





**How are we moving ahead?  
Who is getting how his/her act  
together?**

Principles, approaches and action  
for SDG implementation in Europe

SDG event Vienna, 1 June 2017

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Discussion Paper 9/2016

**How Are We Getting Ready?**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development in the EU and its Member  
States: Analysis and Action So Far

Ingeborg Niestroy June 2016



German SD Council (RNE)  
17th annual conference  
May 2017



Peter Altmaier, Head of the Chancellery  
For G20: the T20 summit  
May 2017

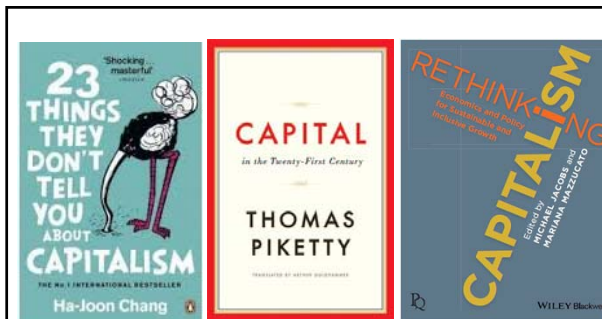


Dennis Snower, President Kiel Institute for the World Economy  
Dirk Messner, Director German Development Institute

**T20 Conclusions | Recommendations**

1. **Make economies serve human needs**
2. **Make the SDGs the framework and develop long-term transition pathways**  
TTs to find roadmaps for delivery - 100s have committed
3. **Create measures of impact relevant to the SDGs**  
(... are already in the SDGs implicitly)
4. **Establish business and policy reporting.**
5. **Make these reports consistent across countries**  
(... which are having different needs)

For G20: the T20 summit  
May 2017



2010                      2013                      2016

T20 conclusions: 10 years after the economic crisis, some (more) economists do publically rethinking



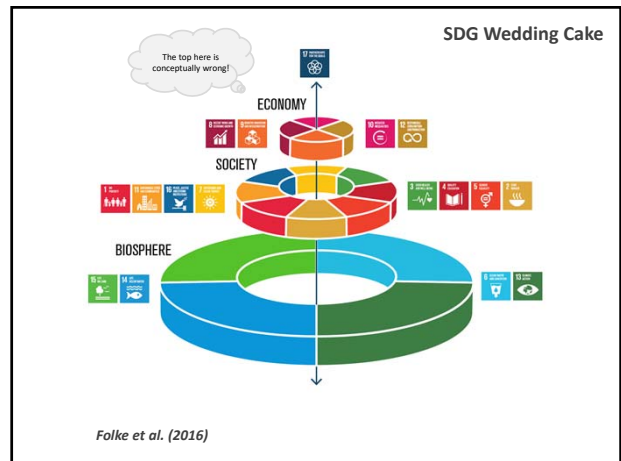
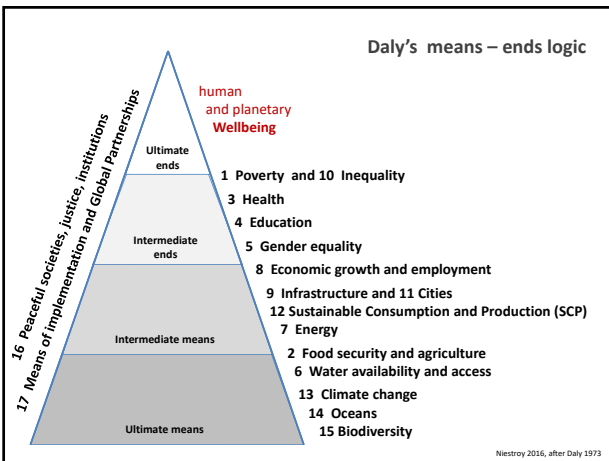
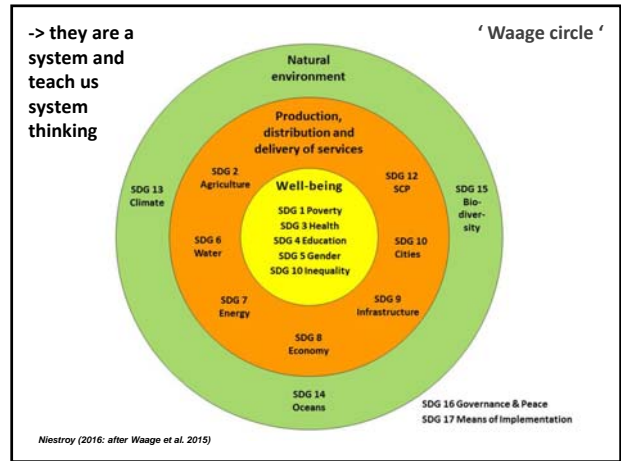
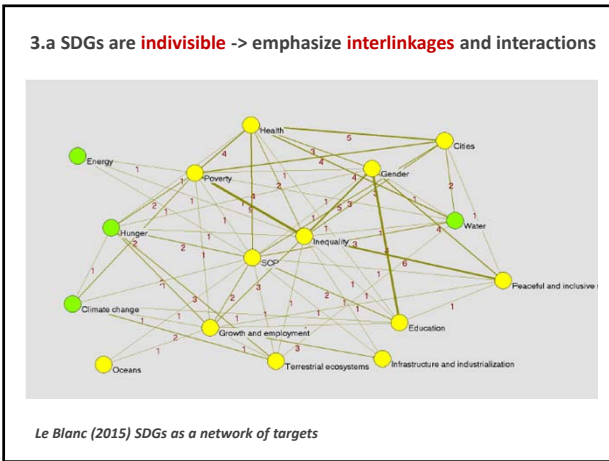
What is so great about Agenda 2030?

