



Further development of the wpn2030 format „DNS Lab“¹: Review and ideas for the future

Based on the DNS Lab

"Ecological Platform Economy²: Policy Options for
Sustainable Consumption and Consumer Protection by Design"

of 29 November 2023

Authors: Sarah Löpelt, Christa Liedtke, Julia Schlarmann,
Katharina Gröne, Jean-Henri Huttarsch, Ingo Wolf

¹ The DNS Lab was further developed and, as of August 2025, has been continued under the name 'wpn.Lab', an expanded format that builds on the experiences of the DNS Lab while addressing new thematic areas, scales, and cross-sectoral contexts.

² Ecological platform economy, as defined by the CO:DNA project to which this paper refers, is an economic and regulatory concept in which digital platforms are deliberately designed to promote sustainability in online consumption. Platforms are defined as "actors that provide Internet-based, multi-sided forums and markets, thereby enabling information, communication and transactions between different user groups." (Geibler et al., 2023, 6; own translation).

Abstract

Societal transformations towards sustainability are complex and require the involvement of society as a whole. For these transformations to be effective, it is therefore essential to co-produce knowledge and policy options at the interface between science and policy. On this basis, the DNS Lab was established by the Science Platform Sustainability 2030 (wpn2030) as a dialogue format to foster integrated knowledge at the science–policy interface for the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS) in a transdisciplinary, cross-ministerial manner and in exchange with science. These labs serve to explore topics and develop scientifically sound impetus for the necessary sustainability transformations. This paper addresses possible applications and further developments of the DNS Lab format and highlights implications for knowledge production at the science–policy interface. It describes 1. the history of the format's development, 2. presents an example of the format's implementation in the virtual DNS Lab "Ecological Platform Economy: Policy Options for Sustainable Consumption and Consumer Protection by Design" held on 29 November 2023, and 3. summarises ideas from participants and organisers for further developing the format. This paper thus contributes to the design of dialogue formats in the context of transdisciplinary, transformative and participatory research.

Together with another paper summarising the results of the DNS Lab and highlighting important options for action for an ecological platform economy (Geibler et al., 2024), and the report on the "Governance Innovation Labs" research line within the CO-DINA project (Geibler et al., 2023), this paper provides impetus for further developing the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS). These three publicly available papers are intended to inform and raise awareness amongst the public and politicians.

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 The DNS Lab: A format of the wpn2030

1.2 Review: Previous DNS Labs

2. DNS Lab "Ecological Platform Economy", 29 November 2023

2.1 Thematic background and objectives of the DNS Lab

2.2 Participants in the DNS Lab

2.3 DNS Lab process

2.4 Evaluation of the DNS Lab

3. Impulses for the further development of the "DNS Lab" format

3.1 Input gathered from the DNS Lab on "Ecological Platform Economy", 29 November 2023

3.2 Conclusions and possible next steps

Appendix

Appendix 1: Preliminary brainstorming

Appendix 2: Discussion of the format in the DNS Lab

Appendix 3: Questionnaire

Appendix 4: Assessment of process quality (numerals indicate percentages)

1. Introduction

Societal transformations towards sustainability are complex and require the involvement of society as a whole. Science provides evidence-based foundations and insights for science-based policy decisions to implement the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, (application-oriented) science benefits from expertise and system knowledge derived from social and political reality. For transformations to be designed effectively, it is therefore essential to co-produce knowledge and policy options at the interface between science and policy. So-called 'science-policy interfaces' are defined as "social processes which encompass relations between scientists and other actors in the policy process, and which allow for exchanges, co-evolution, and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of enriching decision-making." (van den Hove, 2007, p. 815). In this way, the inherent complexities and challenges of translating scientific findings into political decisions are to be addressed (Kirchhoff et al., 2013, p. 34).

Experience gained through the Science Platform Sustainability 2030 (wpm2030) shows that there is a need for diverse science-policy formats in the context of sustainability in order to respond to the pressure for transformation and to incorporate scientific findings into the political process. On this basis, the DNS Lab was developed by wpm2030 as a dialogue format to develop integrated knowledge at the science-policy interface for the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS) in a transdisciplinary, cross-ministerial manner and in exchange with the scientific community. Such a transdisciplinary approach to knowledge generation aims to involve actors from within the science system (researchers/certified experts) as well as from outside it (practitioners/uncertified experts) with specific expertise, and to synthesise their differing perspectives (Collins & Evans, 2002; Defila & Di Giulio, 2015; Di Giulio & Defila, 2020b). To this end, wpm2030 commissioned Dr Antonietta Di Giulio and Rico Defila (University of Basel) to develop the didactics and format of a DNS Lab. Subsequently, two DNS Labs were held on the topics of "Strengthening Policies for Sustainable Consumption" (4 March 2021) (wpm2030, 2021d) and "Circular Economy" (11 November 2021).³

The wpm2030 platform is now to be further developed conceptually as a space for discourse between science and policy, so that existing and newly developed formats of the wpm2030 can be used in cooperation with – or by – external institutions and scientists in the form of effective discourse formats. The

format will be developed gradually and exploratively. Accompanying this, reflective evaluations will support the development process in a creative and user-oriented manner and enable iterative learning loops. The focus here is on the "DNS Lab" format.

Since the DNS Lab serves on the one hand as a format for exchange between science and policy, the processes of recruiting participants – from scientific and political fields that are relevant to the discourse and political action – is important. On the other hand is the question of whether the format effectively supports the content-related goals and leads to the desired discourse results. Ideally, the latter should always result in a gain in knowledge on both sides, potentially leading to a change in approach by the individual actors in the sense of reconstructing the processes and approaches under consideration. In addition, this gain in knowledge would lead to recommendations that are manageable for political practice and that, through discourse between policy and science and their interaction, lead to implementation and translation into practice. Realistically, the impacts will vary – from no impact at all to, in rare cases, comprehensive inclusion in the discourse at the science-policy interface. Evaluations of the format and its levels of impact are therefore highly relevant in order to refine the format and prepare it didactically for users according to their questions and desired outcomes, such that its effects – from output to outcome to impact – can be understood and experienced. The goals should be as transparent as possible for both organisers and participants.

This report addresses possibilities for the application and further development of the DNS Lab format and highlights implications for knowledge production at the science-policy interface. It 1. describes the history of the format's development, 2. incorporates an initial form of cooperation for implementing the format in the next step, and 3. synthesises feedback on the format from participants and organisers.⁴

³ No public documentation is available for the DNS Lab "Circular Economy" (11 November 2021).

⁴ Together with another paper summarising the results of the DNS Lab and highlighting important options for action for an ecological platform economy (Geibler et al., 2024) and the research report of

the "Governance Innovation Labs" research line within the CO-DINA project (Geibler et al., 2023), this paper provides impetus for the process of further developing the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS). These three publicly available papers are intended to inform and raise awareness among the general public and politicians.

1.1 The DNS Lab: A format of the wpm2030

The scientific and methodological basis for the DNS Lab format is provided by studies commissioned by the wpm2030 and conducted by Di Giulio and Defila (2020a; 2020b).⁵ Based on these studies, the Science Platform describes the DNS Lab as an agile format in which different perspectives from actors in science, policy and society are brought together within a short period of time to reflect jointly on a specific issue. The overarching goal is to explore a topic or, if knowledge on an issue already exists, to drive forward transformations and identify and enable implementation steps.

The focus is on generating integrated knowledge that is relevant to science and policy. In addition, a DNS Lab pursues a specific goal and addresses a concrete topic that is relevant to the various areas of expertise and interests of the participants. Under the Chatham House Rule,⁶ the DNS Lab offers a protected space for open discussion, with the participants themselves deciding whether to make their discussions public. Science-based teaching approaches and scientific methods (wpm2030, 2021a) serve as the basis for the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the lab. The DNS Lab is characterised by specific goals, quality criteria and design conditions (see the box below).

Goals, quality criteria and design conditions of a DNS Lab

There are two **generic objectives** that the DNS lab format can pursue:

- Generic objective 1 – **Exploration of a topic** (with a view to addressing a topic in its entirety)
- Generic objective 2 – **Exploration of implementation/transformation** (with a view to implementation once initial scientific findings on a topic are available)⁷

Both generic objectives of a DNS Lab always involve the experimental and transdisciplinary development of evidence-based knowledge, which also includes identifying research and action needs (Di Giulio & Defila, 2020a, p. 6).

