



NEWSLETTER

Number 2 – 15 January 2009

Sustainability Revamping Systems

The *Sustainability Revamping Systems*, network and on-line platform to promote participation in sustainable development processes:

- contribute to the evolution, dissemination and mainstreaming of methods and tools in sustainability policy and strategies
- favour networking, collaboration and partnership between partners and decision makers
- address commitments and requirements of projects carried out at European and local levels

News from the network



SUSTAINABLE LIFE DEVELOPMENT (SLD) AWARDS

The AWARDS project produced the Sustainable Life Development (SLD) approach and the associated methods and tools. The project developed Action Plans and Pilot Initiatives at a local context, correlated by a Local Scenario Workshop. The Province of Piacenza (Italy), lead partner of the AWARDS project, is currently implementing these results through inter alia: training courses for civil servants on the EU policies, project design and management; monetary incentives correlated with in-firm vocational guidance and training devoted to women employment; services for youth employment, social and cultural inclusion (e.g. EURES, Eurodesk and Informagiovani networks to support mobility and exchanges at EU and local levels).

<http://lavoro.provincia.pc.it/>

PARTICIPATORY MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The municipality of Vicchio (Italy) implemented methods and tools to involve stakeholders and to prepare the annual municipal budget according to criteria of sustainable development since 2004.

This project was recognised as a good practice both at regional and national levels: in 2007 it received the "Premio Città Ideale 2007" (2007 ideal city award at the Tuscany regional fair "Dire&Fare"); in 2008 it was included in the 100 case studies selected by the national Ministry of Public Administration and Innovation.

http://www5.dire-fare.eu/oscar.asp?s=539&ID_305=171

<http://www.nonsolofannulloni.forumpa.it/100-storie/casi-selezionati/?motivazione=new>

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Further information on the initiatives quoted in this newsletter can be found in the web site of *Sustainability Revamping Systems*: www.srseuropa.eu

All persons who become member of the network of *Sustainability Revamping Systems* have free access to its tools, including a demo of customised on-line systems, while the general public is permitted to download the associated examples.

News on the European Union (EU)

THE EU “20-20-20” DEAL

The Council (12/12/2008) and Parliament (17/12/2008) of the European Union (EU) approved the climate change package with 3 macro targets by 2020: a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% improvement in energy efficiency, and a 20% share for renewable sources in the EU energy mix.

The Parliament six main acts are:

- directive on the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 21% in 2020 compared to 2005 levels
- decision to reduce by 10% the greenhouse gas emissions from non-ETS sources (e.g. road and sea transport, buildings, services, agriculture and smaller industrial installations) between 2013 and 2020
- directive for the carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture and storage technology (CCS)
- directive on mandatory national targets to achieve a EU average of at least 20% renewable energy by 2020
- regulation on an average target of 130g CO₂/km for new passenger cars by 2012 and of 95 g CO₂/km by 2020 through improvements in vehicle motor technology
- directive to reduce by 2020 up to 10% of greenhouse gas emissions produced throughout the life cycle of transport fuels (extraction or cultivation, including land-use changes, transport and distribution, processing and combustion)

http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/index_en.htm

THE EU SOCIAL AGENDA

Before the international financial crisis, the EU Commission adopted (July 2008) the renewed Social Agenda to increase opportunities, access and solidarity for all through 19 initiatives centred on seven priority areas: children and youth; more and better jobs, new skills; mobility; longer and healthier lives; poverty and social exclusion; anti-discrimination and gender equality; global (world-wide) scene.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=547>

THE EU ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

The EU Council (12/12/2008) approved the EU Economic Recovery Plan to face the financial crisis (COM(2008)800). The Plan amounts to around EUR 200 billion (nearly 1.5 % of the EU GDP, gross domestic product), 85% at Member State level, as actions in their budgets, and 15% as actions within the EU budget and from the European Investment Bank.

