

# SUSPENS research project

Presentation Round Table

11-02-2016

## BRAIN project (2015-2019)

(Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks)

- Thematic axis “major societal challenges”
- Transition to a low-carbon and resource-efficient society
- Inequalities and redistributive issues of transition

### Partners



Centre for Social Policy, UAntwerpen



Federal Planning Bureau

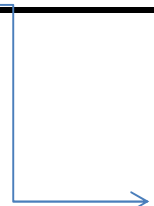


IGEAT, ULB

# Research objectives

Project title:

“Reconciling environmental and social dimensions  
in the transition towards a low-carbon society”



Structural societal change

Result of mutually reinforcing developments in different  
domains of society: economic, cultural, technological, ecological

Long timeframe

# Research objectives

Project title:

“Reconciling environmental and social dimensions in the transition towards a low-carbon society”

1. Attain a thorough understanding of the **link** between incomes, consumption and GHG emissions
2. Explore the interdependencies and inequalities operating at the **micro-level of the household**
3. Identify and test empirically how sustainability **policy** can reconcile social and environmental goals

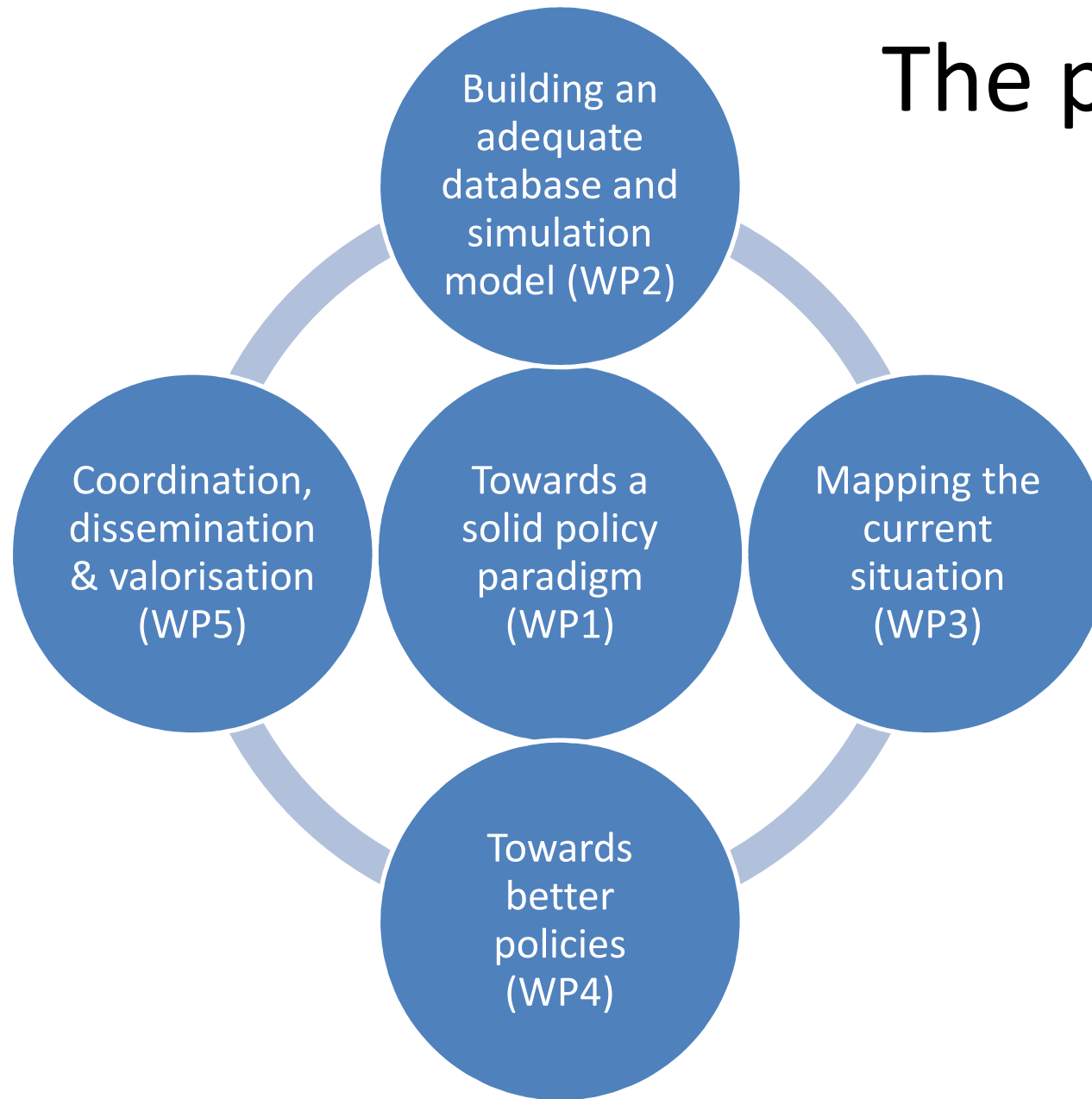
# Research questions


- How can the apparent **trade-off** between environmental and social objectives be understood with respect to low-carbon policies?
- What **mechanisms** are at play that explain how household actors are affected differently by low carbon policies, generating **socio-environmental inequalities**?
- Under what conditions do conflicts between competing policy goals emerge, and under what conditions can distributive and low carbon objectives be **reconciled**?
- What “high potential” **policy packages** can be identified that could succeed in reconciling social and environmental objectives?
- What are the **governance mechanisms** at play when looking at low-carbon policies and what could Belgium learn in terms of governance from other countries?

# Expected contribution

- Theoretical
- Methodological
- Empirical
- Dissemination

# The project



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Towards a  
solid policy  
paradigm  
(WP1)

- The **social-environmental interface** of sustainable development & low-carbon policy: conflicts, trade-offs, compatibilities
- the **household as a central actor** in the investigation of sustainability policy
- **crosscutting policy initiatives** for reconciling social, environmental and economic elements from a household level perspective



## 1. Construction of the new dataset “PEACHIE”

- Income (SILC, IPCAL)
- Consumption (HBS)
- Environmental impact of consumption  
→ *linked at the household level*

## 2. Adapt microsimulation model MEFISTO to run on PEACHIE

- *assess distributive & environmental impacts  
jointly*

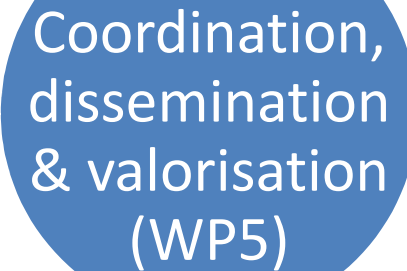
# Methodological steps

1. Linking household consumption data to their environmental impact
  - Enrich HBS consumption items with their CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent emissions (GHG) and possibly other types of air pollution
2. Matching household consumption and environmental impact data with income data
  - Test different matching options
3. Extending microsimulation model MEFISTO with carbon mitigation relevant policies
  - E.g. energy tariffs, indirect taxes, energy saving tax stimuli
  - Test different scenarios for impact on income distribution and environment

## Documenting:

- Relation income-consumption-pollution at the household level
- Current household-relevant low carbon policies + their redistributive effects
- Future targets and policies for Belgium
- Socio-political process of sustainability policy construction
  - interaction between EU level and national & regional processes and policy implementation in Belgium

- What can we learn from other countries and past experience?
- Designing and testing stylised policy packages for Belgium
  - Focus on mobility, food and housing policy
  - Measures that belong to and go beyond the current policy framework
  - Analysing their redistributive and carbon impacts jointly



Coordination,  
dissemination  
& valorisation  
(WP5)

- Follow-up committee
- Dissemination & valorisation
  - Presentations
  - Publications
  - International expert workshop
  - Sounding Board
  - Roundtable

# Round Table - Presentaties

- Aviel Verbruggen (UA-CSB) “Sustainable Energy Transitions”
- Dimi Jottier (FPB) “Sociale en milieudoelstellingen in de transitie”
- Grégoire Wallenborn (ULB-IGEAT) “Multi-dimensionalité des inégalités écologiques”
- Josefine Vanhille (UA-CSB)  
“Huishoudconsumptie als sociale praktijken”

# SUSPENS

