

Science Cluster  
**sustainability research lab**

**September 30th-October 3rd | 2021**

**Explore.**

**Brainstorm.**

**Develop.**



A cooperation between

# Overview

The idea of a co-creative “sustainability research lab” was born during the kick-off of the Bosch Alumni Network Science and Research cluster in spring 2021. After an initial pitch, several rounds of peer feedback and discussion led to the concept of a three-day retreat format in which a group of practitioners and academics consults on their work and develops ideas for collaboration within the network. The overarching question for the project was: How can we design, implement and communicate research projects that create an impact towards sustainability transformations?

During the three-day retreat, members of the group engaged in workshops and keynote presentations on research, storytelling and science-policy-society interfaces with external experts. In the co-creative format case clinic, participants brought their own questions and problems to the table and were given structured feedback by their peers. A collaborative project lab brought up two concrete new ideas on how to continue the journey after the sustainability research lab.

We particularly enjoyed the beautiful location and weather to unwind from intensive work on the contents of the project and the cosy fireplace for long conversations at night. Due to the global nature of the network and persisting COVID-related travel restrictions, we designed the retreat in a hybrid form, changing from fully virtual settings (individual PCs for all participants) to modes with a larger group on-site and individual virtual participants, and offline formats such as outdoor group work or a hike in the vineyards. Despite the technical challenges this was associated with, we were grateful for the committed participation of those that could not come in person. In a series of virtual meet-ups, which are open to all interested members, **we now look forward to further developing the two follow-up project ideas and inviting members to share their knowledge and experience with transdisciplinary research projects**

**“ How can we design, implement and communicate research projects that create an impact towards sustainability transformations? ”**

# Imprint

## Funding

This project was implemented within the Bosch Alumni Network, funded through the International Alumni Center (iac Berlin). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material or in the webinar recordings do not necessarily reflect the views of the iac Berlin.

## Team

**Host & Contact:** Raphael Karutz

**Moderation and facilitation:** Heinrich Zozmann

**Layout and design:** Subhashree Nath

This workshop was a collaborative process and we would like to thank our participants & speakers. We are particularly grateful for the support of the iac Berlin team and for the warm welcome we received by our hosts at Gästehaus Geiseltalsee in Mücheln.



the transformation lab

[www.zora-lab.de](http://www.zora-lab.de)

<b>30.09</b>	<b>18:00</b>	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
<b>01.10</b>	<b>09:00</b>	<b>Welcome and Agenda</b>
	<b>09:30 - 13:00</b>	<b>How to use storytelling to create engaging and activating presentations</b> Kristýna Jaklová <i>Consultant &amp; Trainer for Sustainable Innovation, Design Thinking Coach</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can you break down a complex issue for your audience?</li> <li>• What tools can you use to bring clarity and structure into your presentations? How to activate emotions and attract attention for your project?</li> </ul>
	<b>15:00 - 17:00</b>	<b>Sampling Federweißer</b> A "young" wine only available at this season - in a vineyard overlooking lake Geiseltal
	<b>18:30</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>02.10</b>	<b>09:30 - 10:30</b>	<b>Citizen Climate Assemblies - Insights into an unique participatory process</b> Ines Omann <i>Austrian Foundation for Development Research</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 randomly selected Austrians get together in a moderated process and form the "Klimarat"</li> <li>• Goal: develop concrete measures to implement climate neutrality until 2040</li> <li>• How can such a participatory process be implemented successfully? How can its results be transferred into practice?</li> </ul>
	<b>11:00 - 12:30</b>	<b>Case Clinic: Discussing our own experience with transdisciplinary work</b> Bring your own success stories, but also challenges and questions to learn from each other
	<b>14:30 - 16:30</b>	<b>Project Lab</b> Brainstorming for sustainability research projects within the science cluster & developing pitch decks
	<b>17:00 - 19:30</b>	<b>Hike to Branderoda</b> Followed by dinner at Gasthof Drei Linden with typical regional cuisine
<b>03.10</b>	<b>09:00 - 11:00</b>	<b>The road ahead</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Cluster webinars</li> <li>• Project lab results and further activities</li> </ul>
	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Check-out and departure</b>

# Workshop: Storytelling

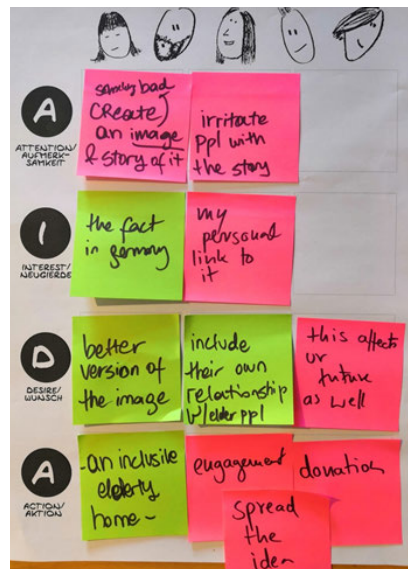
## How to use storytelling to create engaging and activating presentations?