The following quality criteria characterise a DNS Lab:

- **Synthesis and scientific rigour**
 - Methodologically structured development and production of joint results
 - Development of (new) integrated knowledge that is compatible with the perspectives of all participants (ownership of results)
 - Scientific credibility of the generated knowledge and documentation of the decisions made in the synthesis
 - Practical legitimacy and socio-political legitimacy of the knowledge generated
- **Diversity of expertise**
 - Bringing together actors with different perspectives and knowledge bases from the scientific system (disciplines), practice (professional fields, sectors/policy areas, industries, civil society, etc.) and scientific policy advice
 - All participants are experts in their subject area or respective system
 - Contribution to the generated knowledge, with each participant sharing responsibility for the success of the DNS Lab
- **Mutual understanding and acceptance**
 - Supporting reflection on one's own perspective and referring to other perspectives in the spirit of mutual understanding and complementarity, while avoiding judgements and relevance hierarchies
- **Willingness to experiment**
 - Gaining distance from one's own perspective and exploring ideas
 - Protected space for developing and testing ideas
- **Documentation and use of results**
 - Comprehensive data backup

⁵ The format is also rooted in transformative research (especially real-world laboratory research, living labs and transition research), intervention research and participatory research, and methodologically ties in with the discourse on creative techniques (Di Giulio & Defila, 2020b, p. 6 f.). This distinguishes the DNS Lab from formats that involve social actors with less active roles (cf. Mobjörk, 2010) and also aims not only to provide a basis for social

transformations, but also to influence them (Di Giulio & Defila, 2020b, p. 5 f.).

⁶ Under the Chatham House Rule, information received may be used, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speakers or other participants may be disclosed. This creates a trusting environment for solving complex problems. Further information: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>

⁷ Focus of the DNS Lab with CO:DINA on 29 November 2023.

- Recording and processing of data according to scientific criteria (including documentation of the procedure during the event)
- Evaluation of the consequences for participants and their actions; documentation of the procedure during the evaluation
- Access to documentation and results of a DNS Lab for all participants
- Dissemination of results and communication to participants, including how, when, for what purpose and by whom this is done
- **Principles of transdisciplinary cooperation**
 - Involvement of practitioners in formulating the goals and questions of the DNS Lab
 - Practitioners benefit from participating in the DNS Lab
 - Practitioners feel committed to the project and identify at least partially with the objectives of the DNS Lab
 - Practical knowledge and scientific knowledge are given equal weighting in the DNS Lab
 - Practitioners and researchers work together as equals in the DNS Lab
- **Quality criteria for methods of participatory knowledge generation**
 - Methods are adapted to the participants' requirements
 - Methods address imbalances, power differences and potential conflicts in a constructive manner
 - No use of methods that promote social exclusion
- **Content-rich moderation during the preparation, implementation and follow-up of a DNS Lab**
 - Thematic: Assessment, classification and mutual reference of participants' contributions to the topic; making a substantive contribution to the jointly produced integrated knowledge; assessment of the quality and content of the integrated knowledge produced, while maintaining impartiality to its content and with openness to the results
 - Methodological: Designing the cognitive processes of collaborative knowledge production, i.e. implementing the methods, clear documentation, preparation and evaluation of the procedure and results; leaving one's own comfort zone and encouraging others to leave their own comfort zones
 - Social-communicative: Facilitating meaningful dialogue with actors; recognising and breaking down communication barriers between participants; recognising, anticipating and overcoming potential conflicts that (could) arise from different perspectives

The following conditions are relevant for the design of a DNS Lab:

- **Duration:** approximately half to one full day
- **Methodological framework:** Face-to-face meetings are preferred over virtual methods or ensuring transdisciplinary collaboration and participatory knowledge generation, even in virtual spaces⁸
- **Group size:** 10–30 people (excluding moderator)
- **Social context and prerequisites for cooperation among participants:** the group is assembled for the purpose and goal of the specific DNS Lab, and works together once (usually) to several times
- **Appreciation of participants:** e.g. through catering, choice and furnishing of the room and individualised participant management ("Art of Hosting")
- **Spatial perspective taken for the topic:** Sustainability "in, with and through Germany"
- **Thematic context:** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a point of reference and as an impetus for policy/society and for science/education; as a rule, individual DNS Labs are thematically independent

Based on: Di Giulio und Defila (2020a) and Geibler et al. (2023: 21 f.)

1.2 Review: Previous DNS Labs

To date, the wpm2030 has organised three DNS Labs on the following topics: 1. "Strengthening Policies for Sustainable Consumption" (4 March 2021), 2. "Circular Economy" (11 November 2021) and 3. in cooperation with the Wuppertal Institute, "Ecological Plat-

form Economy: Policy Options for Sustainable Consumption and Consumer Protection by Design" (29 November 2023). The results of the first DNS Lab were compiled in a policy paper for the State Secretaries' Committee for Sustainable Development (wpm2030, 2021b), an infographic (wpm2030, 2021c) and a documentation report (wpm2030, 2021d).

⁸ According to Di Giulio und Defila (2020a, p. 10), the desired results can only be achieved with an analogue DNS Lab format, as direct exchange, physical presence and non-verbal communication cannot be replaced in a virtual space. Against the backdrop of advanced methods of virtual collaboration and taking into account the quality criteria and design-relevant conditions of a DNS Lab, the further development of the format in virtual space is also considered here.

The third DNS Lab builds on this material, the methodological foundations of the DNS Lab (in particular the studies by Di Giulio and Defila (2020a; 2020b)) and studies on the concept of governance and government innovation labs (Geibler et al., 2023; Mayer-Ries, 2018; see 2.3).

The background, participants and process of this DNS Lab are documented below.

▲ 2. DNS Lab „Ecological Platform Economy” 29 November 2023

In cooperation with the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, wpm2030 held a third DNS Lab (9 a.m.–1 p.m., 29 November 2023) in a virtual space, on the topic "Ecological Platform Economy: Policy Options for Sustainable Consumption and Consumer Protection by Design".

Three specific objectives were pursued:

- 1) Identify and discuss national options for more active political shaping and/or regulation of an ecological platform economy;
- 2) Develop the basis for a position paper by the wpm2030 on the design of an ecological platform economy; and
- 3) Collect suggestions for further developing the DNS Lab format.

2.1 Thematic background and objectives of the DNS Lab

The DNS Lab was carried out in cooperation with the Wuppertal Institute and the CO:DINA project – Transformation Roadmap for Digitalisation and Sustainability. The aim of the CO:DINA project, funded by the then Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV, now Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)), was to put digitalisation at the service of sustainable development. Digitalisation is now involved in almost all everyday decisions, especially in consumer activities.⁹ Platform companies and online retailers have the potential to support consumers in making sustainable decisions and meeting their needs in a more environmentally friendly, resource-efficient and socially fair manner.

This is not only about promoting ecological and sustainable product alternatives, e.g. through transparent filter and recommendation systems, but also about avoiding environmentally harmful and unsustainable consumption cultures.

The aim here is to give stakeholders the opportunity to behave more sustainably, since there is often a lack of appropriate options (Micklitz et al., 2020; SVRV, 2021). However, current policies and public institutions at national and European level have so far taken insufficient account of the ecological transformation of the production and consumption system via platforms. Many political initiatives do not pursue an integrated sustainability approach, or else require a long time to implement compared with the rapid pace of digitalisation.

Building on this starting point, the DNS Lab offered an opportunity to co-create recommendations for designing an ecological platform economy. The DNS Lab thus pursued the overarching goal of exploring implementation/transformation (see the box "Goals, quality criteria and design conditions of a DNS Lab" on p. 5), i.e. to identify the starting points for implementing transformations, and corresponding government action based on existing knowledge. In concrete terms, this meant using the findings of the CO:DINA project to develop starting points for policy options and governance in dialogue with experts from research, policy/administration, civil society and business; and, where necessary, expanding competencies for coherent regulatory action in the interests of an ecological and more sustainable platform economy. The aim was to contribute to increasing political capacity in the context of sustainable platform regulation, so that the opportunities offered by digitalisation for sustainable production, trade and consumption – plus consumer protection – can be better exploited (sustainability and consumer protection by design).

2.2 Recruitment of participants and participants in the DNS Lab

Participants in the DNS Lab comprised 26 experts from research (9), business (2), policy/administration (3) and civil society (1), participants (3) who did not consent to disclosure of their industry affiliation, plus the organising team (8) (see Figure 1).

Since the findings of the CO:DINA project formed the basis for developing options for courses of action in the Lab, it was important that persons from the

⁹ See <https://codina-transformation.de/> and Geibler et al. (2023).

