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## **Conference Discussion Paper**

European Sustainable Development Network

### ***ESDN Conference 2010***

**“Towards an Economy compatible with Sustainable Development Principles:  
‘Green’ Strategies in the context of Sustainable Development”**

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European Sustainable Development Network



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## 1. Introduction

This discussion paper provides background information for the ESDN Conference 2010, including the working group sessions. This year's conference is entitled, "Towards an Economy compatible with Sustainable Development Principles: 'Green' Strategies in the context of Sustainable Development", and will focus on the link between economic growth and sustainable development. In so doing, it will continue the work of ESDN on this topic which comprises the [ESDN Quarterly Report December 2009](#); an [ESDN Case Study](#) on strategies, initiatives and activities that aim to foster this link; and the [5<sup>th</sup> ESDN Workshop](#), "From Green Growth towards a Sustainable Economy?", which took place in Madrid on 25-26 March 2010.

This year's ESDN Conference is the ninth annual conference of the network. For a comprehensive documentation of all previous ESDN Conferences, please go to the [ESDN homepage](#). The ESDN Conference 2010 is organised by the ESDN in cooperation with the incoming Belgian EU Presidency.

The ESDN Conference 2009 will comprise **three sessions**:

- Session 1:      Linking economic growth and sustainable development – Addressing environmental and social challenges
- Session 2:      Parallel Working Groups – From green growth towards an economy compatible with sustainable development principles
- Session 3:      Moving towards a sustainable economy – Governance perspectives

This discussion paper has the following structure: chapter 2 outlines several procedural issues of the conference; chapter 3 provides some conceptual reflections of green growth and the transition towards a sustainable economy; chapter 4 includes background information on the three strategies and initiatives at the supra-national level on which the conference will focus, namely the EU's ["Europe 2020" strategy](#), UNEP's [Green Economy Initiative](#) and the preparation to the [UN Conference on Sustainable Development \(UNCSD\) in 2012](#) as well as the [OECD's Green Growth Strategy](#); and chapter 5 introduces the topics and formats of the working groups.

A full documentation of the conference will be published as ESDN Conference Proceedings shortly after the event.

## 2. Procedural issues

Similar to previous ESDN conferences, the 2010 event will deal with the conference topic in **different formats** (for details, please see the conference programme):

- Keynote presentations will highlight general issues and key aspects of the conference topics;
- Panel discussions will provide an overview of experiences and standpoints of different actors and institutions;

- Plenary discussion will give ample time for the conference participants to discuss and reflect on the different topics amongst themselves as well as to bring in their own experiences;
- Working groups will discuss specific aspects of the conference topics in-depth;
- Summaries of the results of panels and working group discussions during the conference can be used for immediate reactions and further discussions.

A **professional moderator** (Mr. Alan AtKisson, AtKisson Group, Stockholm) will guarantee a good conference flow, moderate panel and plenary discussion, moderate questions and inputs from the participants, and weave the intellectual content together. Alan will also use several innovative and create methods to foster discussions and interactions among the conference participants.

The **panel discussion in Session 1** on ensuring a coherence between economic, environmental and social issues in the three supra-national strategies (EU, UNEP, OECD) will be undertaken in a talk show format with all keynote speakers of Session 1 and a representative of the ESDN Steering Group. The results of the panel discussion, together with the keynote presentations, will inform the parallel working groups in Session 2.

Regarding the **working groups**, both in Session 2 and Session 3, please note the following points (please find more details in chapter 5):

- At the registration desk (when registering to the conference), the participants will be asked to sign up for the working groups in Session 2 and 3. The working groups, and the respective break-out room, have a colour code :
  - Working Group 1: “Europe 2020” strategy – colour code **“red”**
  - Working Group 2: UNEP’s Green Economy Initiative & UNCSD 2012 – colour code **“green”**
  - Working Group 3: OECD’s Green Growth Strategy – colour code **“blue”**

More information on the working groups can be found in chapter 5.

- The conference participants will split into three parallel working groups. Each working group will provide the opportunity to discuss and reflect upon selected questions more in-depth.
- The working groups will be moderated by members the ESDN Office.
- Summaries of the working group discussions will be presented by the moderators from the ESDN Office to the plenum and reflected upon in plenary discussions.

In a session on **ESDN perspectives** at the end of the conference, the participants are invited to discuss further steps in exploiting the conference results. Moreover, they are invited to bring in their ideas for further strengthening the network and the role of ESDN in fostering sustainable development in Europe.

At the end of the conference, there will be a session on “knowledge brokerage in sustainable consumption” where **two European research projects** (RESPONDER and CORPUS, both funded by DG Research in FP 7) will be presented that are closely linked to the ESDN.

### **3. Greening growth or achieving a transition to sustainable economy?**

In the ESDN Quarterly Report on [Sustainable Development and Economic Growth](#) (December 2009), we provided a short introduction into the various contested concepts and theoretical positions on the complicated relationships between economy and the environment. This debate was deepened at the [ESDN Workshop in Madrid in March 2010](#), where the range of different positions was further explored and the first sketches of a sustainable economy as well as its governance mechanisms have been made. This ESDN Conference 2010 continues the debate by attempting to explore main international strategies and initiatives in light of the conceptual opposition between the concepts of green growth/green economy and sustainable economy. In this section, we will introduce the concepts of green growth and sustainable economy and their differences as well as provide a proposal for principles of a sustainable economy.

#### **3.1 Conceptual basis**

Conceptually speaking, *green growth* is compatible with mainstream neoclassical economics and its ideal image of *homo oeconomicus*. This assumes that people are economic actors who are independently acting, rational, informed and egoistic maximisers of utility with stable and ordered preferences, although under the influence of recent advances in behavioural and experimental economics the model is being reconsidered. These economic actors meet in markets, where through actions carried out in their individual interest, they arrive at a collective equilibrium of output and price with the unintended effect of efficient income distribution.

*Economics of sustainability* prefers a range of concepts from various scientific disciplines, such as the mentioned behavioural and experimental economics as well as institutional economics, social psychology, evolutionary psychology and biology and others. People are more realistically seen as emotional ‘social animals’ attempting to cope with complexity, making inefficient decisions, constructing and reconstructing their identities and preferences on the basis of social norms and expectations and incomplete information. Efficient income distribution through markets is not necessarily fair; moreover, markets in numerous instances fail to capture many of the social and ecological goods which contribute to well-being. Sustainability of well-being requires that the underlying ecological and social foundations of our economies are not eroded, which would mean that the scale of economic activities has to be kept in check.

#### **3.2 Growth position**

In the ESDN Quarterly Report on Sustainable Development and Economic Growth (December 2009) and the ESDN Madrid Workshop’s [Background and Discussion Paper](#) (March 2010), we provided a typology of positions in terms of the relation between sustainability and economic growth. We identified the radical or transformation position, reformist position, and status quo or conservative position. We could place the green growth concept firmly in the reformist position, while sustainable economy would lie a bit farther in the direction of the transformation position. *Green growth proponents* argue that although growth is necessary, at least it can be made more sustainable (or argue that economic growth is necessary for affording environ-

mental protection, the infamous ‘grow now and clean up later’ position). They see economic, environmental and social objectives as separate, but achievable together with smart policy instruments (win-win solutions). Although they might acknowledge ‘ecological limits’ (i.e. the carrying capacity of ecosystems), in practical terms these limits do not play a significant role in policy-making. We could, therefore, argue that the green growth concept builds on the three-pillar approach to sustainable development (and possibly preferring weak sustainability). Markets are typically seen as the most efficient distribution mechanisms. It would seem that from the criteria of performance of economic systems, they place highest emphasis on efficiency, then fairness, and the lowest attention is given to scale.

