Topic 1: Relevance of EU SCP Action Plan for SD strategies

Facts
- SCP still controversial issue; much unclarity about AP
- SCP – NSDS processes: parallel vs. integrated in MS
- Insufficiencies of EU SCP AP: lifestyles, social dimension, consumption

Challenges
- Link AP to the global dimension
- Test the completeness
- Need for Education for SD/SCP (including consumers, producers, retailers, services, etc.)
- Controversial: consumption → do we need to consume everything all the time? Reduce consumption?
- “getting the prizes right”
Topic 1: Relevance of EU SCP Action Plan for SD strategies

Options

• Incentives and assistance (for corporations, consumers, etc.)
• SPP is the starting point
• Application of research results on SCP / knowledge transfer / best practices
• EC should publish green paper/communication on Education for SD
• Communications necessary to explain AP’s vision and solution offered
• EU level plan required to enable national SCP strategies
• Identify all actors along the supply chain → define actions for each one (AP needs to define roles for the various actors)
Topic 2: How can public policies on CSR contribute to SD?

Facts
- CSR is a contribution to SD
- Governments should promote CSR with soft-law
- But: CSR policies are “the icing on the cake” (cannot replace law/meet important objectives); different: SR

Challenges
- How to improve transparency, comparability, traceability and verification of corporate practices (production chains)?
- How to bring CSR to society (stakeholder groups)?
- How to better integrate CSR policies (horizontally: SD-CSR, vertically: EU-MS)?
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Options
- Reporting laws
- Labels
- Management tools (GRI, ISO ...)
- “ask for traceability of production chains”
- Economic incentives (SRI)
- Raise awareness
- Facilitate social dialogues
- Make use of labels
- Involve actors (unions)
- Lead by example (or “walk the talk”) by facilitating SR in governments
  - SPP
  - SRI
  - Reporting
  - Stakeholder dialogues
Topic 3 – integrating CSR into SDS

Facts
• Different actors involved in all countries
• OECD, ILO, UN form a common ground but are implemented differently
• Great variety of CSR-Policies (e.g. obligatory reporting, pension funds, CSR strategy, local level)

Challenges
• How to link top-down-SDS with bottom-up-CSR
• How to leave flexibility for companies / countries and ensure coherence of CSR-policies in Europe
• Gap between scientists, policy makers and managers

Options
• Continuous stakeholder dialogues
• Awareness raising and information for companies
• Awards, prices
• Sustainable public procurement
• National CSR-strategies
Topic 3 – integrating SCP into SDS

**Facts**
- only a very few EU countries has integrated SCP in SDS
- great variety of SCP implementation and mechanisms

**Challenges**
- coordination of Lisbon reports and SDS reports on SCP
- better exchange of best practices of SCP between countries

**Options**
- Impact assessments to ensure coherence of policies
- Identifying what SCP means in practice
- SCP action plan should be adopted as soon as possible
Topic 4 – How to foster SPP?

Facts

• GPP more often addressed than SPP (guidelines, regulations)
  • Environmental issues easier to include
  • Environmental issues focused on product rather than process
  • Difficult to specify social criteria
• GPP implementation: Environmental criteria really decisive factor in public procurement?
  • Guidelines not clear enough; not enough awareness
• Public purchasers: Lack of capacities for GPP/SPP purchasing decisions (functionality, specifications, etc)

Challenges

• Training for public purchasers crucial (e.g. life-cycle costing)
• Specify social criteria for public purchasing
• SPP needs cross-sectoral approach to acknowledge coherence: But clear responsibilities in each monitoring (SD Action Plan) & monitoring
Topic 4 – How to foster SPP?

Options

• Step-by-step approach:
  • Develop clear (quantified) criteria for GPP; make GPP mandatory
  • Comprehensive GPP first in sectors with biggest impacts on environment (i.e. construction, transport, food & drinks)
  • Then address social & environmental issues (SPP)
• Clear signals & high-level political support for SPP (NSDS, policy frameworks, etc)
**Facts**

- **Great variety of experiences** (national SD councils, specialized platforms, ad hoc)
- **Varying quality** (professionalism often missing, NGO often not allowed)
- **Participation trap for NGOs** (lacking resources, political misuse or as free consultants)

**Challenges**

- **Keep momentum** (create incentives, ensuring continuity, focus on concrete results)
- **Integrate non organized interests** (frontrunners, individuals)
- **Representativity of business organizations** (integrate SME)
- **Treat NGOs properly** (provide access to info, financial compensation (?)

**Options**

- **Increase professionalism** (clear rules of the game, appropriate tools)
- **Include all relevant interests** (equal footing, institutions + frontrunners)
- **Create incentives** (GPP to motivate SME, visible impacts)
- **Create a specialized watchdog NGO dedicated to CSR**