



High Level Group

A group of high-ranking representatives from politics, industry, science, and civil society will discuss on the one hand the main relations between the poles of competitiveness, innovation and sustainable development within the framework of conCISEnet; on the other hand, the fundamental consequences with regard to current political action in the European Union shall be discussed. The following questions are important in this context:

- How do competitiveness, innovation and sustainability influence one another?
- What general conditions are necessary to harmonise sustainability and competitiveness by means of innovation?
- Where do the boundaries of the Lisbon Strategy lie in view of adverse impact on global sustainable development („boundaries of competitiveness“)?

The positions and perspectives of the different actors with regard to key challenges and potential solutions are elucidated with the help of methods and findings of socio-environmental research.

The objective of the high level group is to promote discourse and networking on these issues with a view to an integrated European sustainability strategy – as a pre-requisite of and opportunity for new focuses and activities.

Contact

Funded within the framework of the ‘Scientific networking of non-profit environmental research institutes in the field of socio-environmental research’ program by

Öko-Institut is a leading, innovative and transdisciplinary European research and consultancy institution working for a sustainable future.

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Contributing to a Competitive, Innovative and Sustainable Europe through networking

Project



conCISEnet makes a contribution to discussions on European industrial policy between the poles of sustainable development, innovation and competitiveness. The debate in Germany is enriched by international networking; good examples are disseminated in other European countries.

Competitiveness

Besides productivity, “competitiveness” is manifested in the power of companies to shape general political conditions, set technical standards and influence market structures. But what does “competitiveness” mean to Europe? Does Europe want to expand, keep pace, or survive? Is the EU a global archetype of what sustainable competition can look like?

Innovation

Innovations - as distinct from “change” - are intended and non-intended effects of goal-orientated and intentional action. The actions of different actors interplay with one another and with external changes. conCISEnet analyses opportunities in Europe to shape innovations towards sustainability.

Sustainability

Sustainable development forms the guiding principle of a lasting strategy for society and industry that is geared to future generations. The goal is to ensure prosperity and social peace in due consideration of the environment and the growth dynamics of the world population. Integrative and participative procedures support the relevant social strategies for avoiding long-term consequences.

Networks

We form networks between companies and consumers, industries and social institutions, as well as in the key areas of conflict in large infrastructure schemes. The activities and findings are brought together and discussed in the high level group.

Modules



Module 1 | Sustainability and Competitiveness in Production and Consumption

Module 1 pursues the networking of two key concepts of sustainable industries: the concept of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and the concept of responsible competitiveness. The networking is initiated in five subject areas.

1.1 Methodical interdisciplinary issues

In this sub-module, such aspects as product innovation goals from the point of view of the consumer, competitiveness of sustainable products in the global mass market and international public awareness campaigns are discussed. The methodical further development of life-cycle cost analysis and the integration of social aspects are addressed.

1.2 Socially compatible electronic products

The goal of this sub-module is networking activities related to environmentally and socially compatible electronics production in countries which have a strategic position on the world market. Networks such as the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) and the Electronic Industry Code of Conduct (EICC) are partners.

1.3 Use of biogenic resources as raw materials

This sub-module aims to disseminate methods and findings of the energetic use of biomass towards the use of biogenic – as well as aquatic – resources as raw materials. A co-operative working process of scientific and social actors from the EU is initiated and contact is established with non-European research institutes.

Modules



1.4 Sustainable transformation of tourism services

The integration of sustainability and tourism research as well as consumption and marketing research is in the foreground in this sub-module. The intention is for the transfer of socio-environmental methods for the purposes of a more sustainable product and market set-up to make a contribution to long-term competitiveness.

1.5 Responsible competitiveness

Is socially responsible action in companies and industries a stumbling block or a driving force of the competitiveness of the European Economic Area? The networking of European actors and an exchange of experiences with other economic areas are pursued in respect of this issue.

Module 2 |

System innovations and transition management

Sustainable development requires structural innovations in such sectors as power, mobility, nutrition and housing. Problematic production and consumption patterns are stabilised by means of established regimes in which technologies and infrastructures are linked with social institutions, visions and interests. As a result, new products and forms of organisation cannot break through. In workshops on “transition management“, new policy approaches are analysed and developed further in order to shape sustainable system change.

Module 3 |

Conflict management in infrastructure projects

Module 3 focuses on public participation as well as the participation of stakeholders in large infrastructure schemes – primarily in the context of airport extensions and nuclear waste repositories. The module initiates a Europe-wide network of experts and institutions which are active in the field of moderated stakeholder processes for the purpose of conflict management. The task will generally be made up of two aspects: (1) The interaction between formal planning and approval procedures and informal participation processes and (2) the determination of methodical and procedural requirements of a comprehensive impact assessment with regard to the social and economic development of regions and possible reduction and compensation measures.