

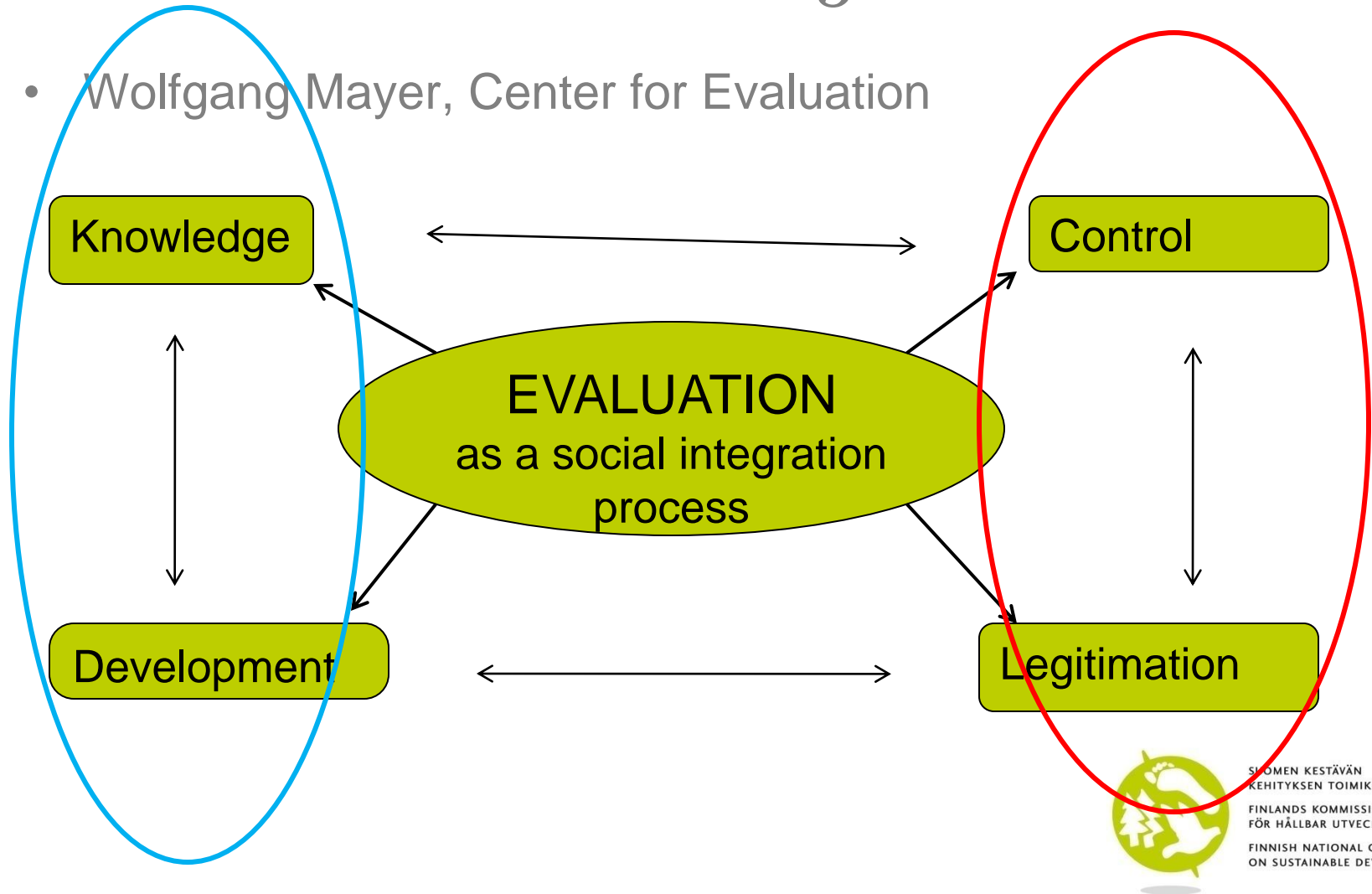


*Integrating sustainability assessment into
sustainable development policy-making*

*Annika Lindblom, FNCSD/MoE
ESDN Conference, 19 June 2009*

Lessons learned from Brussels SD Policy Assessment Conference 15-16 June

- Wolfgang Mayer, Center for Evaluation



Lessons learned and mind confused

- Jungle of concepts and definitions:
 - Evaluations, assessments, impacts assessments, appraisals, reviews etc.
- World of intrinsic systems and faculties
 - Science > researchers
 - Administration > policy-planners and –makers
 - Policy > governments and cabinets; decision-makers
 - Evaluation > consultants, contractors
- Gap between the (narrow) methodologies and (broad) fields of assessments: new tools, models and scenarios are needed



Key challenges:

- Create a process which pulls together knowledge (science), strategies (governance), indicators (monitoring) and assessments (analysis)
- Search for an assessment approach where environmental, social and economic perspectives are considered in an integrative / balanced way
- Give guidance to policy-planning: how to manage the long-term goals with uncertain impacts and complexity of the societal challenges
- Add value to the transparent, participatory and future-oriented SD policy-planning tradition
- Help politicians to make justified and sound decisions



Finnish model of Sustainable Development

- Continuity on the political agenda (since 1987)
- Long history of strategies and programmes on SD (since 1990)
- Continuous vertical and horizontal coordination
 - National Commission on Sustainable Development as the main facilitator since 1993
- Leadership on a high political level (Government)
- Institutionalized political dialogue between the government and the stakeholders
- Shared and diversified operational responsibility amongst the Government departments

