

The role of National Councils for Sustainable Development

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National Councils for Sustainable Development: typical features

- Members from different parts of society
- Some experts; some generalists
- Close to Government - privileged access
- Independence, to varying degrees
- Modest resources

Added value

- Assembling different viewpoints
- Potentially wide outreach
- Ability to cross policy boundaries and integrate
- Ability to tackle long term issues
- Seeking to achieve environmental, social and economic goals together

Sustainable Development Strategies

- Natural territory for NCSDs
- NCSDs can contribute on framework, on detailed content, on process, and on implementation and monitoring
- NCSDs' main focus national, but can also help at local and European levels

NCSD contributions

- Clarifying principles and objectives
- Commenting on targets and indicators
- Commenting on measures (actual or proposed) and their effectiveness
- Helping to mobilise different actors and integrating their contributions

Some key issues for SD strategies

- Live topics such as energy/climate change, transport including aviation, waste management and recycling, sustainable consumption and production
- The roles of different social partners: regional and local government; business and trade unions; the educational and scientific communities; NGOs etc
- Process issues: eg consultation/participation

What NCSDs can do together

- Learning from each other and sharing best practice between countries
- Joint studies on key issues
- Collective input into the European SD Strategy (development, implementation and reporting); and the interaction of European Institutions with national strategies