INHERIT

Health | Equity | Environment

Examples of policies and practices that can contribute to lifestyle and behavior change – are we on track?

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INHERIT explores policies, practices and innovations that can encourage and enable people to live, move and consume in ways that are better for the environment, our health and society at large by contributing to more equal conditions for good health.

Are we on track in terms of implementing such measures?

- Overview of some policies and practices, that emerged from the scenario back-casting workshop on September 26, 2017.
- EU level policies around sustainable development, to highlight progress/successes but also challenges to achieving more sustainable societies.
- What is the role of public health and how do we engage?

Policy categories and examples that can contribute to environmental sustainability and improved health

Regulation/Legislation/Guidelines (mandatory)

- **Setting rules and targets** (command) and ensuring that they are **enforced** (control) [Public sector]
  Laws, directives
  E.g. air quality or food safety standards, 'polluter-pays' principle; restrictions on commercial marketing, data protection
  Integrated approaches to policy making and impact assessments

- **Green and healthy public procurement**

- **Voluntary agreements:** initiatives where firms, groups of companies or sectors agree to improve conduct in relation to environment, health, social welfare beyond existing legislation;
  citizen engagement -time bank initiatives, bartering platforms,

Policy categories and examples (2)

Economic/Fiscal measures

Taxation: Taxing products or processes that are harmful to the environment, e.g. property taxes if more than 50 meters per person, fat tax or reducing them where beneficial, e.g. shared living.

Subsidies: financial support to households or private enterprises that promote healthy/resource-efficient production and services, e.g. for energy efficient housing and healthy, local food and to help small companies that promote sustainable goods survive.

Sustainability financing –providing financing for investments/actions that promote sustainability. EU Structural Funds.

Fees and user charges- charging to clean up pollutants or to recycle materials

Investments in Research and Development –improve knowledge and devise new products and processes, e.g. smart meters, protection of personal data.

Policy categories and examples (3)

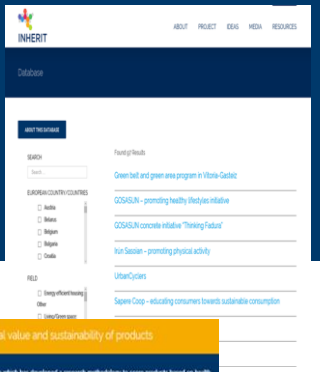
Investments in <u>Education and Training</u> (school, higher education/university, life-long learning) – health literacy awareness of sustainability issues + emotions, ethics

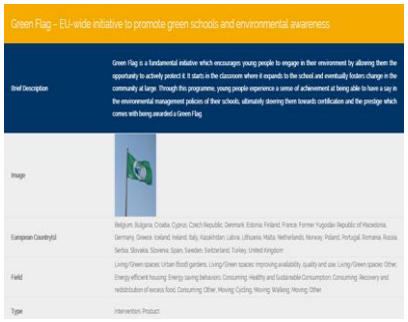
<u>Communication/Marketing/Guidelines</u>(non mandatory) **<u>/Information</u>**
-media campaigns e.g. waste reduction, meatfree modays, ridiculous car rides
-labelling nutritional value, origin and production processes
-sustainability reporting –disclosure about companies non-financial performance

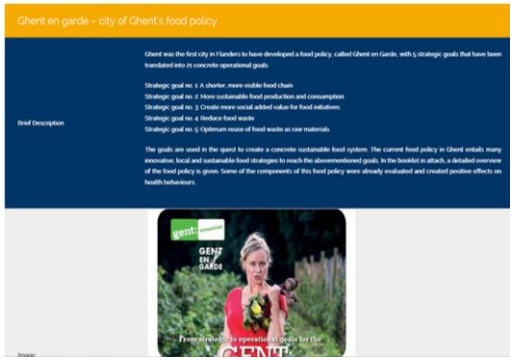
<u>Environmental/Social Planning</u> – infrastructure that facilitates cycling and public mobility; making green space a mandatory part of new developments and special plans. Ensuring public spaces are safe and inclusive for older and people with disabilities.

