Sustainable Development Strategy
Hungary

„Reviewing National Sustainable Development Strategies”

UN DESA expert group meeting
New York, October 10-11, 2005
Background

Process

Content

Next steps
Political climate

• New President elected in summer: ex constitutional court member and advocate for rights of future generation

• Parliament election campaign started

• Green party established

• Possible delay in introducing the EURO announced

• Political agenda centred on GROWTH, jobs, security
SDS closely linked to EU policies

Responsibility for building SD transferred from Ministry of Environment to National Development Office

MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS

Office for EU Affairs

National Development Office:
- National development policies
- Lisbon Action Program
- Sustainable development strategy
- Coordination of community support
2005 - the year of great plans in Hungary

1. Convergence program

2. National Development Concept

3. National Strategic Reference Framework

4. Lisbon Action Plan

5. Climate change program, Program against social exclusion, National program for environment protection, National program to increase competitiveness, National rural development plan, public administration reform, new sectoral strategies, programmes, reforms…

6. Strategy for Sustainable Development
Survey, prepared by the National Development Office, of strategies proliferating in Hungary
Proposed structure of strategies places sustainable development strategy at top of hierarchy

1. **Embri erofforás fejlesztés**
   - **Néprajzi Kulturális**
   - **Nemzeti Kulturális**
   - **Kalózpolgári Kultúra**

2. **Társadalmi Kohézió**
   - **Nemzeti**
   - **Kalózpolgári**
   - **Kalózpolgári Kultúra**

3. **Fenntartható fejlődés**
   - **Nemzeti**
   - **Kalózpolgári**
   - **Kalózpolgári Kultúra**

4. **Területfejlesztés**
   - **Nemzeti**
   - **Kalózpolgári**
   - **Kalózpolgári Kultúra**

**Versenyképesség**

- **Néprajzi Kulturális**
- **Nemzeti Kulturális**
- **Kalózpolgári Kultúra**

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**NEMZETI FEJLESZTÉSI HIVATAL**

**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**
National Development Concept, prepared to lay foundations for the EU structural and cohesion fund planning, takes over primary position in hierarchy of strategies

SDS is perceived as „social expenditures” strategy, a supplement to a competitiveness (i.e. GROWTH) strategy
Further strategies recommended

- Social justice services
- Economic justice services
- Environmental sustainability
- Health
- Migration
- Family; Child and youth
- Sport development
- Business services

Strategy seen as guarantee for sectoral interests, expressed as strategic objectives, to come true
National Development Concept (NDC)

An overarching development concept:
• for the next 20 years
• filling the role of country strategy
• three pillars of sustainability recognised in NDC

Economy :::::::::: People :::::::::: Environment

  Employment       Social cohesion

  Dynamic business
  Renewed social care systems
  Infrastructure development
NDC: Hungary’s strengths

- Central location
- Excellent opportunities for cross border relations
- Central, key role of Budapest and environs
- Important cultural and historic traditions
- Rich natural heritage
NDC: Hungary’s weaknesses

- Vulnerable businesses
- Uncertain development path
- Low activity rate
- Polarized knowledge levels
- Polarized society & regional differences
- Poor demographic and health indicators
- Public care systems at limit
1. Long term competitiveness
2. Employment
3. Education
4. Health
5. Strengthening cohesion
6. Improved physical access
7. Improved virtual access
8. Protection and sustainable use of natural resources and the environment
9. Balanced territorial development
NDC horizontal objectives

- Equal opportunities (Gender, ethnic, disabled)
- Economic, social & environmental sustainability
- ICT applications
- Employment
- Security
Major road development planned in Hungary - Helsinki corridors
Background

Process

Content

Next steps
It is the process that matters...1.

- Agree business plan & approval procedure
  - took 7 months to sign
- Agree strategy TORs & partnership TORs
  - strategy TOR still in the making
  - partnership TOR constantly modified
- Build & maintain support for project
  - the most controversial aspect of project
- Pick management staff
  - project management outsourced
  - project management staff changed three times so far
- Create SD and related knowledge base (CD, web)
  - one of the success stories of project
  - very positive feedback from users of knowledge base
It is the process that matters... 2.

- Identify partners
  - diverse list of partners since start of project
  - two environmental NGOs representatives (normally refuse to "represent" on grounds that "everyone is different")
- Identify strategic priorities & agree targets and indicators
  - failed on various occasions to forge consensus on priorities
  - author of first draft omitted "strategic priorities" chapter altogether, calling his draft "a methodology for process and not recipe for progress"
- Commission writers
  - Hungarian SD gurus would not agree to write by project deadline
  - present author is newcomer to SD
It is the process that matters…3.

