

Governance for Sustainable Development: Effective governance architecture and principles for the 2030 Agenda implementation

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**Governance for SD for
2030 Agenda implementation:**

Are we fit for purpose?

- 1) Status quo of SD Governance at EU level
- 2) NSDSs processes at the national level
- 3) What governance is envisaged in 2030 Agenda?
- 4) EU Council Conclusions of May 2015
- 5) Governance for SD: Themes for group work

**Governance for SD for
2030 Agenda implementation:**

Are we fit for purpose?

“Countries now need to **move from inspirational commitments** undertaken at the UN **to the hard task of implementation** at the national [and EU] level.”

(Derek Osborn, think piece on SDGs, published in report for EEAC)

or

How to bring home the ‘superlatives of hope’?

Status quo of SD governance at the EU level



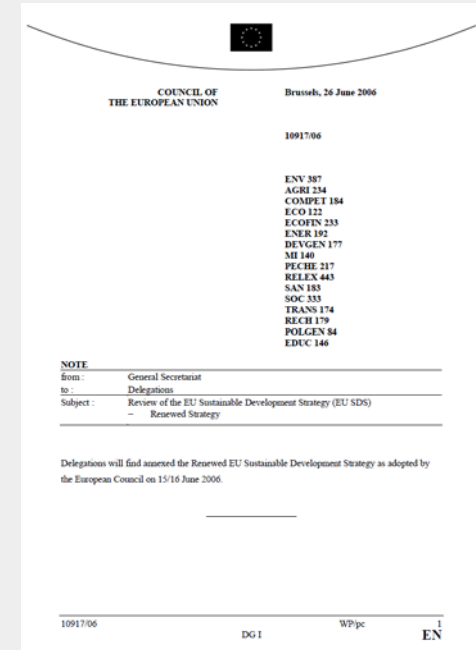
European Sustainable Development Strategy of 2006

Officially still with us, but not an active policy process...

(1) **10 policy guiding principles** (e.g. involvement of citizens, policy coherence and governance, policy integration);

(2) **7 key challenges**, with objectives, targets and actions;

(3) Range of **policy instruments**, incl. economic instruments, taxation shift, financial, and information instruments



Status quo of SD governance at the EU level



EU SDS implementation and follow-up

A mixed bag...

- Progress Reports: only 2007 and 2009
- Comprehensive review planned for 2011 – never materialized
- SDS Coordinators Group: met only twice (2006 and 2007)
- Voluntary peer reviews: not even a handful of countries; only Germany still does it

Still active...

- NSDSs: achieved since 2007 – but different degree of activities; *no steering / coordination from EU level*
- Eurostat Monitoring Reports on the EU SDS (since 2007, last one Sept 2015)
- Networks ESDN and EEAC continue to offer their exchange platforms

Coming up...

- Karl Falkenberg works on report on the EU SDS due in July 2016.

Status quo of SD governance at the EU level



Europe 2020 Strategy

Also still with us, but from previous Commission...

→ Not an SD strategy (though with links to SD, e.g. resource efficiency)



Streamlined and coordinated implementation and review process:

- 5 headline targets, 7 flagship initiatives
- European Semester and Annual Growth Survey (governance architecture and monitoring mechanism) → “greening the semester” initiative
- National Reform Programs at the MS level (done every year, latest April 2015); country-specific recommendations

Review to be expected later in 2015 (also based on results of public consultation)

National SD Strategy processes

All EU MS & most European countries have strategic SD process, most have NSDSs (26 out of 28 EU MS)

- Great variety in NSDS processes
- Latest activities: new French NSDS (2015), Finnish Societal Commitments (2013), Switzerland (new NSDS 2016)



NSDS process themes – activities exist in all themes:

- a) Vertical integration (coordination between different government levels);
- b) Horizontal integration (coordination between ministries on the same level);
- c) Participation (inclusion of stakeholders);
- d) Review processes (qualitative reviews and evaluations); and
- e) Monitoring processes (quantitative, indicator based reports)