In the morning session on October 1, Kristýna Jaklová facilitated a hybrid workshop on Storytelling which enabled the participants to practice sharing engaging stories, grabbing the attention of their target audience and evoking powerful emotions that provoke action.

Kristýna challenged the group to start with the “why”, instead of the “how” or “what” when crafting their stories. The group then started to develop their golden circle (image below) and discussed it in pairs. Starting from the “why”, all participants continued to refine a key story or message relevant to their professional work by using the AIDA concept (Attention – Interest – Desire – Action) and concepts of dramaturgy from archetypal stories.

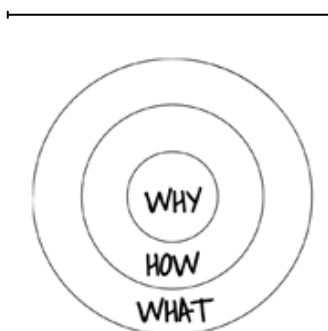


Kristýna Jaklová  
Photo credit: Lukas Diller

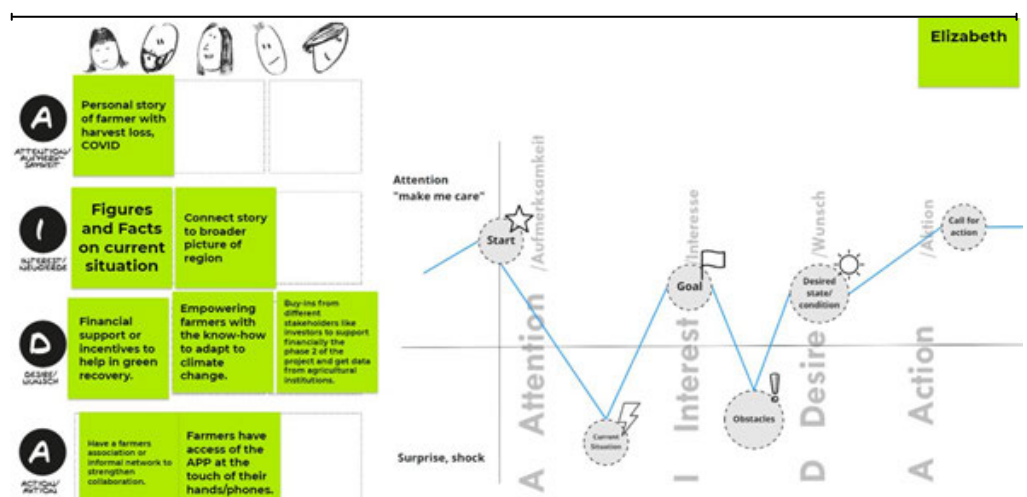


“Storytelling is the vivid description of ideas, beliefs, personal experiences, and life-lessons through stories or narratives that evoke powerful emotions and insights.”

Hybrid workshop session in Múcheln and online



The Golden Circle (developed by S. Sinek)



Storytelling: Dramaturgy

# Input

## Citizen Climate Assemblies



Ines Omann

“ The climate assembly aims to allow for more citizens’ co-determination to support developing solutions for THE big question of our future: climate protection.”

Useful links:

[dynamicfacilitation.org](https://dynamicfacilitation.org)

[wisedemocracy.org](https://wisedemocracy.org)

[knoqa.org](https://knoqa.org)



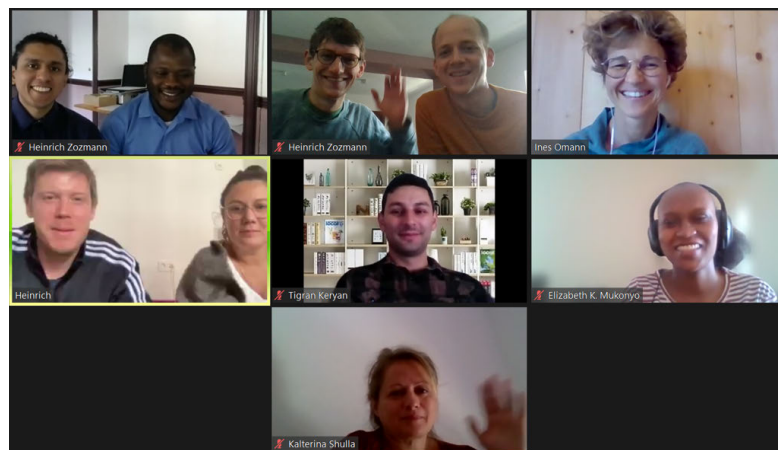
The second day was started by Ines Omann of the Austrian Foundation for Development Research, who gave the group unique insights into Citizen Climate Assemblies, a novel participatory process.