- Run partnership workshops
  - each thematic strategy discussed in partnership workshops
  - drafts available on web
  - academic reviews & workshops supplement social partnership
- Edit & approve
  - authors of thematic strategies responsible for incorporating comments from social partners
  - first strategy draft by 24 October 2005
- Follow up with action plan & reviews
  - proposal on follow up to government this year
  - government decree to authorize draft SDS for partnership
  - partnership process to be end before elections in Spring 2006
  - strategy to be approved / adopted by Parliament?
What the process did for us

😊 Administrative responsibility for SD in each department

😊 Cross ministerial committee on SD with ministries of economy, environment, and social issues & equality

😊 High level task with dedicated staff and senior management „engaged” in NDO

😊 Ad hoc committee on SD in Hungarian Academy of Sciences

😊 Influence on wording of strategic documents

😊 Public discourse temp. focus on SD themes

😊 Delivered previously non-existent sectoral strategies (eg, social inclusion)
What the process did not do for us

- Could not build cooperation among SD gurus
- Could not make SD decisive driver of development planning and political agenda
- Could not tackle growth debate
- Did not define priorities
- Did not build alliance for SD among the public
- Could not align PM support to strategy
- Could not deliver the strategy on time
Double strategy needed

- Strategy to tackle unsustainable trends and promote sustainable ones

- Strategy to make NSDS accepted and implemented
  (as part of strategy building project)
Background

Process

Content

Next steps
Key issues raised by stakeholders

1. Basic values, quality of life
2. Learning & systems thinking
3. Labour market, employment
4. Public administration reform
5. Regional & rural development
6. Equality
7. Family, population, intergenerational issues
8. Sustainable communities
9. International cooperation
10. Infrastructure
11. Innovation & comparative advantages
12. Public participation
13. Sustainable consumption & production
14. Health
15. Livable environment
Starting point – thematic strategies incorporate public concerns

1. Basic values, quality of life  VALUES & CULTURE, PRINCIPLES OF SD
2. Learning & systems thinking EDUCATION, SYSTEM THINKING
3. Labour market, employment EMPLOYMENT
4. Public admin. reform REGIONALITY, SUBSIDIARITY & PUBLIC ADMIN. & LAW
5. Regional & rural development AGRICULTURE & RURAL DVLPMNT
6. Equality BASIC SOCIAL & HEALTH ISSUES
7. Family, population, intergenerational issues POPULATION
8. Sustainable communities
9. International cooperation INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
10. Infrastructure TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE
11. Innovation & comparative advantages SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
12. Public participation COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN PLANNING
13. Sustainable consumption & production CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION
14. Health BASIC SOCIAL & HEALTH ISSUES
15. Livable environment NATURE & NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS & SECURITY

PLUS: ENERGY, TOURISM, INFORMATION SOCIETY, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC & FINACIAL INSTRUMENTS, CLIMATE CHANGE
Climate change – Effects on Hungary

Summer:
• More days with extremely high temperatures
• 60 percent increase in drought frequency
• Less frequent but very heavy rains

Winter:
• Milder - fewer days below zero
• More precipitation but shorter snow cover
• Wild fluctuation in temperature
Climate change – Actions

Commitments:
• Kyoto targets 6 percent GHG reduction
• 3.5 percent renewable energy to be doubled by 2010

Strategic objectives:
• Educate Hungarians about expected effects
• Develop prevention and trouble shooting arsenale to tackle fast unexpected climate events
Priorities – more than a click away...

Proposed horizontal interventions:

• Education, awareness raising
• R & D, science, technology, innovation
• Democratic institutions, governance, PP
• Financial mechanisms
• Competitiveness & sustainability
• International obligations & cooperation
• Monitoring, indicators
Proposed thematic priorities

1. Energy
2. Waste management
3. Biodiversity protection
4. Water
5. Public health
6. Social security and integrity
7. Territorial cohesion & rural development
8. Preparation for climate change
Next steps

1. Draft strategy complete by end October
2. Departmental and regional consultations
3. Government decree to define follow up and authorize draft SDS for partnership
4. Partnership process to end before elections in Spring 2006
5. Peer review & ex ante evaluation
6. Strategy to be approved / adopted by Parliament?
7. Release and start implementing
Contact and further information

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