



The Finnish Model on Sustainable Development: Boosting involvement and ownership

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“Finnish model” on Sustainable Development

- Leadership on a high political level (PM as a chairperson)
 - Continuity (1987 - ...) on the political agenda
 - Continuous vertical and horizontal coordination
 - Broad-based, bottom-up political dialogue amongst the government and the stakeholders
 - Policy coherence: integration policies strengthening the involvement of civil servants and generating a sense of ownership among different sectors
 - Transparency and stakeholder cooperation during the strategy processes
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The Finnish Model – The political context

- Capacity for strategic planning and consistency in politics
 - Capacity for decision making and tradition of cooperation in policy-making
 - Capacity for adaptation – fairly flexible institutions which enable adaptation
 - Capacity for collective learning; positive attitude towards societal change
 - Policy coordination and coherence – sectoral policies mutually supportive
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Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development (FNCSD)

- 44 members, 37 deputy members
- convenes 4-5 times a year in meetings
- Commission seminars 1-2 times a year
- Sub-committees (ESD, NSDS, ...)
- Prime Minister (Chair),
- Environment Minister (Vice-chair)
- 5 sector Ministers
- Ministries and gov't agencies
- The Parliament
- Local government
- Academic sector
- Business and productive sector
- Interest groups
- Non-governmental organisations
- The indigenous Sámi-people
- Two churches



Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development (FNCSD) (1993-)

- Under the FNCSD operates an inter-ministerial Secretariat (the sectoral SD “watchdogs”)
 - appr. 20 active civil servants from several ministries
 - preparing the meetings and working programme of the Commission
 - convening appr. once a month, continuous e-mail connection
 - Operational core Secretariat within the MoE
 - 4 civil servants + assistant (incl. Secretary General and Secretary of the FNCSD)
 - development, preparation and coordination of the Finnish SD policy and the meetings of the FNCSD and its Secretariat
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Long history of strategies and programmes on sustainable development in Finland:

- 1990: Sustainable development in Finland
- 1995: Finnish Action for Sustainable Development
- 1998: Finnish Government Programme for Sustainable Development
- 2000: Signs of Sustainability: Finland's indicators for SD
- 2003: Evaluation of sustainable development in Finland
- **2006**: New National Strategy for Sustainable Development



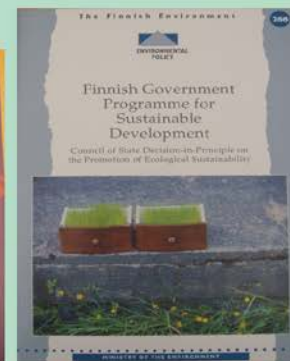
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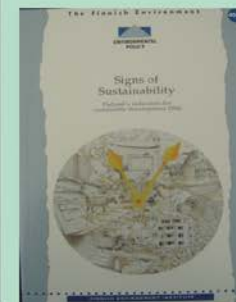
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1997



1998



2000



2003



The New National Strategy on Sustainable Development (2006)



- Prepared and endorsed by the multi-stakeholder Strategy Group
- Chairs: Finance, Environment and Social Affairs Ministries
- Secretariat: MoE/ SD Unit
- Adopted by the FNCSD in June 2006
- Public consultation in March-April 2006



Need for a new national strategy

- Main challenges in horizontal policy-areas where joint objectives and measures are needed
 - Interlinking the indicator and strategy work
 - Interlinking the national SD strategy with the EU SDS (2006)
 - Interlinking the national SD strategy with the Nordic SDS (2004)
 - Further elaboration of the proposals of the National Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production (2005)
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Themes of the New Strategy “TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CHOICES”

Main themes:

- Balance between the use and protection of natural resources
 - Sustainable communities in a sustainable regional structure
 - Well-being throughout the lifecycle
 - The economy as a safeguard for sustainable development
 - Finland as a global actor and bearer of responsibility
 - Supporting sustainable choices
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Vision and target framework

- General vision
 - Assuring well-being within the limits of the carrying capacity of nature nationally and globally
 - The objective is to create sustainable well-being in a safe and pluralistic society that promotes participation, and in which all people bear responsibility for the environment

 - The timeline for the targets is beyond the current generation, extending until about 2030
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Principles for all dimensions of SD

- The mutual dependence of the economic, ecological, social and cultural dimension of sustainable development
 - Extending beyond the current generation and the long-term nature of policies
 - Global, national and local consistency between various policy sectors
 - A strong scientific foundation and an approach based on the assessment of risks and probabilities
 - Strengthening of human resources by offering better prerequisites for sustainable choices and equal opportunities for individuals to attain self-fulfillment and influence society
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The Road Map

- Approval of the Strategy by the FNCSD 13 June 2006
 - Overall guidance for the implementation process by the FNCSD (8 Nov 2006)
 - Council of State (Government) reading and decision-in-principle (14 Dec 2006) – guidelines for public administration in the implementation
 - Treatment in stakeholder organisations – action plans
 - Parliamentary reading (in various sub-committees) - to be decided later
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Lessons learned

- National learning process as important as the end result
 - Commitment of "old" and "new" stakeholders
 - Creation of new partnerships and joint programmes
 - Mutually reinforcing processes, particularly EUSDS-NSDS
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Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development

Thank you!

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