Reviewing the Austrian Strategy of Sustainable Development

Background and Experience

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Contents of the Austrian SDS

- The concept of Sustainable Development and its status in Austria
- 20 key objectives including related indicators
- Implementation
Implementation

- Bodies (steering group, committee, forum)
- Working procedure (work programme, progress report)
- Evaluation / monitoring

The Learning Strategy principle
Examples of Tools

- Measure database
- Indicator report
Currently being implemented

- Implementation mechanisms
  institutions, tools
- Implementation activities
  measures, projects
External Evaluation

Methods

- Document analysis and interviews (to evaluate institutions and tools)
- Standardised questionnaires (to evaluate measures)
- Deeper analysis (for 20 measures a further survey and workshop)
External Evaluation

- Individual policy measures of other institutions run counter to the objective: 65% FALSE, 20% PARTLY TRUE, 9% MAINLY TRUE, 1% TRUE
- The policy of my own institution runs counter to the objective: 88% FALSE, 11% MAINLY TRUE, 9% TRUE
- The policy of the provinces or communities runs counter to the key objective: 86% FALSE, 11% MAINLY TRUE, 9% TRUE
- Important interest groups are successfully fighting against change: 67% FALSE, 11% MAINLY TRUE, 19% TRUE
- The scope of action for the policy is restricted: 63% FALSE, 15% MAINLY TRUE, 19% TRUE
- National trends run counter to the achievement of the objective: 73% FALSE, 16% MAINLY TRUE, 11% TRUE
- There is an international trend against the achievement of the objective: 75% FALSE, 11% MAINLY TRUE, 8% TRUE
External Evaluation

Questioning of project managers – core statements

- Project significance in one’s own institution:
  Accordance with the main targets and action fields of our own institution – therefore more likely to be supported. Support in other ministries is rather more restrained.

- Project perception:
  In the public or through the media: about a third is clearly perceived;
  through target groups and our own management level, about half is clearly perceived;
  through other departments/institutions low perception.
Conclusion

A successful implementation of a Sustainable Development Strategy requires a wide variety of evaluation, review and assessment elements.