

A message from the future!

July 2020

Dear all!

What you are about to read is a première...

We are happy to present you with our **first letter from the future!**

From now on, we will send you a monthly newsletter to share interesting thoughts, projects, ideas and first outcomes of the NRC FLIS Horizon scanning and Green Shift project.

We just got started with this adventure – but already after two weeks of working, we came across many interesting thoughts!

In this issue, we will talk about:

- How is the **“new normal”** imagined in different countries?: **Post-Covid scenarios** from different countries
- How do different communities organise to act against **food waste**? A series of ideas!
- We share a few resources **explaining the project** and the tools.

Post-Covid Scenarios



What will the post-pandemic world look like?

A small “European Tour” – but please use your suitcase as a chair, we’ll travel virtually...

(image via Instagram @ijeongu3122: Naoto Fugasawa for Vitra)

An example from Germany



[10 theses for a post-corona world](#)

System reset. Cool down! Music on the balconies!

What are RE-gnosis? When will everything return to normal? A world with Corona enables the reorganisation of the things that hold our world together and carry it into the future. The corona crisis generates a great change in culture, society and economy:

1. Corona strengthens the individual, but also social relationships and fear can turn into constructiveness.
2. Corona can change megatrends (e.g. “peak urban”)

3. The crisis reinforces a shift in attention society repressed (e.g. towards nurses). It can generate a “social shift”. There are new forms of politeness and respect.
4. Globalization is becoming glocalization. A glocalistic model of the world economy is based on the factors of self-sufficiency, flexibility, granularity and regeneration.
5. Asian Shift and European Renaissance: A new systems competition is emerging. It will be about the coherence of societies between controlling central power and enlightened individualism.
6. The crisis leads to new tech-realism (Corona crisis is above all a time of social instead of digital innovation) - and gives science back its credibility
7. Democracies mature and populism loses power.
8. A new generation contract is sealed: The Corona crisis is the basis for a "New Generational Deal", which must be honoured in one form or another. Climate change will undoubtedly be at the centre of this debate.
9. The pandemic helps the “Blue Revolution” to break through. This refers to an ecological turnaround that does not primarily focus on renunciation and reduction, but rather on a creative, opening connection between technology and system intelligence.
10. Future as integration: The Next Level Society is born. Next Level Society increases its degree of resilience by developing new systems of care and provision that are more resilient and variable. It increasingly synchronizes the social relationships between people - and between people and nature - with the needs and opportunities of the markets.

The theses are interesting because the global Corona crisis is seen as a big chance for a more sustainable redesign of society and economy.

An example from France



[The COVID-19 Crisis – scenarios for the next 18 months](#)

What are the possible trajectories of the covid-19 for the next 18 months? Compare the facts against the outlook in global, European and local (French) level. Is a global pandemic peak over or still to come, will a mass lockdown be repeated, will we face economic and other crises, will the world go to the dark ages? These and other trends and uncertainties are discussed in this article.

The EEA's view



[Shaping the post-Corona planet: knowledge on Europe's environment and climate](#)

New EEA hub for informed debate! In June 2020, EEA launched new portal which aims to bring together knowledge and reflections about key environmental issues from across Europe and beyond, and to facilitate an informed debate towards a sustainable planet.

Communities acting against food waste

Food waste is one of the main levers to create a more sustainable food system. There are many bottom-up initiatives approaching the topic – here a first selection of interesting ideas!

Italy



Ruota di Scarto

Ruota di Scarto is a mobile kitchen on wheels! They create dishes from unsold vegetables and fruits on Italian marked days. The dishes are prepared on the piazza. The projects also make a strong social claim: working with migrants and people with disabilities, they want to bring people together in the piazza.

The way they construct their narrative around the **social importance of food** is an interesting aspect of this project.

Switzerland



Madame Frigo Bern

Did you know that private households produce 28% of all food waste in Switzerland?

Madame Frigo is a non-profit organization who takes care about community fridges throughout Switzerland. Everyone can place edible, free food for others in these fridges and everyone can take goods home for their own needs. Together they contribute to reducing food waste in Switzerland.



Foodsave banquet at Thanksgiving day

Across the entire food chain, around 120 tonnes of food are wasted every day in the city of Bern. The "Open Church" celebrates Thanksgiving with first-class meals prepared by top cooks with all material from discarded food products.

Sitting at a common table with familiar and non-familiar people you collectively remember, that all food ingredients normally are thrown away. This can create a change of awareness towards food as a precious resource.

Czechia



Food banks

How to reduce hunger and malnutrition, how to fight against food waste?

Food banks are non-profit organizations collect food from food chains, food collections, the European food and material aid program, growers, farmers and individuals and distribute it through charities to children, the elderly, single people, the

disabled, the homeless. Did you know that 100,000 people have already used this food aid in the Czech Republic?

France



[DATE LIMITE](#)

A web application and a mobile application that fights, in real time, against food waste by helping producers, distributors, wholesale markets and all merchants to sell their surplus on time and at reduced prices and according to the interests and location of the consumer. In addition, if certain products are not sold despite this, they can be offered via the application to partner charities. Why this signal is important: This initiative shows two signals: first, that food waste is considered significant enough to motivate people in civil society to find and propose solutions to prevent it; second that this project is supported by participatory financing (which implies that this idea will be shared and inspiring).

Information about the project: Growing the collection together!

We would greatly appreciate your help in making our collection of interesting bottom-up projects and initiatives from communities addressing sustainability challenges grow!

At the moment, we collect very widely and store it all on our shared pin board on [Pearltrees](#).

Interested in more details about our project?

Visit our [working group on MS Teams](#) to find more about the project.

For any questions please contact Ana (ana.jesus@eea.europa.eu)

See you soon!

For the time being, we wish you all a nice summer! Keep your eyes open for all what speaks of a (better?) future to come!

We are back with a next edition early September!

Warm wishes from Ana, Anne, Karin, Klaus, Miklós, Sylvie & Tereza