



Sustainable Development in Policy Assessment – Methods, Challenges and Policy Impacts

June 15th – 16th, 2009
Brussels, Belgium



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Evaluating Policies for
Sustainable Development



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Conference issue

Ten years ago, the European Union fixed the concept “sustainable development” as a goal in the EU's treaty of Amsterdam. Ever since then, the relevance of this concept has increased. In 2001, the European Council adopted the European Sustainable Development Strategy. As a reaction to this strategy, the Commission decided, in 2002, that social, economic and ecological impacts of proposals have to be assessed systematically. Since 2005, Impact Assessments (IA) have to be carried out ex-ante for all proposals submitted by the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme.

Impact Assessments have meanwhile become a “tool”. They are not only used by the Commission to assess potential impacts. Also policy makers, member states, NGOs and businesses working on sustainable development use Impact Assessments to strengthen their arguments and to influence the political decision making process. For example, in the field of energy policy or during the discussions about new regulation of the chemical policy (REACH), IAs were used extensively. Not infrequently, different IAs from different actors have diverging outcomes on the same topic.

Evaluation studies are requested on demand by the Commission, or according to the requirements of several European directives. Most of these are ex-post facto, to judge the impact of measures, programmes and activities and to improve policy-making. The conference, however, follows a broader concept of evaluations and looks at the beginning of a policy cycle (ex-ante assessments), the implementation process (interim evaluation) and at the end of the policy cycle (ex-post evaluations), and asks for implications of such systematic approaches to the concept of sustainable development.

Policy evaluation might support the integration of sustainable development in different policies. However, the concept of sustainable development is multifaceted, and the definition varies with different actors. Concomitantly, there is no precise understanding as to what should be included in an evaluation of sustainability and how it should be conducted. The conference addresses this problem from different perspectives, including the views of evaluators as well as political actors. The latter act as commissioning agents and work with evaluation or assessments results.

Objectives

The conference would like to add to the understanding of sustainability evaluation by especially addressing the following questions:

- What is sustainability evaluation's contribution to policy development and implementation?
- How should sustainability evaluations be designed to affect political decision-making?
- How can one strengthen sustainability goals and impacts in policy evaluation and assessment?
- How can the quality of sustainability evaluations be improved?

Target Audience

The conference addresses evaluation practitioners from research and consultancy, academia, commissioners of evaluations, and, especially at the European level, policy makers, interface institutions, and businesses working on sustainable development.

Programme

June 15th, 2009

- 12.30 – 13.00 Registration
- 13.00 – 15.00 Opening of the conference
"Understanding Sustainability Evaluation and its Contribution to Policy-making"
Keynotes and Panel Discussion
Prof. Rolf Sprenger, Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Berlin (Chair)
Prof. Nicoletta Stame, University of Roma
Prof. Reinhard Stockmann, Center for Evaluation, University of the Saarland, Saarbrücken
Prof. Jan Rotmans, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Timo Mäkelä, DG Environment, Brussels (to be confirmed)
- 15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break
- 15.30 – 17.30 Working group session I
WG 1: Defining Sustainable Development as an Evaluation Object
WG 2: Methodological Challenges in Evaluating Sustainable Development
WG 3: Politics, Policy Styles and Evaluation
- From 19.00 Dinner

June 16th, 2009

- 09.00 – 11.00 Working group session II
WG 4: Methods for Evaluating Sustainable Development
WG 5: Integrated Approaches in Evaluating Sustainable Development
WG 6 a: Science Policy Interface
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 13.30 Working group session III
WG 6 b: Science Policy Interface
WG 7: Integrated Approaches in Evaluating Regional Sustainable Development
WG 8: Institutionalisation of Sustainability Evaluation
- 13.30 – 14.30 Buffet Lunch
- 14.30 – 16.30 Closing session
"Increasing the Usefulness of Sustainability Evaluation"
Roundtable Discussion with
R. Andreas Kraemer, Ecologic Institute, Berlin, (Chair)
Prof. Colin Kirkpatrick, The Impact Assessment Research Centre, University of Manchester
David Stanners, European Environment Agency, Copenhagen
Robin Miège, Head of Unit Sustainable Development and Economic Analysis, European Commission, Brussels
Dr. André Martinuzzi, Research Institute for Managing Sustainability, Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration
- 16.30 Closing remarks and farewell

Working groups

WG 1: Defining Sustainable Development as an Evaluation Object

It is not only within different DGs of the European Commission that there are diverse interpretations of the concept "sustainable development". This problem continues at different political and spatial levels. The workshop deals with the challenge of equivocal sustainability definitions. What are the consequences of diverse interpretations of sustainability and a non-existent common framework to evaluate sustainability? How can evaluators measure sustainability impacts without a common understanding? What indicators are appropriate for measuring sustainability impacts? How can evaluation results be most relevant to policy-makers? How do policy-makers deal with the diverging interpretations of sustainable development in evaluation reports?

Chair: Dr. Bernd Hirschl, Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Berlin

Dr. John Turnpenny, University of East Anglia, Norwich:

What are we assessing? Differing interpretations of sustainable development and implications for its assessment

Dr. Ron Cörvers, International Centre for Integrated Assessment and Sustainable Development, Maastricht:

Evaluating Sustainability Assessment Methods for Policy

Frank Dietz / Aldert Hanemaaijer, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Bilthoven / The Hague:

How to Select Policy Relevant Indicators for Sustainable Development?

Dr. Hans Meves, Network Bureau Europe, Kiel:

Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment as Means of Sustainability Evaluation – The Case of the Central Baltic Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013)

WG 2: Methodological Challenges in Evaluating Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development poses methodological challenges such as integrating stakeholders, taking-up a long-term perspective, or looking at a global scale. How can these be addressed in evaluation designs? What general methodological requirements should be fulfilled by sustainability evaluations? Which methodological requirements result from political practice? How can methodological challenges be integrated into political decision making?

Chair: Dr. Arthur Petersen, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Bilthoven / The Hague

Dr. Candice Stevens, Former OECD Sustainable Development Advisor, Paris:

A Basic Roadmap for Sustainability Assessments

Dr. Wolfgang Meyer, Center for Evaluation, University of the Saarland, Saarbrücken:

Evaluation Revisited? Why Sustainable Development needs More Professional Assessments

Franziska Mohaupt / Dr. Rafael Ziegler, Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Berlin / University of Greifswald:

Evaluating sustainable development with the capability approach

Jürgen Kopfmüller, Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft:

Sustainability Assessment: Conceptual approach, methodological needs, practical implementation

Working groups

WG 3: Politics, Policy Styles and Evaluation

Different countries have different political cultures and policy styles. This is not surprising – but what does that mean for evaluations? What role do different (political) cultures play in the evaluation context – for the evaluator, the evaluandum and decision makers? The aim of this workshop is to discuss different policy styles and their effect on evaluations. Which evaluation approaches “fit most” to different policy styles? What conditions must exist in order for countries to learn from each other? What is the experience regarding sustainability evaluations outside Europe?

Chair: Esther Hoffmann, Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Berlin

Dr. Klaus Jakob, Freie Universität Berlin:

The Practice of Impact Assessment in Europe

Stephen White, DG Environment, European Commission, Brussels:

How informed should decisions be?

Benjamin Görlach, Ecologic Institute, Berlin:

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Modjadji Alidia Seabi, Office of the Public Service Commission, South Africa:

Determining a suitable model for evaluating the implementation of recommendations from the Public Service Commission towards improving public administration: a case study of South Africa

WG 4: Methods for Evaluating Sustainable Development

Sustainability evaluation uses both conventional and innovative methods. The aim of this workshop is to discuss new approaches and methods applied in sustainability evaluations. Promising methods could be qualitative participatory approaches, systemic evaluation, scenario techniques, etc. or new developments in quantitative techniques including CBA, CEA, multi-criteria-analysis or non-market valuations. Moreover, the integration of different methods in evaluation projects, especially the combination of quantitative and qualitative or participatory and modelling tools should be addressed. Contributions should focus on ease of application, suitability in policy advice, and strengths and weaknesses of the presented methods.

Chair: Benjamin Görlach, Ecologic Institute, Berlin

Dr. Arthur Petersen, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Bilthoven /The Hague:

A Worldview Approach Towards Governance and Institutions for Sustainable Development

Manfred Walser, Institute for Public Services and Tourism at the University of St. Gallen:

Tools and Experiences in the International Lake of Constance-Region

Dr. Markku Lehtonen, SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research, Sussex:

Policy influence of indicators and evaluations: Framework for analysis of and lessons from the UK energy sector

Simone Roberta Schiller, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt:

Developing an improved methodology on evaluating impacts of rural development

Working groups

WG 5: Integrated Approaches in Evaluating Sustainable Development

The ideal type of sustainability evaluation integrates all three dimensions of the concept – ecology, economics and social issues. But how can this be done adequately? And what does "adequately" mean? Since 2005, the European Commission has stressed the need to investigate (non-) intended positive and negative side-effects of a policy proposal. What does that mean for integrated approaches? What are the problems arising out of this request? This workshop will have a closer look at integrated approaches to sustainability evaluation, including methods, problems and premises. It will also address the question of how policy-makers can include integrated results in policy-making.

Chair: Anneke von Raggamby, Ecologic Institute, Berlin

Paul Weaver, Department of Geography, University of Durham:

Integration challenges and implications for policy-making and assessment

Dr. Katharina Helming, Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung (ZALF),
Müncheberg:

Integrated approaches for ex-ante impact assessment tools – the example of land use

Dr. Bernd Hirschl, Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Berlin:

Sustainability concepts for biofuels and their political implementation – Chances and barriers of political instruments to reduce social and ecological problems

Froukje Maria Platjouw, University of Oslo:

Exploring the relationship between ex-ante impact assessment methodology and the degree of consistency in environmental governance

Working groups

WG 6 a/b: Science Policy Interface

Aiming to inform decision-makers on the potential impacts of their decisions, evaluations are at the heart of the interface of science and policy. Therefore, they are predestined to make science relevant for policy-making. However this interaction is not always as effective as desired. The workshop deals with the question of how evaluation results resonate in political practice. Do political actors consider evaluation results in decision making processes? Do evaluations foster policy learning? How does policy learning proceed? How can this be measured? Did the introduction of Impact Assessments in the European Union change the policy-making process?

Chair: R. Andreas Kraemer, Ecologic Institute, Berlin

Ursula Platzer-Schneider / Ingeborg Fiala, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria:

The Austrian Pacemaker for Sustainable Development, a tool for developing policies and legislation

Dr. Reinhard Steurer / Dr. André Martinuzzi, BOKU University, Vienna / Research Institute for Managing Sustainability, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Administration:

Knowledge-based Governance for Sustainable Development: A Typology of Appraisals around the Policy Cycle

Peter de Smedt, DG Research, European Commission, Brussels:

Assessment tools for sustainable policy measures in Europe

Nicole Dewandre / Katerina Hejdova / Wanda Gaj / Peter De Smedt, DG Research, European Commission, Brussels:

Enhancing connectivity between research and policymaking in sustainable development

Ingeborg Niestroy, European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils, Brussels:

tba

Valentina Castellani, University of Milano Bicocca:

Strengths and weaknesses of the integration between science and policy in tourism planning

Dr. Klaus Jakob / Lucienne Damm, Freie Universität Berlin:

Appraising Good Governance for Sustainable Development

Timo Kaphengst / Katharina Umpfenbach, Ecologic Institute, Berlin:

The developing process of the Directive on the promotion of Renewable Energies – which role played research results in final decisions

Working groups

WG 7: Integrated Approaches in Evaluating Regional Sustainable Development

The ideal type of sustainability evaluation integrates all three dimensions of the concept – ecology, economics and social issues. But how can this be done adequately? And what does "adequately" mean? Since 2005, the European Commission has stressed the need to investigate (non-) intended positive and negative side-effects of a policy proposal. What does that mean for integrated approaches? What are the problems arising out of this request? This workshop will have a closer look at integrated approaches to sustainability evaluation, including methods, problems and premises. It will also address the question of how policy-makers can include integrated results in policy-making.

Chair: Anneke von Raggamby, Ecologic Institute, Berlin

Prof. Dieter Rink, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung GmbH, Leipzig:
IGNIS – Operationalisation and contextualisation of sustainability at the local level

Dr. Jenny Atmanagara, University of Bern:
The Cultural Landscape Concept as an Approach for Designing Sustainability Evaluations

Keti Medarova-Bergstrom, Central European University, Budapest:
**The Role of Environmental Assessments for Environmental Policy Integration:
A Case Study of the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds Programming in Bulgaria**

Wim Haarmann, Telos - Tilburg University:
Participation in Monitoring sustainable development

WG 8: Institutionalisation of Sustainability Evaluation

To date, policy evaluations have often been applied in an ad hoc and unsystematic way. The consideration of sustainability aspects throughout the policy cycle needs stronger institutionalisation. This workshop aims at discussing adequate structures and institutional settings. What does experience show with institutionalisation of evaluations? How can learning loops between different evaluations be organised? What capacities are necessary on the side of the commissioning agents regarding the monitoring of an evaluation? A discussion about different levels and forms of institutionalisation and their impact on evaluation results and quality can also be part of this workshop.

Chair: Dr. Frieder Rubik, Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Heidelberg

Jakub Koniecki, European Commission, Secretariat General, Brussels:
The European Commission's Impact Assessment system – how to ensure a good quality?

Gustav Jakob Petersson, Department of Economic History Umeå University:
A Welfare State Perspective on Institutionalisation of Evaluation

Tom Bauler, Free University of Brussels:
Sustainability Impact Assessment for policy making: institutionalization and early practice in federal Belgium

Anja Bauer, BOKU University, Vienna:
Strategic Environmental Assessment in Austria – Between end-of pipe reporting and integrated planning processes

Conference Board

- Dr. Jan Bakkes
Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Bilthoven/The Hague
- Clive George
The Impact Assessment Research Centre, University of Manchester
- Prof. Colin Kirkpatrick
The Impact Assessment Research Centre, University of Manchester
- R. Andreas Kraemer
Ecologic – Institute for International and European Environmental Policy, Berlin
- Dr. André Martinuzzi
Research Institute for Managing Sustainability,
Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration
- Dr. Wolfgang Meyer
Center for Evaluation, University of the Saarland, Saarbrücken
- Dr. Arthur Petersen
Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Bilthoven/The Hague
- Prof. Rolf Sprenger
Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Berlin

The EPOS-Project

The conference is organised by the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IOEW) and Ecologic – Institute for International and European Environmental Policy. It is part of the EPOS project (Evaluating Policies for Sustainable Development). EPOS is a research project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) within the framework of socio-ecological research (SOEF). The main focus of the project is policy evaluation with an emphasis on sustainability issues. The network is concerned with the evaluation of policies, political strategies, programmes, and instruments.

EPOS-Partners

- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels
- Centre for Evaluation (CEval), Saarland University/Germany
- Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Milan/Italy
- Impact Assessment Research Centre (IARC) of the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), University of Manchester/UK
- Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) - Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam/
The Netherlands
- Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), London/UK
- Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP), Bilthoven/The Hague/
The Netherlands
- Research Institute for Managing Sustainability (RIMAS), Vienna University
of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna/Austria
- Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Stockholm/Sweden

Date and Location

The Conference will take place in Brussels, Belgium on June 15th to 16th, 2009 at the Representation of the State North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union
Rue Montoyer 47
1000 Bruxelles

The Conference Location is accessible by public transport. Please refer to the conference website for detailed information.

Accommodation

On the conference homepage we provide a list of hotels in the surrounding area of the conference location (<http://www.ecologic.eu/soef/epos/registration.html>). A limited number of rooms are reserved in several hotels; please make your reservation well in advance using a code or the registration form as mentioned in the list. Accommodation is not included in the conference fee.

Registration

Due to organisational reasons we can only accept registrations before June 1st 2009. To register you are free to use the registration form online on the conference homepage (<http://www.ecologic.eu/soef/epos/registration.html>) or the fax form at the end of this document.

Please give us a call if you have not received a confirmation within one week.

Conference Fee

Standard Conference fee including dinner on June 15 th , 7 pm	105 Euro (incl. VAT)
Conference fee without dinner	85 Euro (incl. VAT)

With your confirmation you will receive an invoice with payment information. Please note that it will not be possible to pay on the conference day. In case of last minute bank transfers, please show the receipt at the conference registration desk.

Cancellations without cost are only possible until June 1st 2009. For later cancellations the complete registration fee must be charged. You are of course welcome to nominate an alternative participant.

Contact

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Registration form

Registration deadline is June, 1st 2009. Please send the completely filled and signed form to:

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Family Name* _____
First Name* _____
Organisation* _____
Department _____
Position _____
Postal Address* _____
Country* _____
E-Mail* _____
Telephone _____

*minimum information

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 Conference fee without dinner 85 Euro (incl. VAT)

Workshops

Please choose your Working groups (only one Working group/Session)

Working group session I – Monday 15th, 15:30 – 17:30

- Workshop 1 Workshop 2 Workshop 3

Working group session II – Thursday 16th, 9:00 – 11:00

- Workshop 4 Workshop 5 Workshop 6 a

Working group session III - Thursday 16th, 11:30 – 13:30

- Workshop 6 b Workshop 7 Workshop 8

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