flemish parliament on digitization of contemporary society. At present, he manages a Technology Assessment project on synthetic biology and his project coordinator of PACITA for IST.

Johan has a Msc. degree and a PhD. Degree in Bioscience Engineering (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium). As a PhD researcher he was involved in the project 'Nanotechnologies for Tomorrow's Society', a four year academic Technology Assessment study on exploring pathways to integrate societal considerations into nanotechnology research. His doctoral research focused on analysis of dominant socio-technical discourses in the governance of nanotechnoscience.

Johan has postgraduate qualifications in Science & Technology Communication and currently follows a postgraduate in European Business Administration.

Paidi O'Reilly

Paidi O'Reilly is a researcher in the Financial Services Innovation Centre (UCC) where he is the institution's project lead on European funded projects. In addition, he is a part-time lecturer in the Department of Accountancy Finance and Information Systems (UCC) and the Irish Management Institute (IMI) where he delivers modules relating to innovation, value, and benefits realisation on a number of programmes. He also sits on the Innovation Management Standards Consultative Committee within the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). This committee is charged with monitoring national and international developments relating to innovation management and to advise the NSAI and its European counterparts in relation to standard developments in this area.

Paidi has over fifteen years experience as a consultant and professional trainer. He has worked with many public and blue-chip organisations in the UK and Ireland.

Paidi has a particular interest in the use of innovation models for policy-making and management strategising. He is investigating how management teams might use innovation models to visualise the innovation systems of their organisations in order to improve innovation management. He has published his work in leading academic and practitioner outlets.

Summer School Programme

DAY 1 : MONDAY 25TH JUNE (SALLE DES PROFESSEURS – PLACE DU XX AOUT, LIÈGE)

HOUR	ACTIVITY
18H00	Welcome and opening by the University of Liège
19H00-...	Cocktail party

DAY 2 : TUESDAY 26TH JUNE (CHÂTEAU COLONSTER)

HOUR	ACTIVITY
9H00	Bus from the city center (Ibis Hotel)
9H30-10H00	Welcome and roundtable
10H00-10H45	Introduction to the Summer School - first instructions Spiral (ULg)
10H45-11H00	Coffee break
11H00-11H45	Technology Assessment of renewable energy systems: an introduction Dr. Johan Evers (Institute Society and technology – Flanders, Belgium)
11H45-12H00	Discussion (plenary)
12H00-13H00	lunch
13H00-13H45	Problem definition and TA research design Prof. Antonio B. Moniz (Karlsruhe Institute of technology – ITAS/KIT)
13H45-15H15	Discussion (plenary)
15H15-15H30	Coffee break
15H30-17H00	Workshop 1 Workshop 2
17H00	Bus to the city center (Ibis Hotel)
18H00	Dinner
	Social event

DAY 3 : WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE (CHÂTEAU COLONSTER)

Hour	Activity	
9H00	Bus from the city center (Ibis Hotel)	
9H30-9H45	Welcome	
9H45-10H30	The Method Toolbox for Technology Assessment: from Science to Dialogue Dr. Danielle Bütschi (Swiss centre for Technology Assessment - TA Swiss)	
10H30-11H	Discussion (plenary)	
11H-11H15	Coffee break	
11H15-12H45	Workshop 1	Workshop 2
12H45-13H45	Lunch	
13H45-14H30	Communication work and the strive for impact - lessons from the Energy in 2030 project Dr. Jurgen Ganzevles (Rathenau Institute - KNAW/RI)	
14H30-15H	Discussion (plenary)	
15H-15H15	Coffee break	
15H15-16H45	Workshop 1	Workshop 2
17H15	Bus to the city center (Ibis Hotel)	
19H00	Dinner	
	Social event	

DAY 4 : THURSDAY 28TH JUNE (CHÂTEAU COLONSTER)

Hour	Activity	
9H00	Bus from the city center (Ibis Hotel)	
9H30-9H45	Welcome	
9h45-10H45	Workshop-finalisation	Workshop-finalisation
10H45-11H00	Coffee break	
11H00-13H00	Presentation workshop results & discussion	
13H00-14H00	Lunch	
14H00-14H30	Evaluation of the summer school	
14H30-15H15	Concluding Remarks from a Non-TA Country: Insights and Future Directions Dr. Paidi O'Reilly (University College Cork - UCC)	
15H15-16H	Farewell drink	
16H	Bus to the city center (Ibis Hotel)	