### Background and Content Summary

The Austrian climate petition, which received more than 380,000 signatures in 2020, was discussed twice in parliament last winter and led, among other things, to the following result: a citizens' council with 100 randomly selected people living in Austria is to be held between November 2021 and May 2022. The participants will meet over six weekends and propose concrete measures for climate protection necessary to achieve the goal on the way to climate neutrality in 2040. With the "Klimarat", a nationwide participation process is being launched for the first time, which is intended to create more co-determination for citizens to participate in discussions on the major future issue of our society - climate protection. The Austrian Citizen Climate Assembly is not the first national climate council in Europe. In the meantime, there have already been six similar formats since 2019, namely in Ireland, Scotland, France, Denmark, the UK, and Germany. While they differed in format, commissioners, and political legitimacy, as well as in many procedural details, they were very similar at the meta-level. The goal was to develop concrete measures to achieve the Paris climate goals and to hand them over to political decision-makers. The end of a citizens' council is the beginning of the implementation of its results. The degree of implementation cannot be determined in advance, since one cannot anticipate the results and therefore it is not clear which results are suitable for which type of implementation. However, it seems that political legitimacy or a public mandate is a prerequisite for the results to be accepted and dealt with by the decision-makers.

### Discussion

Ines' presentation was followed by an engaging discussion on the challenges of selecting 100 citizens as a “mini Austria”, of facilitating the exchange of very different opinions, and the potentials of such participatory processes in other contexts.



Virtual Workshop

# Case Clinic

The case clinic is a well-established format of peer consultation. A colleague, the so-called "case owner", presents a problem at his or her own request, relating to a process in which he or she is involved. Such a consultation is possible at any stage of the development of the case. Decisions are not made in the consultation. Instead, solutions are worked out, the use of which is decided by the case owner himself. The method is often recommended in complex problems, when one feels insecure with the course of the process, its results, or with one's own actions. The method is also useful after a case has already been completed. Many variations of the case clinic exist. We applied the "Heilbronn" model with six consecutive steps. Each round lasted 45 minutes.

Example case:

## The Blue-Pink Center for Women's Health

*The Blue-Pink Center for Women's Health* is an innovative community-based social enterprise providing sustainable access to free cancer education, training on breast self-examination, breast cancer screening, and low-cost cervical cancer screening, and on-the-spot cure with cryotherapy services for reproductive-age women/girls in Nigeria.

### **The Problem: Poor access to cancer screening services for women in Nigeria.**

Currently, Nigeria faces a high rate of late hospital presentation for cancer - especially breast and cervical - among women. There are few screening centers that can help to detect the cancer much earlier, leading to increased deaths from the disease.

This problem was subjected to analysis by the sustainability lab experts going through stages like introduction, questions and answers for further clarification of problems, hypothesis formation and feedback, solution drafting and joint reflections on the solution and the entire process.

Despite the complexity of the problem with several overlapping issues, the exercise yielded three main suggested solutions;

1. To create a practical example with good documentation and data that can be presented, preferably at local levels to show the impact to policymakers and the people.
2. To embark on campaigns through coalition of cancer survivors, health workers, and NGOs.
3. To establish how expensive the political cost of not addressing the problem is.



Case Clinic brainstorming session



Idris Ola  
Founder/CEO of the Blue-Pink Center for Women's Health in Nigeria

**“ Overall, it was both a fulfilling and eye-opening experience as the case clinic method proved very effective in understanding deeper problems and thinking about possible solutions ”**



In the project lab, individual and group brainstorming session yielded two concrete project ideas to be pursued within the Science Cluster in the next weeks and months.

Two ideas are described below. More information can be found on the respective Miro boards.

### Idea 1: Weekend Case Clinic (WCC)

*Idea team: Raphael (coordination), Heinrich*

The general idea of the weekend case clinic stems from the structured format of the case clinic (“Kollegiale Fallberatung”) where a group of peers consults a case owner for typically 45-120 min on a specific problem in a highly structured format. The case clinic was introduced in the sustainability research lab and brought helpful new perspectives on the cases presented (see previous page).

The project idea takes this method further to an in-depth peer-consultancy for an initiative within the Bosch Alumni Network that is visited by a group of members for one weekend and systematically works on a pre-defined problem/question.

