

# International Sustainability Transitions 2015 Conference



# Book of Abstracts

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## K2, The role of learning and evaluation in transitions

### **Reflexivity and learning in the context of system innovation; Prying loose entangled concepts**

*Van Mierlo, Beers*

Sustainability issues need a loosening-up of rules and relations that guide actions and practices. Simultaneously, ways of problem solving, of managing resources and people, and of evaluating, need to be reconsidered. They are often said to require reflexivity; a concept that is loaded with positive connotations. Reflexivity however, is seldom operationalized and as a consequence, its relations with learning and critical reflection as the presumed conditions, have hardly been studied so far. We critically explore the relations between reflexivity and learning on the basis of a literature review and an empirical case-study in the Dutch greenhouse sector.

### **You cannot manage what you don't measure": an evaluation tool for transition processes**

*Van Dyck, Bachus*

This paper examines how long-term transition processes can be evaluated on a short-term basis, and how learning and evaluation moments can contribute to the transition process as a whole. This is done by applying the theoretical tool by Creten et al (2014), which combined literature on transitions and evaluation, on the transition programme of smart mobility of the Flemish Government. We particularly focus on the niches of the mobility budget and the development of the infrastructure of electric cars, and aim to improve the tool to make it usable by policy-makers and transitions managers.

## K3, Technological innovation systems

### **Catching up is not easy: A comparative analysis of biogas technology development in Germany and the UK**

*Ehlers, Markard*

We compare the development of biogas technology in Germany and the United Kingdom and examine whether the UK could learn from experiences and knowledge generated by the much larger biogas sector of Germany. The analysis mobilises the technological innovation systems framework. Empirical data is generated with a content analysis of the farming press in both countries, complemented with documents and expert interviews. In certain respects the biogas sector in the UK draws on experiences made in Germany, but the extent is limited. We explain, why developments in the UK repeat patterns observed in Germany, instead of a fast track development.

### **Direction, legitimacy and structuration in Technological Innovation Systems upscaling — Insights from roadmaps for deepwater offshore wind energy**

*Bento, Fontes*

This research investigates strategies aiming to accelerate the up-scaling of low-carbon innovations. We adopt the technological innovation systems (TIS) perspective to focus on structuration or system building processes, including key innovative activities. We analyze national roadmaps that have been developed for offshore wind energy in deep waters – more than 50 meters deep where most of the potential is expected but whose technology is more immature – in Europe. The roadmaps analysis not only reveals how actors expect the TIS grow but also enables the understanding about the critical functions at this stage, such as direction of search and legitimacy.