

Networking to achieve coherence and synergies between national and European SD programmes and policies

Key note
LISSTRA Workshop
27-29 April 2003, Vienna

Elisabeth Freytag
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and
Water Management, Austria

Sustainability Networking: Our Aims

- To **link** national and EU level: People and strategies/programmes
- To find out positive **synergies**
- To discuss in how far **coherence** makes sense and is necessary
- To **intensify dialogue** on sustainable development in an enlarged Europe – to **strengthen the issue**
- To find **common views** on networking needs



Sustainability Networking: **Features**

- **Multi-level** (EU, national, regional/local)
- **Diverse** (countries MS/accession, different hierarchies, gender etc.)
- **Intersectoral !**
- **Via personal capacity**
- **Via venues** (meetings) and other **channels** (mail): Without „formal“ network
- **Informal/formal**
- **Bi- and multilateral**
- **„Heart-driven“**



Sustainability Networking: **Why?**

Policy Coherence

- What kind of „coherence“ (**targets, issues** etc.) do we need/want between the different processes and levels (EU-SSD, NSSDs, regional, local)?
- Do we need networking between **NSSDs** only?
- Should the **EU-SSD** be a „top down“ strategy?
How can we influence this process?
What is the role of European Commission?
- **We need strong SD-policies at all levels !**



Sustainability Networking: **Why?**

Positive Synergies

- ✓ Exchange of **good practice** (policies, projects), **information** (e.g. what is the EU SD-Strategy?) **and experience**
- ✓ **Support** (human and on the subject)
- ✓ Together we are **stronger!**
- ✓ Strengthening of issue as such
- ✓ Common "**pressure**" on EU level and vice versa
- ✓ "**Competition**" in the network as positive incentive



Sustainability Networking: **Why else?**

Positive Synergies

- ✓ „Not to invent the wheel again“:
Problems \Rightarrow Solutions
- ✓ Know-how transfer (e.g. methods used)
- ✓ Transfer of lessons learned
(participation, policy innovations etc.)
- ✓ Who is working on what?
- ✓ Higher efforts to experiment

Same input of energy, higher output!



Sustainability Networking: **Who?**

Who would have to network with whom?
Different „Networks“ at national and EU level

- EU Coordinators (SD-Strategy, 6 EAP, Lisbon and Cardiff process)
- National SD Coordinators
- EEAC – Scientific Community
 - (irregular) meetings
 - no linkages yet
- + different sectors/stakeholders
- Not to forget the regional and the local level!



Sustainability Networking: **How and where?**

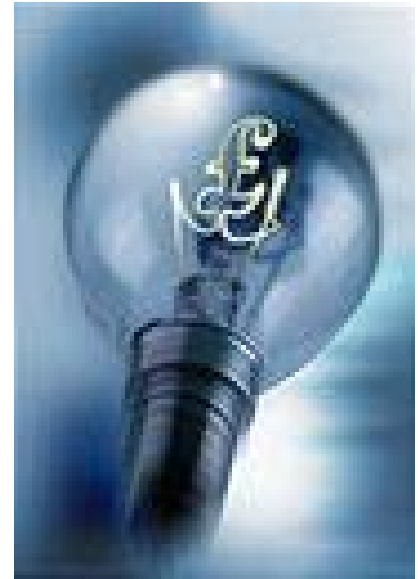
Venues and Channels

- By chance or organised?
- Regular network-meetings and/or via internet?
- Plenary and/or sub working groups?
- „Open Space“ (what actually matters to you) or fixed agenda?
- EU and national level together?
- Inter- and transdisciplinary?
- Intersectoral?



Sustainability Networking: Governance perspectives

- ✓ Linking **Top down and bottom up**:
How to create political leadership?
- ✓ Designing **new decision making processes** (transparency, participation)
- ✓ New models of policy making/
policy innovations (against the background
of different political systems)
and **experiments**
- ✓ **How can we best learn from each other?**



Let`s network!

“As individuals we are words, together we can be a poem.”