**USA sabotieren Klimapakt**

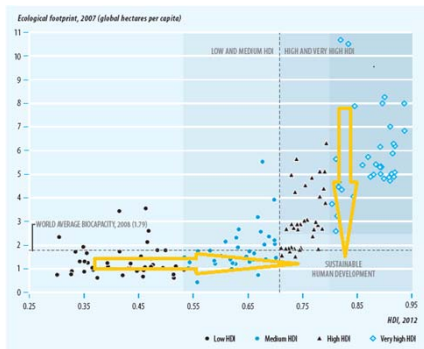
USA-Präsident Donald Trump könnte den Pariser Klimaschutzvertrag verlassen – ein heftiger Rückbruch für den internationalen Kampf gegen die Erderwärmung.

Juncker: Trump muss sich an Klimaabkommen halten  
 "Gesetz ist Gesetz" – Trump braucht drei, vier Jahre für seine Aussagung aus dem Klimapakt. Nicht alles, was in internationalen Verträgen steht, ist "White Paper".

What we know: A White House source confirmed on Wednesday that [Trump intends to pull out](#) of the Paris climate agreement. The U.S. president later [tweeted](#) he will announce his decision, whatever that ends up being, today at 3 p.m.

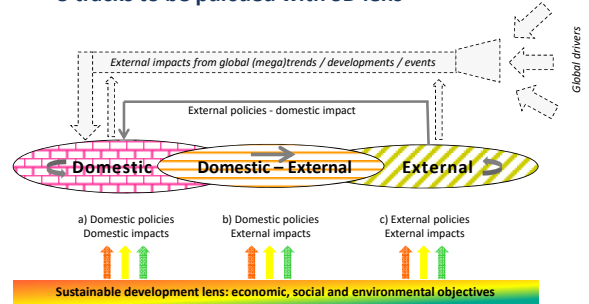


3.b Universality – SDGs as framework for the different pathways



3.b Universality at national level:

3 tracks to be pursued with SD lens



Niestroy (2016): How are we getting ready? DIE discussion paper



Five governance principles for SD

Characteristics of integration	Governance principle	What needs to be coordinated/integrated?	Challenge for a governance for SD
Policy sectors / areas	Horizontal coordination /integration	Multiple sectors: economic, social and environmental policies	Teaching silos to dance, achieving policy coherence (3 tracks)
Policy levels	Vertical coordination /integration	Multiple levels: local, subnational, national and supranational	Multi-level is perceived as daunting (see EU); fostering bottom-up and top-down
Actors	Participation	Multiple actors: decision-makers and stakeholders from politics, business and civil society	Different levels and styles of participation, various governance issues Lagging: Parliaments, political parties
Knowledge	Reflexivity	Knowledge and experience from different sources ("transdisciplinarity")	Continuous reflection and learning (e.g. peer learning), evidence-based policy making (e.g. IA)
Time	Intergenerational justice	Long- and short-term thinking	Election cycles

"Good governance": rule of law, fight corruption ... (+/- SDG 16)

Source: Niestroy (2014: 158, adapted from Jacob et al. 2013: 18 and Steurer 2010: 37)

Teaching silos to dance (... the Vienna waltz!)



