



Transformation and transformative environmental and sustainability policies

11th ESDN Workshop „Transformative environmental and sustainability policy: new thematic issues, actor constellations and governance modes”

Berlin, 25-26 June 2014

The Grand Design Project

Background: Peer review of German SDS (2009 + 2013) calls for renewed Leitbild for German SD Policies: A Grand Design for Germany

Objectives and approach:

- Review and analysis of visions and leitbilder
- Methods for the development of visions and roadmaps together with stakeholder
- Application in three issue areas and development of options for environmental policies

Team:

- IFOK, FFU, UBA and BMUB + Advisory Board

Outputs:

- Review of literature on transformations
- Atlas of Visions
- Workshop series
- Policy recommendations

Possible impacts:

- Contribution to 2016 SDS?
- Development of environmental strategies?
- Scientific impacts?

Transformation towards Sustainability?

What are transformation?

- Comprehensive processes of change which affect several sub-systems of an entity (societies, countries, sectors, innovation systems, organizations)
- Interdependence of processes and co-evolution of sub-systems
- Rapid change from present equilibrium to a new equilibrium beyond tipping points
- Co-existence and competition between old and new technologies, institutions, cultures

Why do they occur?

- No single causal factor
- Result of multiple innovation
- Openness of direction

Can they be steered?

- Governments are subject of transformation
- Limited capacities
- Important role for discourses and for innovation

Visions of Transformation to Sustainability

Competing visions

1. Green and globalized economies
2. Societies beyond growth
3. Regionalized economies
4. Reformed statehood

⇒ Entail different worldviews and values

⇒ The concept of a single, substantive and guiding Grand Design for SD appears unrealistic

Transformative Environmental Policies

Concept:

- Utilizing ongoing societal trends for the purposes of environmental sustainability
- Stimulation of innovation
- Stakeholder involvement
- Complementary to traditional environmental policies
- Realistic assumptions of governmental capacities

Key elements:

- Observing and analysing societal change
- Framing of issue areas beyond the responsibilities of environmental departments
- Experiments: Enabling, observing and participating, reviewing, scaling up or terminating

Transformation of employment and activities

Issues:

- Individual incomes
- Basis for public budgets and social security
- Individual fulfilment and status
- Unpaid activities

Trends:

- Structural change to a green economy
- Regionalised economies
- Demographic changes
- Cultural change with emphasis on non-monetary values, education, care

Lever points for environmental policies:

- Enabling activities to protect environment
- Promote green and decent jobs
- Analyse impacts of flexible jobs on environment
- Linking of sustainable life styles and environment at work places

Guiding questions

General understanding of transformation and transitions:

- What do you understand by sustainability transition/transformation? And how does it differ from ‘regular changes’ that occur in and around SD discourses and policies?
- Do you agree with the “needs and approaches” mentioned by the speakers?

Concept of transformative environmental & SD policy

- How do you assess the presented concept of “transformative env. & SD policy” as a whole?
- Which elements would you like to highlight, question or expand upon?

Trends

- What are relevant societal trends towards transformation?
- How can they be utilized from the view-point of transformative env. & SD policy?

Action fields

- Which action fields allow for a co-evolution of different societal systems?
- How are these action fields currently addressed in SD policies?