The *concept of sustainable economy* is far more sceptical about the faith placed for the last 40 years in economic growth and technological solutions. It fully acknowledges the concept of ‘ecological limits’. It sees scale as being of the highest priority, with fairness on the second place and efficiency on the last. More details on that can be found in the description of the principles of a sustainable economy below (chapter 3.5).

### 3.3 Proposed measures

Among the repertoire of *green growth* approaches are measures and instruments such as internalising environmental externalities and putting a price on environmental goods (with the argument that without prices, they will be treated as worthless by economic processes), green taxes, emission trading, green budgeting and fiscal reform, subsidies into less resource-intensive sectors and technologies, reform of environmentally harmful sectors, elimination of environmentally harmful subsidies, investment into research and innovation, improvement of governance, improved delivery and monitoring of environmental policies, voluntary corporate environmental codes etc. Most of the measures proposed by green growth are not entirely new. However, admirable is the logical extension of the green growth concept into social areas (jobs, poverty, education and training), as well as its integrative and comprehensive character.

In addition to the above, *the economics of sustainability* often offers far more radical and idealistic solutions which might require a significant transformation of economic and even political institutions. Decentralisation, local management of common pool resources, investment into environmental resources, environmental and social enterprises, economic degrowth, shortening of work times, self-sufficiency, establishment of maximum wage limits, ownership reform and other measures are often mentioned (Jackson, 2009; Martinez Alier, 2009). Further exploration of possible ‘recipes’ for a sustainable economy seems to be desirable.

### 3.4 Viability

The proponents of *green growth* argue that under current short-term and long-term economic and political conditions (recent crisis, economic institutions, existing actors), green growth is the best way forward, if we want to achieve at least some progress towards sustainability. This is not surprising as many of the actors endorsing green growth are strongly embedded in existing ideological, legal and political structures and acknowledge given distribution of competences, influence and power across political-administrative levels, sectors and societal actors.

In sum, there are strong grounds for hope that green growth would bring us closer to an economy based on the principles of sustainability. However, it is not clear how far in the transition it can bring us (for example, whether absolute decoupling of natural resource consumption from economic growth will finally be reached), what further environmental damage and increase in inequality will occur, and to what extent existing structures and positions are going to become more entrenched.

In comparison, the concept of *socially sustainable economic degrowth* seems to have a bottom-up dynamics, relying on academics, activists and grass-roots movements in both developed and developing countries (Martinez-Alier, 2009). As such, it can afford to challenge dominant political and economic structures and paradigms.

However, speaking pragmatically from today's perspective and given current political and economic systems, accommodating all interests needed for a transition to a sustainable economy might be a task bordering on the impossible even with high-level support.

### 3.5 Six principles of a sustainable economy

Based on the results of the working group discussions at the ESDN Workshop in Madrid in March 2010, as well as on our ongoing research, we formulated *six principles of a sustainable economy*, attempting to reconcile green growth with more stringent sustainability perspectives. These principles represent neither a blueprint nor a prescriptive recipe. Instead, they are intentionally kept broad and open for further exploration, addressing inherent tensions and formulations of various measures and approaches. We present the principles with a short explanation below.

*A sustainable economy should be based on a redefinition of what 'good' development means.* It would seem that at the core of every project of economic system transformation lies a redefinition of the primary objective of an economic system. Amartya Sen (1999) suggests that the economic system should support realising people's capabilities. Tim Jackson (2009) sees its primary function in providing the people with the opportunity to flourish, and numerous other scholars speak about quality of life, well-being or happiness. Such terminology should shift the attention away from the paradigm built around concepts such as material consumption, income, economic growth, material standards of living, even (material) needs. This should have profound implications in many areas such as measurement of economic performance, work times, lifestyles and consumption patterns or layout of cities.

*A sustainable economy should be based on a more realistic conception of human nature.* Economic institutions, such as forms of ownership or markets, are not value-neutral. Together with other conditions, they incentivise or discourage certain forms of behaviour, influence values and preferences and affect people's identities. This also means that viewing people, their behaviour or the things they value or desire as purely economic, is too reductionist. The second principle, therefore, states that a sustainable economy should cultivate those aspects of human nature which lead to socially and environmentally benign values and behaviours. It should, for example, aim for attitudinal and behavioural change away from conspicuous material consumption.

*A sustainable economy stays within 'ecological limits'.* This third principle refers to the scale of economy in relation to the carrying capacity of ecosystems. In a sustainable economy, consumption of resources is kept in line with resources' natural regeneration (e.g. forests) or generation through investment (e.g. windmills). This does not necessarily mean that non-renewables cannot be utilised, but the proceeds from their consumption should be reinvested into renewable substitutes. Also, in a sustainable economy, the production of waste stays within waste-assimilation capacity and irreversible damage (e.g. to biodiversity) is avoided. This could be achieved by various means, such as reduction of scale (degrowth), technological innovation or changes in management; however, a sustainable economy maintains strong links between real economy and the 'real real' economy of natural ecosystems. Conceptually (and in contrast to the 'green growth' or 'grow first and clean up later' paradigms), a sustainable economy builds on the concentric-circles definition of sustainable development.

*A sustainable economy addresses a range of social concerns.* A sustainable economy produces accessible social goods. It prevents severe inequalities and other disruptive social consequences. It strives for a fair and equitable distribution of benefits, costs and risks. In line with the first principle, it removes barriers so that the people can lead healthy and fulfilling lives. A sustainable economy also enables meaningful participation of all people in the economic life and the institutions that govern it.

*A sustainable economy is resilient.* A sustainable economy is able to withstand and adapt to stresses and shocks without significant crises and shortages. Loss of capacity to absorb shocks occurs for example when "a concentration of activities, expectations or beliefs (...) lock[s] the system into a particular technology or set of preferences" such as in the case of fashion or speculative bubbles (Perrings, 1998). Although until now little conclusive research has been published, we suggest that resilience could perhaps be strengthened by means such as decentralisation, diversification, conservation of natural assets, application of function-specific governance arrangements including non-market regimes, risk prevention, self-sufficiency, technological innovation, limitation of the scale of economic units, limitation of the scale of financial economy and others.

*A sustainable economy is appreciative of diversity and is based on respect to human rights and rights of those who do not have a voice (future generations, nature).* This concerns diverse issues including working conditions, fairness of pay or processes and outcomes of development decisions. Individual freedom is, however, a problematic topic not often addressed in the environmental discourse, whose dominant ideologies are built on communitarian, biocentric, systemic and solidarity-oriented rather than liberal/individualistic perspectives. "[A]n ecological economics of sustainability privileges the needs of the system over those of individuals", because "[i]f existing preferences and technologies, as perpetuated and sanctified in the concept of consumer sovereignty, are not sustainable, then the system as a whole will be unstable" (Common & Perrings, 1992).

In addition, there are certain requirements for the *steering of a sustainable economy*. It should be based on a democratic and shared understanding of the goals of a sustainable economy. It should be reflexive and adaptive, where the 'ecological limits' and economy's performance are continuously assessed on the basis of the measurement of stocks and flows and translated into

policy-relevant targets and objectives in a participatory manner. Steering should be based on a sound understanding of human nature and collective human behaviour, as well as dynamics of the coupled human (socio-economic) and ecological systems. It should be polycentric, aiming at function-specific governance arrangements with scales appropriate to the characteristics of the social or ecological issues. It should be holistic in several respects: in terms of multi-level coordination and global responsibility (addressing poverty, outsourcing of pollution etc.); in terms of integration of social and environmental concerns into economic decision-making; and in terms of temporal coordination, achieving coherence between a long-term vision, mid-term targets and short-term actions.

## **4. Strategies and initiatives on the supra-national level**

In this chapter, we provide an overview of the three strategies on the supra-national level which aim to link economic growth and sustainable development, including the EU's "Europe 2020" strategy, UNEP's Green Economy Initiative (and related Green New Deal) as well as the preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2010, and the OECD's Green Growth Strategy. These strategies and initiatives will be discussed in each session of the conference, including the working groups.

### ***4.1 European Union: "Europe 2020" Strategy***

#### **4.1.1 Lisbon Strategy (2000-2010) and the "European Economic Recovery Plan"**

The "Europe 2020" strategy is the successor of the Lisbon Strategy which ran from 2000-2010. Before we describe the "Europe 2020" strategy in more detail, we shortly provide some information on the Lisbon Strategy, its objectives and relation to sustainable development.

Agreed at the Lisbon Council in March 2000, the [Lisbon Strategy](#) formulated the well-known objective of the EU "to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion" (European Council, 2000, para 5). After a [mid-term review](#) in 2004 that observed a "disappointing delivery [which] is due to an overloaded agenda, poor coordination and conflicting priorities" (European Communities, 2004, 6), the Lisbon Strategy was re-launched in 2005, entitled "[A Partnership for Growth and Employment](#)" (European Council, 2005). However, ever changing main strands, objectives and action areas in the original Lisbon Strategy, the renewed strategy, and several follow-up Council Conclusions, made it difficult to identify the major focus of the strategy documents (Berger & Zwirner, 2008). Moreover, as has also been acknowledged in the recent Lisbon Strategy evaluation by the European Commission, the strategy's main targets (i.e. 70 % employment rate, 3 % of GDP spent on R&D) "will not be reached" (European Commission, 2010a, 3). Other issues of concern highlighted in the evaluation document are, e.g. increased employment has not succeeded in reducing poverty, the pace of implementation was slow and uneven, the link between the Lisbon Strategy and other sector-specific measures and initiatives has not been strong enough, and the implementation

has suffered from variable ownership and weak governance structures (European Commission, 2010a).

From a sustainable development perspective, the original Lisbon Strategy of 2000 was based on techno-optimism (Schauer, 2007) and focused on purely economic issues without comprehensively taking into account the optimal physical output of the economy, the degradation of the environment and intact natural systems (Spangenberg et al, 2002). The re-launched Lisbon Strategy of 2005 included only very general reference to environmental and sustainable development issues, namely eco-innovation and eco-technology, sustainable management of natural resources, energy efficiency, biodiversity, and sustainable production and consumption (Berger & Sedlacko, 2010).

When looking at the interfaces between the Lisbon Strategy and the [EU Sustainable Development Strategy](#), one can argue that there are “only limited institutional interfaces, some interfaces regarding the content of both strategies and many procedural similarities” (Berger & Zwirner, 2008). A detailed overview of the similarities and differences between the two major EU policy strategies can be found in the [ESDN Quarterly Report December 2008](#).

With the economic and financial crisis looming large on the horizon and actually showing its first consequences, the European Commission in November 2008 issued the [“European Economic Recovery Plan”](#) as a response to the crisis situation. One of the four strategic aims was to intensify the shift towards a low-carbon economy, i.e. limiting climate change, promoting energy security, encouraging new technologies and creating new ‘green-collar’ jobs (European Commission, 2008).

#### **4.1.2 “Europe 2020” – A new European strategy for jobs and growth**

On 3 March 2010, the European Commission published [“Europe 2020 – A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”](#) as a communication document. This is a proposal for a new 10-year development strategy by the incoming new European Commission and a response to the economic and financial crisis. A first decision about the strategy’s headline targets and monitoring mechanisms was taken by the heads of state of the EU-27 at the European Council meeting in Brussels on 25-26 March 2010 (European Council, 2010a). The [“Europe 2020” strategy](#) was formally adopted at the Council meeting on 17 June 2010 (European Council, 2010b).

For its communication, the European Commission launched a consultation process in November 2008. The original consultation document was called, “EU 2020” strategy, and stakeholders could submit statements until 15 January 2010. In total, the Commission received around 1,400 responses from a broad variety of stakeholder groups, i.e. EU-level bodies, national and sub-regional authorities, trade unions and business associations, NGOs as well as think-tanks and universities. All contributions can be accessed at [a special section](#) on the Commission homepage.

The “Europe 2020” strategy proposal by the European Commission listed 5 headline targets and three priorities (smart growth, sustainable growth and inclusive growth) together with ac-

companying 'flagship initiatives' (which define actions at the EU and Member States levels). The three priorities are presented in some detail below:

- 1) *Smart growth* refers to strengthening knowledge and innovation as drivers for future growth. The strategy points out that the EU should be particularly active in three areas:
  - *Innovation*: apart from increasing the total amount of R&D spending, focus should be put on the composition and impact of research spending as well as on improved conditions for private sector R&D. The flagship initiative is called, "Innovation Union", and aims to refocus R&D and innovation policy on current societal challenges, e.g. climate change, energy and resource efficiency, health, etc.
  - *Education, training and life-long learning* should be intensified. The flagship initiative is called "Youth on the move" and aims to increase the quality of education on all levels.
  - The *digital society* is another area which should be further development, particularly information and communication technologies. With the flagship initiative, "A Digital Agenda for Europe", economic and social benefits from a Digital Single Market should be achieved.
- 2) *Sustainable growth* aims at "building a resource efficient, sustainable and competitive economy, exploiting Europe's leadership in the race to develop new processes and technologies (...) and reinforcing the competitive advantages of our businesses" (European Commission, 2010c, 12). Two areas are considered of main importance in this priority:
  - Improving *competitiveness* of the EU compared to its main trading partners through higher productivity and maintaining a lead role in the market for green technologies. The flagship initiative, "An industrial policy for the globalisation era", aims to improve the business environment for companies and to support a sustainable industrial base to compete globally.
  - *Climate change and energy* refer to reducing GHG emissions, exploiting fully the potential of new technologies, energy security, the use of renewable energy sources and increasing energy efficiency. In the flagship initiative, "Resource efficient Europe", the aim is to support a shift towards a low-carbon economy and to decouple economic growth from resource use.
- 3) *Inclusive growth* aims at empowering people through high levels of employment, increased skills, fighting poverty and modernising labour markets. The areas identified for the need of action are:
  - *Employment and skills* refers to raising the total employment rate within the EU and requiring new skills through life-long learning in larger parts of the population. With the flagship initiative, "An Agenda for new skills and jobs", conditions for modernising labour markets to raise employment levels and to ensure the sustainability of the European social model should be created.
  - More efforts should be undertaken to *fight poverty*. The flagship initiative, "European Platform against Poverty", should not only ensure economic, social and territorial cohesion but should also combat poverty and social exclusion.

Moreover, the Commission proposal included a governance framework that comprises architecture for implementation and an overview of responsibilities of involved policy levels, institutions and actors (European Commission, 2010b). A detailed description of the Commission proposal can be found in the [ESDN Case Study No. 1](#).

Based on the Commission proposal outlined above, “Europe 2020: A new European strategy for jobs and growth”, was adopted by the European Council in June 2010. The Council Conclusions of the European Council meetings in [March 2010](#) and [June 2010](#) outline the strategy, its objectives and headline targets. The introductory paragraphs clearly frame the next 10-year development strategy of the EU as an attempt to face “the world’s worst economic crisis since 1930s” (European Council, 2010a, para 1) and to “help Europe recover from the crisis and come out stronger” (European Council, 2010b, para 1). The strategy aims to boost “competitiveness, productivity, growth potential, social cohesion and economic convergence” (ibid, para 1). Moreover, it is argued that the strategy “responds to the challenge of reorienting policies away from crisis management towards the introduction of medium- to longer-term reforms” (ibid, para 1).

The EU Member States agreed in the European Council on the following *headline targets*, originally proposed by the European Commission in its strategy proposal, which constitute shared objectives for action at the EU and Member States level (European Council, 2010b, para 3 & Annex I):

- 1) Aiming to raise the employment rate for women and men (aged 20-64) to 75 %.
- 2) Improving the conditions for research and development (R&D) and establishing a combined public and private investment level in R&D to 3 % of GDP.
- 3) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by 20 % compared to 1990 levels (conditionally to 30 % if a global agreement for the period beyond 2012 can be achieved), increasing the share of renewable in final energy consumption to 20 %, and moving towards a 20 % increase in energy efficiency.
- 4) Improving education levels by aiming to reduce school drop-outs to less than 10 % and by increasing the share of people with tertiary education (30-34 years old) to at least 40 %.
- 5) Promoting social inclusion, in particular through poverty reduction, by aiming to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion.

Headline target 3 refers to the so-called “20-20-20” objective which was already formulated in the [Energy Policy Action Plan](#) of 2007 (European Council, 2007). Headline targets 4 and 5 could not be agreed upon at the Council Meeting in late March 2010 and were thus agreed upon at the June 2010 Council meeting. Whereas the Commission strategy proposal included for headline target 5 a reduction of EU citizens who live below national poverty lines by 25 %, the politically agreed Council Conclusions set the objective of bringing at least 20 million people out of poverty.

For implementing the strategy, the Member States will set national targets (based on the headline targets of “Europe 2020”) by taking into account relative starting positions and national circumstances. Moreover, the new strategy will address major bottlenecks that constrain growth at the European and national level. The Member States will draw up National Reform Programmes (NRPs) that set out in detail all actions that will be undertaken to implement the

“Europe 2020” strategy at the national level. The NRPs will define efforts how to meet the national targets and measures how to lift the bottlenecks constraining growth at the national level (European Council, 2010a, para 5 c-e; European Council, 2010b, para 4).

The “Europe 2020” strategy also defines several monitoring mechanisms (European Council, 2010, para 6 a-g):

- The European Council will make an annual overall assessment of progress achieved in implementing the strategy at the EU and Member States level.
- The European Council will hold debates dedicated to economic development and strategy priorities, e.g. on R&D (October 2010) and energy policy (early 2011).
- The timing of reporting and assessment of NRPs and Stability & Convergence Programmes should be better aligned to enhance consistency of policy advice to Member States.
- Close dialogue between Member States and the Commission should help to increase the quality of surveillance and promote exchange of best practices.

The ‘policy recommendations’ for Member States, that have been included in the strategy proposal of the European Commission, are not included in the adopted “Europe 2020” strategy. The Commission envisioned policy recommendations that should be “precise and normally provide a time-frame within which the Member State concerned is expected to act (e.g. two years)” (European Commission, 2010b, 26). Compared to the Lisbon Strategy governance process, these recommendations would not only have a more comprehensive role in the strategy process, but their compliance should have been monitored also more strictly: “If a Member State, after the time-frame has expired, has not adequately responded to a policy recommendation of the Council or develops policies going against the advice, the Commission could issue a policy warning” (ibid, 26).

It is striking that the term “sustainable development” is only once used in the Commission strategy proposal, namely in a flagship initiative for sustainable growth in the context of putting “the EU in a position to lead global sustainable development” (European Commission, 2010b, 12). The term is not used in the Council Conclusions of March and June 2010.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, the relationship between the “Europe 2020” strategy and the EU SDS is neither clarified in the Commission’s proposal nor in the Council Conclusions.

At the European Council meeting in June 2010, two other policy measures were agreed upon which are directly related to the “Europe 2020” framework: on the one hand, the EU-27 agreed to enhance economic governance in order to improve coordination in economic policy among the EU Member States (European Council, 2010b, para 9-13); on the other hand, measures to regulate financial services were agreed (ibid, para 14-16).

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<sup>1</sup> The terms “sustainable growth” and “sustainability of public finances” are, however, frequently used in all three EU documents.

## 4.2 UNEP: Green Economy Initiative & UNCSD 2012

“Green economy” is a concept that builds the basis for various activities of the UN: on the one hand, it is the basis for initiatives to revive global economies and boost employment in face of a global economic and financial crisis ([UNEP’s green economy website](#)); on the other hand, one of the main themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (UNCSD 2012) will be green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (UN General Assembly, 2010a, para 20(a)). In the following, we provide a short overview of the Green Economy Initiative (and related Green New Deal) and the preparation to UNCSD 2012.

### 4.2.1 Green Economy Initiative and Global Green New Deal

The [Green Economy Initiative \(GEI\)](#) was initiated by the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) and has been developed together with numerous experts from other UN organizations, academic institutes, think tanks, businesses and environmental groups. Envisioned as a two-year project, the GEI has been expanded to include a number of related UNEP and UN-wide initiatives. These initiatives focus on *providing macro-economic evidence for significantly increasing investments in environmental issues as a means of promoting sustainable economic growth, decent job creation, and poverty reduction*. In light of the global economic and financial crisis and within the framework of the GEI, UNEP has also launched the [Global Green New Deal \(GGND\)](#) in early 2009. The GGND aims to make a change in restructuring economies towards a greener development path through the use of fiscal stimulus packages (UNEP, 2009a). The GGND was prepared in consultation with over 20 UN agencies and inter-governmental organizations and shared with members of the G20 meeting in April 2009 (“London Summit”). UNEP followed-up on the initial GGND policy brief with a [Global Green New Deal update](#) (UNEP, 2009b) that was launched during the G20 meeting in September 2009 (“Pittsburgh Summit”).

Achim Steiner, UNEP’s Executive Director, argued recently that “the basic thrust behind the Green Economy thinking is that the economic models of the 20th century are unlikely to assist in achieving the multiple goals the international community has set ranging from combating climate change to supplying freshwater, sufficient food and overcoming poverty” (Steiner, 2010). At the 5<sup>th</sup> ESDN Workshop in Madrid, Christophe Bouvier (Director at UNEP’s Regional Office for Europe), provided a definition of “*green economy*” as used within UNEP: decoupling unsustainable resource use and environmental impacts from growth ([Workshop Report, 5<sup>th</sup> ESDN Workshop](#)). On [UNEP’s Green Economy website](#), it is outlined that “greening the economy refers to the process of reconfiguring businesses and infrastructure to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extracting and using less natural resources, creating less waste and reducing social disparities”.

The Green Economy Initiative (GEI) is designed to assist governments in “greening” their economies by reshaping and refocusing policies, investments and spending towards a range of sectors, such as clean technologies or renewable energies. The aim is to change the policy architecture in the long-term in order to achieve a low-carbon economy without social dispari-

ties. In contrast, the Global Green New Deal (GGND) has the overall objective to contribute to multi-lateral and national efforts to address in the short-term the current financial crisis and its social, economic and environmental impacts. It has three main goals for the short-term interventions through the fiscal stimulus packages: (1) Reviving the world economy, creating employment opportunities and protecting vulnerable groups; (2) reducing carbon dependency, esteem degradation and water scarcity; (3) furthering the Millennium Development Goal of ending extreme world poverty by 2015.

Both, the GEI and the GGND, deal with green investments in technology and in renewable energy in various sectors as new engines for economic growth that should lead to higher environmental protection, generating more jobs and reducing poverty. They explicitly mention as their aim the further promotion of sustainable economic growth, based on green investments and technologies (UNEP, 2009a; UNEP, 2009b). As UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner (2010), argued “green investment does generate better economic, social and environmental returns. Countries and companies that are investing in tomorrow’s technologies are already seeing the benefits starting to accrue today”.

As regards the social aspects of growth, the “job creation” function of green economic growth and the various incentives in education and training are regarded as instrumental for social inclusion. As regards consumption driven growth, the GEI argues that the “achievement of the desired levels of human well-being, reduced poverty, sustainable trade [...] is less likely if the production and consumption patterns of 20th century are continued” (UNEP, 2009a, 25). However, the GEI only refers to higher efficiency as tool for combating environmental degradation.

UNEP and various other UN organisations stand behind the Green Economy Initiative (GEI) and work in partnership with national governments, the private sector actors, NGOs, consumer groups and various experts. Through these partnerships, UNEP has established a network of decentralised, non-hierarchical and horizontal relations with different stakeholders which is based on co-operation and trust. The aim is to assist governments in reshaping their sectoral policy architecture in order to green their economies in the long-term through exchange of resources (e.g. information, expertise, funding) amongst the various stakeholders. The implementation tools of the GEI can be clustered in three main groups:

- (1) [Advisory services](#) to countries interested in greening their economies, by providing them with technical assistance services and coordination for regional and country level efforts in this matter;
- (2) *Research products*, such as the development of GEI’s flagship product, the [Green Economy Report](#) (which will be published in 2010, and is built on [Global Green New Deal Policy Brief](#) and the [Green Jobs Report](#)) or [The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity](#) (TEEB) series of reports;
- (3) [Partnerships](#) to effectively promote and implement green economy strategies.

UNEP has also been working closely with civil society organisations and the business community. Most recently, it supported the establishment of a [Green Economy Coalition](#), which is comprised of environment, development, business and labour groups to call on the G20 nations to follow through on their pledges to accelerate the transition to a green economy and secure a visionary global deal on climate change.

The GGND shows the same characteristics as the GEI in terms of governance, but it directly addresses the G20 countries which are the main environmental polluters (UNEP, 2009a). The proposed tools in the GGND policy brief (UNEP, 2009b) are grouped under three categories:

- (1) *targeted stimulus spending* in 2009-10;
- (2) *changes in domestic policies*: legislation, subsidies, introducing fiscal measures like taxes and incentives to promote greater use of renewable versus fossil fuels, public transport versus private cars, etc; and
- (3) *changes in international policy architecture*: international trade, international aid, a global carbon market, global markets for ecosystem services, development and transfer of technology, and international coordination for a GGND.

#### 4.2.2 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) 2012

On 24 December 2009, the UN General Assembly adopted a [resolution](#) agreeing to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in 2012. The conference is also referred to as “Rio+20” or “Rio 20”. As this title suggests, UNCSD 2012 will be a follow-up of the [1992 Earth Summit in Rio](#), where the international community adopted [Agenda 21](#), a global action plan for sustainable development. Ten years later, at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002, the [Johannesburg Plan of Implementation](#) was adopted, highlighting concrete steps for better implementing Agenda 21. However, as argued on the [UNCSD 2010 website](#), the progress has been slow in achieving internationally agreed goals, and challenges remain in achieving the goals of the three pillars of sustainable development, particularly in the context of the current global crises. UNCSD 2012 has three main objectives: (i) securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development, (ii) assessing the progress to date and remaining gaps in implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and (iii) addressing new and emerging challenges. *Two themes will be in the focus of UNCSD 2012* (UN General Assembly, 2010b):

- a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and
- and institutional framework for sustainable development

For preparing UNCSD 2010, there will be three Preparatory Committee meetings between 2010 and 2012<sup>2</sup> and a [progress report](#) by the Secretary-General. The progress report identifies progress to date as well as remaining gaps in the implementation of the two previous summits’ outcomes and an analysis of the conference themes. Moreover, the progress report addresses new and emerging challenges and focuses on the two conference themes (UN General Assembly, 2010b).

As regards [new and emerging challenges](#), the progress report of the Secretary-General refers to the global economic crisis and to climate change as imminent challenges. The report argues

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<sup>2</sup> The first Preparatory Meeting took place in New York on 17-19 May 2010. A documentation of the meeting can be found [here](#).

that these challenges have created threats and opportunities: on the one hand, they lend urgency to *pursue all three dimensions of sustainable development*, not only the environmental dimensions; on the other hand, they create a more *prominent role for global and national public policies*. However, the importance of sustainable development is still somewhat diluted by a common perception that limits – even if real in theory – are still sufficiently remote in time as to be ignored in practice (UN General Assembly, 2010b).

UNCSD 2012 will focus on two themes that are analyzed in the report of the Secretary-General. We provide a short summary of both themes below:

Theme 1: *The green economy in the context of sustainable development* and poverty eradication

The report argues that the green economy approach seeks “to unite (...) the entire suite of economic policies and modes of economic analyses of relevance to sustainable development” (UN General Assembly, 2010b, 15). *Four main strands* of the green economy approach are identified:

- analysis of market failure and the internalization of externalities;
- systemic view of the economic structure and its impact on relevant aspects of sustainable development,
- focus on social aspects (e.g. jobs) and policies needed to reconcile social objectives with other objectives of economic policy; and
- focus on macro-economic framework with the goal of identifying dynamic pathways towards sustainable development.

Moreover, the report of the Secretary-General also identifies *policy instruments* which are suggested in the context of green economy approaches (UN General Assembly, 2010b, 15-16):

- getting prices right, incl. removing environmentally harmful subsidies, valuing natural resources, etc;
- public procurement policies that promote greening of businesses and the market;
- ecological tax reform (i.e. shifting taxation from labour to resource use);
- public investments into sustainable infrastructure (e.g. public transport, renewable energy, improved energy efficiency of buildings);
- targeted public support for research and development on environmentally sound technologies;
- strategic investments through public sector development outlays for a self-sustaining process of socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth; and
- social policies to reconcile social objectives with existing economic policies.

The report also identifies some challenges that should be addressed until UNCSD 2012, like, (a) greater conceptual clarity of the links between green economy and sustainable development, (b) more analysis of the developmental, social and distributional implications of policy prescriptions, and (c) global modeling and scenario work to assess national green economy and green growth policies in a global context.

## Theme 2: Institutional framework for sustainable development

The report of the Secretary-General points out that *various institutional set-ups have been established* to increase coherence between economic, environmental and social objectives on the different political levels: on the international level, the [Commission on Sustainable Development \(CSD\)](#) has promoted a special institutional form to implement sustainable development, so-called multi-stakeholder partnerships; on the national level, national sustainable development councils, NSDSs or Local Agenda 21 processes have been established. However, as the report argues, “the proof of the pudding is in the eating” and several shortcomings can be identified, e.g. useful and commonly accepted environmental and sustainable development indicators, comprehensive approaches for coherence of the sustainable development pillars, etc.

From the various suggestions made by the report, we refer mainly to national level institutions. Firstly, the report addressed *national sustainable development councils (NSDCs)* which are considered as “major institutional innovations” (UN General Assembly, 2010b, 27), mainly because they brought non-governmental stakeholders directly into policy consultation and decision-making processes. However, some NSDCs have ceased their functions over the years for various reasons. The report argues that revitalizing NSDCs could be part of strengthening institutional development at the national level. For this, however, clear mandates and effective coordination with the traditional decision-making processes would be important. Secondly, the report mentions *national sustainable development strategies (NSDSs)* as important processes that should involve continuous learning. Several issues are considered as crucial for NSDSs processes: effective coordination mechanisms (e.g. inter-ministerial councils), institutions for increasing vertical coherence, and mechanisms for reviewing existing strategies.

### **4.3 OECD: Green Growth Strategy**

The world main economies, represented through their ministries in the OECD ministerial council, gathered in June 2009 at a Ministerial Council Meeting to discuss “green growth” as a potential way out of the economic crisis and to open up new prospects for the climate change negotiation in the Copenhagen Summit of Climate Change in late 2009. Ministers from all 30 OECD countries<sup>3</sup> as well as Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia signed a [Declaration on Green Growth](#) (OECD, 2009a) and endorsed a mandate for the OECD to develop a Green Growth Strategy (GGS). The development process of the OECD’s Green Growth Strategy is initiated by the OECD member countries and will be developed as a horizontal project by various committees and directorates of the OECD (OECD, 2009b). In May 2010, an interim report of the GGS was presented at the Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) and a final report on the GGS will be delivered at the 2011 MCM (OECD, 2010a). The GGS aims to serve as an orientation document for policies at the national level of OECD member countries.

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<sup>3</sup> Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States (see [OECD homepage](#)).

As outlined in the [GGG interim report](#), two main factors spurred the demand for “green growth” (OECD, 2010a, 13): on the one hand, “there are growing *concerns about the environmental unsustainability of past and current economic growth patterns* and the risk of irreversibly altering the environmental base needed to sustain economic prosperity”; on the other hand, “the *financial and economic crisis creates room for public policies* aimed at encouraging recovery and renewed growth on more environmentally and socially sustainable grounds”.

The interim report also provides a comprehensive *definition of “green growth”* and that it comprises (OECD, 2010a, 13): “ (...) green growth can be seen as a way to pursue economic growth and development, while preventing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable natural resource use. It aims at maximising the chances of exploiting cleaner sources of growth, thereby leading to a more environmentally sustainable growth model. This will involve seizing the opportunities for development of new green industries, jobs, and technologies, as well as managing the transition for greening the more traditional sectors and the associated employment and distributional effects. It will require adopting new technologies, developing new products and supporting new patterns of demand from households, companies as well as governments.” Moreover, the interim report argues that green growth policies will require an *integrated strategy* that combines economic, environmental and social objectives.

### 4.3.1 Framework for green growth

The GGS interim report argues that moving towards green growth will require *targeted government intervention* across a number of policy areas in order to accelerate green innovation and to manage a transition towards a green economy as this “will help to put green growth on an even playing field with conventional growth” (OECD, 2010a, 19). Figure 1 below provides an overview of the Green Growth Strategy Framework of the OECD.

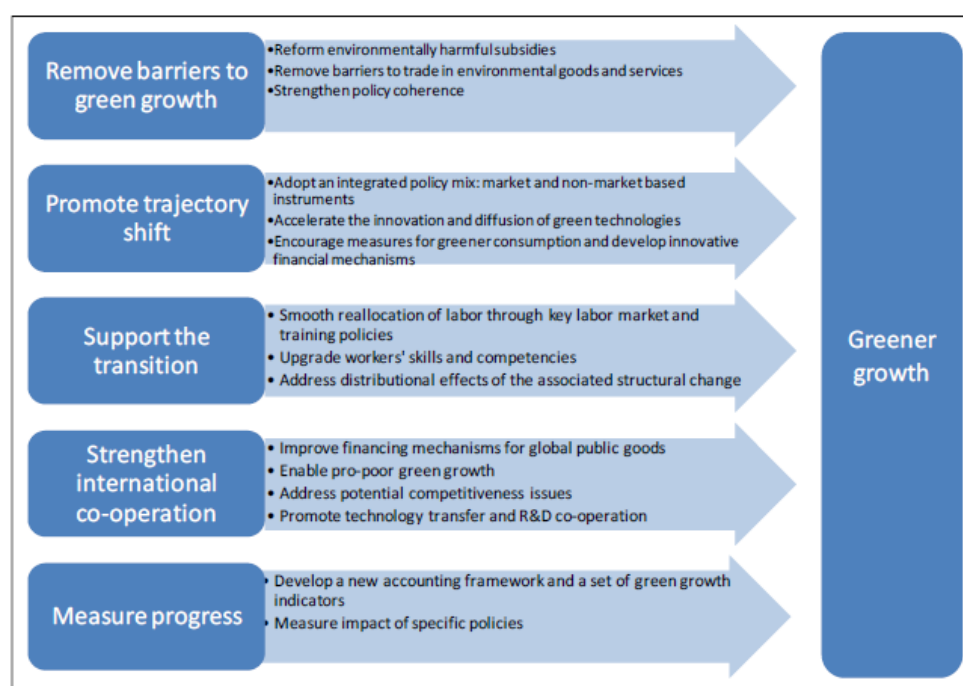


Figure 1: Green Growth Strategy Framework (OECD, 2010a, 24)

The OECD also favours a *policy mix* that comprises the following considerations (ibid, 21-22):

- Putting a price on pollution sources or scarce resources, like taxes, natural resources charges, tradable permit systems, etc.
- Regulations when market failures result in weak responses of agents to price signals.
- Combination of taxes, tradable permits and performance standards in case of multiple and various sources of pollution.
- Policies to support green technologies and innovation.
- Subsidising green activities are not favoured (large budgetary costs), but may be an effective option where pricing instruments would be difficult or very costly to enforce.
- Voluntary approaches or information-based instruments such as energy efficiency ratings or eco-labelling could complement other policies.

#### 4.3.2 Key elements of the green growth toolkit

The toolkit that will be developed in the GGS aims to help countries in guiding their transition towards green growth. It is argued in the interim report that this toolkit needs to be flexible enough so that it can be adjusted and tailored to fit different national and sub-national circumstances and stages of development. *The toolkit will comprise the following topics* (OECD, 2010a, 23): (i) an understanding of green growth and four priority environmental challenges: biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate change, sustainable materials management, and sustainable use of natural resources; (ii) approaches to overcome policy barriers to green growth, including the strengthening of policy coherence; (iii) policies that can bring about a shift towards green growth; (iv) policies to smooth the transition to green growth; (v) international cooperation for green growth; and (iv) a new accounting framework for identifying gaps and measuring progress towards green growth, based on green growth indicators.

