

Co-creation lab



The aim of the Co-Creation Lab is to serve as a learning platform that hosts and experiments with a variety of exploratory methodologies (e.g. serious games, storytelling, futures/anticipation methods...) to reflect upon the issues brought up in our case studies (i.e. carbon farming, bushfires, eco-burials). These methodologies will support knowledge co-production processes that are systemic, equitable and anticipatory. The Lab works with the case study researchers to design and facilitate co-creation sessions which address the complex sustainability challenges in the respective cases and simultaneously, examine the potential of exploratory methodologies to stimulate transformative knowledge co-production. In this regard, the Lab is grounded on specific issues and establishes strong linkages with the empirical contexts.

Aims

Our overarching aim is to transform the traditional approach to research projects into a process exemplifying the transdisciplinary and experimental characteristics of the Co-Creation Lab.

The Co-Creation Lab has an experimental character, i.e. the outcomes are not pre-determined but rather emerge from a collaborative process with different Lab participants. In light of that, the Lab characterises an open and safe space for learning, exploration and reflection. As Hassan (2014) stress, this type of Lab represents “a new direction, different from business-as-usual responses” and “a pragmatic attempt to act in the face of increasingly complex situations in a way that increases the odds of addressing situations systemically at their roots”.

The Co-Creation Lab is envisioned to become an emergent space for methodological innovations, as well as dialogue and engagement in order to realise knowledge co-production in practice, i.e. broadening conversations, facilitating meaningful collaboration across sectors, disciplines and stakeholder groups. As in many other labs, the emphasis in this space will be on testing, experimenting and co-designing. There will be ample room for emergent thinking and changes in direction instead of following a control and management paradigm.

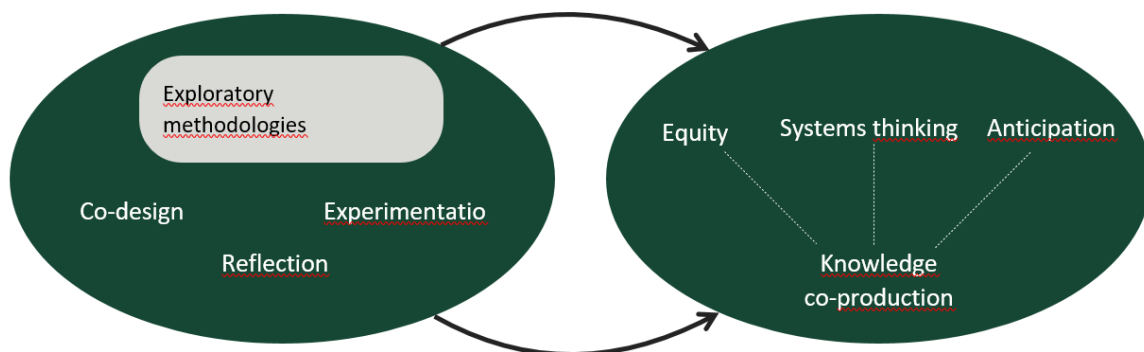


Figure. The Co-Creation Lab approach

Tasks

The timeline of the activities within the Co-Creation Lab needs to be aligned with that of the case studies in focus. Key tasks include:

1. Review of Lab models for knowledge co-production and exploratory methodologies (e.g. serious game system, storytelling, futures/anticipatory methods)
2. Creation of a blog series with focus on exploratory methodologies for knowledge co-production. Different partners and stakeholders will be invited to contribute to the blog to bring in different voices and foster a platform for learning and reflection on methodological innovations in dealing with “wicked” sustainability issues
3. Development of a series of workshops to explore novel and creative methods for knowledge co-creation
4. Design and facilitation of co-creation workshops in the respective cases using exploratory methodologies
5. Development of an evaluation framework to examine to what extent the exploratory methodologies used in the case studies has supported knowledge co-production
6. Evaluation of the impact of exploratory methodologies in supporting knowledge co-production

Expected Outcomes

1. A series of blog posts on exploratory knowledge co-production (featured on Mistra EC website)
2. A series of workshops to explore novel and creative methods for knowledge co-creation
3. Facilitated co-creation workshops in connection with the other case studies and summary reports
4. A handbook on the Co-Creation Lab approach and exploratory methodologies to support knowledge co-production
5. Publication on methodological innovation in knowledge co-production

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