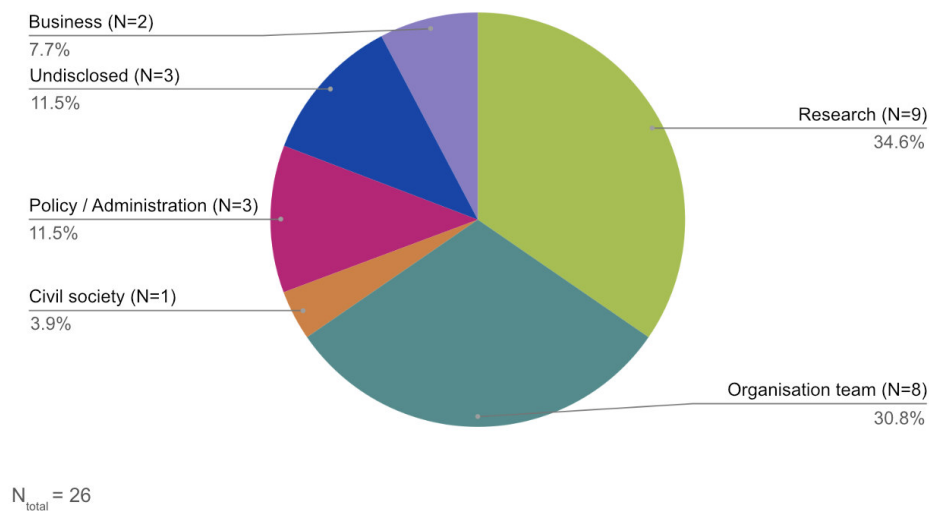


Figure 1: Composition of participants in the DNS Lab.

context of the project as well as other experts on the topic of the ecological platform economy were invited to participate or provide input. The participants contributed various areas of expertise on the topic of the ecological platform economy to the DNS Lab. Most participants were experts in the field of platform economics and its interface with sustainable consumption. In addition, expertise in sustainable consumption and consumer protection was represented to roughly the same extent. Some participants had access to the topic through all three areas. Political participation ($n = 3$) was rather low for a DNS Lab at the science-policy interface. Therefore, when evaluating the proposals for further developing the format, particular emphasis was placed on the topic of developing and implementing a group profile that is as diverse as possible (see 3.1).

2.3 DNS Lab process

The DNS Lab process is divided into three phases, each accompanied by content-rich moderation: conception and preparation, implementation, and follow-up/documentation (see Figures 2 and 3). The toolkit for implementing the DNS Lab format describes a variety of methods for each phase (Di Giulio & Defila, 2020a; see Figure 2).

In preparation, the topics were developed based on the findings of the CO:DINA project. The focus here was on the sub-area of ecological platform economics (see 2.1). Participants were selected using stakeholder mapping, which took into account experts both within and outside the project context from various subject areas (see 2.2). Specific objectives for

the DNS Lab were formulated during the preparation phase (Module 2, "Target specification") with a focus on "Implementation/transformation exploration" (M2b), and the "Real-time change" knowledge generation method (M6-1) was chosen for the execution of the DNS-Lab (Module 6, "Knowledge generation"). For the follow-up phase (Module 7, "Diffusion"), a "Communication concept" (M7) was created (further details can be found below, under Preparation, Implementation and Follow-up, respectively). Additionally, further steps were included (preliminary brainstorming, feedback round on the DNS-Lab format and evaluation via questionnaire; see Figure 3).

In addition to the toolkit for implementing the DNS Lab format (developed by Di Giulio and Defila, 2020a), the DNS Lab process builds on further scientific and methodological foundations developed within the framework of the wpm2030 (see 1.1). Furthermore, it ties in with the results of the first wpm2030 DNS Lab, "*Strengthening Policies for Sustainable Consumption*" from 4 March 2021 (wpm2030, 2021b, 2021c, 2021d) as well as with the format-related considerations of the CO:DINA project on the "*Governance Innovation Lab*" (Geibler et al., 2023) and the concept of the "*Government Innovation Lab*" (Mayer-Ries, 2018). The former has some synergies with the DNS Lab; for example, content-rich moderation is also a central element. This was also a focus of the DNS Lab with CO:DINA. Meanwhile, general considerations on innovative cooperation between different departments and sectors have been incorporated into the DNS Lab (including co-production and ownership of knowledge).

C. Preparation, implementation and follow-up "of specific DNS Labs"

The instructions for implementing specific "DNS Labs" follow the phases of preparation (conception phase), implementation (including preparation for implementation) and follow-up in chronological order. These are linked by the overarching process responsibility (content-rich moderation) and documentation. These phases are divided into modules. The format case provides methods for implementing the modules.

C.1 Script superordinate level	C.2 Detailed scripts for the individual methods in the respective modules	
C.1.1 Preparation of a specific "DNS Lab"	Module 1 Unfolding Topic	Perspectives network (M1-Th1) or Actor-oriented analysis (M1-Th2)
	Module 1 Narrowing down participants	Policy-Making Wheel (M1-Tn)
	Module 2 Target specification	Focus on topic exploration (M2a) or Focus on implementation/ transformation exploration (M2b)
	Module 3 Reflection on perspectives "DNS Lab" with 10–15 participants	Perspectives carousel (M3)
C.1.2 Implementation of a specific "DNS Lab"	Module 4 Reflection on perspectives "DNS Lab" with 16–30 participants	Perspectives quiz (M4)
	Module 5 Knowledge generation "DNS Lab" type topic exploration	Layer analysis (M5-1) or Ishikawa diagram enriched (M5-2) or Story(ies) of change (M5-3)
	Module 6 Knowledge generation "DNS Lab" type implementation/ transformation exploration	Real-time change (M6-1) or Seedlings of a sustainable future (M6-2) or Dispute of assumptions (M6-3)
	Module 7 Diffusion	Communication concept (M7)
C.1.3 Follow-up of a specific "DNS Lab"		

The **documentation** is specific to each phase and method. The **evaluation** of the documented data (and therefore the provision of results) is also method-specific and takes place as part of the follow-up.

Figure 2: Overview of the methods for preparing, conducting and following up on a DNS Lab from the toolkit by Di Giulio and Defila (2020a, p.2).

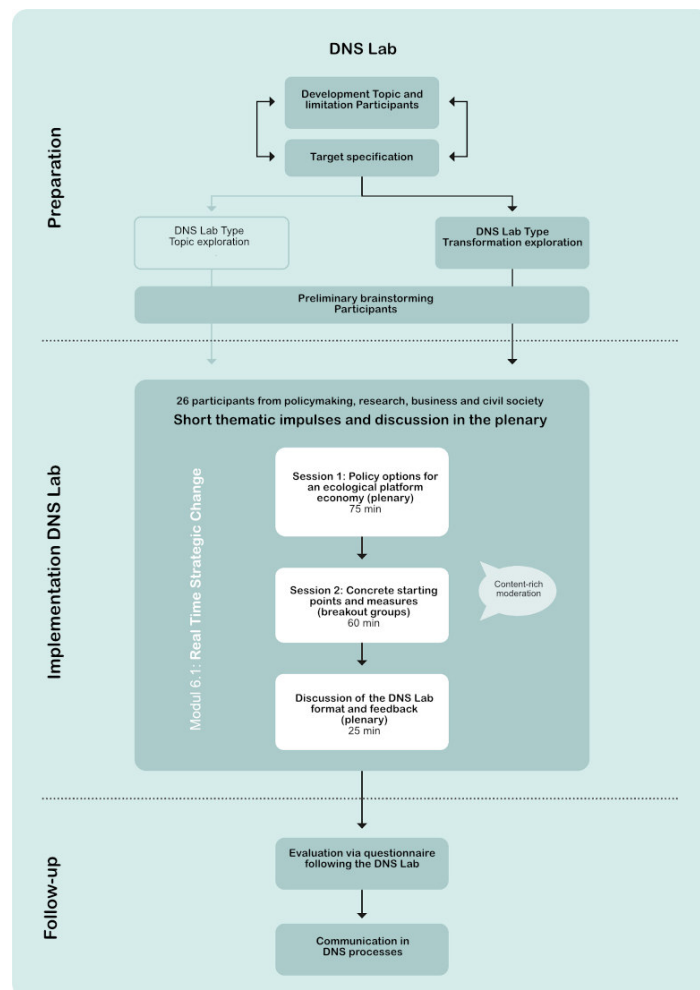


Figure 3: DNS Lab process (29 November 2023), based on wpn2030 (2021a, p.4).

Preparation and concept development

The **specification of objectives**, the **development of topics** (see 2.1) and the **selection of participants** (see 2.2) for the DNS Lab are carried out in an iterative process. The **Lab type "transformation exploration"** was chosen for the DNS Lab on the ecological platform economy, as the topic has already been explored by the CO:DINA project and initial scientific findings are available. The specific objectives were determined using Module 2b "Objective Specification", with a focus on implementation/transformation exploration from the format toolkit. Of the five possible concretisations (see Figure 4), option 5 was chosen to explore worthwhile starting points for transformations and corresponding government action.

From this, the first two specific content-related objectives were derived for the DNS Lab, while the third relates to development of the format:

- 1) Identify and discuss national options for more active political shaping and/or regulation of an ecological platform economy.
- 2) Develop the basis for a wpm2030 position paper on the design of an ecological platform economy, and
- 3) Collect suggestions for the further development of the DNS Lab format.

