

Governance for Sustainable Development

Sustainable development stirs up debate about the capacities of political steering and governance. The complexity of the task expounds limits of steering in three dimensions: goals, knowledge, and power.

- Sustainability concerns the balancing of potentially conflicting risk perceptions, values and interests. With knowledge development and ongoing cultural and ecological transformation, sustainability goals are subject to change and controversy. Steering has to cope, therefore, with conflict and ambivalence.
- Knowledge of ecological cause-and-effect relations and the coupled dynamics of society, technology and nature is limited. The predictability of long-term developments and possible side-effects of intervention strategies is very limited. For this reason, steering for sustainable development has to cope with uncertainty and unintended consequences.
- The power to shape structural change in society and technology is distributed across a multitude of actors and societal subsystems. On account of this, steering for sustainable development has to cope with a lack of central control and to face the necessity of coordinating strategies of different actor groups and social networks.

The workshop will explore steering strategies and governance arrangements for sustainable development with a view to these problem dimensions. The aim is to identify approaches and methods which reflect the limits of steering and yet offer guidance for constructively taking up the task of sustainable development in science and practice.

Venue

Palisa.de, former „Umspannwerk Ost“
Palisadenstr. 48, entrance in the yard
D-10243 Berlin
Tel: +49 30 49855090
www.palisa.de

Participation

is restricted to a maximum of 40 persons.
If interested, please register at:
Öko-Institut
Andrea Effinger
a.effinger@oeko.de
Tel +49-(0)761-4529528
Fax +49-(0)761-475488



(c) Palisa.de GmbH

Organisation

Jan-Peter Voß, Öko-Institut
Dr. Jens Newig, Univ. Osnabrück
Dr. Jochen Monstadt, EAWAG

on behalf of the Working Group Governance and Transformation
within the „Social ecological Research“ Programme funded by the
German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
www.sozial-oekologische-forschung.org

Governance for Sustainable Development

Steering in Contexts of Ambivalence, Uncertainty and Distributed Control

Knowledge?



February, 6-7th, 2006
Palisa.de (Umspannwerk Ost)
Berlin

Monday, 6th February 2006

09:00

Introduction

Welcome and introduction to the workshop
J.-P. Voß (Öko-Institut, Berlin/D), J. Newig
(Univ. Osnabrück/D), J. Monstadt (EAWAG,
Kastanienbaum/CH)

09:30

Problem dimensions of sustainable governance
and a typology of steering situations and theories
J.-P. Voß, J. Newig, B. Nölting (TU Berlin/D), B.
Kastens (Univ. Osnabrück/D), J. Monstadt

Coffee Break

10:15

Block A: Ambivalence of sustainability as a goal

Keynote on ambivalence of goals
G. Walker (Univ. Lancaster/GB)

10:45

Sustainable development: The reflexive
governance of risk
G. Borne (Univ. Plymouth/GB)

Discussion

A. Grunwald (ITAS, Karlsruhe/D)

Lunch

12:30

Block B: Uncertainty about socio-ecologi- cal dynamics

Keynote on uncertainty of knowledge
A. Grunwald (ITAS, Karlsruhe/D)

13:30

Uncertainty as a political tool in environmental
conflicts: Causes and uses of expert disagreement
in the Klamath Water Crisis, 2001-2004
N. Buchanan (MIT, Cambridge/USA)

14:30

Coffee Break

15:00

The state as a tillerman – getting back-in or get-
ting squeezed out. Two contrasting cases in the
field of flood protection in Germany
H. Lange, H. Garrelts (Univ. Bremen/D)

Managing uncertainties in the transition towards
sustainability: the case of micro-CHP and biofuels
in the Netherlands
I. Meijer, M. Hekkert (Univ. Utrecht/NL)

Discussion

N.N.

16:45

Coffee Break

Block C: Distribution of control over development

17:15

Keynote on distribution of power
J. Meadowcroft (Carleton Univ., Ottawa/CDN.)

Sustainable land use planning: Powered by
governance or governed by power?
M. Pütz (Swiss Fed. Research Inst. WSL,
Birmensdorf/CH)

Governance for sustainable agriculture: The role
of agricultural consultants as change agents
M. Gottschick, R. Sodtke, S. Weiland
(Univ. Hamburg/D)

Discussion

N. Dose (TU München/D)

19:30

Dinner

Tuesday, 7th February 2006

Block D: Governance and discourse

09:00

Crafting narrative, molding identity: Seizing
opportunities to improve societal resilience
in the aftermath of disaster
B. Goldstein (Virginia Tech, Blacksburg/USA)

Grounding transition governance on context
and practice
C. M. Hendriks, J. Grin (Univ. Amsterdam/NL)

Discussion

N. Buchanan (MIT, Cambridge/USA)

10:45

Coffee Break

Block E: Governing with ambivalence, uncertainty and distributed power

11:15

Inside or Out? Open or Closed? Positioning the
governance of sustainable technology
A. Smith, A. Stirling (Univ. Sussex/GB)

How governance can still be successful
N. Dose (TU München/D)

12:15

Lunch

13:15

Goal-oriented modulation as a model for dealing
with problems of sustainable development
R. Kemp (Univ. Maastricht/NL)

Discussion

D. Loorbach (Univ. Rotterdam/NL)

14:30

Conclusions and Outlook

15:30

Finish