Peer Learning: mapping the landscape

Umberto Pisano
(ESDN Office)

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Overview

1) Goal & context

2) Define Peer Learning

3) Overview of Practical approaches
The GOAL

- establish a *new mechanism* within the ESDN...

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Peer Learning Platform

- ...to **support policymakers** with the implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
  - *by creating a new ‘space’ for exchange and discussion...*
  - *on policies, strategies, coordination, coherence, etc. ...*
  - *for Sustainable Development*
The CONTEXT: 2030 Agenda Implementation

The National level has a crucial role:

- in the implementation...

- ...and in 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”

- the first ‘national reviews’ in the HLPF in July 2016 (New York)
  
  - (1) facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned,
  - (2) provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up
Workshop on implementing the 2030 Agenda 19 April 2016

- Organized by Dutch Presidency
- On current implementation actions of agenda 2030 among member states

There are differences from state to state but mainly...

1. assigning responsibilities for different parts of the implementation process: who is in charge of the overall coordination, who for particular aspects, and who holds the overarching responsibility
2. mapping exercises of current policies in relation to the SDGs & targets, or even gap analyses
3. concrete proposals for decisions on how to adjust national policies to the 2030 Agenda
4. move forward together with the EU (waiting for EU to lead?)

Coordination at national government level usually is at...

- Prime Minister’s office;
- Foreign Ministry;
- (Ministry of Sustainable Development; of Environment; of Finance etc.)
Challenges Encountered:

1. Appropriation by different departments/line ministries
2. Creating awareness and ownership
3. Understanding EU role in mobilizing stakeholders (vs. the member state role)
4. New instruments or existing mechanisms
5. Integrated vs. silo approaches
6. Outreach and communication
7. Adapting international indicators to national context
8. Link to the EU level: gaps, coordination mechanisms, coherence, etc.
A message from the 2015 ESDN Conference

7 ESDN Recommendations:

1. **Political commitment** for the new 2030 Agenda for SD is crucial;

2. SDGs should be integrated in an **overarching Sustainable Development policy framework** in the EU (and its Members States) and in other European countries;

3. **Immediate action in the EU** is necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda for SD, complemented by **progressive milestones and a long-term vision for 2050**;

4. **National implementation is key: the need and potential for peer learning is clear**;

5. The EU and all other European countries should **enhance horizontal integration and policy coherence**;

6. **Stakeholder engagement**, participation and partnerships are essential;

7. The EU should **adapt the global SD indicator set** and complement it with its own measures
The ESDN Peer Learning Platforms & the Peer Visits (1)

ESDN Peer Learning Platforms: first ideas based on ESDN resources

- for national policy-makers of European countries
- to exchange experiences and good practices
- on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SD and the SDGs
- 30-40 participants at each workshop
  → National policy-makers and selected experts
  → 1 to 1 ½ day meetings
  → Once every year
ESDN Peer Visits (back to back with the platforms):

- once per year in one European country → “Host country”
- to visit policymakers from other countries → “Visiting countries”

- to exchange experiences and good practices on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SD and the SDGs
  → talking face-to-face with policy-makers and stakeholders from the host country
  → in-depth exchange
What’s Peer Learning? (1)

ESDN QR April 2016 on peer learning:

“an umbrella concept that encompasses a number of different mechanisms or instruments that support ‘learning’ from and with peers with regard to sustainable development”

- learning from and with peers...
- between equals...
- mutually beneficial...
- involve the sharing of knowledge, ideas and experience

PEERS: policy-makers working on SD policy issues being peers of other policy-makers working on the same topic

→ plus Stakeholders (i.e. CSO, Business, Academia)
What’s Peer Learning? (2)

Two main mechanisms for SD:

- **Peer Reviews**
  - systematic examination and assessment of the performance of a State by other States
  - mutual learning, policy-making improvement, trust
  - shared confidence in the process, non-adversarial
  - ‘peer pressure’

- **Networks of Peers**
  - important form of multi-organizational governance
  - learning about policy problems, solutions, other actors, etc.

  - **the ESDN example:**
    - face-to-face interactions among peers in conferences and workshop;
    - interactive sessions and methods, group work, community creation, sharing of experiences;
    - certain degree of ‘informality’.
Examples of Peer Reviews & Peer Learning

- **UN system and Peer Reviews**
  - the national reviews at the HLPF in July 2016
  - i.e. Finland and Switzerland

- **OECD has the largest experience with Peer Reviews**
  (i.e. Economic surveys; Environmental performance reviews (EPRs); DAC Peer Reviews)

- **NSDS Peer Reviews in Europe**: France, The Netherlands, Norway, and Germany (twice!)

- **The German case** with the help of the **German National Council for SD**
Final thoughts

• There is **a lot of experience on SD strategies and SD policies in Member States!**

• There is no **space for EXCHANGE and LEARNING from one another**

• We still face a strong **SILO mentality** that is contrary to the key ideas behind 2030 Agenda:

  → **SYSTEMIC APPROACH, INTEGRATION & COHERENCE**

• There is a strong need for cooperation and collaboration between all political levels:

  …but we should **neither duplicate** *(everybody does the same thing without informing each other!)*

  …**nor forget** *(we thought somebody else would do it!)*

• Did we lose **POLITICAL MOMENTUM already?** *(i.e. refugee crisis, Brexit)*
Thanks for your attention!

Umberto Pisano
ESDN Office Team
email: esdn-office@sd-network.eu