

# Sustainability and Ecology

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# Sendzimir Foundation

*Sendzimir Foundation's mission is to promote sustainable development through the practical implementation*

*of the objectives, principles, values and tools related to it,*

*and increasing public awareness in this regard*

- Concentrates on the sustainable development of cities with a special focus on ecosystem services
- Brings good practice, expertise, education for diverse groups of professionals;
- Facilitates dialogue among stakeholders;
- Belong to diverse networks:
  - Greening European Cities Network
  - AtKisson Group
  - Baltic University Programme



# Youth policy and sustainable development – conceptual interrelations

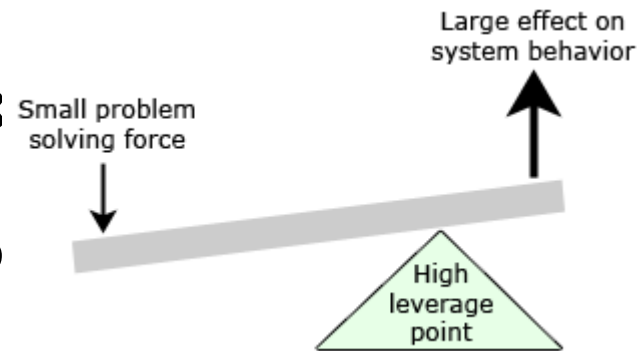
- Intergenerational justice as core concept
- Strong vs weak sustainability
- 3 aspects: economical, social and environmental foundations of well-being
  - Example: water
  - Not only amount and quality but also accessibility (economic, social, political factors)





# Youth and sustainable development

- Trends, threats
  - Ecosystem services provision downsize & biodiversity loss
  - Climate change and energy transformation
  - Economic disparities/inequalities
- Strategies to address threats, opportunities
  - Youth empowerment and education for sustainable development
  - Green jobs
  - Policy measures and behavioural change





# Ecosystem services – value of nature and future generations

- Basic – sustaining human population
- Provisioning: Natural resources scarcity
  - Fossil fuels, water shortages (2.8 billion under water stress), overfishing
- Regulating: Natural hazards (crisis)
  - Severe weather conditions, landslide prevention, filtering
- Supporting: Habitat (implications for health and wellbeing)
  - Air and water quality, noise pollution
- Cultural and recreational
  - Value of nature as an asset in tourism, aesthetic value of nature





# Ecosystem services – value of nature and future generations

- Transferring costs of such services replacement (substitution) to the future
  - Costs of substitution are higher than their protection
  - Some of these ecosystem services might turn out to be impossible to recreate
  - Result: decrease of well-being of future generations
- Environmental accountability (one of its prerequisites is nature valuation) helps to maintain ecosystem services intact for the use of future generations





# Climate change

- IPCC AR5 (Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (so far): is happening and is caused by humans
- Visible effects on human population: famine, severe weather phenomena, loss of ecosystems and biodiversity, but also migration, conflict, accessibility of basic goods and rights
- Yet...
  - Difficult topic
  - A serious (too big for me) and global (somewhere out there) threat
  - Requiring immediate action





# Climate change

- The long-term effects of climate change will be mainly a burden of the youth and forthcoming generations (especially in developing countries) therefore youth should be considered key stakeholders when it comes to climate change mitigation policy through:
  - Mitigation of climate change drivers
  - Reinforcing resilience and climate adaptation programmes
- But also: **education/awareness raising:**
  - Dealing with uncertainty (in learning process)
  - Dealing with fear-inducing situation (could it not be based on fear? is fear a good driver of our actions?)
  - Interrelations between micro and macro trends (showing the role of individual behaviour)





# Green jobs – are green jobs really for youth?

- *Green Jobs for Youth*, Kyle Gracey, Michael Davidson, June 2012
- Shows that youth will not be most probably the main beneficiaries of green jobs (currently approx. 10,9% of green jobs are held by youth as compared to 12,4% youth share in all jobs)
- Women are even less represented (approx. 25% working in green jobs compared to 50% share in all jobs) BUT
- Indirect & induced jobs – many employing youth
- So all in all: *When these three effects are taken into account, investments in clean energy are estimated to create three times as many jobs as equivalent invest sectors*

## Reasons?

- High level of expertise
- Technical education (women share) – educational policy
- Youth: 16-29 – shaping their future decisions





# Empowering youth & ESD

## **Education for Sustainable Development empowers youth**

- Education for Sustainable Development consequently promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way.
- Equipping youth with knowledge about the current condition of the world and competencies to lead change
- Leadership and collaboration skills
- Responsibility and accountability
- Envisioning and strategical thinking/planning



# Empowering youth & ESD

## Youth empowerment strengthens sustainable development

- Key stakeholders of sustainable future
- Group mostly affected by unsustainable growth paradigms
- Diversity of actors involved in the discussion helps to build consensus for sustainable development
- Thinking models/patterns (youth as a change actor)



# Policy measures and behavioral change



Top-down: Policy measures  
Ex. Sustainable Millenium Development Goals (result of Rio+20)

- Involve into discussion (key stakeholders)



Bottom-up:  
Behavioral change:



- Raise awareness of importance of sustainability
- Maintain and promote sustainable lifestyle (shift in behavioral patterns)



# Guidelines

- Education for sustainable development (building up competence for the sustainable world)
- Policy that supports sustainable development:
  - Projects on sustainable development
  - Involving diverse stakeholders (also diverse groups of youth)
- Green procurement/green standards in youth projects



Thank you



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