

Success Factors for System Leaps and Guiding Principles Towards a Resource Light Society

Scenarios towards a Decoupled Future



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We need a Vision

- Successes in relative decoupling are visible, total resource use still increases

→ We need a VISION of Resource Light Society

- At present,
 - there is *a lack in societal support* for a vision and lifestyles caused by
 - *a lack of vision for a resource light society*
- Such visions are needed to incorporate resource efficiency and increased resource productivity in society (e.g. social practices, institutions, culture).

→ We support developing a VISION of Resource Light Society

On-going Project “Success Factors for System Leaps and Guiding Principles Towards a Resource Light Society”

What do we mean by „Resource Light“ Society

1. “Resource Light” in the sense of low resource use

- A society that in its processes, institutions, organizations etc. supports, fosters and enables low resource use.
- A society that exists and thrives within planetary boundaries. For Germany reduction by Factor 4 to 20, and about 8t TMR/capita and year (KRU 2014, Lettenmeier et al. 2013)

But: Techno-economical prescriptions are not enough!

2. “Resource **Light**” in the sense of easy and convenient living

- A low-resource society needs to be attractive and easy to live in to be realisable.
- It also requires ideas for societal aspects like cooperation and sustainable living, ecologically and socially.

Developing scenarios for a Resource Light Society

- Scenarios are a means of developing alternative answers (note the plural) to questions concerning the future of a chosen subject.
- Aim: diverse scenarios that can provide a number of approaches towards a resource light society
- Question: How can relevant players in the society promote and achieve resource light living in Germany by 2030?
- Process:
 1. Key factors: Identification of key solution areas
 2. Projections: Development of alternative projections for each factor
 3. Scenarios: Creation of scenarios by meaningfully combining the projections

Individuals/Consumers				Business				Politics			Science		
Consumption patterns	Digital technology usage	Community building	Opinion making	Social security and health care	Innovation paradigm	Value creation patterns	Employment models	Entrepreneurial motivation	Resource politics	Political decision making	Prosperity and growth concepts	Commercial policy and innovation support	Education and knowledge building
Collaborative consumption	Offline society	New order of families	News & knowledge as commons	Citizens' insurance scheme	Cooperative innovation	Regional economy	Cooperative labor division	Policy-based motivation	Broad non-fiscal support	Bottom-up & global	Green New Deal	Promotion of SMEs	Universal knowledge
Sustainable hedonism	IT-induced low-resource living	Global community	NGOs dominate opinion making	Lean social security	High-tech induced low-resource living	Knowledge-based economy	New work models	High idealism	Focus on sanctioning	Bottom-up & local	Quality of life comes first	Top-runner approach	Top-down education
Voluntary simplicity	Digital regimen	New communes	Politics dominate opinion making	Cooperative models	Low-tech society	Circular economy	Basic income	Demand-based motivation	Real prices create new markets	Provident expertocracy	Commons and prosperity for all	Focus on tertiary sector	Bottom-up experience and learning
Rationed consumption			Media liberalisation	Basic security and care		Demand-based production	Low-resource living by rationalisation		Low-resource planned economy	Renaissance of the parliament			

Developing scenarios for a Resource Light Society

2 day expert and pioneer workshop

Focus Areas

Key factors

Projections

→
Alternatives
contributing
to resource
light society

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Resource Light Society

Five distinctive scenarios

(1) Cooperatives Promote Regionalism



(2) Market-based Ecologism



(3) Obligatory Moderation



(4) Voluntary Simplicity



(5) Enlightened Global Society



1. Cooperatives Promote Regionalism

- Orientation on ideals that govern cooperatives: common good & fairness
- Regionalisation: regional sourcing
- Bottom-up decision and opinion making culture

2. Market-based Ecologism

- Continuation of high-tech strategy: Resource use reduction is achieved by implementing progressive technologies and fostering competition
- Interplay between political regulation as well as incentive setting and letting the market mechanisms work
- Requires a moderate level of change in daily life as well as consumption patterns

3. Obligatory Moderation

- People demand more guidance in their lifestyle choices
- Government introduces an annual resource budget for every citizen
- Sharing and reusing of products flourish and tighten community networks