The plan provides a common framework to:

- launch a major European employment support initiative
- create demand for labour
- enhance access to finances for business
- reduce the administrative burden and promote entrepreneurship
- step up investments to modernise Europe's infrastructures
- improve energy efficiency in buildings
- promote the rapid take up of “green products”
- increase investments in research and development (R&D), innovation and education
- developing clean technologies for cars and construction
- a high speed internet for all

http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/index_en.htm

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

All the 27 Member States produced their National Progress Report on Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), based on the EU seven key challenges: climate change and clean energy; sustainable transport; sustainable consumption and production; conservation and management of natural resources; public health; social inclusion, demography and migration; global poverty. The reports reveal efforts to formulate a multi-dimensional strategy aimed at integrating economic, environmental and social issues through governance mechanisms that involve stakeholders in decision making.

http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/news/index_en.htm

http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_14/items/4481.php

REFORM PROGRAMMES

All the 27 Member States produced their National Reform Programmes (NRP) for 2008 – 2010, based on 24 Integrated Guidelines (IG) of the Lisbon Strategy (growth & jobs) and 4 core priorities: knowledge and innovation; business potential, particularly of SMEs; employability through flexicurity; an efficient and integrated EU energy policy. The 11th IG encourages the sustainable use of resources and strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth. Many Member States addressed this guideline in a near formal way. Only 5 Member States made explicit links between the NRP and Sustainable Development Strategy.

http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/national-dimension/member-states-2008-2010-reports/index_en.htm

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

26 Member States (one is still missing) produced their National Strategy Reports on Social Protection and Social Inclusion (NSR) for 2008 – 2010, following common objectives and indicators on: social cohesion, equality between men and women and equal opportunities for all; effective and mutual interaction with the Lisbon Strategy (growth & jobs) and Sustainable Development Strategy; good governance (e.g. the involvement of stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of policy). Generally all Member States underlined some interaction between the NSR and the NRP (growth & jobs). However only 6 of them referenced the Sustainable Development Strategy.

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/strategy_reports_en.htm

GOVERNANCE

All the 27 Member States are implementing the so-called OMC (Open Method of Coordination) to improve the EU governance (COM(2001)428).

The OMC is a flexible and decentralised method based on: common guidelines, objectives and indicators; mutual learning processes (e.g. peer reviews and best practices); stakeholders participation; national (and sub-national) strategies; joint evaluation of these strategies between Member States and the EU Commission.

The 2005 refocused Lisbon Strategy streamlined the OMC for “growth & jobs” policies (NRP) and social inclusion policies (NSR).

The 2006 renewed Sustainable Development Strategy fostered procedures similar to the OMC (NSDS).

However, differences exist between the Member States.

Main strengths are: common understanding of concepts, strategic orientations and policy priorities; mutually reinforcing policy-mix between environmental, social, employment and economic dimensions; innovative methods and tools to involve stakeholders in decision making.

Main weaknesses are: the perception of NRP, NSR and NSDS as “reports to Brussels” rather than strategic action plans; “copy & paste” bureaucratic attitude rather than coherent interaction between the Reports and their policies; economic and employment issues considered as more salient than poverty, social exclusion and environmental issues; superficial stakeholder consultation rather than their actual participation in decision making; processes concentrated in “inner circles” of persons who prepare the reports.

Debate has increased at EU level to better synchronise the OMC processes, for instance through overarching Sustainable Development objectives, integrated guidelines, correlated timing and procedures.

http://www.sd-network.eu/?k=quarterly%20reports&report_id=4

<http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.eu/network-of-independent-experts/first-semester-2008>

EU CHALLENGE IN VIEW OF POST-2010 PERIOD

The current Lisbon Strategy will end in 2010. The EU Council (14/03/2008) therefore stressed that “a continued EU-level commitment to structural reforms and sustainable development and social cohesion will be necessary after 2010 in order to lock in the progress achieved by the renewed Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs” while inviting “the Commission, the Council and the National Lisbon coordinators to start reflecting on the future of the Lisbon Strategy in the post-2010 period”.

Debate is already initiated on a closer interrelation between the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, the Lisbon Strategy and the Social OMC. Several pros and cons are taken into consideration between two main hypotheses: merging all sectoral policies in an overarching EU integrated development strategy; better integrating parallel strategies based on the pillars of sustainable development, growth & jobs and social inclusion.

[Sustainable Development Strategy: Results of the ESDN workshop](#)

[Lisbon Strategy: Results of the meeting with the 27 national coordinators](#)
