



Getting the SDGs linked with issues

The SDGs represent a complex set of inseparable and interdependent goals. Overall agendas and multisectoral strategies have, in the past, shown an important weakness¹: when „everything is important“, it comes back to pragmatic aspects, even more so in political decision making. Especially for the core concerns of sustainability – a responsible long-time view and a balance between the 3 dimensions ecology, economy, and social responsibility - this is a matter of high risk: unequal distribution of power and enforcement of specific interests are – in the day-to-day of politics – likely to „overrule“ sustainable and responsible decision making, that is appropriately considering the long term effects and the public interest.

Abstract agendas and strategies are less tangible than concrete issues and matters of interest. It is important to link the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals to concrete issues, organisations, regions or challenges. Then, the overall goals become more tangible and relevant in the public and political discourse.

ÖKOBÜRO therefore developed an easy-to-use tool for CSOs, local communities and decision makers to look at political issues “through the lens” of the SDGs. Finally, solutions should be found and carried out that contribute to the overall goals. Our easy-to-use tool aims to support stakeholder to setting up a clear framework and to discuss political issues with due regard to

- the interdependences between goals and the possibly conflicting goals.
- short-term and long-term consequences within the dimensions.
- local and global impacts.

OEKOBÜRO is the alliance of the Austrian Environmental Movement. It consists of 16 Austrian organizations engaged in environmental, nature and animal protection like GLOBAL 2000 (Friends of the Earth Austria), FOUR PAWS, Greenpeace CEE, and WWF Austria. OEKOBÜRO works on the political and legal level for the environmental movement.

¹ Nordbeck, R., Steurer, R.: Multisectoral strategies as dead ends of policy integration: Lessons to be learned from sustainable development; in: Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy 2016, volume 34, pages 737 – 755

Step 1: Setting up the case

Visualize the issue that you want to focus on: is it a concrete problem? A political decision? The mission of your organisation? A concrete campaign you are carrying out? Find some visualisation, e.g. a photo, a construction plan, a logo.

Step 2: Visualize

Cut out each icon.



Put the visualisation in the middle of a pattern, as you find it in the example on the next page.

Pick those SDGs that represent core aspects of the issue you are analysing, and place them around your topic. Think about benefits, interdependencies, indirect effect, short-time and long-term consequences.

Step 3: Exchange thoughts

Find others to discuss your ideas with. Be open to arguments, but reflect them critically. The best solution can only be found when exchanging ideas with other stakeholders.

