

ESDN Website – www.sd-network.eu

The ESDN website serves as a **'one-stop-shop' for SD strategies in Europe**, and is the communication platform of the ESDN. It provides a variety of information and background material that is of interest for everybody involved in SD strategy development, implementation and evaluation.

Special sections of the website are:

- **Basic information** about the definition and history of SD strategies in Europe.
- **Country Profiles** offer up-to-date information and links about SD strategy processes for each individual European country. The features covered are, for example, mechanisms for vertical and horizontal policy integration, forms of stakeholder participation and evaluation as well as monitoring schemes.
- **Quarterly Reports** offer an in-depth documentation of selected topics (e.g. the renewed EU SD Strategy, evaluation and peer reviewing of SD strategies), including interesting links for further exploration.

Furthermore, the ESDN website provides information about the network itself, it informs about events and activities relevant for the ESDN, and it lists important links and documents dealing with SD strategy processes.

Are you interested in joining the ESDN?

As an informal network of public administrators that has close ties to other experts working in the field of SD, we distinguish between ESDN members, associated partners and others:

- If you are a government authority representative responsible for SD policy formulation and implementation, we invite you to become a **member of the ESDN**.
- If you are an expert from an international organisation, NGO or network dealing with SD, from a national or international SD advisory council or from a research institute with a network-relevant track record, we invite you to join the ESDN as **associated partner**.
- **Others** who would like to obtain information about the ESDN on a regular basis are invited to subscribe to the **ESDNewsletter** at www.sd-network.eu.

If you want to register as a member or an associated partner of the ESDN (both free of charge), please contact the ESDN Office.

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ESDN

European Sustainable Development Network

www.sd-network.eu

The ESDN in brief

The **European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)** is an informal network of public administrators and other experts dealing with sustainable development (SD) strategies in Europe. The aim of the ESDN is to exchange experiences, knowledge and good practices regarding the key features of SD strategy processes at the EU, national and regional level. It deals with strategy development and implementation, horizontal and vertical policy integration, stakeholder involvement as well as evaluation, peer reviewing and monitoring.

The history of the ESDN goes back to 2002, when public administrators in charge of SD strategies from several EU Member States met for the first time for a workshop-like exchange of experiences in the Netherlands. Since then, different countries have hosted **network conferences** on an annual basis.

The ESDN in the renewed EU SD Strategy

Member States could make use of the existing European Sustainable Development Network with the aim of facilitating the exchange of good practices and experiences. It could gather views on specific priority themes and issues to be discussed by Member States in order to exemplify and document good policies and practices. This network could also be used to enhance the mainstreaming of sustainable development issues, vertical integration and coherence between the EU, national and sub-national levels of policy-making.

Source: Renewed EU SD Strategy 2006, paragraph 42.

In 2006, the development of the ESDN has gained momentum in several respects:

- Ministries responsible for co-ordinating SD policies from several European countries agreed to establish an **ESDN Steering Group** that was constituted in February 2006 in order to facilitate the activities of the ESDN and to provide guidance for the network's future development. Currently, the Steering Group consists of government representatives from seven European countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK. The European Commission takes part at observer level.
- Since spring 2006, network activities are supported by the **ESDN Office**. It is financed and overseen by the ESDN Steering Group and operated by the Research Institute for Managing Sustainability. The mission of the ESDN Office is to offer continuous information as well as support activities through internet-based services, including individual support for its members.
- The **ESDN website** has been launched at www.sd-network.eu.



ESDN Conferences

The annual **ESDN Conferences** play a prominent role in facilitating networking among public administrators and other experts from across Europe that deal with SD strategies, and in developing the network further. The first conference, which marks the beginning of the ESDN, took place in The Hague (Netherlands) in 2002. Subsequently, ESDN Conferences were hosted in Vienna/Austria in 2003, Kinsale/Ireland in 2004, Windsor/UK in 2005 and Salzburg/Austria in 2006.

The ESDN Conferences facilitate an exchange of experiences and knowledge by using various formats: major challenges are discussed in-depth in plenary sessions and working groups, good practices are exchanged in presentations and poster exhibitions, and the results of the events are documented in conference proceedings.



Comprehensive documentations of all ESDN Conferences (including discussion papers and conference proceedings) can be found on the ESDN website at www.sd-network.eu.

