

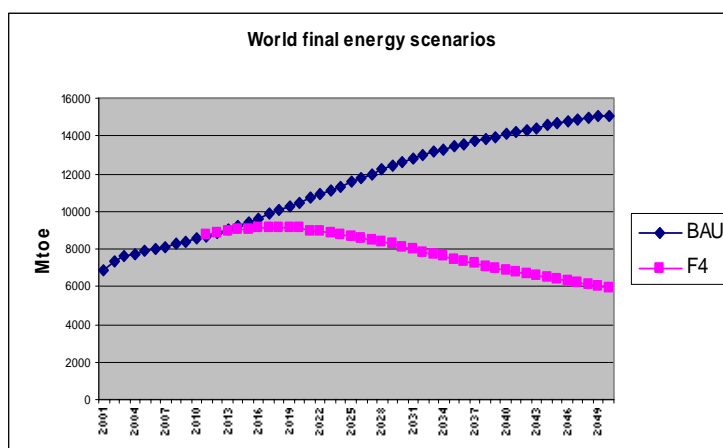
Opening session
the IMAGINE initiative and the objectives
of the seminar

1. WHAT IS IMAGINE?

“IMAGINE” is an initiative of Energie-Cités, aiming to help communities better prepare the energy future of their territories. The horizon of our foresight activity is that of a generation, leading us to 2030.

Evolution of the energy context on the one hand (persistent upward trend in energy prices and scarcity of fossil resources) and that of the climatic context (increasing temperatures) on the other, are going to induce us to radically modify- and as of now- our way of dealing with the development of our territories.

- > Issues relating to **climate change and energy resources** are closely linked and will in future take on dimensions which are completely unpredictable today.
- > Our current development model **is not viable** and the parts of the world which have been excluded from it now also want their share.
- > We, the so-called industrialised countries, will have to reduce **our CO₂ emissions a factor 4 by 2050**, which involves reducing our energy consumption a factor 3.
- > This will only be possible if somewhat fundamental changes are implemented. It will also require the **widespread implementation of existing solutions**, even when these are today at a stage of development that is still marginal.



We are facing the following situation:

- The continuation of the current trend (BAU-Business as usual): this is not possible!
- The decreasing– in real terms– of our energy consumption (Factor 4): this is difficult!

We need to **imagine a future energy model** that is compatible with what the planet can cope with and reduce the **energy vulnerability** of the territories and their inhabitants

The IMAGINE initiative is an ambitious, long-term initiative. It combines foresight reflection with action in the field and will give rise to multiple and complementary actions: exhibitions, meetings, a European campaign, etc.

Dealing with energy in a territory has to do with town planning, economics, technologies, the environment, cultural aspects, societal organisation etc. It involves the whole of society in an intergenerational way, including elected representatives, technicians, philosophers, artists, energy specialists etc. This is why this initiative aims to mix citizens from all walks of life, and not just the traditional actors of the energy sector or specialists in territorial management.

2. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

This seminar is the first practical action of the IMAGINE initiative.

It aims to:

- Create a founding foresight-oriented event for the IMAGINE initiative
- Produce preliminary ideas and proposals
- Test a new format for the organisation of meetings and define working methods for the IMAGINE initiative
- Set up a lasting core of actors from a variety of backgrounds capable of enriching the IMAGINE experience

3. THE PARTICIPANTS

This seminar will bring together a limited number of participants from 13 countries, the participants having a variety of personal and professional backgrounds (see appended list of participants with their origins and specialities). The choices were made on the basis of such diversity.

Each of the participants has accepted our invitation on an individual basis, regardless of the institution or organisation he/she may belong to. Each of the participants has also accepted to take an active part in the seminar and will, therefore, have a role to play before, during, and if possible, after the seminar. Every participant may be asked to introduce or simply attend a session or be a group moderator during the closing session.

Free expression is essential if we are to discuss different and even contradictory points of view, tackle very different issues and be amenable to new methods and solutions. Any notion of hierarchy is totally excluded.

This event is the first of a long series. It will therefore serve as a test. Energie-Cités relies on the constructive spirit of the participants to remedy what can be improved.

4. THE SEMINAR FORMAT

The seminar includes 7 sessions: 5 theme sessions + the opening and closing sessions

The opening session will aim to:

- Introduce the participants,
- Present the IMAGINE initiative and the objectives of the seminar,
- Collect the first reactions and suggestions from the participants.

The objective of the (5) theme sessions is to initiate scientific foresight reflection on the theme: "Imagining energy for the future of our communities".

The expression of certainties (that of the technicians or of the policymakers) and the expression of ideologies, whether they be green, pink, black or blue will not, therefore, be encouraged.

Each theme session will aim to:

- Investigate the issue in hand from a specific angle (technological, social, etc.)
- Provide material that will be used as a basis for future IMAGINE works
- Highlight uncertainties or further questions
- Identify key points
- Structure collective thought.

The closing session will aim to:

- Evaluate the seminar, both in terms of the content and of the format
- Highlight the questions that were not – or were insufficiently dealt with
- Make proposals regarding the continuation of our work and future IMAGINE seminars

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