Networking to achieve coherence and synergies between national and European SD programmes and policies

Key note
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Sustainability Networking: Our Aims

- To **link** national and EU level: People and strategies/programmes
- To find out positive **synergies**
- To discuss in how far **coherence** makes sense and is necessary
- To **intensify dialogue** on sustainable development in an enlarged Europe – to **strengthen the issue**
- To find **common views** on networking needs
Sustainability Networking: Features

- Multi-level (EU, national, regional/local)
- Diverse (countries MS/accession, different hierarchies, gender etc.)
- Intersectoral!
- Via personal capacity
- Via venues (meetings) and other channels (mail): Without „formal“ network
- Informal/formal
- Bi- and multilateral
- „Heart-driven“
Sustainability Networking: Why?

Policy Coherence

- What kind of „coherence“ (targets, issues etc.) do we need/want between the different processes and levels (EU-SSD, NSSDs, regional, local)?

- Do we need networking between NSSDs only?

- Should the EU-SSD be a „top down“ strategy?
  How can we influence this process?
  What is the role of European Commission?

- We need strong SD-policies at all levels!
Sustainability Networking: Why?

Positive Synergies

- Exchange of good practice (policies, projects), information (e.g. what is the EU SD-Strategy?) and experience
- Support (human and on the subject)
- Together we are stronger!
- Strengthening of issue as such
- Common “pressure” on EU level and vice versa
- “Competition” in the network as positive incentive
Sustainability Networking: Why else?

Positive Synergies

✓ „Not to invent the wheel again“:
  Problems ⇒ Solutions
✓ Know-how transfer (e.g. methods used)
✓ Transfer of lessons learned
  (participation, policy innovations etc.)
✓ Who is working on what?
✓ Higher efforts to experiment

Same input of energy, higher output!
Sustainability Networking: Who?

Who would have to network with whom? Different „Networks“ at national and EU level

- EU Coordinators (SD-Strategy, 6 EAP, Lisbon and Cardiff process)
- National SD Coordinators
- EEAC – Scientific Community
  - (irregular) meetings
  - no linkages yet
- + different sectors/stakeholders
- Not to forget the regional and the local level!
Sustainability Networking: How and where?

Venues and Channels

- By chance or organised?
- Regular network-meetings and/or via internet?
- Plenary and/or sub working groups?
- „Open Space“ (what actually matters to you) or fixed agenda?
- EU and national level together?
- Inter- and transdisciplinary?
- Intersectoral?
Sustainability Networking: Governance perspectives

✓ Linking Top down and bottom up: How to create political leadership?
✓ Designing new decision making processes (transparency, participation)
✓ New models of policy making/policy innovations (against the background of different political systems) and experiments

✓ How can we best learn from each other?
Let`s network!

“As individuals we are words, together we can be a poem.”