As an innovation compared to the first two DNS Labs of the Science Platform, a preliminary brainstorming session was held **with the participants in advance of the DNS Lab**, in order to design the Lab effectively and to gather experiences and suggestions regarding the content and format of the event. This gave participants the opportunity to propose options for more active political shaping of an ecological platform economy and to describe these in terms of their target audience, among other things. **The options for action** proposed by 8 of the 16 participants were included in **Session 1: Development of policy options for an ecological platform economy in the plenary session** (see below). Together with the options for action developed in the CO:DINA project, these were prepared as a basis for discussion in a jointly editable presentation. Participants were also able to formulate their **expectations of the format** (e.g. with regard to procedure, duration, results, diversity of participants, group size and moderation) and provide further suggestions.¹⁰

The **choice of methods** for conducting the DNS Lab depends on the specification of the objective – in this case, the implementation/transformation exploration and its concretisation into starting points for transformations and corresponding government action (see above). The implementation of the lab from 29 November 2023 was based on **Module 6-1 Real-time strategic change**, one of three possible methods for knowledge integration for this type of DNS

The possible concretisations of the generic goal of implementation/transformation exploration (KU) are:

KU1 Discuss steps for the implementation of newly acquired scientific knowledge

KU2 Capitalise on experiences from experimental (implementation-related) pilot projects

KU3 Explore solutions to urgent problems in a space that is not (yet) 'politicised'

KU4 Reflect on the opportunities and risks of translating scientific knowledge into a socio-political process

KU5 Explore potentially worthwhile starting points for transformations and corresponding government action

Figure 4: Possible concretisations of the generic goal of implementation/transformation exploration, based on Di Giulio and Defila (2020a, p. 51).

¹⁰ All surveys (preliminary brainstorming, discussion of the DNS Lab format and feedback in plenary sessions and questionnaires) are

evaluated in Section 3.1 with regard to the suggestions made therein for further development of the format.

Lab (see Figure 2).¹¹ The module discusses the implementation options for new scientific knowledge, in this case from the CO:DINA project. The aim is to use stimuli to establish a common information base and then to consider goals, possible needs for action and options, as well as implementation steps (Di Giulio & Defila, 2020a, p. 29). This module was chosen because it is extremely important in the context of the ecological platform economy, in order to stimulate political action with regard to rapidly developing online consumption and marketing and the influence of so-called "dark patterns" (practices that distort consumers' purchasing decisions). Other aspects are at the forefront of the further methods for conducting a DNS Lab of the implementation/transformation exploration type.

The module "Seedlings of a Sustainable Future" (M6-2) aims to derive general ideas from positive practical examples (e.g. experiments, pilot projects) in which sustainable social alternatives have been tested. "Dispute of assumptions" (M6-3), on the other hand, involves critical reflection and discussion of different assumptions about the strategies required to tackle a complex social problem that is not yet strongly represented in political discourse (Di Giulio & Defila, 2020a). However, this is not relevant to the specific objective of the DNS Lab, which is to arrive at options for action based on existing knowledge.

Implementation

In order to establish a common knowledge base, as described in Module 6-1 "Real-time strategic change", **short thematic presentations** from policy/administration and academia were given on the topics of "Sustainable Digital Policy for Sustainable Consumption" and "Approaches to an Ecological Platform Economy: Results of the CO:DINA Project". The experts present then discussed during a plenary session the need for action and the options arising from this assessment. Building on the input and discussion, **Session 1 (Developing Policy Options for an Ecological Platform Economy)** provided an overview of the options for action identified in the preliminary brainstorming and CO:DINA project. Figure 5 shows the core of Session 1, the definition and prioritisation of options for action, and an evaluation matrix (x-axis: soft to hard instruments, y-axis: target groups state/platforms/consumers). After new implementation options were added and assigned to the evaluation matrix, participants were given two points each and asked to select the options they considered most important. The fields of action with the most points were worked on in small groups during Session 2.

The evaluation matrix was structured through content-rich moderation and completed in the DNS Lab together with the participants. In this way, the mo-

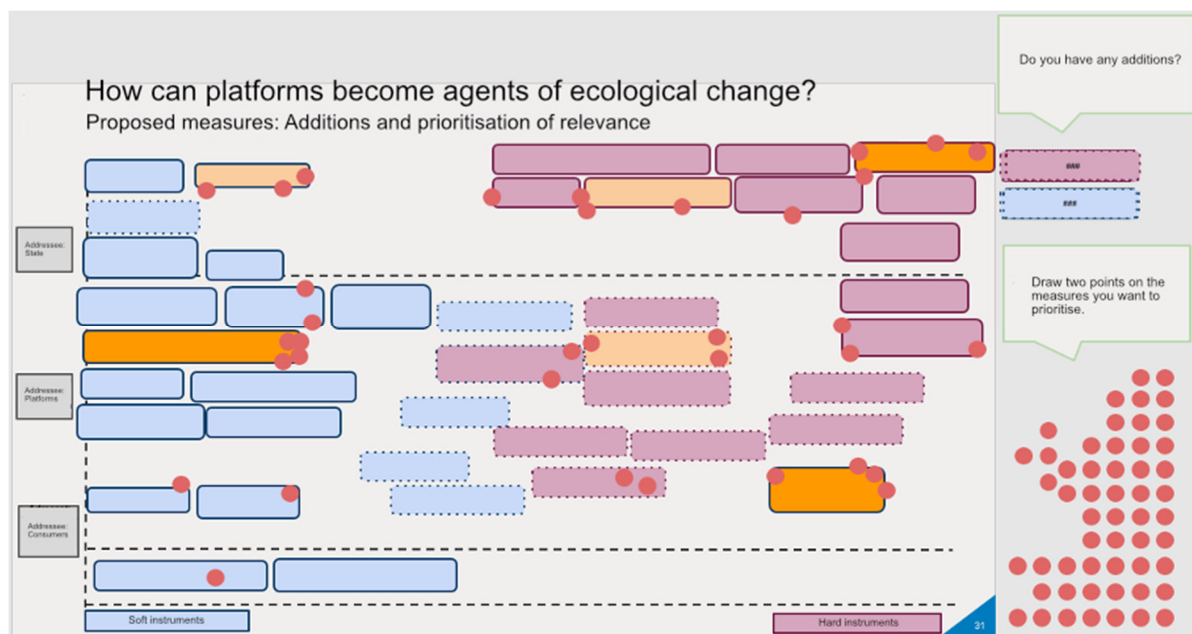


Figure 5: Evaluation matrix of options for action from the CO:DINA project and preliminary brainstorming (represented by boxes with solid borders: blue = soft instruments, pink = hard instruments), with additions from the DNS Lab discussion (boxes with dotted borders in blue and pink) and participants' expressed priorities (orange and light-orange boxes = options for action that scored most points).

¹¹ This module was chosen in deviation from Di Giulio and Defila (2020a), where a combination of the concretisation KU5 with the

module "Dispute of Assumptions" (M6-3) is planned (for reasons, see below).

deration process supported the co-production of knowledge thematically, methodologically and socially-communicatively (see box above).

In **Session 2 (Development of Concrete Starting Points and Measures)**, three small groups each worked on one or two concrete starting points from Session 1 via a so-called "Measure Canvas". The focus was on a brief description, the benefits and target vision, and the anticipated implementers of the measure (see Figure 6).

The final plenary session involved a presentation of the goals for further developing the DNS Lab format (2.1), **participant feedback** on (un)successful aspects of the Lab as well as **participant suggestions on further developing the format** (3.1).

Follow-up

The DNS Lab was evaluated via a participant **questionnaire** (2.4). Together with the preliminary brainstorming and feedback round during the event, this provided many valuable ideas for further development of the Lab format (3.1).

The following content and target groups were defined for communicating the results of the DNS Lab: Together with the paper summarising the results of the DNS Lab (Geibler et al., 2024) and the detailed

transformation report by the CO:DINA project (Ramesohl et al., 2023), which records the results of the project, this paper provides **impetus for the process of further developing the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS)**. The three publicly available papers are intended to inform and raise awareness amongst the public and politicians: While this paper serves to further **develop spaces for interaction between science and policy** on specific DNS topics, the DNS Lab impulse paper and the transformation report draw attention to important **options for action for an ecological platform economy**.

2.4 Evaluation of the DNS Lab

For the further development of the DNS Lab format, it is crucial to generate impetus based on the perceived effects, working methods and approaches that effectively address the support needs of the target groups. To this end, a detailed questionnaire was developed to evaluate the workshop from the participants' perspectives (see Appendix 3). The questionnaire is based on a coordinated process and impact evaluation concept that was tailored to the content of this DNS Lab, and can also serve as a starting point for the evaluation of further DNS Labs.

