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NRW 2020 - Microelectronics, labour market and possibilities of change (Project as part of the SoTech programme of the land of North Rhine-Westphalia), NRW 2000 working party (interim report, unpublished)

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**NRW 2020 - Microelectronics, labour market and possibilities of change (Project as part of the SoTech Programme of the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia), NRW 2000 working party (interim report, unpublished)**

*Weert Canzler*

The following is merely a short description of the NRW 2020 project. The final report produced by the NRW 2000 working party in 1989 is still being assessed by the client. It has therefore not been available so far. The basis for this report is thus the interim report of the project which began on 1 September 1986 and was published in 1988 as issue No 35 in the series of the regional programme "Man and technology - social responsibility and technology shaping". This interim report focuses above all on methodical problems and documents the progress of the project. It also includes initial scenarios which were used as a basis for the attempt to involve the population.

The report "NRW 2000 - microelectronics, labour market and possibilities of change" was commissioned, like the two studies by the DIW and Battelle Institut, by the Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia as part of the programme "Man and technology - social responsibility and technology shaping".

The NRW 2000 working party consists of scientists from the two institutes "Institut für angewandte Ökologie" (Öko-Institut), Freiburg und "Institut für Arbeit und Technik" (ifat) Hamburg.

This gives the project its main feature, i.e. that the NRW 2000 working party involves "fairly unconventional cooperation between an ecological and a labour-orientated research institute". The working party is geared to a regulatory concept of the future.

The aim of the project was "to help to increase the long-term options of the regional government of North Rhine-Westphalia in the development and application of microelectronics with the aid of the futuristic method developed by our working party". The project team was inspired in its "futurist approach" by the works of Robert Jungk. Accordingly, the team is interested in "pictures of possible futures" based on the needs and imagination of the population.

Ethical criteria will also be given room in these models of the future. In the view of the WP 2000 scenarios offer the best prospects.

The emphasis of the group's work lies in the production of three scenarios. To discover and make and use of free space in the process of technology shaping as many citizens and individuals as possible should be involved in scenario development, which is the central methodological instrument of the working party. All in all, more than 100 people from North Rhine-Westphalia and 15 from Hamburg in the pretest contributed to the discussion of the three scenarios.

The working parties were presented with the three scenarios: Scenario A "Multi-faceted North Rhine-Westphalia" is marked by a balance of interests and massive citizen participation in regional developments and technology development. Scenario B "Healthy North

Rhine-Westphalia" assumes technological development in line with the limitation of resources and danger to the natural bases of life. Scenario C "Strong North Rhine-Westphalia" takes particular account of the region's worldwide economic engagement and its high technology.

The scenarios were to be further developed by the more or less representative working parties of the Land of NRW. To this end three discussion rounds were planned. The groups were intended to cover all three scenarios in all discussion rounds. The aim was to gain understanding for different types of vision and to avoid a restriction on individual approaches.

Citizen participation was an independent and important aim of the project group. Accordingly, the discussion process as such was already seen as a success: "Many participants expressed their astonishment at the fact that up to that point they had never been asked by anyone to give some thought to the situation in the year 2020 and that this is now the case and that they are happy to participate in this innovative process of designing different scenarios with subsequent consideration of how society might achieve them".

Since the scenarios are geared to the environment, the subject of Europe occurs only indirectly. The focus is more on technical, social and cultural developments which are relevant for the whole of Europe beyond North Rhine-Westphalia and Germany.