

ESDN Conference 2020: The European Green Deal: Our Pact for the Future

Summary of Breakout Groups

Resilience and SD: Lessons Still Being Learned from COVID-19

This breakout group was moderated by **Gerald Berger** from the ESDN Office at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. The breakout group participants first discussed how both the Covid-19 crisis and sustainability challenges connect people globally. **The impacts of Covid-19 are a global experience of crisis, but on the other hand the SDGs are a globally shared framework of action.** Covid-19 has exposed aspects that were not going well in society, including environmental and societal issues. Furthermore, societal assets have been uncovered. However, sometimes governments could not absorb these assets and declined societal offers.

Participants then discussed **the meaning of resilience. It describes the capacity of systems to prepare for, respond to, and recover from risks.** To increase resilience, it is crucial to have an integrated management approach with operational crisis management for practical application. The question remains whether **resilience can be a compass for a systemic transformation towards a sustainable society.** The next steps towards increasing resilience include, firstly, political leadership to set the tone and drive the process. This includes 'preparedness' and trust in society. We also need an 'all-risks approach'. Covid-19 is not the only risk we are currently facing. **Evidence-based policy-making** is another crucial aspect for resilience, which includes expert analysis and guidance. Finally, it is important to engage all of society to be responsive to diverse needs.