The survey focused on the motives for participation, and satisfaction with the organisation and results of

Measure canvas

Title:

Brief description

What is meant by the measure? What does the measure involve? What are sub-items, subordinate or downstream measures?

Benefits and objectives

Which problems are solved, which challenges are tackled and which values are created by implementing the measure?

The benefits are comparatively

very low

very high

Target group

Who benefits from the implementation of the measure?

Other stakeholders

Who else is affected or involved internally or externally?

Implementers

Who can/should contribute to the realisation?

Resources/Expertise

What resources, tools or expertise are needed?

Previous initiatives/ current status

What activities to date are already contributing to implementation?

Obstacles and levers

What might stand in the way of taking the measure? What needs to be changed? What other measures should be taken before or at the same time?

Feasibility

How easy and realistic is the implementation?

easy to implement, absolutely realistic

not too difficult to implement, realistic

difficult, but absolutely realistic

very difficult, rather unrealistic

impossible, absolutely unrealistic

time period

In what timeframe should the measure be implemented?

6 months

1 year

2 years

3-5 years

6-10 years

Filled in by: (name)

Figure 6: A "measure canvas" as a template for working on measures in small groups, derived from the Opportunity Canvas developed by Katrin Eling (Wuppertal Institute) on the basis of the Business Model Canvas, <https://www.strategyzer.com/library/the-business-model-canvas>.

the DNS Lab. Particular attention was paid to evaluating the methods and the course of the event. The instrument includes open and closed questions as well as Likert scales to provide a comprehensive picture of the participants' experiences.¹² The response rate (based on fully completed questionnaires) was 67% (16 of 24).

Motives for participation

The most common reasons for participation were interest in the topic and relevance to professional and personal interests. Many respondents saw the DNS Lab as a platform for developing their own ideas and influencing policy. Networking opportunities with experts and decision makers were also appreciated. Another motive was interest in the DNS Lab format. Some respondents were curious about the innovative design and methodology of the event, and appreciated the interactive elements that promoted intensive and creative work.

Satisfaction with the event

Respondents were largely satisfied with the organisation (94%), content (94%) and results (81%) of the event (see Figure 7). The event organisation and moderation were praised, as were the valuable insights provided by the experts. The cooperation between participants was highlighted as a positive aspect. However, some expressed doubts about the practical relevance of the results.

Achievement of objectives

Responses were mixed, concerning achievement of the Lab's objectives and options for effective and ecological regulation of the platform economy (see Appendix 3, Question 6.1). 38% of respondents con-

sidered the objective to be somewhat achieved, 25% considered it fully achieved, 31% considered it partially achieved and 6% considered it not achieved. Positive feedback emphasised that the results achieved were satisfactory despite time constraints. However, criticism was levelled at the quality and depth of the measures, the lack of specificity and sector-specific approaches and the lack of political incentives for implementation.

Process quality

Process quality was assessed in several ways: communication of objectives, suitability for developing green regulatory impulses, inclusion of contributions, diversity of perspectives and the quality and fairness of the discussions. 69% of responses indicated that the objectives were communicated transparently, 74% considered the format suitable for developing regulatory impulses, and 69% felt adequately involved. However, only 51% felt that there was sufficient diversity of perspectives. The discussions were perceived as respectful and fair by 75%, and 75% felt that there was sufficient space for different perspectives (see Appendix 4: Assessment of process quality).

Two main points of criticism were raised in the open responses: On the one hand, the lack of diversity in the perspectives presented, in particular insufficient representation of civil society, political, economic and "technical" perspectives (e.g. IT experts) and room for improvement in terms of interdisciplinarity in science; on the other hand, the limited time available for preparation and the event itself. Accordingly, respondents would have liked a more intensive preparation phase and more time for interdisciplinary discussions.

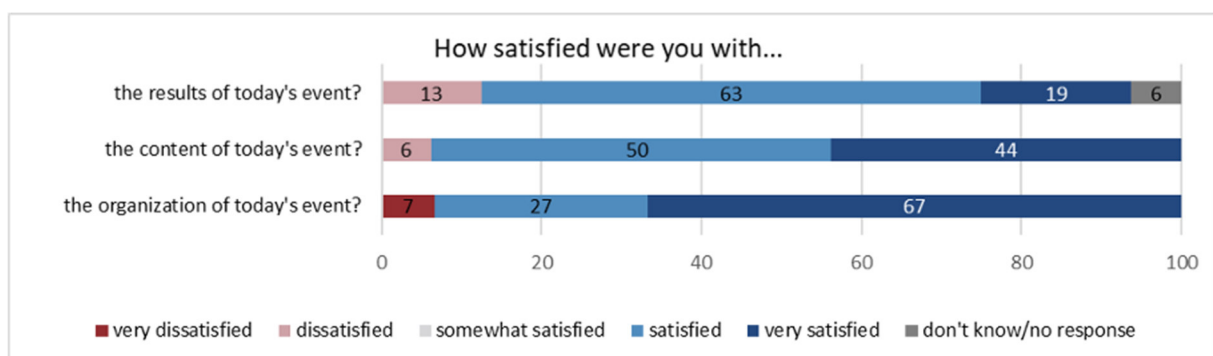


Figure 7: Satisfaction with results, content and organisation (numerals indicate percentages).

¹² The questionnaire was sent to all participants (including the six people involved in the organisation who were present at the DNS

Lab; excluding one person who was only present for the welcome and the person responsible for the evaluation) (n = 24).

Methodology evaluation

The methods used in the DNS Lab format were rated positively overall. Particular appreciation was expressed for the low-thresholds, dialogue-oriented approach, compactness¹³ and effectiveness. Room for improvement was seen in terms of reflexivity and innovation.¹⁴ 86% of respondents found the methods accessible and easy to understand. 85% found them dialogue-oriented, which indicates successful open exchange. 64% saw the methods as innovative, but 36% found them neutral. 78% rated the methods as compact. Reflexivity received the most negative rating: only 46% found the methods reflexive, 46% neutral and 8% non-reflexive. 71% of respondents found the methods highly effective, while 14% were undecided and 14% found them rather ineffective (see Figure 8).

Usefulness of the results

The majority of respondents rated the usability of the DNS Lab results for their work contexts as positive. 50% said they were able to make good use of the results, 19% saw partial usability and 31% were unsure. Open responses revealed three key positive aspects: despite indicating that the participant group should span more diverse perspectives, respondents nevertheless learned new content and gained new perspectives that enriched their own work; the applicability – of the experience gained and the methods used – to similar formats, as well as the establishment of new networks and connections, were also mentioned.

Critical assessment and reflection

In addition to the event's organisation and moderation, respondents praised the stimulating short presentations by the experts and the enriching, interactive and fair discussions. In terms of methodology, the feedback rounds and the co-creative prioritisation of topics received particularly positive feedback in some cases. The transparent communication of objectives, the suitability of the format for achieving the objectives and the usefulness of the results for the respondents' own work contexts were also viewed positively. Criticisms that were raised several times concerned: the plenary discussions, which were sometimes protracted despite the compact format; the decision to hold the event online due to the limited availability of experts (some people preferred a face-to-face event) and the prioritisation of measures, which some respondents felt was unstructured. The diversity of perspectives, practical relevance of the results and reflexivity of the methods were considered to be areas for improvement. Nevertheless, a clear majority of respondents (69%) expressed great interest in participating again.

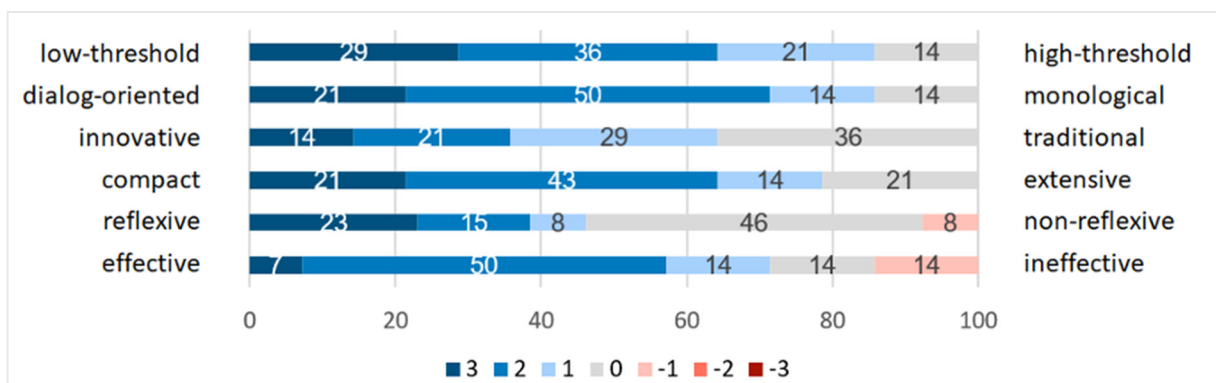


Figure 8: Assessment of methods (numerals indicate percentages).