➤ Towards Governance for Sustainable Development

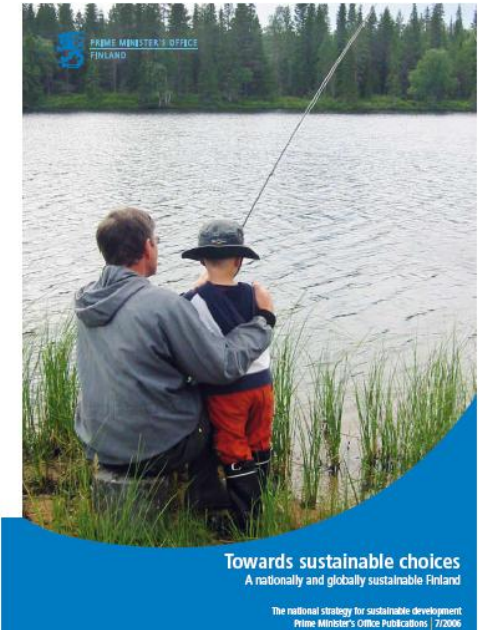


SUOMEN KESTÄVÄN
KEHITYKSEN TOIMIKUNTA
FINLANDS KOMMISSION
FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING
FINNISH NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Assessment scope: Implementation of NSDS 2006

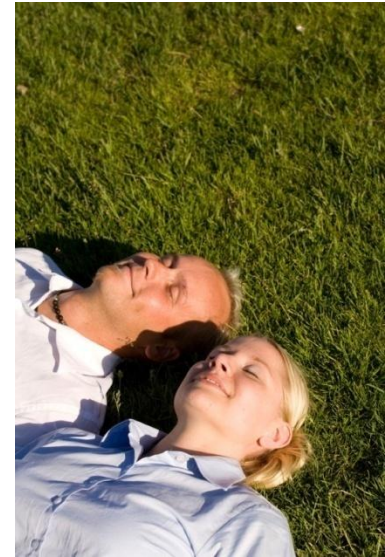
National SD Strategy:

- Defines the strategic SD policy objectives for the government, administration, business and the whole society
- **Key guidelines are to be included in the Government and policy programmes**
- To be assessed every two years in close linkage with the EU's assessment process
- **The FNCSD as a process manager:** support concretizing, implementation and evaluation of the objectives of the NSDS



SUOMEN KESTÄVÄN
KEHITYKSEN TOIMIKUNTA
FINLANDS KOMMISSION
FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING
FINNISH NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mainstreaming SD



Strategic level

- Policy coherence: inclusion of SD goals in sector policies
- Permanent Secretary engagement
- Civil society engagement

Operational level

- Implementation of NSDS
- Requirement for ministries and their agencies to draw up organization-specific SD Action Plans with practical measures (from Green Offices to Sustainable Offices)

Methodological level

- Designing and conducting an assessment process for SD
- Monitoring the trend by indicators; updating & development
- Participating in impact assessment development



SUOMEN KESTÄVÄN
KEHITYKSEN TOIMIKUNTA
FINLANDS KOMMISSION
FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING
FINNISH NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“

According to the NSDS:

- the economic, social and environmental impacts shall be taken into account during the transition to sustainable development
> **PROCESS INTEGRATION**
- An integrated assessment of the impacts of sustainable development will be applied in the policy programmes and plans resulting from the Strategy
> **HORIZONTAL INTEGRATION**
- A systematic model will be developed to enable assessment of the Strategy's impacts at the national, regional and local levels
> **VERTICAL INTEGRATION**

And according to the EU SDS

- Bridge the gap between science, policy-making and implementation



SUOMEN KESTÄVÄN
KEHITYKSEN TOIMIKUNTA
FINLANDS KOMMISSION
FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING
FINNISH NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Assessment workplan (Ramboll)

1.	Analysing the target and defining the criteria	April 2009
2.	Reporting template to Ministries and all member organizations of the FNCSD, April 2009 <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. SD objectives and their weight in the organisation2. Measures to implement the SD objectives3. SD programmes of action in place4. The added-value of the SD strategy5. Future challenges	April 2009
3.	Compiling and analysing the reports	June 2009
4.	Modelling the impact logic for each target area	July-August 2009



Assessment workplan (cont.)

5.	Interviews, workshops • Management and operational levels	August 2009
6.	Quick scoping review	August 2009
7.	Mapping the measures and impacts	Sept. 2009
8.	Complementary interviews	Sept.-Oct. 2009
9.	Analysing the results; conclusions	October 2009
10.	Validating the results	November 2009
11.	Reporting the results • FNCSD meeting • National Parliament	December 2009 Early 2010



Process outcome: Evaluation report

- Analysis on the **implementation of the objectives** of the NSDS as a whole and on a thematic basis
- Assessment on the **impacts and on the state of sustainable development** in Finland
- Review on the **key future challenges and scenarios**;
recommendations for future steps and priorities
- Introduction of a **toolkit for state administration** in considering SD targets in their policy-planning



Expected added value to policy-making

- Increases knowledge on the positive and negative trends as well as critical hot spots
- Increases knowledge on the potential conflicts and synergies across the economic, environmental and social domains
- Contributes to more coherent, informed and sustainable planning & decisions across the government departments
- Demonstrates the thematic societal priorities for immediate action and future target-setting
- Provides concrete instruments for the sector ministries to mainstream SD into national policy-making
- Encourages the local and other actors to follow the national example

**GOVERNANCE
BY
EVALUATION**



SUOMEN KESTÄVÄN
KEHITYKSEN TOIMIKUNTA
FINLANDS KOMMISSION
FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING
FINNISH NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



www.environment.fi/sustainabledevelopment

Annika.Lindblom@ymparisto.fi

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



SUOMEN KESTÄVÄN
KEHITYKSEN TOIMIKUNTA
FINLANDS KOMMISSION
FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING
FINNISH NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT