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- **Engaging stakeholders in science and technology: Adapted European Awareness Scenario Workshops in the INPROFOOD project**

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- **Abstract:**

- The authors present a concept for adapted and refined European Awareness Scenario Workshops (EASW), a method they apply in the FP7 project INPROFOOD. Since about 20 years EASW have been conducted in many countries. Usually this method is applied in urban planning in local contexts to create balanced participation of stakeholders in developing sustainable solutions. In general EASW are geared at reaching a shared vision on a given topic among different actors and to gather their knowledge about barriers, experiences, and needs. Furthermore, EASW participants propose steps to make these visions come true. It is a precondition for EASW that they are on topics where decisions still can be made. That way, they aim at promoting debate and democratic participation in decision making and form a basis for further discussions and assessments among policy makers, and, with outcomes being communicated widely, a broad range of stakeholders and society at large. In INPROFOOD the EASW approach is applied on national and European levels for developing shared visions of how to reconcile health concerns and innovations in food technology. In this project 39 EASW – three series of 13 workshops each - are conducted in 13 European countries. Among others, participants include policy makers, health and food professionals, representatives of consumer associations, trade unions, industrialist associations, organisations in public health, and self-help groups, and, of course, scientists. Connecting food technology with health is a constant task, irrespective of different views, because there are many varying needs in populations, and conflicts are inevitable. In such a conflict area, stakeholder involvement has to be as credible as possible and methods have to be optimised for and tailored to sensitive issues. The authors present the set of rules of EASW, the adaptations and refinements they made for making it more effective on national and European levels, their efforts to make this approach credible and transparent, the pitfalls to avoid in organising such participative processes, how the workshops fit into the framework of the INPROFOOD project and relate to other project activities, and discuss the limits of this method and what can be expected from the workshops.