¹³ The format is characterised as compact with respect to its 1. Short duration – participation in a specific dialogue event should not entail a prolonged “loss of working time”; and 2. Prompt results

– typically available at the end of the event; see Di Giulio and Defila (2020b).

¹⁴ See also the box “Goals, quality criteria and design conditions of a DNS Lab” on p. 5.

3. Impulses for the further development of the "DNS Lab" format

3.1 Input gathered from the DNS Lab "Ecological Platform Economy", 29 November 2023

The participants in the DNS Lab shared insightful suggestions and proposals for the format in the preliminary brainstorming session, during the discussion of the format in the DNS Lab and in the follow-up questionnaires. In their responses to the questionnaire and beyond, the organisers also reflected on how the format of the DNS Lab could be further developed.

Overall, it can be said that the **diversity of the participants and their profiles are decisive for the respective outcome**. It was suggested that future DNS Labs should invite experts, including practitioners from fields such as online marketing, to comment on the individual regulatory proposals in order to better reflect the current state of development in these areas. Economic and political actors, as well as actors from various social contexts, should be more strongly represented, the former possibly through associations. The networks of the German Committee for Sustainability Research in Future Earth (DKN) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Germany can provide fundamental support for the format, as they have already done here. The identification of necessary stakeholders and the implementation of a defined group profile should be anchored in the preliminary organisation in terms of time and organisation, so that the target values referring to the diversity of perspectives can be achieved as far as possible. This should also be part of the evaluation, including whether this was successful or not and why. Are specific groups difficult or impossible to reach? How can they be reached and involved? Evaluating the participant recruitment process is important for managing the integration of desired target groups. A recurring theme was the desire for a **physical format**. This could lead to better results and would also provide opportunities for participants to get to know each other in person. **Virtual formats** should be designed securely and take place on independent platforms. In the preliminary brainstorming session, participants expressed their expectation that a virtual DNS Lab would provide a factual exchange and high-quality discussion in a digital environment using common tools for online group work.

In the **preparatory phase**, the targeted use of information and communication technology could be used to prepare or develop existing orientation, system and transformation knowledge in a more targeted manner. **Preliminary documents** linked in the

preparatory background paper are important and should be made available to participants in accordance with their time constraints. A short information paper on the significance and function of the wpm2030 and the German Sustainability Strategy should also explain the context for newcomers to the process. Some participants noted that their fellow group members should be known in advance. Approval should therefore be obtained for **transparency** regarding the composition of the group, in addition to the target criteria, concepts and evaluation concept. The date-blocker utility for **inviting participants** should be sent out as early as possible. Support for the invitations from the relevant government departments could be discussed as a way of attracting more ministerial and political representatives. The registration link should also be sent to participants well in advance of the event, and there should be clear responsibilities for inviting a specific group of actors (e.g. one person per actor group) to ensure greater balance between the groups and interdisciplinarity within the scientific community. The **preliminary brainstorming session** should be expanded. Different wishes were expressed regarding the **thematic focus** of the DNS Lab, ranging from broad to narrow focus. Here, the methods of topic development should be applied according to the specific DNS Lab, and the thematic focus should be made transparent. In some places, "basic information" was missing.

In terms of **implementation**, it was important to maintain a balance between the duration and effectiveness or quality of the desired results. Parts of the task could be developed in advance using preparatory formats, so that participants could discuss the issues in depth when they met. If the use of the results is clear, this also motivates experts to participate in a longer workshop. More time should also be allowed for participants to get in touch with each other and exchange ideas. Virtual and physical formats differ in terms of their possibilities and design processes; the DNS Labs should differentiate between these and adapt their methods accordingly (e.g. breaks should be planned differently). According to the preliminary brainstorming session, **high-quality moderation** was one of the quality criteria for the implementation. Regarding moderation, participant feedback indicated that the discussion in small groups should be moderated more closely and that specific facilitators could be assigned depending on the measure being discussed. Moderation and discussion rules should be clearly defined and explained. The simultaneous responsibility of providing impetus and subsequent moderation should be avoided where possible, in order to prevent a double burden. Balanced group sizes of experts should also ensure a **balanced discourse**, e.g. it would be more

difficult for scientific or economic topics to dominate – a balance of perspectives from the different system areas should be possible. As a DNS Lab, the **connection to the DNS** should be clear.

The **follow-up** was reflected on in terms of the **results**. In the preliminary survey, detailed documentation of the contributions was mentioned as a desired outcome, rather than aggregated results of the discussions. After the event, it was noted that, for example, the purpose for which the results would be used should be more clearly defined. Participants wanted result formats that are worthwhile and can be used sustainably, both for their own purposes and in line with the DNS Lab's goal of initiating discourse between science and policy. It was also noted that a certain **consensus among participants on the goals of the DNS Lab** should be ensured in order to achieve common results. With regard to **evaluation**, it was pointed out that anonymity could be better protected. The DNS Labs should be provided with a framing and accompanying evaluation method so that data can also be evaluated with a larger N-number, thereby achieving greater relevance and significance of the results.

3.2 Conclusions and possible next steps

The DNS Lab on the topic of the ecological platform economy (29 November 2023) pursued three objectives:

- 1)** to identify and discuss national options for more active political shaping and/or regulation of an ecological platform economy,
- 2)** to develop the basis for a wpm2030 position paper on the design of an ecological platform economy, and
- 3)** to gather ideas for further developing the DNS Lab format.

The wpm2030's goal with regard to the latter is **to further develop the DNS Lab format through an iterative, mutual learning process and to test existing formats**.

By aligning the format with the type of transformation exploration and Module 6-1 "Real-time strategic change", short thematic **discussions provided a common knowledge base for fruitful discussions on the need for action and options for the ecological orientation of the platform economy**. The insights gained from the CO:DINA project were particularly useful in this regard, as they enabled further discussion on implementation steps.

Objective 1) was thus achieved. The **options for action identified** by the project and the participants **were explored in greater depth** in small group sessions, which enabled the development of concrete proposals for action. This also facilitated the achievement of

Objective 2), i.e. to develop results that serve as a basis for the content-focused impulse paper aimed at the public and politicians.

However, it should be noted that the diversity of options for action was limited, to a certain extent, by the limited participation of certain actors and scientific disciplines.

The preliminary survey, the feedback round in the DNS Lab and the questionnaire made it possible to gather ideas for further developing the format and thus to fulfil

Objective 3), of making future DNS Labs even more effective and beneficial for all participants.

Based on the input from participants and organisers, wpm2030 could pursue the following ideas for further developing the DNS Lab format:

Preparation

- Apply methods for topic development depending on the specific DNS Lab, and make the topic focus transparent.
- Allow sufficient time for identifying and recruiting necessary stakeholders; possibly encourage current or previous participants to help identify and recruit further attendees.
- Actively use the DKN and SDSN networks, possibly also department representatives (e.g. Transformation Team members), to recruit participants
- Ensure the participant group is balanced between policy/administration, science, business and civil society
- Provide brief information about DNS, wpm2030 and the DNS Lab format with a "save the date" invitation
- Put preparatory documents and brief information online during the preparation phase: Create transparency about the status and present result formats
- Obtain approvals for transparency – composition, target criteria, concept, evaluation concept, etc. Provide a secure online platform for collaboration
- Send out appointment blockers and registration links for the invitation to participants in good time

- Send background information for preparation well in advance (1–2 weeks in advance, with a reminder shortly before the date)
- Optional: prepare topics with participants in short digital workshops/meetings during the preparation phase, to enable in-depth discussions in the DNS Lab

Implementation

- Establish a clear link to the DNS
- Establish moderation and discussion rules and make them transparent
- Separate the roles of facilitator and moderator
- Divide participants into groups in advance
- Schedule facilitators – if possible, one per small group
- Create networking opportunities

Follow-up

- Evaluation: Discuss methods for better preserving anonymity; Develop a framework and accompanying evaluation method for further DNS Labs
- Keep participants informed about next steps
- Enable participants to comment on and co-author outcome papers

Outlook / perspectives

- Evaluate the idea of a DNS Lab series (for different topics or for the same topic at different levels)
 - Explore the possibility of adapting the DNS Lab format for external use
- The DNS Lab format was further developed in terms of didactics through co-design. The result is new didactic methods:

- A presentation template based on the structure of a DNS Lab (DNS Lab "Run of the show" template)
- Brief information on DNS, wpm2030 and the DNS Lab format
- An evaluation matrix of options for action
- A Measure Canvas
- An evaluation concept, and
- A checklist for further developing the preparation, implementation and follow-up of a DNS Lab (see above).

