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 nuclears 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