
JOINT DYNAMIX/POLFREE POLICY PLATFORM

13-14 APRIL 2015, BRUSSELS

Session 3: Policy mixes to boost resource efficiency

Overview of results from DYNAMIX

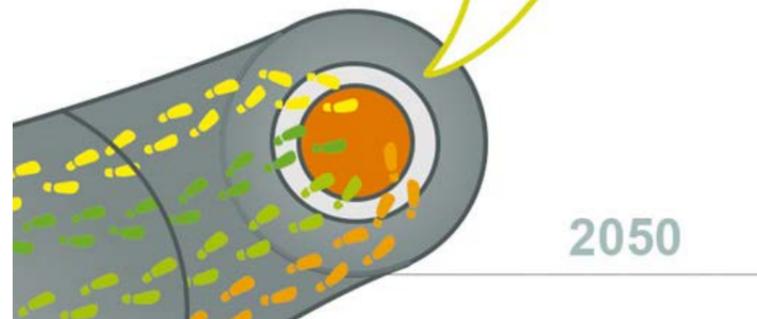
- Development of policy mixes
- Qualitative assessment

Martin Nesbit – Institute for European
Environmental Policy

DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY MIXES

Key targets 2050:

- **Greenhouse gas emissions:** 2 t CO₂-eq / capita.
- **Metals:** reducing consumption of virgin metals by 80%.
- **Land use:** zero net demand of non-EU arable land.
- **Nutrients:** reducing nitrogen and phosphorus surpluses.
- **Fresh water:** no water scarcity in any region.



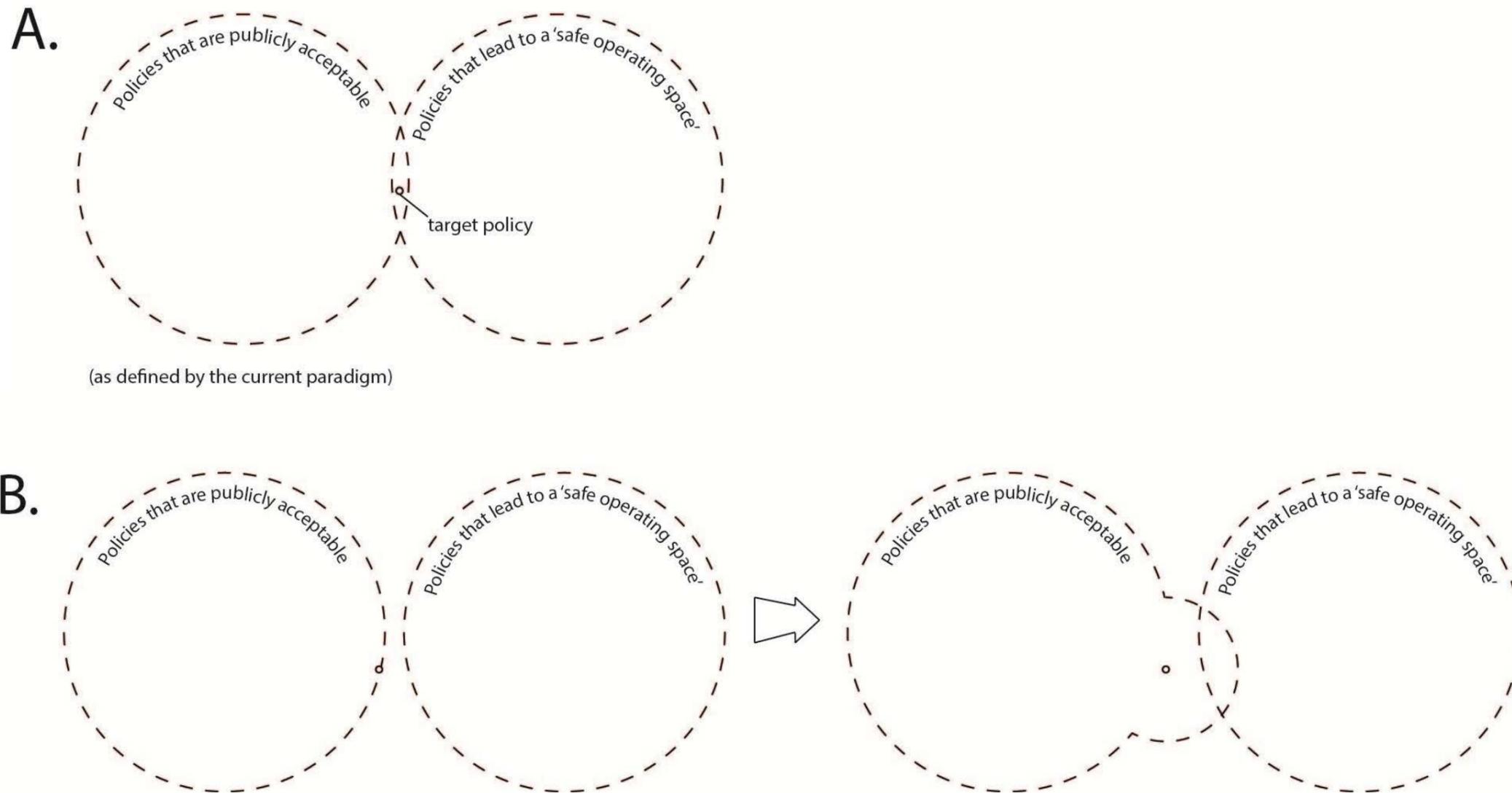
- 5 targets for 2050 identified in the early stages of the project
- Illustrative policy mixes to help achieve them
- One over-arching policy mix
- Two focused on specific issues:
 - Metals
 - Land use
- Initial results published in February – see <http://dynamix-project.eu/development-dynamix-policy-mixes>

