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Project Overview

DRIFT´s newly awarded projects

Content

ACTION

Basic information

ACTION – full title	Participatory science toolkit against pollution
DRIFT PI	Julia Wittmayer
Funding agency / Programme	EU H2020 RIA
Funding sum	€ 125.000 (DRIFT) € 2 million (total)
Project period	2019-2021
Project start	February 2019
Keywords	combating and preventing pollution, Sustainable Development Goals, openness, diversity, sustainability, evolution, citizen science life cycle, citizen science accelerator

Abstract

ACTION will transform the way we do citizen science (CS) today: from a mostly scientist-led process to a more participatory, inclusive, citizen-led one, which acknowledges the diversity of the CS landscape and of the challenges CS teams have to meet as their project evolves. We have partnered with 5 European CS initiatives tackling major forms of pollution, which pose substantial threats to human health and to the environment, and contributing to Sustainable Development Goals. These pilots will be the starting point for a 'citizen science accelerator', which will be expanded through an open call. By considering the needs of multiple stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of CS, we will create methodologies, tools and guidelines to truly democratise the scientific process , allowing anyone to design and realise a CS project from the early stages of ideation to validating and publishing the results. Our research will account for the multitude of manifestations of CS, addressing everything from from small-scale, localised social issues to international research agendas. All ACTION's outputs - infrastructure, the citizen science platform and toolkit - will be made openly available for online and offline use. They will use accessible formats and interfaces, which appeal to audiences with diverse motivations and backgrounds and provide detailed examples, workflows, and advice tailored for a range of activities, going beyond data collection and analysis. Our digital infrastructure will help citizen scientists use existing specialised platforms and publish results according to RRI principles, including open science. Our toolkit will tackle common difficulties around methodological choices, quality, incentives, community building and sustainability. In addition, the 35 pilots hosted by the accelerator will result in case studies that will demonstrate the impacts of CS at social, economic, environmental and policy level.

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Energy-SHIFTS

Basic information

Energy-SHIFTS – full title	Energy Social sciences & Humanities Innovation Forum Targeting the SET-Plan
DRIFT PI	Julia Wittmayer
Funding agency / Programme	EU H2020 CSA
Funding sum	€ 160.000 (DRIFT) € 1 million (total)
Project period	2019-2020
Project start	April 2019
Keywords	Social sciences and humanities; multi-stakeholder; energy research, policy and innovation; innovative collaboration methods; forum

Abstract

Energy-SHIFTS "Energy Social sciences & Humanities Innovation Forum Targeting the SET-Plan" will contribute to a European Energy Union that places societal needs centrally, by further developing Europe's leadership in using and applying energy-related Social Sciences and Humanities (energy-SSH). Our consortium brings together 4 leading interdisciplinary research institutes with 3 highly respected policy, industry and communications organisations from across the energy-SSH field, to create an innovative and inclusive Forum. Our partners' have significant energy-SSH H2020 project experience, direct working links with the EU's Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) communities, extensive networks in the energy domain, and represent excellent coverage across SSH disciplines and across Europe. These will enable us to maximise the impact of our Forum delivery within an intensive 2-year project. Energy-SHIFTS activities will target over 10,000 stakeholders and begin with scoping activities including: accessible guides to SSH in EU policy; workshops on SSH priority themes; online policyworker and researcher databases. We will build on this scoping work to implement: 4 Working Groups across SET-Plan themes; a Policy Fellowship scheme; an Early-Stage Researcher programme; masterclasses for policy, NGO, STEM, and media audiences; 4 online citizen debates; and a pan-European conference. Our consortium will bring their considerable expertise in research-policy dialogue to these activities. Our core activities will both provide immediate insights for the short-term directions of EU energy policy as well as foundations for longer-terms mechanisms that will enable evidence-based energy-SSH insights to reach the 'policy front line'. As a central body bringing SSH communities together, we will work to directly inform future FP9 and SET-Plan priorities. Energy-SHIFTS will significantly enhance the policy impact of energy-SSH, and accelerate shifts to low-carbon energy systems.

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SIRIUS

Basic information

SIRIUS – full title	Sustainable, Innovative, Resilient, and Interconnected Urban food System
DRIFT PI	Timo von Wirth
Funding agency / Programme	JPI Europe / NWO
Funding sum	€ 255.000 (DRIFT) € 862,751 (total)
Project period	2019-2022
Project start	March 2019
Keywords	Urban food system; Sustainability assessment; Climate resilience; Socio-economic transformation; Urban governance

Abstract

Sustainable urbanisation is coupled with the sustainability and resilience of 'glocal' food production and consumption. Economic transformation and climate change have brought complex and dynamic challenges for urban food systems, while new urban economies and social innovations are emerging in various countries to tackle food problems. However, identifying and assessing transition pathways of future urban food systems remain primarily neglected in studies on urban sustainability. Local planners and policy-makers seek scientific guidance and learning opportunities about mechanisms to navigate towards sustainable urban food systems. This project will develop interdisciplinary methods, innovative understandings, and practical managerial insights bridging socio-spatial contexts in China and Europe. It will shed light on trends of urban food production and consumption in Chinese and European cities, and identify the natural and societal factors that will influence the vulnerability and resilience of urban food supply chains. This project will reveal how new business models, social entrepreneurship, and other innovations in the urban food sector are evolving locally. Our research outcomes will enhance the governance capacity in transitioning urban food systems, and establish learning arenas that illuminate similarities and differences of urban planning and decision-making on urban food system governance in China and Europe.