How this could look like in five Steps:

**Step 1:** A call for applications is issued within the network for initiatives that face a clear-cut problem and look for external perspectives. The initiative will host the weekend but does not face any costs.

**Step 2:** The selected initiative sharpens the problem description with the WCC team and plans the weekend.

**Step 3:** A second call is issued within the network for interested members to act as consulting peers. They are offered in-depth insights into another project as well as the chance to get to know fellow consultants. Travel and accommodation are covered by project.



Weekend Case Clinic  
(WCC)

**Step 4:** Over one weekend (e.g. Thu-Sun), the group gets to know the initiative in depth and co-develops hypotheses and solutions in several rounds. If applicable, social events from the initiative, excursions, etc. allow for further immersion into the initiative.

**Step 5:** After the weekend, the initiative implements the developed solutions. A small amount of “seed money” is provided by the project. After 3 months, an in-depth evaluation is prepared and shared on the Bosch Alumni Network.

The budget for the project would still need to be specified. It could range between 10k and 15k EUR. It largely depends on the travel cost and the amount of seed money given to the initiative. For environmental reasons, we would suggest limiting the peer consultants to regional network members to avoid transcontinental flights. The seed money could be in the range of a few thousand euro.

## Idea 2: Sustainability Boat Trip

Idea team: Tigran (coordination), Cemre

This project idea builds on the unique team experience of living together as a group on a sailing boat. Large sailing boats for 20+ people come with facilities that allow for on-board seminars (cf. [lovis.de](https://lovis.de)).

The boat trip would combine life and work on the boat with selected topics, ideally fitting to the cruising area. E.g. coastal systems and the impact of climate change, the future of fishing, etc.

The trip could be documented by producing a video.

Example: The region around the Turkish town Bodrum, located at the Mediterranean Sea, has been hit by severe wild fire in the summer. This local effect of climate change could be taken up during the boat trip through visits of burnt sites, as well as meetings with affected residents and local experts.

Link to Miro board:

[miro.com/weekendcaseclinic](https://miro.com/weekendcaseclinic)



Sustainability Boat Trip

Link to Miro board:

[miro.com/sustainabilityboattrip](https://miro.com/sustainabilityboattrip)







Bosch Alumni Network

Robert Bosch Stiftung

iac Berlin

# SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH LAB

A SERIES OF **WORKSHOPS / WEBINARS** for scientists from different disciplines TO LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT METHODS & EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

Raphael KARUTZ

GRAPHIC RECORDING: @CAROLASCOR

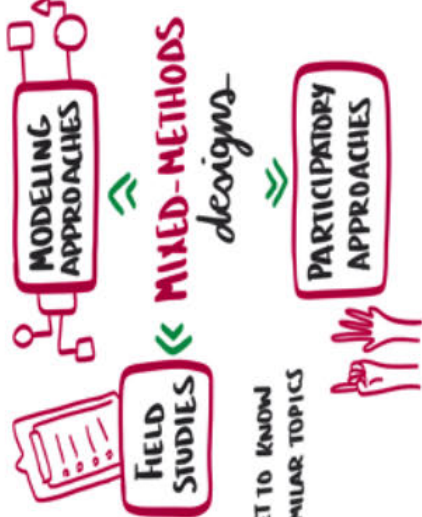
FOCUS ON **SOCIAL SCIENCES** WITH ADAPTABLE FORMATS:

- INTRODUCTORY COURSE
- CASE CLINICS

CONCEPT ADAPTABLE TO DIFFERENT TARGET GROUPS



HOW TO STORE PRODUCED KNOWLEDGE?  
Ban website  
"PROJECT"  
"THEMATIC GROUPS"



## INVOLVED EXPERTS

FROM WITHIN THE NETWORK vs EXTERNAL

IMPORTANCE OF THE HORIZONTAL STRUCTURE OF THE CLUSTER & ITS CONNECTIVITY:

- IDENTIFY IDEAS
- IF NEEDED, EXTERNAL CONSULTATION TO GO MORE IN DEPTH

## PURPOSE

- LEARN: EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE ON NEW APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABILITY
- INSPIRE: EXPAND IMPACT THROUGH FEEDBACK & INNOVATIVE IDEAS
- CONNECT: FORM A COMMUNITY, GET TO KNOW OTHERS WORKING ON SIMILAR TOPICS

## POSSIBLE SCENARIOS



## RETREAT HYBRID WEBINARS

OFFLINE OPTION VERY APPRECIATED & MISSED, DESPITE POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS/OBSTACLES DUE TO COVID-19 OR PARTICIPANTS' LIMITATIONS (FAMILY, WORK, ETC.)