COMMON PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE POLICY MIXES

- Based on analysis of drivers of consumption and production
- Aware of behavioural and governance issues, and contributing to paradigm change
- Diversity of types of instrument
- Adaptive
- Aware of risks of negative impacts elsewhere (substitution; geographical leakage)

Following policy mix development, ex ante assessment (qualitative; quantitative) to identify impacts and issues.

DEVELOPING A “THEORETICAL PATHWAY FOR PARADIGM CHANGE”



PATHWAYS TO PARADIGM CHANGE: ISSUES

- The way policymakers work can reinforce negative worldviews
- Branding matters: words and rhetoric need to be chosen carefully
- Acceptability can be helped by (eg):
 - Consultation and participation
 - Recycling revenues
 - Concessions to target groups
 - Framing policy in the context of a wider transition; but
- There are risks of a trade-off with efficiency
- Political capital matters; as does improved citizen engagement

OUR APPROACH TO QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

- Examining the key policies in each mix (maximum of 8)
- Considering environmental; social; economic; and governance aspects (governance assessment includes both legal and public acceptability issues)
- Based primarily on literature review supplemented by expert interviews, although with multi-lingual Google Trends analysis for public acceptability
- Challenge of assessing cumulative impacts, and interplay between impacts
- Challenge of addressing uncertainty

SOME INITIAL FINDINGS (1)

- **Tax on meat products**

Social: Significant potential health benefits, both from healthier diets but also from reduced emissions; but regressive social impact, with some potential nutrition downsides

Governance: Challenge of securing agreement on tax instruments; and highly contentious, with significant hostile lobbying likely

Environmental: positive impacts on land use and emissions, some of which will impact outside EU

- **Possible adjustments:**

Focus initially on luxury goods; 5-year transitional exemptions; and secure more support first through other policies (information, etc) aimed at securing paradigm change

SOME INITIAL FINDINGS (2)

- **Product standards**

Social: Significant potential health benefits, both from healthier diets but also from reduced emissions; but regressive social impact, with some potential nutrition downsides

Governance: Need to ensure compatibility with WTO TBT requirements;

Environmental: Medium to low impacts on the 4 key environmental issues considered.

- **Possible adjustments:**

Challenge will be in ensuring a good balance between regulatory impact, and environmental benefits to be gained from products now yet targeted.

SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- Policy makers tend to think in terms of positive incremental change, and then adapting policy where needed. Starting with planetary limits, and thinking back to policy needs now, to ensure we are sufficiently ambitious from the start, is harder.
- The inter-connectedness of the systems we are dealing with (both environmental and economic) creates feedback loops that policymakers – and analysts - must address.
- Humility: we should probably assume that a significant proportion of our policy ideas won't work, for as yet unidentified reasons.
- We need to develop good heuristics for policy-makers to address these complexities.
- It all comes back to improving public understanding of the problems, and the implications of long-term goals.