



GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Question:

How to catalyse systemic change, build resilience
and enable recovery in Europe by powerful
Governance for Sustainable Development?



Policy coherence = sustainability governance?

Building blocks:

- Leadership and political commitment
- Institutions supporting coherence and dialogue
- Strategies and policies beyond Government terms
- Effective means and participatory mechanisms
- Trust & intergenerational justice
- Economy supporting social and environmental targets
- Policy-making relying on science-based information
- Global responsibility in national decisions

How does the current Governance of the European Union support the systemic change to sustainability?

- ▶ Commission leadership and coordination mechanism?
- ▶ Green Deal being the economic investment strategy for Europe?
- ▶ From a cost to investment logic?
- ▶ Not to externalize the social dimension?
- ▶ Role of environment and climate agenda in the EU ERRM: to be mainstreamed or rather establish the foundation/boundary for the mechanism (Hans from EEA)?
- ▶ How could the ESDN help and cooperate with the Commission to enable the transition to resilient and sustainable Europe and beyond?

Group 1

- ▶ **Unbalance between the policies and governance**
- ▶ **We cannot deliver integrated and systemic responses with silo governance and tools**
- ▶ **Governance is a strategic policy area of itself, but many times neglected**
- ▶ You need mechanisms but you also need to impact people
- ▶ **PCSD is a good proxy and can serve as the SD strategy in the absence of the real strategy**
- ▶ Whole-of Government approach to get policy coherence in place
- ▶ New SDG approach to the European Semester, promising
- ▶ **Indicators, how do you measure governance quality? PCSD indicator is not yet acceptable for Eurostat**
- ▶ **Political acceptance - governance - citizens**
- ▶ **Bureaucratic political environment, but very little attention to mechanisms/governance; reference to pandemic solving: governance structures are underdeveloped; analogy to sustainable development implementation**
- ▶ **Political commitment in the government programme to systemic change**
- ▶ **EU: climate and energy, there is a strong Governance, but otherwise not so much**
- ▶ Top-down and/or bottom-up, both are needed but depends on the political culture which one is stronger
- ▶ **Hesitation to organize science-based decision-making processes, lack of investing in science-policy mechanism**

Group 2

- ▶ **Governance is an overlapping area to all other areas**
- ▶ PCSD as proxy if there is no strategy, yes, but only part of; PCSD strategy would not set targets, we need to have impact on others
- ▶ ESDN network collaboration with Commission, yes, we should address this
- ▶ **Participation mechanisms, yes, but also nuclei of communities are important, hubs in communities, beyond participation and more empowering people, for instance a village or a department to a city**
- ▶ **Sustainability governance: a lot of interest in wellbeing economy and circular economy, but how to connect it with SD and A2030 and ensure that there will be not competing governance structures**
- ▶ Wellbeing economy and circular economy vis-a-vis sustainable development
- ▶ All stakeholders onboard, Council/Commission the best way of organizing this?
- ▶ Pandemic: urgency - sustainable development: long-term
- ▶ **SD is more a growth agenda, wellbeing economy is more qualitative**
- ▶ **Councils importance governance mechanism to support the government**

Group 3

- ▶ Strengthened cooperation rather than competing, example forests and their importance to economy and biodiversity >> holistic approach to sustainable development
- ▶ Empowerment of people and trust very important, people have to live sustainability, address people in sports
- ▶ Importance of the society; Society's Commitment important
- ▶ Strategy includes the aim and structure to the institutions and procedures. SD needs to be in the center of government, we need institutions; we need not only institutions but **also procedures like impact assessments**
- ▶ **What kind of impact assessments there are? Technical solutions from the OECD**
- ▶ **German model for impact assessment SDG-by-SDG, mandatory in Germany**
- ▶ **Political leadership; CEOs for sustainability in Austria**
- ▶ **Regional level is very important**
- ▶ **Pandemic; we are not trained to discuss and find solutions together**

Governance for sustainable development; Key points

- ▶ PCSD can serve as a highway to sustainability governance
- ▶ Unbalance between the policies and governance. We cannot deliver integrated and systemic responses with silo governance and tools
- ▶ Lack of valuation of Governance as a strategic policy area or overlapping glue in SD>> lack of acceptable indicators for governance quality
- ▶ Lessons learned from the management of COVID19 pandemic; we are not trained to discuss and find solutions together; many times governance structures are underdeveloped to deliver informed and timely solutions
- ▶ National Councils/Commissions and SD impact assessments were raised in particular as good examples of Governance elements that can catalyse systemic change and informed decision-making
- ▶ Sustainability governance: a lot of interest in wellbeing economy and circular economy, but how to connect it with SD and A2030 and ensure that there will not be competing governance structures