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Leapfrogs towards Shelter for a Sustainable Living

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Abstract

Within the series of conference workshops "Leapfrogs to Sustainable Households" organized by Professor Philip Vergragt of Delft University there will be presentations showing the outcomes for three household functions which are investigated in the European research project "SusHouse - Strategies towards the Sustainable Household". This paper will focus on the household function "Shelter" which includes heating, cooling, and lighting residential dwellings.

In the 7th GIN conference the aim of the Shelter research and first experiences from test workshops were outlined. The presentation on the 8th GIN conference will show the further steps that had been taken since and will thus illustrate the methodology of the project by showing actual outcomes for the function Shelter.

By the end of January 1999 three creativity workshops had been organized in the UK, in Italy, and in Germany. During these workshops Shelter stakeholders developed sets of ideas and proto-scenarios for a sustainable future of the function Shelter. Out of this outcome the Shelter team selected six clusters for the elaboration of "design-orienting scenarios" (DOS's), i.e. written and visual sketches for a desirable future containing a general idea of the societal atmosphere in which one to three concrete product and/ or service proposals are imbedded. Three to four DOS's are developed in each of the Shelter countries. Hence, there are DOS's that are done in one country only, DOS's that are shared by two countries as well as one DOS that is common to all the three countries. This procedure was chosen to enable both comparability and country-specific adjustments.

In the research workshop examples for these Shelter DOS's will be depicted. The subsequent assessments of the DOS's in terms of economic and environmental gain and with regard to the consumer acceptance will be presented showing similarities and differences between the countries. First strategic steps towards the DOS's will be described and reflected.