The wpm2030 is discussing ways of incorporating these ideas into the organisation of future DNS Labs.

▲ Thanks

The authors would like to thank the experts who participated in the DNS Lab "Ecological Platform Economy" for their commitment and input. We would also like to thank the managers and staff of the CO:DINA project for their excellent support in organising the event and preparing this paper.

References

- Collins, H.M., & Evans, R. (2002). The Third Wave of Science Studies: Studies of Expertise and Experience. *Social Studies of Science* 32(2): 235–96. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306312702032002003>.
- Defila, R., & Di Giulio, A. (2015). Integrating Knowledge: Challenges Raised by the “Inventory of Synthesis”. *Futures* 65: 123–35. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2014.10.013>.
- Di Giulio, A., & Defila, R. (2020a). Format-Koffer zur Realisierung des Formats "DNS-Lab". Erarbeitet im Auftrag und z.H. der Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit 2030 (wpn2030).
- Di Giulio, A., & Defila, R. (2020b). Charakterisierung eines kompakten, transdisziplinären und transformationsorientierten Dialogformats für die Bearbeitung von Nachhaltigkeitsthemen, Studie für die Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit 2030. Basel: Universität Basel. Available at https://www.wpn2030.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DNS-Lab_Studie_2020_mit-Umschlag.pdf [16.08.2024].
- Geibler, J.v., Gnanko, T., Gröne, K., & Ramesohl, S. (2023). Governance Innovation Labs für eine ökologische Plattformökonomie. Nachhaltiger Konsum und Verbraucherschutz by Design: Forschungsbericht der Forschungslinie „Governance Innovation Labs“ im CO:DINA Projekt. Available at https://epub.wupperinst.org/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/8808/file/8808_Governance_Innovation_Labs.pdf [12.03.2026].
- Geibler, J.v., Gröne, K., Gnanko, T., Löpelt, S., & Liedtke, C. (2024). Ökologische Plattformökonomie: Politische Gestaltungsoptionen für Nachhaltigen Konsum und Verbraucher*innenschutz by Design. In: Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit 2030 (wpn2030).
- Kirchhoff, C. J., Lemos, M. C., & Dessai, S. (2013). Actionable Knowledge for Environmental Decision Making: Broadening the Usability of Climate Science. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 38(1): 393–414. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-environ-022112-112828>.
- Mayer-Ries, J. (2018). Government Innovation Lab: Ein Vorschlag zur Stärkung der ministerienübergreifenden Erschließung von Zukunftsthemen. Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS). Discussion Paper, Potsdam. <https://doi.org/10.2312/iass.2018.007>
- Micklitz, H. W., Schiefke, N., Liedtke, C., Kenning, P., Specht-Riemenschneider, L., & Baur, N. (2020). *Onlinehandel im Spannungsfeld von Verbraucherschutz und Nachhaltigkeit*. Sachverständigenrat für Verbraucherfragen beim Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz.
- Mobjörk, M. (2010). Consulting versus participatory transdisciplinarity: A refined classification of transdisciplinary research. *Futures*, 42(8), 866–873. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2010.03.003>.
- Ramesohl, S., Bauer, S., Geibler, J.v., Gnanko, T., Gröne, K., Großklaus, M., Wirtz, J., Wulf, N., Wurm, D. (2023). Systemwandel by sustainable design oder digital disruption? Impulse für eine digital-ökologische Transformationsagenda. Available at https://epub.wupperinst.org/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/8810/file/8810_Systemwandel.pdf [12.03.2026].
- SVRV (2021). Gutachten zur Lage der Verbraucherinnen und Verbraucher 2021. *Gutachten des Sachverständigenrats für Verbraucherfragen*. Berlin: Sachverständigenrat für Verbraucherfragen.
- Van den Hove, S. (2007). A rationale for science–policy interfaces. *Futures*, 39(7), 807–826.
- wpn2030 - Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit 2030 (2021a). *DNS-Labs: Integriertes Wissen für die Deutsche Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie agil erarbeiten*. Available at <https://www.wpn2030.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/DNS-Labs-Beschreibung.pdf> [22.04.2024].
- wpn2030 - Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit 2030 (2021b). *wpn2030-Impuls für den Staatssekretärsausschuss für nachhaltige Entwicklung „Bedeutung des nachhaltigen Konsums und Anforderungen an die Weiterentwicklung des Nationalen Programms für nachhaltigen Konsum“: Konsumpolitiken stärken, transformative Schritte einleiten, gesellschaftliche Potenziale weiter entfalten*. Autor*innen: Christa Liedtke, Joachim

von Braun, Maike Gossen, Iris Lewandowski, Oliver Parodi, Gerhard Prätorius, Vera Susanne Rotter, Ulrike Schell, Markus Vogt. Available at [Impuls_Staatssekretaerssausschuss_Nachhaltiger_Konsum.pdf \(wpn2030.de\)](https://www.wpn2030.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Konsum.pdf) [03.05.2024].

wpn2030 - Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit 2030 (2021c). *Infografik „Nachhaltiges Konsumieren und Produzieren vorantreiben – aber wie?! Empfehlungen und Dialogangebot der wpn2030*, Available at <https://www.wpn2030.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Konsum.pdf> [03.05.2024].

wpn2030 - Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit 2030 (2021d). *DNS-Lab: Politiken für nachhaltigen Konsum stärken. Dokumentation*. Available at https://www.wpn2030.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021_DNS_Lab_Nachhaltiger_Konsum_Dokumentation.pdf [22.04.2024].

Appendix

Appendix 1: Preliminary brainstorming

Preliminary brainstorming for the DNS Lab "Ecological Platform Economy – Sustainability and Consumer Protection by Design"

Ecological Platform Economy – Sustainability and Consumer Protection by Design

1. What options for action would you propose for more active political shaping of an ecological platform economy?

Brief description of your option for action (optional)

2. Who is the main recipient of this course of action?

☐ Platform companies

☐ Governmental actors

☐ Consumers

☐ Other:

3. Have you ever participated in a wpn2030 DNS Lab?

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. What are your expectations of the format of the planned event, e.g. in terms of the process, duration, results, diversity of participants, group size and moderation?

Would you like to add anything else or do you have any further comments?

Question 1: What did you find successful/unsuccessful about today's DNS-Lab?

successful?	unsuccessful?
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

wpn2030 DNS.lab ccdina

DNS-Lab wpn2030: "Ecological platform economy: Political design options for sustainable consumption and consumer protection by design", online, 29.11.2023.

48

Question 2: What are your suggestions for future labs, taking into account the above-mentioned goals for the further development of the format?

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

wpn2030 DNS.lab ccdina

DNS-Lab wpn2030: "Ecological platform economy: Political design options for sustainable consumption and consumer protection by design", online, 29.11.2023.

50

Appendix 3: Questionnaire

Introductory notes

We would like to thank you once again for participating in the DNS Lab in the context of **the ecological platform economy**! In order to further improve our formats for identifying and developing new topics and ideas for the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS), we would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to answer a few questions.

Please answer the questions by ticking the appropriate answer(s) or providing brief information. We kindly ask you to give your honest opinion. This will help us to improve future events.

First, we would like to ask you a few questions about yourself.

Question 1: Which of the following participant groups would you classify yourself as belonging to?

☐

Organisers

☐

Policy

☐

Business/
Business

☐

Academia

☐

Civil society

☐

Other:

Question 2: Please briefly explain in bullet points what motivated you to participate in the DNS Lab:

Question 3: How satisfied were you with the organisation of today's event?

☐

Very dissatisfied

☐

Somewhat dissatisfied

☐

Neutral

☐

Somewhat satisfied

☐

Very satisfied

☐

Don't know/No answer

Question 4: How satisfied were you with the content of today's event?

☐

Very dissatisfied

☐

Somewhat dissatisfied

☐

Neutral

☐

Somewhat satisfied

☐

Very satisfied

☐

Don't know/No answer

Question 5.1: How satisfied are you with the results achieved during the event?

☐

Very dissatisfied

☐

Rather dissatisfied

☐

Neutral

☐

Somewhat satisfied

☐

Very satisfied

☐

Don't know/No answer

Question 5.2: Here you have the opportunity to explain your answer:

Question 6.1: In your opinion, to what extent has the DNS Lab achieved its goal of identifying options for action at the national level for effective, ecological regulation of the platform economy?