In the following, we summarise key challenges for the transition towards green growth as identified by the GGS interim report (OECD, 2010a):

- *Overcoming barriers to green growth*  
The interim report argues that a number of barriers prevent countries from moving towards green growth, like environmentally harmful subsidies, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in environmental goods and services, inefficient regulatory interventions, and conflicting policy instruments.
- *Getting prices right for green growth*  
Taxes and other market-based instruments are considered key policy instruments for providing clear and sustained incentives to reduce environmental damage. Part of this could be environmentally-related taxes, cap-and-trade schemes for emissions and natural resources use, and putting a green tax reform in place in practice.
- *Green innovation*  
Policy-makers and industry are increasingly looking at innovation as a key driver for improvements in the environmental performance of businesses. Continuous improvements in economic and environmental efficiency are part of the current efforts toward

a green economy. However, the GGS interim report points out that “more radical innovation of new goods and services and alternative ways of consuming and disposing of products are also essential” (OECD, 2010a, 42). Therefore, the development and diffusion of clean technologies are considered as crucial within the overall policy mix for green growth. In late May 2010, the OECD published an [innovation strategy, “Getting a Head Start on Tomorrow”](#), which provides analysis and policy guidance on a broad range of issues from education and training policies, to policies that provide a conducive business environment and infrastructure for innovation, to policies that foster the creation and diffusion of knowledge. It concludes that “countries need to find new and sustainable sources of growth” (OECD, 2010b, 1).

- *Green growth policies in the energy sector*

The OECD considers the greening of the energy sector a key element of green growth strategies, providing a combination of benefits, incl. enhanced energy security, reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and lower energy costs. Important issues in this context are energy efficiency (OECD countries have not captured their full energy efficiency potential which lies hidden across all sectors), renewable energy (it could contribute to multiple policy objectives, e.g. reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, local pollution and improving energy security), and low carbon technologies (e.g. carbon capture and storage, electric vehicles).

- *Greener jobs, labour market transition and skills development*

The GGS interim report argues that the transition towards green growth may lead to structural changes in the economy which could include significant reallocations of labour and other factor inputs within and across economic sectors. Moreover, the application of new technologies and production practices in the economy suggests that job skills and requirements may change significantly in the future. In this context, the labour market and training policies can play a key role in facilitating structural adjustments required in the transition towards green growth.

### 4.3.3 Measuring progress towards green growth

Progress towards achieving green growth will be measured through indicators. The indicators that are developed should capture major aspects of green growth, pay attention to efficiency and productivity issues as well as to past and future developments. The focus will be on environmental performance of production and consumption and on drivers of green growth, such as policy instruments and innovation activities. Interactions of environmental quality with citizens’ well-being will also be captured. It is pointed out that “the challenge will be to go beyond conventional measures at hand and develop indicators that capture the long-term implications of current policies and production and consumption patterns” (OECD, 2010a, 59).

The indicators set to monitor progress of green growth will be distinguished into five groups:

- indicators on environmental efficiency of production (incl. absolute pressures associated with production);
- indicators on environmental efficiency of consumption (incl. absolute pressures associated with consumption);

- indicators describing the natural asset base of the economy;
- indicators monitoring environmental quality of life; and
- indicators describing policy responses and instruments.

## 4.4 Summary

We provide here a short summary of main characteristics of the three strategies:

- All three strategies were developed in *response to the global economic and financial crisis*. They identify this crisis as an *opportunity for change* and address, although to a different degree, environmental and social issues in the context of economic development trajectories.
- Regarding their understanding of growth and its relation to sustainable development, the three strategies largely remain *within traditional economic growth paths* and do, generally, *not question growth*. However, they argue for an economic growth approach that is enriched by more environmental and social considerations.
- Addressing the challenges of *climate change, energy topics and managing natural resources* are important environmental issues that can be found all strategies.
- *“Green” jobs, employment programmes* as well as measures towards *poverty reduction and social inclusion* are major social challenges that are addressed in all strategies.
- They have a *technology, innovation and efficiency-oriented approach* and call for more investments in green technologies and innovation, an increased use of renewable energy resources, higher efficiency in resource use, and decoupling growth from environmental degradation.
- They call for *more public policy intervention* to overcome the crisis situation and to design a “greener” or “more sustainable” development path.
- The *governance mechanisms and policy tools* for implementation vary, of course, with regard to the responsibilities and status of the policy-making process of the EU, UNEP and OECD. The mechanisms and tools range from a network approach with soft policy tools (UNEP), a policy framework for national policies with a mix of policy instruments, peer reviews, indicators and sharing of best practices (OECD), to a high-level policy strategy with clearly defined reporting schemes (EU).

## 5. Working group topics and formats

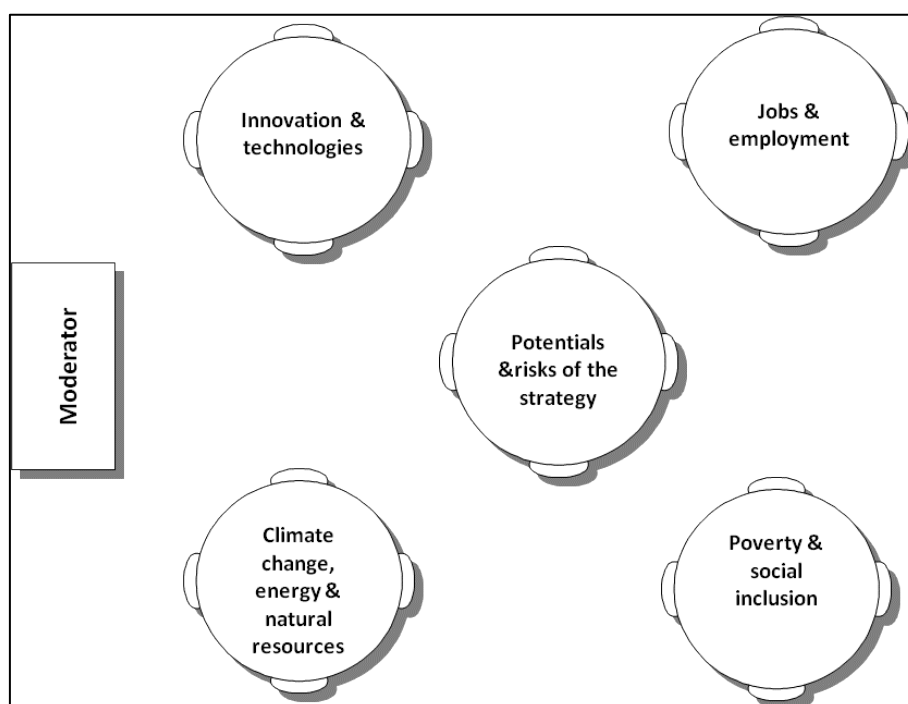
Like in previous ESDN conferences, the main topics will be discussed in-depth in parallel working groups, moderated by members of the ESDN Office. In the sections below, we briefly introduce the working group formats used in Session 2 and Session 3 of the conference (please see also the conference programme). The working groups in Session 2 and 3 will focus on the three supra-national strategies:

- Working Group 1: “Europe 2020” strategy – colour code **“red”**
- Working Group 2: UNEP’s Green Economy Initiative & UNCSD 2010 – colour code **“green”**

- Working Group 3: OECD's Green Growth Strategy – colour code **"blue"**

## 5.1 Working group format for Session 2

The working groups in Session 2 of the conference will continue the discussions in the previous session and reflect on **different economic, environmental and social challenges** our societies are faced with and how the three supra-national strategies and initiatives have taken them into account.



### 1) Introduction by the moderator (10')

The moderators (ESDN Office members) prepare a collection of references from the respective strategy document (Working Group 1: Europe 2020; Working Group 2: Green Economy Initiative; Working Group 3: Green Growth Strategy) that are relevant to the four group topics: innovation and technologies; jobs and employment; poverty and social inclusion; climate change, energy and natural resources. This should help the working group participants to get some background information on how the topics are addressed in the respective strategy. The fifth group will discuss general potentials and risks of the respective strategy to move towards a sustainable economy.

