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https://www.unsdn.org/sdsn-holds-2nd-global-solutions-forum
https://www.die-gdi.de/en/sdsngermany/
@SDSN_Germany

Dialogue of the Scientific Councils
The German Sustainable Development - Siloed Policy Advice

Diagram showing the flow of reports and advice from various Federal Ministries to the Federal Chancellery.
Problem

• Large number of diverse scientific advisory councils – most linked to one specific ministry
• Little to no regular exchange across silos / policy fields
• Little to no explicit link to sustainable development (SD) policy / SDGs
• Lack of reciprocity and feedback
SDSN Germany and the Science Platform Sustainability 2030 invite a number of selected councils to a dialogue on the future, the 2030 Agenda and the German National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)

Idea:

• Bring together, for the first time, such a diverse number of scientific councils
• Facilitate mutual exchange on ideas and work
• Develop shared understandings of the future and SD-related policies: German NSDS / 2030 Agenda / SDGs.
Solution: Building an Advisory SDG-Circle

- Digital Council
- Social Advisory Council
- German Ethics Council
- Bioeconomy Council

Advisory Council for Consumer Affairs
UN-Political Advisory Board of the Federal Foreign Office
Expert Commission on Research and Innovation
Advisory Council on the Assessment of Developments in the Health Care Sector
Scientific Advisory Board on Agricultural Policy, Food and Consumer Health Protection at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Scientific Working Group of the Federal Network Agency
Advisory Board for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peace Building
Council of the Federal Minister for Transport and Infrastructure
Advisory Board to the Federal Ministry of Finance
German Advisory Council on Global Change
Scientific Advisory Board on Biodiversity and Genetic Resources at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Network for the Promotion of Interdisciplinary Social Research

- German Environment Council
- Council of Economic Experts
- Council on Social and Economic Data
- Scientific Advisory Council for Family Affairs

#GSF2020
„Progress on sustainable development requires exchange and collaboration across policy fields.“
Rep. Scientific Advisory Board on Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (2019)

„By the means of reports and positioning papers [...] the councils can [...] revitalize the discourse on sustainable development.“

„Joint positioning in areas where there is a great need for action and where common understandings exist can increase the leverage of scientific policy advice.“
Results

• Strong interest: Representatives of 15 (2018) to 20 councils (2020) and of ten ministries participated

• Increased awareness of SD / SD-related transformations in council reports

• Joint report with recommendations on the development of the NSDS (Dialogue 2019)

• Initiatives by participants to strengthen the reciprocity of dialogue at the science policy interface for the NSDS

• Dialogue recognised as integral part of the SD implementation architecture (Dialogue Version of the NSDS, 2020)
Potential for Transferability & Scalability

**Transferability**
- Scientific councils / advisory bodies exist in many countries / regional bodies
- Horizontal links are weak across silos also in other contexts
- Not much financial ressource requirements

**Scalability**
- Strengthen links to Chief Science Advisors and Foresight Processes
- Collaboration with / scale to EU-level