

## PROSUITE

Development and application of a standardized methodology for the PROspective SUstaInability assessment of Technologies.

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### **Brief description**

The main goal of PROSUITE is to develop a coherent, scientifically sound, and widely accepted methodology for the sustainability assessment of current and future technologies over their life cycle, applicable to different stages of maturity. With PROSUITE, we will identify the “hot spots” of sustainability assessment of technologies. Whereas many projects have broad and general aims, this project is proposed to be specific by delivering actual sustainability estimates for four technology cases with close consultation of the stakeholders involved. Essential to this is the ability to derive a standardized methodology to assess the sustainability of existing and especially new technologies. PROSUITE will show (i) how to combine technology forecasting methods with life cycle approaches, (ii) how to develop and possibly combine the three sustainability dimensions in a standardized, comprehensive, and feasible way. In line with the general overview of activities given above, PROSUITE has, apart from a work package on coordination, 7 work packages with its specific objectives.

### **DIALOGIK's contribution**

DIALOGIK is in charge of the work package on social assessment and contributes to case studies and other workpackages. Specifically, the social assessment comprises

- to generate a concept of social sustainability that is comprehensive, consistent and inclusive and allows a coherent transformation into an operational list of measurable social indicators.
- to delineate from such a concept a list of social indicators that relate to both social sustainability and technology development.
- to integrate the findings of technology assessment, technology foresight, social lifecycle analysis, social indicators and social sustainability studies into a coherent and consistent perspective.
- to select quantitative indicators whenever possible and additional qualitative indicators where needed.
- to develop special methodological tools for operationalising these indicators, placing special emphasis on respecting context variables (i.e. highly affluent versus less affluent European countries) and dealing with uncertainties and ambiguities.
- to develop participatory approaches to deal with ambiguities and provide protocols for measuring those indicators that demand input from stakeholders.

### **Project partners**

<b>Participant no.</b>	<b>Participant organisation name</b>	<b>Country</b>
1. Kornelis Blok, Martin K. Patel and (Claudia) Andrea Ramirez (Coordinator)	Utrecht University, Department of Science, Technology and Society / Copernicus Institute (UU)	The Netherlands

2. Edgar Hertwich	Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)	Norway
3. Michael Z. Hauschild	Technical University of Denmark (DTU)	Denmark
4. Ortwin Renn and Piet Sellke	DIALOGIK	Germany
5. Paula Antunes	Ecological Economics and Management Centre – Foundation of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology, New University of Lisbon (UNL)	Portugal
6. Stefanie Hellweg and Annette Köhler	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH)	Switzerland
7. Claire Mays	Institut Symlog (SYMLOG)	France
8. Mark A.J. Huijbregts	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)	The Netherlands
9. Jyri Seppälä, Petrus Kautto	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	Finland
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20. Julio Santarén	Tolsa	Spain
21. Murray Height	HeiQ	Switzerland
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### **Duration**

Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2013

**Overall coordination**

Utrecht University, Department of Science, Technology and Society / Copernicus Institute  
(UU)

**DIALOGIK team**

Supervision: Ortwin Renn

Project leader: Piet Sellke