Governance for Sustainable Development:

How to bring home the 2030 Agenda
for SD in Europe?

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Are we fit for purpose?

1) *2030 Agenda: From adoption to implementation;*

2) *Status-quo of governance for SD in EU and MS;*

3) *2030 Agenda governance provisions;*

4) *Recommendations from ESDN Conference 2015;*

5) *Conclusions and food for thought*

2030 Agenda for SD – the hard work begins…

"Countries now need to **move from inspirational commitments** undertaken at the UN **to the hard task of implementation** at the national [and EU] level."

(Derek Osborn, President Stakeholder Forum, think piece on SDGs, published in report for EEAC)

or

How to bring home the 'superlatives of hope'?

Status quo of SD governance in Europe – EU SDS

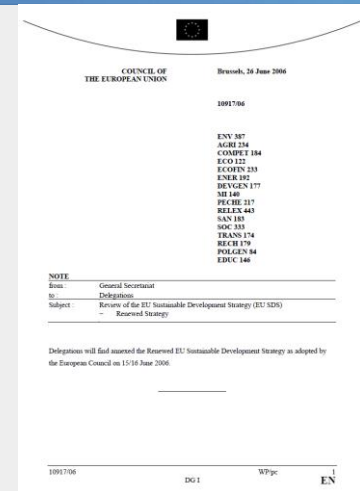**European Sustainable Development Strategy of 2006**

Officially still with us, but not an active policy process...

VERY MIXED BAG, but some things still active...

- NSDSs: achieved since 2007 – but different degree of activities; *no steering / coordination from EU level*

- Eurostat Monitoring Reports on the EU SDS (since 2007, last one Sept 2015)

- Networks ESDN and EEAC continue to offer their exchange platforms

Coming up...

- Karl Falkenberg works on report on the EU SDS due in June 2016.

Europe 2020 Strategy

Also still with us, but from previous Commission…

→ Not an SD strategy (though with links to SD, e.g. resource efficiency)

Streamlined and coordinated implementation and review process:

- 5 headline targets, 7 flagship initiatives
- European Semester and Annual Growth Survey
- National Reform Programs at the MS level (done every year, latest April 2015); country-specific recommendations

Review to be expected later in 2015 (also based on results of public consultation)

National SD governance processes

National SD Strategy processes

All EU MS & most European countries have

strategic SD process, most have NSDSs (26 out of 28 EU MS)

- Great variety in NSDS processes
- Latest activities: new French NSDS (2015), Finnish Societal Commitments (2013), Switzerland (new NSDS 2016)

NSDS activities exist on all governance principles:

a) Vertical integration (coordination between different government levels);
b) Horizontal integration (coordination between ministries on the same level);
c) Participation (inclusion of stakeholders);
d) Review processes (qualitative reviews and evaluations); and
e) Monitoring processes (quantitative, indicator based reports)

Implementation process:

❖ "**Cohesive nationally owned SD strategies**, supported by **national financial frameworks**, will be at the heart of our efforts";

❖ **Important role of stakeholders**: national governments and parliaments, private sector, CSOs → multi-stakeholder partnerships

Follow-up and review processes:

- Will be **"voluntary and country-led",** taking into account **"different national realities";**

- Will build on **"existing platforms and processes"** and will be "**open, inclusive, participatory and transparent** for all people"

Regional level (e.g. EU):

○ "**facilitate the effective translation** of SD policies into **concrete action at national level**";

○ Provides "useful opportunities for **peer learning** (incl. voluntary reviews), **sharing of best practices** and **discussion on shared targets**"

"Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SD at the EU and national level: Designing effective governance architectures and strategic frameworks"

- ✓ **About 90 participants from 22 countries** (EU and national policy-makers, CSOs, business, research)
- ✓ **David Donoghue,** Co-chair of the Post-2015 Development Agenda negotiations
- ✓ **Keynotes, conversations, group work**

2030 Agenda implementation - general

(1) Political commitment is crucial:
- 2030 Agenda implementation needs to be seen *'shared priority' by EU and MS levels*;
- *New strategic EU approach on SD* should be endorsed by all institutions.

(2) Europe needs overarching SD framework strategy:
- *Lighthouse strategy* for EU and MS level;
- Should be complemented by *new engaging SD narrative and policy instruments*;
- Establishing *ambitious frontrunner position* for international implementation

(3) SDGs as strategic and central policy objectives:
- SDG implementation as *11th policy priority of the European Commission*;
- Integrating SDGs into *new Europe 2020+ strategy*;
- Giving SDGs *priority in national development plans and budgets*

(4) Making use of existing structures and processes
- ... as resources and capacities will remain limited...
- *Make use of existing successful processes* → focus on *policy coherence*

Long-term vision and short-term action
- Long-term vision for *2050* necessary;
- Short-term *action plans* to guarantee implementation

Vertical policy integration
- *Coordination & cooperation* among the various political levels（EU，MS，subnational）;
- *Shared responsibility* in implementation;
- Strong *bottom-up* dimension

Horizontal policy integration
- *Changing silo-structures and -mentalities* in policy-making／administration;
- Creating system of *'sustainability checks' or 'tick-boxes'* for each ministry;
- *Spaces for exchange* and cooperation between ministries

2030 Agenda impl. – governance principles/2

Stakeholder participation

- Encourage and enable *grass-roots initiatives and experimentation*;
- *Exchange platforms for all stakeholders*, not only institutionalized ones;
- CSOs important to *reach out and raise awareness* for 2030 Agenda

Follow-up, review and learning

- *Headline indicators* needed and linked to communication strategy;
- Establishing *peer learning process* between countries (role of the ESDN);
- *Learning mentality and adaptive changes*, rather than defensive mindset

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Governance *for* SD principles, approaches and examples in Europe

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Thanks for your attention!

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