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Not at all	Slightly	Partially (mid-point)	Mostly	Fully	Don't know/ No answer

Question 6.2: Here you have the opportunity to explain your answer:

Please indicate below to what extent you consider the statements to be inaccurate or accurate:

Question 7.1: The objectives of the DNS Lab were communicated transparently and comprehensively in advance/at the beginning.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ No answer

Question 7.2: The DNS Lab format is suitable for developing ideas and options for action for effective, ecological regulation of the platform economy.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ No answer

Question 7.3: My views and contributions were taken into account appropriately in the decision-making process.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ No answer

Question 7.4: The participants present at the DNS Lab represented an appropriate diversity of perspectives and knowledge on the topic.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ No answer

Question 7.5: The discussions within DNS Labs were conducted in a respectful and fair manner.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ No answer

Question 7.6: There was sufficient time to discuss the topic from different perspectives.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ No answer

Question 7.7: Here you have the opportunity to explain your answers (questions 7.1 to 7.6).

Question 8: How would you rate the methods used in the DNS Lab in terms of the following aspects?

	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
Low threshold	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	High threshold
Dialogue-oriented	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Monological
Innovative	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Traditional
Compact	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Extensive
Reflexive	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Unreflective
Effective ¹	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Ineffective ¹

¹Effective in terms of identifying options for action for effective, ecological regulation of the platform economy

Question 9: How well can you use the results of the DNS Lab for your own work?

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Don't know/no answer
Not at all		Very well			

Question 10: If you can use the results for your work, which ones are they?

Question 11: Which elements of today's event appealed to you most and why?

Question 12: Which elements of today's event did you like least and why?

Question 13: If you have any further suggestions for improving the DNS Lab, please feel free to mention them here.

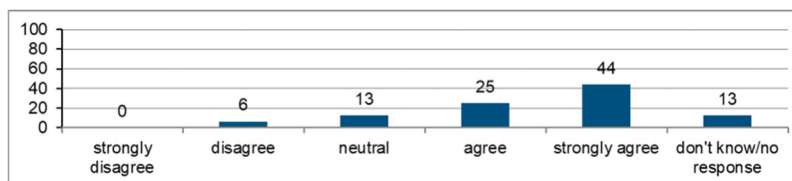
Question 14: Would you participate in a DNS Lab again?

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Don't know/No answer
No, not interested		Yes, definitely			

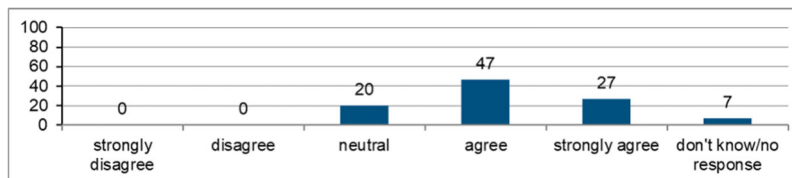
Thank you very much! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the wpn2030 research team by email: ingo.wolf@rifs-potsdam.de

Appendix 4: Assessment of process quality (numerals indicate percentages)

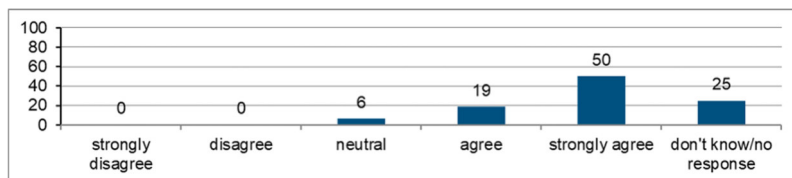
The objectives of the DNS Lab were communicated transparently and comprehensively in advance/at the beginning.



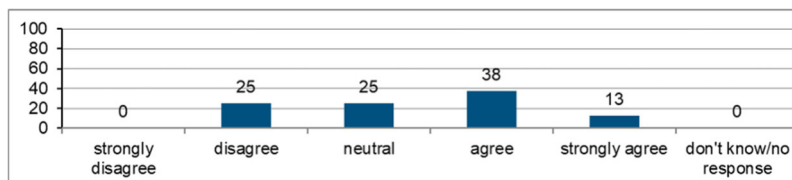
The DNS Lab format is suitable for developing ideas and options for action for effective, ecological regulation of the platform economy.



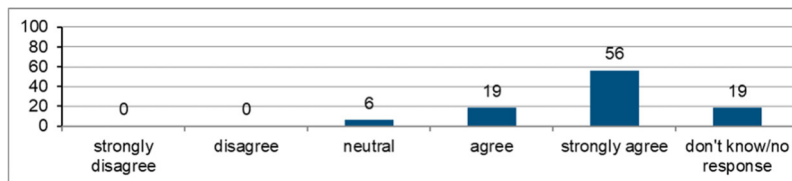
My views and contributions were appropriately incorporated into the decision-making process.



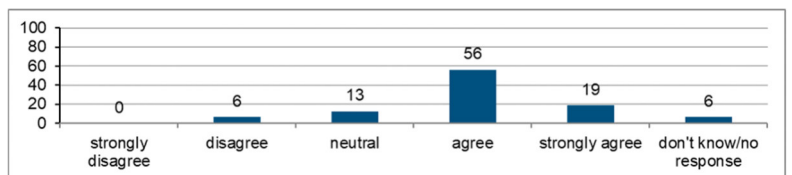
The participants present at the DNS Lab represented an appropriate diversity of perspectives and knowledge on the topic.



The discussions within the DNS Lab were conducted in a respectful and fair manner.



Sufficient space was provided to discuss the topic from different perspectives.



▲ What is a DNS Lab?

The DNS Labs are a compact dialogue format developed by wpn2030 to develop integrated knowledge at the science–policy interface for the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS) in a transdisciplinary, cross-ministerial manner and in exchange with the scientific community. This format is intended to generate ideas and impetus for policy, research and social transformation.

Objective: A DNS Lab brings together different perspectives from actors in science, policy and society on a specific issue within a short period of time and reflects on them jointly. The overarching goal is to explore a topic or, if knowledge on an issue already exists, to drive forward transformations and identify and enable implementation steps. In addition, a DNS Lab pursues a specific goal that is relevant to the various areas of expertise and interests of the participants.

Topic selection: Each DNS Lab focuses on a specific topic. The topic is chosen in such a way that it is relevant and accessible to as many different disciplines and social actors as possible.

Participants: Against the backdrop of the topic and objective, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary groups of 10 to 30 people from science, policy/administration, civil society and business are invited to develop transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary integrated knowledge. Practical knowledge and scientific knowledge are given equal weighting in the DNS Lab, and practitioners and researchers work together on an equal footing.

Protected space: Under the Chatham House Rule, the DNS Lab offers a protected space for open discussion in an appreciative atmosphere. Judgements of other perspectives and relevance hierarchies are avoided. The protected space enables participants to develop ideas in an exploratory manner and to engage in dialogue with actors who would not otherwise be able to express themselves to the same extent outside such a space. This creates a trusting environment for joint reflection on different perspectives on a topic.

Integrated knowledge: At the heart of a DNS Lab is the generation of integrated (and in this sense new) knowledge that is relevant to both policy and science. The emergence of this jointly developed knowledge is also credible and comprehensible to third parties. The knowledge generated should be scientifically credible as well as practical and socio-politically legitimate. The decisions made in the synthesis process are documented.

Content-rich moderation during the preparation, implementation and follow-up of a DNS Lab: Content-rich moderation ensures that the work of the DNS Lab is open-ended, while at the same time keeping the Lab's goals in mind and producing concrete results. The moderator has responsibility for content, methodology and social communication.

About wpn2030

The Science Platform Sustainability 2030 (wpn2030) serves as an interface between science and policy to reflect on sustainability policy issues and support the further development of the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS) with scientific expertise. The Science Platform works independently and is systematically integrated into the official political steering, dialogue and implementation process of Agenda 2030 in, with and through Germany.

Science Platform Sustainability 2030
c/o Research Institute for Sustainability –
Helmholtz Centre Potsdam
Berliner Str. 130, 14467 Potsdam
www.wpn2030.de

Contact

Sarah Löpelt (sarah.loepelt@idos-research.de)
Julia Schlarmann (julia.schlarmann@wupperinst.org)

DNS Lab organisation team

Axel Berger, Justus von Geibler, Toni Gnanko, Katharina Gröne, Jean-Henri Huttarsch, Mark Lawrence, Christa Liedtke, Sarah Löpelt, Kim Paczkowski, Stephan Ramesohl & Ingo Wolf

Authors

Sarah Löpelt, Christa Liedtke, Julia Schlarmann, Katharina Gröne, Jean-Henri Huttarsch, Ingo Wolf in collaboration with Kim Paczkowski

Responsible

Prof. Daniela Jacob
Prof. Mark Lawrence
Prof. Christa Liedtke

Suggested citation

Löpelt, S., Liedtke, C., Schlarmann, J., Gröne, K., Huttarsch, J.-H., & Wolf, I. (2024). Further development of the wpn2030 format "DNS Lab": Review and ideas for the future. In: Science Platform Sustainability 2030 (wpn2030).

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.48481/rifs.2024.021>

Scientific
sponsoring organisations



With funding from the:



