Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany (SDSN Germany)
Founding process, objectives and challenges

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Meeting of the SDSN Leadership Council
Beijing, 15 May 2014
First steps after the launch of the global SDSN

- Background talks with German think tanks, ministries, civil society organisations and business people: Rising awareness, exploring interest
- First German SDSN member organization (May 2013): German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)
- BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) commissioned GIZ with supporting the global SDSN
Germany & the global SDSN

Public events to promote SDSN within Germany

- **19 March 2013 in Berlin** (together with International Chamber of Commerce Germany): **New pathways towards global sustainability:** How can politics, business and science come together?

- **4 March 2014 in Berlin** (together with Konrad Adenauer Foundation) **The German "Energiewende" in the global context:** lessons and pitfalls for low-carbon transformation
SDSN Germany: the process

Stakeholder meetings to test the water

- 27 January & 4 March 2014 in Berlin: SDSN dinner & round table
- Around 30 participants from think tanks, universities, business, civil society and politics already involved in SDSN related issues
- Inputs by Jeffrey Sachs (4 March) & Guido Schmidt-Traub

Inaugural meeting with core knowledge institutions

- 14 April 2014 in Berlin: Adoption of “Cornerstones for the Organisation”
Members

- Institutions …
  - … that are members of the global SDSN or aspire to be members

Partners

- Institutions or individuals …
  - … that would like to support the objectives and work of the SDSN.
  - … without being a member of the global SDSN

Members and partners come together in an annual SDSN Germany Assembly.
Members of SDSN Germany

- Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn
- European Business Ethics Network Germany / Deutsches Netzwerk Wirtschaftsethik (DNWE), Berlin
- German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitis (DIE), Bonn (national SDSN host)
- German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin
- Germanwatch, Bonn / Berlin
- HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA School of Governance, Berlin
- Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam
- Kiel Cluster of Excellence “The Future Ocean”, Kiel University
- Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy
National Leadership Council

First members:

• Jun. Prof. Jan Börner, ZEF
• Prof. Joachim Fetzer, DNWE
• Dr. Maja Göpel, Wuppertal Institute
• Prof. Hermann Lotze-Campen, PIK
• Prof. Dirk Messner, DIE
• Klaus Milke, Germanwatch
• Prof. Klaus Töpfer, IASS
• Prof. Martin Visbeck, Kiel Cluster of Excellence

Additional council members from business, civil society etc. to be appointed in due course.
Objectives

Promoting..

• ..the sustainable development of Germany as well as..
• ..German efforts for sustainable development worldwide.

Objectives in particular:

• To foster the German debate on sustainable development
• To promote practical solutions for sustainable development within Germany and across the globe
• To link German expertise to the global SDSN and to global discussions on a post-2015 agenda, as well as to its implementation
• To support cooperation among German SDSN members, and to foster exchange with German business, politics and society.
Areas indicated by members, yet to be decided upon

**Topics:** De-carbonization/energy transformation, sustainable cities, youth/education/economy, food and agriculture

**Global and national policies:** Climate negotiations (COP21) and how they relate to post-2015: “Key Positions” of the German government on post-2015; National Sustainability Strategy; monitoring the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Germany

**SDSN groups & projects:** Contribution to the Deep Decarbonisation Pathways Project (DDPP) focussing on the political economy of the necessary transition

**Solutions Initiatives:** Will flow from the chosen topics, implemented e.g. with business and GIZ
Challenges

Ambitious objectives

• How to promote a sustainable development agenda beyond a small expert community and how to put transformation centre stage in Germany, too?

Strategy

• Consolidating or extending the membership base and the network of partners? Networking, campaigning and doing research at the same time?

Overlaps and synergies

• How to complement and support other German sustainability networks, initiatives, and councils.

• How to focus on a limited set of topics to produce real value added?

Resources

• How to mobilise resources for the network within and beyond member organisations?
Thank you for your attention!


http://www.die-gdi.de/en/research/sdsn-germany/