



Conference Programme

London, 14 – 15 March 2011

Conference purpose:

Due to the magnitude of the global environmental and social crises and the lack of progress in tackling them, there is a need for civil society organisations (CSOs) to reconsider their strategies in support of a transition to a sustainable society. This conference will look at why CSOs should – and how they can – work towards a more holistic and systemic transition to a sustainable society instead of pursuing the narrow technical policy focus of many of today's strategies.

At this conference we invite you to collectively take our current thinking to the next level and to develop practical ways forward.

Conference background paper:

You should have received an electronic copy of the conference background paper *Effective change strategies for the Great Transition – Five leverage points for civil society organisations*. We kindly ask you to read at least the first two chapters of this paper in preparation for the conference.

Schedule:

- Registration opens: Monday 14th at 8:30
- **Please arrive in time for a prompt start at 9:00**
- The official part of the programme ends on Tuesday 15th at 15:00
- On Tuesday 15th, 15:00 – 16:30 there is an opportunity for those interested to concretely discuss how to take the Smart CSOs initiative forward.

Logistics:

- Venue: London School of Economics (LSE) Bankside House, 24 Sumner Street, London SE1 9JA. See location 'A' on map (end of this document).
- From Southwark Tube station the walk to the venue will take 5 minutes. London Bridge and Waterloo Tube stations are at 10 minutes walking distance.
- The evening reception on Monday at 19:30 will be at **The Table Café**: 83 Southwark Street, London SE1 0HX. See location 'B' on map (end of this document). The organisers pay for all drinks and food.



The Smart CSOs Conference is the final conference of the Action Town project. Action Town is a FP7 project and kindly funded by the European Commission. Its official name is CSOContribution2SCP. Project partners are ANPED, CSCP, ECODES, Green Liberty, MAMA-86, SEI, SERI, TTGV and WWF-UK.

Day One – Monday, March 14th 2011

08:30 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 11:00

Opening session in the plenary

- Welcome and objectives of the conference
- Keynote speeches:
 - **Maja Göpel**, World Future Council: Driving the Great Transition – What Role for CSOs?
 - **Tim Kasser**, Professor of Psychology Knox College: Values and the Great Transition – A view from the psychological literature
- Table discussions and Q & A

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00

Presentation and world café style debate

- ‘Effective CSO Strategies for the Great Transition’ – insights into the Smart CSOs thinking presented by David Fell (Brook Lyndhurst) & Michael Narberhaus (WWF-UK).
- World café discussion on the Great Transition and key leverage points for CSOs to become more effective in tackling global social and ecological crises.

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch (organic food provided by Eco-Cuisine)

14:00 – 14:30

Group exercise introducing systems thinking (by Piotr Magnuszewski)

14:30 – 16:30

Afternoon group discussions

Discussion in island style debate (1hour) followed by in depth group discussions (1hour). Key questions to be addressed:

- What can CSOs learn from research and practice to become strong change agents towards the Great Transition?
- What are the practical implications of this thinking for us?

Suggested group discussion themes (from conference background paper):

<p>The Great Transition (a framework for a different vision)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is different about the Great Transition? • Why do we need a different vision? 	<p>Embedding systems thinking in CSO practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do we need to pay attention to Systems Thinking? • How can we use systems thinking in CSOs to become more effective? 	<p>A new narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role can cultural values play in social change towards a sustainable society? • What opportunities do CSOs have to make best use of this research?
<p>Developing new models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can CSOs use bottom-up approaches to experiment and practice with the new economic models and unlock policy processes? • What are possible roles for CSOs? 	<p>A new global movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why and how does the Great Transition offer the opportunity to build a new global citizen movement? • What can CSOs do to establish broad platforms of collaboration? 	<p>Engaging funders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we engage funders in CSO strategies towards systemic change? • What Monitoring & Evaluation do we need for long-term social change and innovation projects?

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:00

Plenary discussion

- Consolidation results of the group discussions
- Proposal by the conference organisers on way forward for the Smart CSOs Initiative (Smart CSOs Hub)
- Set up of work streams for Day Two

19:30 – 22:00

Reception at *The Table Café*: Invitation to wine, drinks and canapés

Day Two – Tuesday, March 15th 2011

09:00 – 09:30 **Plenary discussion:** Recap from day 1

09:30 – 10:30 **Group discussions** (in parallel)

<p>Set up of working groups (prepared over dinner on day one). Working groups can discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits of a Smart CSOs hub (proposal on way forward of Smart CSOs Initiative day one). • Possible future practical/research projects (coming out of group discussions day one). • Continue with working groups of day one where interest 	<p>Presentations by Action Town Partner-CSOs ECODES, Green Liberty, MAMA-86 and TTGV showing how their collaborative projects with researchers are putting tools and instruments in practice and what improved difference they are making towards Sustainable Consumption and Production.</p>
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10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Continuation group discussions** (in parallel)

<p>Continue with working groups / breakout groups (see above).</p>	<p>Joint discussion on learning in the Action Town pilot projects and on ways forward for partnerships between research and CSOs.</p>
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12:00 – 13:00 **Plenary discussion**
Consolidation and summary of results of the morning group discussions

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch** (organic food provided by Eco-Cuisine)

14:00 – 15:00 **Closing session in the plenary**
Prioritise actions from previous session, next steps in the short and medium term & closing

15:00 **End of the official part of the Smart CSOs Conference**

15:00 – 16:30 **Extra session in smaller group**
For those interested, this session will provide an opportunity to concretely discuss how the Smart CSOs initiative can be taken forward (constitution of Smart CSOs hub)

