

Sustainability-proofing

Tools, experiences and recommendations



Orsolya Domaniczky
CEEweb for Biodiversity

What and how?

- **Budget reform:** Sustainability at the heart of the MFF and the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals
- **Sustainability is** the continuous adaptation to the changing natural and socio-economic environment.
- **The goal is** increasing human well-being, the economy is a tool, and the natural environment is a precondition
- **Mitigation hierarchy:**
 - Prevention
 - Mitigation (decreasing trade-offs)
 - Compensation (only as the last resort)

Principles



1

The EU budget should **work for the people and with the people**, with greater transparency and accountability, respectful of diversity and meaningful participation of the citizens.



2

The EU budget should **strengthen the common European values**, in Europe and globally.



3

The EU budget should increase wellbeing and contribute to **decreasing inequality** and social exclusion at all scales.



4

The EU budget needs to take holistic approach, **support systems change** and promote innovation, which is required for the transition to sustainability and building a circular economy.



5

The EU budget has to serve the development of a **diversified and resilient economy and society**, where the full potential and participation of all communities, organisations and businesses of any size is fully achieved.



6

The EU budget should serve the **public good**.



7

The EU budget should contribute to **decreasing the total environmental pressures** (use of natural resources, use of land and emissions of waste, toxic substances, greenhouse gases and alien genotypes), and should not contribute to shifting of environmental pressures in time and space.



8

The EU budget should contribute to improving the **state of environment** and maintaining and restoring **ecosystem services**, which is the very foundation of our society and economy.

Sustainability-proofing tools

Interventions at all appropriate stages of the policy and programming cycle.

A stepwise process with the aim of increasing policy coherence both in the policy and implementation cycles in internal and external funding.

1. Substantive instruments
2. Procedural instruments
3. Institutional instruments

1. Substantive instruments

- General frameworks of fund regulations

*„**Stop funding unsustainable (infra)structures** in all sectors from industry through energy and transport to agriculture and water, which create “lock- in” for the European economy and delays the European transition to a circular economy. „*

- Setting of fund objectives and performance indicators

*„ **Introduce social indicators for the allocation criteria for cohesion funds**, using the newly adopted European Pillar of Social Rights as a starting point and namely the Social Scoreboard”*

- Programming guidelines

*„**Make energy democracy** - citizen owned renewable energy - a reality. **Create targeted financing programmes that unlock innovative financing** and help citizens and communities work together to access finance for small scale renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.,,*

- Earmarking funds for various objectives

*„**Clearly ringfence money for biodiversity** (Natura 2000 and beyond) and restoring ecosystem services”*

*„**create a dedicated funding instrument** in a transboundary context to create **a Trans-European Network of Green Infrastructure (TEN-G)**”*

2. Procedural instruments

- Ex-ante, on-going and ex-post evaluations:
 - „introduce **an ex ante conditionality on the partnership principle** to ensure it is correctly applied”
 - „Strengthen and extend of the **social inclusion ex-ante conditionalities** of the Cohesion funds, including the transition from institutions to high-quality community-based services that promote social inclusion. „
 - „ Introduce a new **ex ante conditionality on sustainability proofing** for all internal funding on national level.”
- Impact assessments (SEA/EIA, SIA) and cost-benefit analysis
- Project selection criteria

3. Institutional instruments

- Dedicated administrative/institutional units
- Coordination structures, partnerships and expert networks
- Communication
- **Working groups and monitoring committees**
- **Stakeholder involvement**

Do not forget!

Sustainability is a process not the state of affairs!