SONNET

Basic information

SONNET – full title	Social innovation in energy transitions
DRIFT PI	Julia Wittmayer
Funding agency / Programme	EU H2020 RIA
Funding sum	€ 330.000 (DRIFT) € 3 million (total)
Project period	2019-2022
Project start	Expected: July 2019
Keywords	Social Innovation, Socio-technical Transitions, Energy Union, Cities, Co-creation, Multi-Method Design, Social Acceptance, Business Models, Governance, Energy Policy

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Abstract

SONNET aims to create an inter- and transdisciplinary understanding of the diversity and processes of social innovations in the energy sector (SIE). It assesses -critically and reflexively- the success, contributions and future potentials of SIE towards sustainable energy transitions in Europe. SONNET investigates how, to what extent and under which enabling conditions diverse types of SIE may result in new breakthroughs or successfully help to overcome transition barriers; such as limited citizen engagement or slow adoption of new technologies. SONNET's empirical research is informed by a novel conceptual framework combining insights from sustainability transitions, energy studies and social innovation literatures. It bridges qualitative (e.g. innovation histories) and quantitative ((e.g. choice experiments on the market uptake of SIE)) methodological approaches in an innovative research design. Across 30 qualitative in-depth case studies situated in six European countries, SONNET investigates the diversity, processes, success and contributions of SIE. Given its focus on urban areas as major hubs for SIE, SONNET conducts six transdisciplinary SIE city labs to experiment with new forms of SIE and learn about how multiple actors can harness the potential of SIE. In addition, based on three large-scale representative citizen surveys, SONNET assesses the future potential of SIE and develops new business and service models. SONNET synthesizes its findings in an integrated knowledge framework for a socio-economic, socio-cultural (incl. gender) and socio-political understanding of enabling and impeding conditions for SIE and SIE contributions when working towards accelerating sustainable energy transitions in Europe. Through a cutting edge co-creation and dissemination strategy, SONNET ensures that its practical recommendations, tools and capacity building activities have a maximum impact on its key stakeholders such as citizens, SIE actors, policy makers, and business

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TOMORROW

Basic information

TOMORROW – full title	TOwards Multi-stakehOldeRs transition ROadmaps With citizens at the centre
DRIFT PI	Julia Wittmayer
Funding agency / Programme	EU H2020 CSA
Funding sum	€ 170.000 (DRIFT) € 1,5 million (total)
Project period	2019-2022
Project start	Expected: June 2019
Keywords	Energy transition, cities, roadmap, local authorities, citizen engagement, transition management, decarbonisation, energy union, stakeholder, innovative governance solution, deliberative democracy

Abstract

By 2050, European cities should be decarbonised, sustainable and provide for a high quality of life. In order to achieve this goal, society as a whole has to become more accountable and mutual responsibility needs to be distributed amongst all actors. Therefore, urban governance schemes need to become more transparent and inclusive so that all can benefit. This is why public administrations need to be equipped with skills and support schemes. Local transition roadmaps draw on the required skills and capacities of local authorities and allow them to become leaders of the energy transition. Such roadmaps provide explicit strategies and operational tools for local governments to address the multiple challenges of the energy transition and their ecological, economic, and social aspects. Thereby, their development provides both, space for innovations to develop, and participatory approaches to flourish. TOMORROW aims at empowering local authorities to lead the transition towards low-carbon, resilient and more liveable cities by engaging citizens and stakeholders in the development of 2050 transition roadmaps. The development process of local transition roadmaps lies at the core of TOMORROW, which recognizes that the achievability of the formulated energy transition targets relies upon effective engagement of civil society, local key actors and their collaboration with local governments. For implementing deliberative governance schemes, the project´s pilot cities will be involved in city trainings and benefit from peer-to-peer activities with lighthouse cities. Best practices and innovative sustainable energy solutions, as well as innovative engagement mechanisms will be shared. Tailored support material, such as a toolbox containing methodological guidelines and factsheets on best practices will be developed for replication. Learning relays and masterclasses will improve participants´ capacities. Policy recommendations aim at an enabling framework for cities´ transition.

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UrbanA

Basic information

UrbanA – full title	Urban Arena for Sustainable and Equitable Solutions
DRIFT PI	Flor Avelino
Funding agency / Programme	EU Horizon 2020
Funding sum	€ 215.000 (DRIFT) € 1,6 million (total)
Project period	2019-2021
Project start	January 2019
Keywords	sustainable urban development; inclusivity and equity; cities; solutions; arena; trandisciplinary research; policy recommendations; co-creation; city-makers

Abstract

UrbanA takes up the challenge of synthesizing and brokering the knowledge and experience generated in EU-funded projects, many of which have identified interventions that address grand societal challenges, of which urban inequalities and social exclusion across different contexts. In this way, UrbanA will support city-makers – including researchers, policymakers and practitioners – in transforming European cities into inclusive and sustainable urban and peri-urban environments. UrbanA will do so through a transdisciplinary Urban Arena for Sustainable and Equitable Solutions (established in WP2). By co-creatively mapping urban sustainability interventions (WP3), assessing their potential to improve urban social equity and inclusion (WP4) and identifying potential avenues and agents by which such interventions could be transferred to more widespread governance contexts (WP5), UrbanA will develop actionable and actor specific solutions (WP6), which will be disseminated to key local and European actors (WP7).