3. Voluntary Simplicity

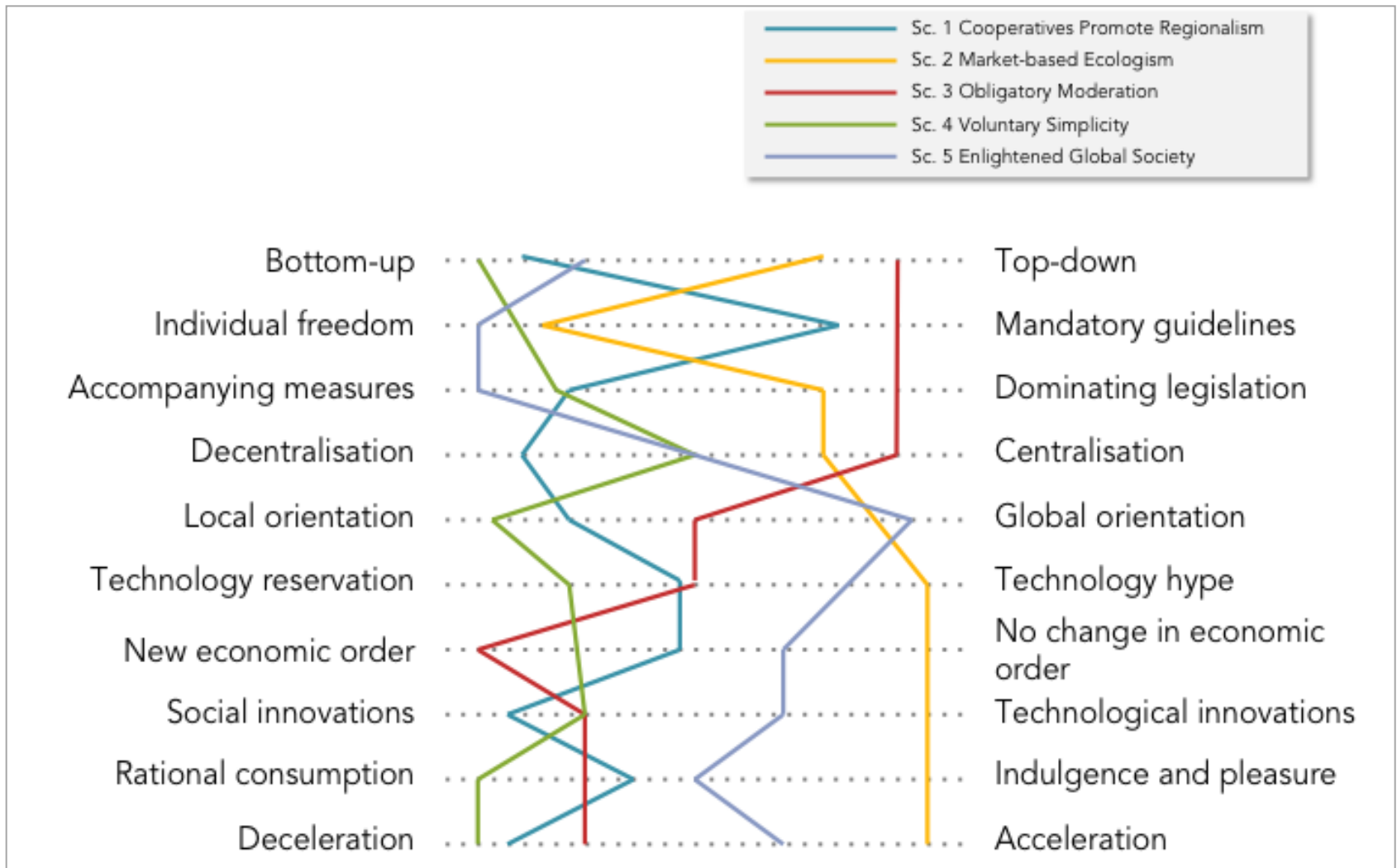
- Low-resource living results from a voluntary moderation and simplification
- People consume less, prefer less complex products, and focus on proximity and their local environment
- Economy promotes simple products with high durability and performs salary adjustments by introduction of a basic income

4. Enlightened Global Society

- Radical post-modern agenda of dematerialisation
 - Reduction of the industrial base and a radical focus on the tertiary sector
 - Citizen engagement plays a more important role than ever
- > **Most scenarios will involve more or less strong disruptions, depending on the perspective** (except scenario 2 requires a moderate level of change in daily life as well as consumption patterns)
- > **Besides these “technical” measures, the nature of the social dynamics and the setup of players vary greatly**

Resource Light Society

Goal: A broad room of possibilities opening up different options



Resource Light Society: **Implications** to conceptualise and to substantiate the idea

- A low-resource future will not work without a resource light society.
- Workshops and the resulting scenarios indicate that there is a wide array of possibilities and options for achieving a resource light society.
- Attractiveness of the respective scenarios will differ based on the perspective of the reader.
- Future work: Reflect scenarios and transitions paths with civil society including a cross-matching with already existing social practices; Identify political implications



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