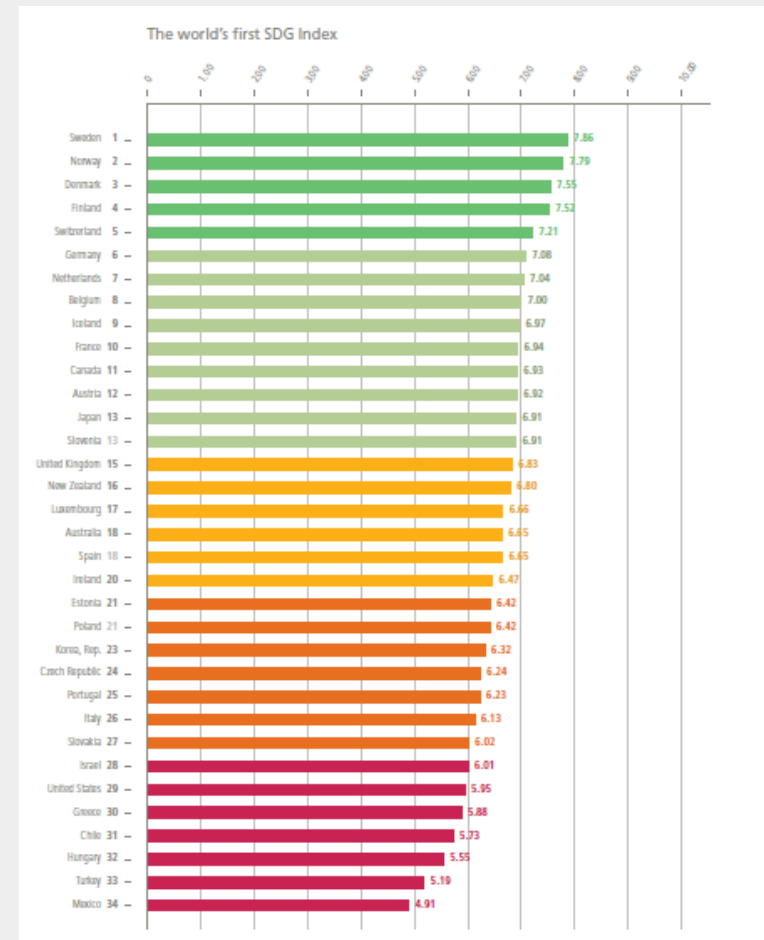
Bertelsmann study, 'SDGs: Are the rich countries ready?' (2015)



In-depth look at the performance of OECD countries regarding the proposed 17 SDGs:

→ Currently, “OECD countries vary greatly in their capacity to meet these bold ambitions OECD countries”

→ “Not all countries are fit for the goals, and indeed no one country performs outstandingly in every goal”



2030 Agenda – governance provisions



Implementation process:

- “*Cohesive nationally owned SD strategies, supported by national financial frameworks, will be at the heart of our efforts*”
- “*(...) each country has primary responsibility for its own Economic and social development (...)*”

- **Important role of stakeholders:** national governments and parliaments, private sector, civil society organizations, etc
- SDG 17 on systemic issues:
 - Policy and institutional **coherence** (through policy coordination)
 - **Multi-stakeholder partnerships** (knowledge, expertise, technology, financial resources)
 - **Data, monitoring and accountability** (data availability, measuring progress to complement GDP)



2030 Agenda – governance provisions



Follow-up and review processes:

- Will be *“voluntary and country-led”*, taking into account *“different national realities”*
- Will build on *“existing platforms and processes”* and will be *“open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people”*



National level:

- Encouraged to develop *“practicable ambitious national responses”* and *“build on existing planning instruments, e.g. NSDSs”*,
- Should conduct *regular and inclusive reviews of progress*.

Regional level (e.g. EU):

- Provides *“useful opportunities for peer learning (incl. voluntary reviews), sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets”*;
- Will *draw on national level reviews* and feed global reviews;
- Building on *“existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level”*

New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015 (May 26, 2015)

Defined 8 key components of the global partnership (picked 3 on governance):

1) An enabling and conducive policy environment at all levels

- “All countries need to *promote effective and inclusive institutions* and develop transparent policies (...);
- Successful implementation requires “*policy coherence at all levels*”

2) Developing capacity to deliver

- Ensuring *capacity to design and implement* policies;
- Requires an *enabling environment for civil society*

3) Mobilization and effective use of domestic public finance

- Importance of *mainstreaming SD in domestic public finance* (e.g. natural capital accounting, gender sensitive budgeting, etc.)

Themes for group work



“What do we need for an effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SD at the European level?”

- (1) *Long-term vision* (2030/2050) *vs. short-term actions* (influenced by elections, pressing daily issues, media pressure, etc.);**
- (2) *Vertical coordination processes* (clear and mixed competences: how to achieve complementarity?);**
- (3) *Horizontal integration mechanisms* (how to get rid of ‘silo culture’?);**
- (4) *Stakeholder participation and partnerships* (pros and cons of broad involvement);**
- (5) *Follow-up, review and learning* (voluntary/mandatory, quantitative/qualitative, learning vs. defending culture, etc.)**

Thank yous



Thanks for your attention!

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