

# **Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany (SDSN Germany)**

Founding process, objectives and challenges

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Meeting of the SDSN Leadership Council  
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# Germany & the global SDSN

## 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 & Partners

## 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 Entwicklungspolitik (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.

# Possible Focus Areas

## 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://unsdsn.org/what-we-do/national-and-regional-networks/national-sdsn/germany-sdsn/>

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