### 2) Table discussion (30')

Each table gets 3 green and 3 red cards. The moderator asks each table to identify a table speaker who is responsible for presenting the group results.

Tables 1 to 4 identify opportunities (green) and challenges (red) in moving from green growth to a sustainable economy in respect to the given topic.

**Question: What are the major opportunities and challenges in the respective strategy regarding [e.g. innovation & technologies] to move from green growth to a sustainable economy?**

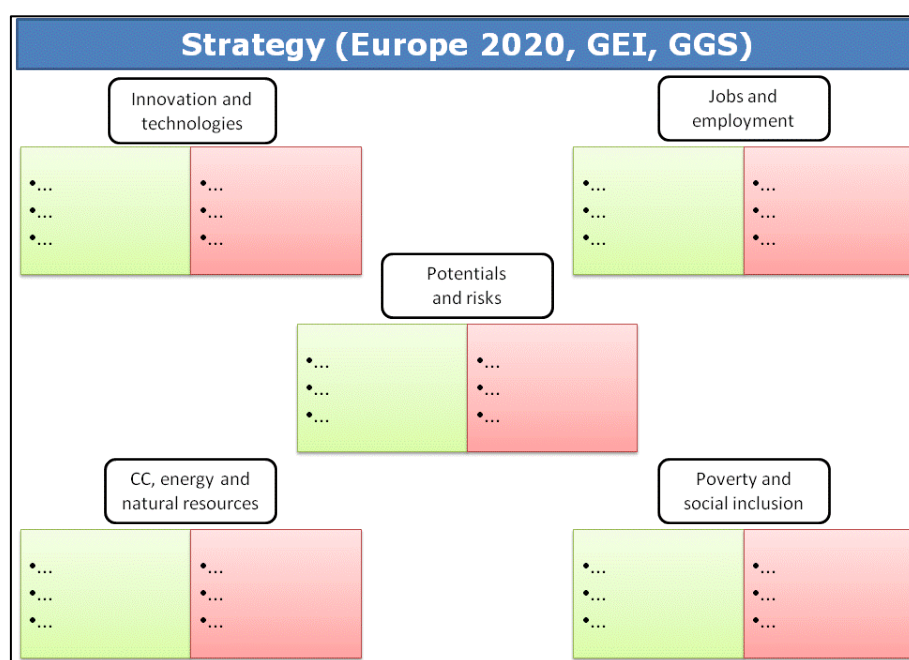
This should be done not in terms of governance (e.g. coherence, implementation, financing) but in addressing the social, economic and environmental challenges (e.g. objectives, topics).

Table 5 identifies three key potentials (green) and risks (red) of the strategy as such in the transition towards a sustainable economy. Again, this should be done not in terms of governance but in addressing the social, economic and environmental challenges.

**Question: What are important potentials and risks of the respective strategy regarding the transition from green growth to a sustainable economy?**

### 3) Presentation within the working group (20')

Each table speaker presents the results of their table to the whole working group and the moderator fills in the PPT slide.



### 4) Synthesis (30')

In order to synthesise the working group discussion, all working group participants decide upon:

**Question: What are the three most important messages the group would like to share with the other working groups?**

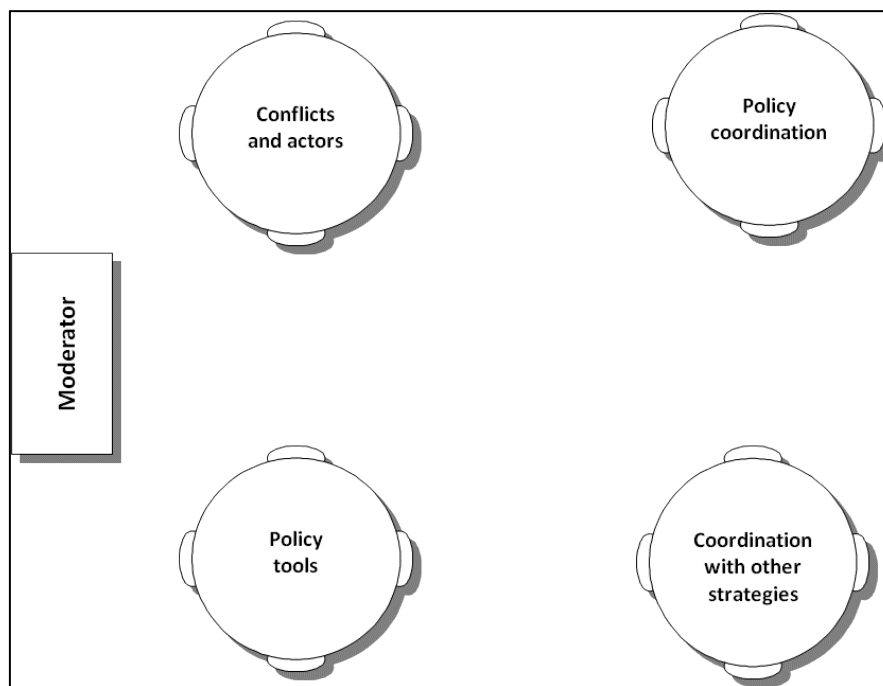
Strategy (Europe 2020, GEI, GGS)
<p>Three key messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li></ul>

For the presentation of working results, the moderators of each parallel working group (ESDN Office members) will present the key messages to the plenum.

Afterwards, the slides with the table results and the key messages will be posted in the conference venue for all conference participants to see during the whole event.

### **5.2 Working group format for Session 3**

The working groups in Session 3 will focus on ***governance issues*** in the context of the supra-national strategies.



## 1) Introduction by the moderator (10')

The moderators (ESDN Office members) prepare a collection of references from the respective strategy document (Working Group 1: Europe 2020; Working Group 2: Green Economy Initiative; Working Group 3: Green Growth Strategy) about relevant governance mechanisms and tools of delivery. This should help the working group participants to get some background information on governance perspectives in the respective strategy.

## 2) Table discussion (25')

There will be four thematic tables. Each table is asked to come up with 3-5 key recommendations (on cards) for the strategy on the respective topic. The moderators ask each table to identify a table speaker who is responsible for the group results.

**1. Conflicts and actors:** Which conflicts and with which actors (from within and outside of government) can be expected to challenge the delivery of the strategy? Support of which actors is crucial for the success of the strategy? What recommendations can be given to UNEP/OECD/EU to overcome these conflicts and resistances?

**2. Policy coordination:** By what means can coordination between policy areas (sectors) necessary for the successful delivery of the strategy be strengthened, and at what level(s)?

**3. Policy tools:** How are the risks associated with the proposed policy tools/mechanisms of the strategy addressed best to meet the requirements of a sustainable economy?

**4. Coordination with other strategies:** What recommendations can be given to UNEP/OECD/EU to coordinate their efforts with other key international and national strategies to move towards a sustainable economy?

**3) Presentation and discussion within the working group (40')**

The speaker of each table presents the recommendations to the whole working group and the group provides immediate feedback. The whole group together will decide on 3 recommendations per topic that they want to share with the other working groups. The moderator types them into a PPT slide.

Strategy (Europe 2020, GEI, GGS)			
Key recommendations			
Conflicts and actors:		Policy tools:	
• ...		• ...	
• ...		• ...	
• ...		• ...	
Policy coordination:		Coordination with other strategies:	
• ...		• ...	
• ...		• ...	
• ...		• ...	

For the presentation of working results, the moderators of each parallel working group (ESDN Office members) will present the key recommendations to the plenum.

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