

First results of parallel working groups

[Governance mechanisms & structures + impact assessment]

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Horizontal integration

- + High-level political commitment
- + SD Task Force in EC (all Commissioners)
- + SD Committee at high level
- + SD contact person in every DG
- + „Translation“ of SD topics in all sectoral policies
- + Joint strategies
- Weak SDS Coordinators Group
- Non-independent committees
- Lack of rules and processes for integration at all levels

Vertical integration

- + Implementation plan with clear division of responsibilities
- + Stronger position of national/sub-national levels
- + SD contact person in every ministry
- + Coherent indicators on all levels
- Different power and influence of MS and regions
- Not enough coordination and communication among the levels



Stakeholder involvement

- + Stronger role of EU Parliament
- + Stronger involvement of stakeholders (enabling environments; citizens fora)
- + Stronger role at EU level for national SD Councils
- Not including the capacities and knowledge of stakeholders to be avoided
- Intransparent process

Institutional structures

- + Better use of existing structure (SDS coordinators group)
- + SD Committee at EP
- + New body at Council and Commission level
- avoid institutions with no „real“ mandate and responsibility
- no „sectoralisation“ of SD (SD Ministry)

Monitoring & review mechanisms

- + Progress report: better follow-up, EC Delegation to MS, recommendations (points to watch)
- + Yearly and shorter or every couple of years more comprehensive
- + More quantified targets – linked to indicators – followup to strengthen actions
- + Exchange of best practices and good ideas
 - Benchmarking
 - Goals that we cannot measure (indicators)

SD criteria for impact assessment

- Unified system of criteria needed for 3 pillars
- Include additional aspects like public participation, long-term effects, local-global, etc.
- Stakeholder involvement in definition of assessment criteria
- Transparency about valuing methods

Managing SD strategies

- Install permanent interministerial working group for IA
- Install entity for ensuring quality of IA
- EU requirements (structural funds) trigger activities but no plans for phasing out

Informed decision making

- Benchmarking makes assessments interesting to policy-makers
- Timely, targeted, short, specific language
- Publish evaluation reports
- Install a process of continued information and training about IA also to enable to judge evaluation quality
- Institutional arrangements like IA boards, help-desks, etc.
- Border between the scientific (objective) and political (normative) stages needs to be made clear