

Ocean Rise

How to design a scenario workshop on local management of ocean rises and flooding for local actors?

Section B: Framing

No. 8: Possible project descriptions

(Derived from the results of the Procida workshop)

Background

As a result of global warming, many scientists agree that it is reasonable to expect a rise in the sea level of ½ a meter during the next century.

Denmark has a long coastline and many parts of it would be affected by such an ocean rise, but local municipalities are largely unaware of this and do nothing to adjust local planning accordingly.

Project idea

The project idea is to facilitate (sustainable) adaptation to ocean rising by helping stakeholders and population to develop their own perceptions and actions (empowerment). Focussing on adaptation rather than on prevention will allow us to focus the discussion on how to deal with the ocean rising and not on the scientific proof. It also allows the citizens to take an active part in the management of the situation.

Objective

General objective: Preparing the population and politicians to make efficient decisions by:

- Raise public awareness about the ocean rising
- Involve citizens in the decision making process
- Involve citizens in problem solving activities
- Elaborate a plan of action to face the situation
- Give advice to local planners
- Convince the local municipalities to develop an action plan for adaptation
- Get the **municipalities and relevant government bodies** engaged
- Based on participation of stakeholders also involve local citizens (aiming agreement)
- Offer a forum to learn about and discuss controversies
- A collective decision, with debates
- To explore different ways of answer to the problem of ocean rise
- To map different points of views and to build a consensus
- Scenarios workshops are a good method to help people to project them in the future and to find a common start of dialogue
- To exchange different knowledge of the subject and different issues and perspective
- A way to make more people responsible, a real actor
- To inform local actors and to make a consensus, agreement of what we have to do

Target group and dissemination

In a bottom-up strategy the target group would be first local communities and local authorities, the general public (including young people), then the national institutions (parliament, agencies, research organisations ...), affected residents, people who want to learn more about this subject, land use stakeholders groups (like agriculture, housing, associations etc.)...

The end product could look like:

Local communities	Local authorities	General public	National institutions
Movie	Report	Movie	Report
Web site - Blog	Tool box	Web Site - Blog	Tool box
Local media	Etc.	National media	
Etc		Poster	

Separate: being involved and being informed

What should the end product(s) look like?

- Recommendations
- Report to government
- Report on interest conflicts
- Brief action plan for the local situation

How should the project create an interest for and knowledge about the project results?

- Report to government
- Media (ads)
- Dissemination for the future generations (schools)
- Festival, media focus
- Media package:
- Media strategy (main conflicts)
- Awareness: general attention
- Recommendations of participants can be the start of future research program
- Participants can learn about each others and negotiate

Methodology

The advantages of using the scenario workshop is to find a way to picture the future and especially in a positive point of view by involving the stakeholders in participative action.

Advantages:

- brings together different knowledge, interests, and perspectives
- explore different ways of dealing with ocean rise, while also mapping stakeholder interests and citizens views

- enables learning but also negotiation of interests
- generate new visions for complex common issues
- good for issues that are in the future but require action now
- enables deliberation and so consideration of general interest as well as particular interests
- addresses values not only facts; explicitly recognises that values underlie technological choices
- gives concrete recommendations

Limits:

- small number of participants
- possible problems of representation and legitimacy
- original scenarios may have a big influence on the outcome
- choice of participants may have a big influence on the outcome
- relies on a good plan for dissemination of results; also relies on willingness of authorities to adopt
- challenge of recruitment process