Improving horizontal coordination for achieving policy coherence is key

3 tracks: internal and external silo is the most difficult one?

3. Don't break down institutional silos



Break down mental silos if they prevent change



Don't break down institutional silos if they provide the necessary structure, reliability, transparency, communication points;

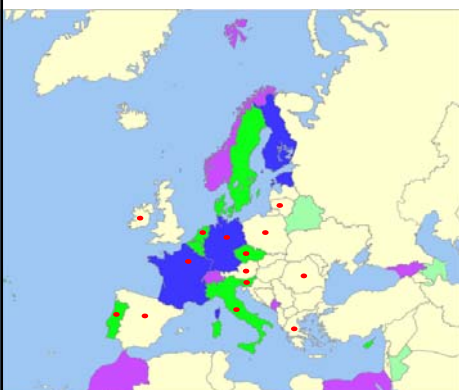
-> We need to 'teach silos to dance'\*\*: Create cross-cutting projects, partnerships, stimulate open-mindedness and collaboration; change procedures to open them up



\* See guest article at www.IISD.org

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**Who has been doing what?**  
 1. Countries: Voluntary National Reporting, HLPF 2016 and 2017



VNR 2016 EU – non-EU  
 VNR 2017 EU – non EU

2. NGO (alliances)

SDG Watch Europe  
 - multi-sectoral  
 - External / devco and domestic!

Existing / emerging alliances in 20 MSs  
 (early movers DE, FI, IE, IT, a bit different FR, NL ... and DK, SE ...)

Support in 14 MSs:  
 DEAR project

p.20

**A Civil Society Alliance to make the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda a reality**



**Who has been doing what?**  
 3. EU / European Commission

- was an important player and driver in the SDG process,
- was also a role mode in horizontal coordination (DG Environment and DG Devco collaborated throughout),

but then ...



WWF European Policy Office, 25 September 2016

**What has happened at EU level on SDGs?**

All slow ...

- Only in CWP 2016 (in Dec. 2015): "Next steps for a sustainable European future: ... new approach to ensure Europe's economic growth and social and environmental sustainability beyond the 2020 timeframe, taking into account the Europe 2020 review and the internal and external implementation of the UN SDGs."
- Only in April 2016 Inter-Service Steering Groups (ISSG) for "overarching":  
 → mapping and identifying where the added value of EU action lies
- **November 2016 COM communication** – no consultation  
 → now Jumbo process: **Council conclusions** → powerful!

**In parallel**

- Review of the European Consensus on Development (with consultation)
- EU Global Strategy
- **Now also: White Paper Discussion on the Future of Europe**
- Eurostat and MSs decided on 100 indicators – report in November 2017

After G7: Now maybe a rediscovery and reinvigoration of the EU takes place

**Conclusions & Recommendations**



- 1. OPPORTUNITY** Agenda 2030 is an opportunity - not to be missed!
- 2. TRANSLATE** The SDGs need to be translated in the national contexts  
 → "Mainstreaming" does not work "just like that": Instruments need to be adjusted (e.g. Impact Assessment) and national objectives and targets to be defined  
 → "Gap analysis": Are there areas that are neglected, or where we do not cooperate enough? On the outcome side: What is our footprint, where are the main drivers, trade-offs, and main opportunities to change ... ?
- 3. STRATEGY** How do you (want to) get to the place where you want to go?  
 → Getting where you want requires some kind of strategy or strategic approach or ...
- 4. GOVERNANCE** Improving coordination is key – internal and external!  
 → Thinking in links and working in partnerships, build alliances on the 3 tracks, internal and external, horizontal and vertical – teaching silos to dance
- 5. OWNERSHIP and LEADERSHIP**  
 → Engage all stakeholders, actors, citizens, - work bottom-up and change mindsets, ... make it attractive for politicians and demand it from political parties



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