

Press Release

“Science Platform Sustainability 2030” Launched in Germany

New science platform to support the Sustainable Development Goals of the German Federal Government and the 2030 Agenda

Berlin, 09.05.2017 Research is crucial to sustainable development: a new science platform will support efforts to implement the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals of the global 2030 Agenda. The Science Platform Sustainability 2030 was presented to the public at the 13th Forum for Sustainability (FONA) on 9 May. Hosted by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the conference was opened by the Federal Minister of Education and Research, Johanna Wanka, and the Head of the Federal Chancellery, Federal Minister Peter Altmaier. The platform’s operations will be jointly organised by the research networks Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany (SDSN Germany) and the German Committee Future Earth (DKN Future Earth), together with the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam.

“The science platform builds on existing research activities and will address challenges that other approaches have been unable to resolve”, says Patrizia Nanz, an IASS scientific director and a co-chair of the steering group. The platform’s steering group, which convened at its inaugural session on 8 May, brings together prominent figures from academia, policymaking, civil society, and the business sector. “Our focus will lie on overcoming path dependencies and breaking new ground. The Science Platform Sustainability 2030 provides an opportunity to work together in new ways and to foster the emergence of a collaborative relationship that incorporates diverse points of view and prioritises both long-term thinking and a focus on the common good”, outlined the political scientist.

The science platform is “a decisive step towards the rigorous and effective implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy”, explained Dirk Messner, the co-chair of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany (SDSN Germany). “Transdisciplinary debate, drawing on the best available knowledge and involving actors from academia, society, business, and policymaking, is critical to initiating and accelerating processes of transformation towards sustainability. The science platform provides a framework for this”, explained Dirk Messner, who will also co-chair the steering group.

Martin Visbeck, the chairperson of German Committee Future Earth (DKN Future Earth) and the steering group’s third co-chair, emphasised that “the scientific community will provide a broad foundation of systematically reviewed knowledge, identify and evaluate trade-offs and

synergies, and develop innovative solutions". Research findings can deliver new insights for implementation strategies to support sustainable development in, with, and through Germany – particularly when viewed in their international dimension."

The Science Platform Sustainability 2030 will operate as an independent organisation and will develop actionable solutions for transformation processes to create a more sustainable society. Its activities will be underpinned by both the wide-ranging and excellent research landscape in Germany as well as international cooperation.

The Science Platform Sustainability 2030 will contribute to the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy. The platform will receive cross-ministerial support throughout its development and operation, in particular from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), and the Federal Chancellery.

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IASS:

Funded by the ministries of research of the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Brandenburg, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) aims to identify and promote development pathways for a global transformation towards a sustainable society. The IASS employs a transdisciplinary approach that encourages dialogue to understand sustainability issues and generate potential solutions in cooperation with partners from academia, civil society, policymaking, and the business sector. A strong network of national and international partners supports the work of the institute. Its central research topics include the energy transition, emerging technologies, climate change, air quality, systemic risks, governance and participation, and cultures of transformation.

SDSN Germany:

In 2014, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany (SDSN Germany) was launched by leading German research institutions as part of the global SDSN. SDSN Germany mobilizes knowledge, experience and capacity of more than 30 leading German research institutions, advocacy groups and foundations. The members and partners of SDSN Germany share the commitment to foster sustainable development in Germany and worldwide.

DKN Future Earth:

The German Committee Future Earth acts as the national representative for the international research programmes [FUTURE EARTH](#) and [WCRP](#). The German Committee Future Earth provides support for interdisciplinary and integrated research. In this regard, the DKN Future Earth encourages the collaboration between natural and social sciences, the humanities and engineering to advance research activities that help shape the pathways for a global sustainable society, to find a systematic approach for problems and to generate societal relevant knowledge.