

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, prizes
- 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
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Challenges

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



Topic 5 – Govt. – Non Govt. Interface



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*