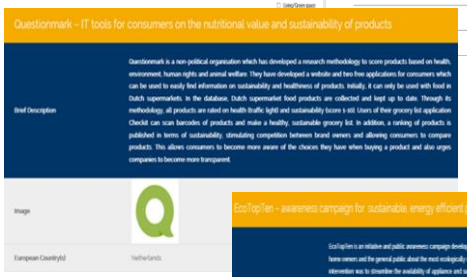
<u>Service Provision</u>- support services that provide aid and advice
+ Education and Training to improve health literacy, sustainability

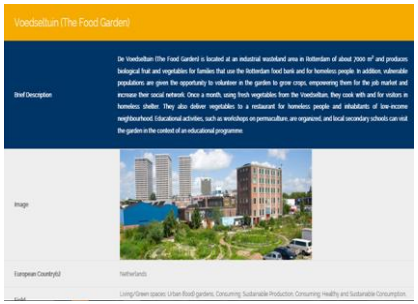
Promising Practices

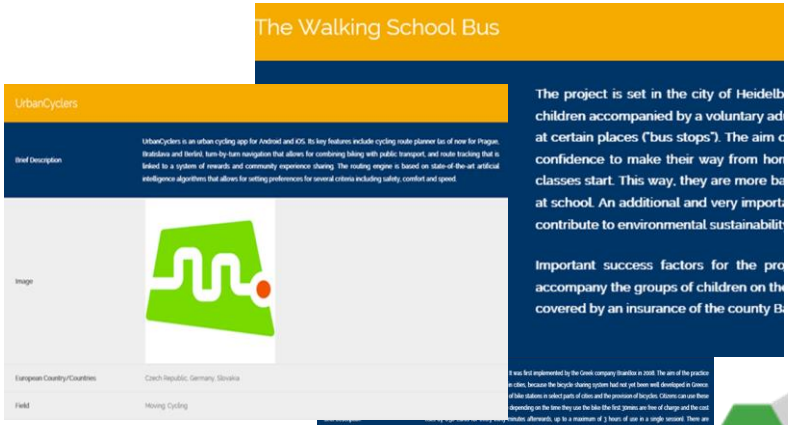


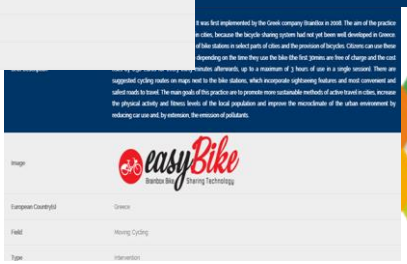












http://www.inherit.eu/resources/about-database/

Policies and Practices at EU level - sound legal basis IN PRINCIPLE

- Well being and sustainable development are overarching objectives:

  -The Union's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples. (Article 3.1)
  -The Union shall establish an internal market. It shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on … (Article 3.3 TEU)

- Articles 191-193 TFEU focus on EU environmental policy and how action can be taken

- Article 168 TEU focuses on health: 'A high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Union policies and activities …'

- Article 11 TEU focuses on citizen engagement and consultation

Large body of Directives, Regulations, Decisions

- EU environmental legislation (starting 1970's) on issues like acid rain, the thinning of the ozone layer, air quality, noise pollution, waste and water pollution and sustainable energy. **EU environmental law amounts to well over 500 Directives, Regulations and Decisions**.

- On air pollution alone, 29 legislative instruments comprises 16 directives, seven decisions and six regulations on e.g. on ambient air; quality of fuels; automotive exhaust and type-approval; greenhouse gases, etc.

7th Environmental Health Programme (EAP)

EU's guiding enviornmental policy 2014-2020, sets out environmental objectives and action needed to achieve them.

The programme lists nine priority objectives and what the EU needs to do to achieve them by 2020. They are:

1. to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital
2. to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy
3. to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing
4. to maximise the benefits of the Union's environment legislation by improving implementation
5. to increase knowledge about the environment and widen the evidence base for policy
6. to secure investment for environment and climate policy and account for the environmental costs of any societal activities
7. to better integrate environmental concerns into other policy areas and ensure coherence when creating new policy
8. to make the Union's cities more sustainable
9. to help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.

EAP's vision for 2050: We live well within the planet's ecological limits

Monitoring and implementation

- The environmental Implementation Review (EC, 2017) = reports for each MS showing **implementation gaps**, in waste management, nature and biodiversity protection, air quality, noise pollution, and water quality and management.

- **Root Causes**: ineffective coordination between local, regional and national authorities, a lack of administrative capacity and financing, a lack of knowledge and data, insufficient compliance assurance mechanisms and a lack of integration and policy coherence.

EU Sustainable Development Strategy

- **First EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2001)** but several governance **weaknesses** that inhibited implementation (Focus on 'growth and jobs' agenda)

- **Revised Strategy (2006)** included **more detailed arrangements for implementation monitoring and follow-up**, and led to stronger integrated policy-making processes (**'better regulation'**) and the implementation of integrated impact assessment processes.

- **Europe 2020 Strategy for 'Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth'** Though targets can contribute to SD, makes no mention of this word, and many feel environmental dimension reduced to energy and resource efficiency.

  Juncker Commission's 10 priorities (2015) also only refer to sustainability in the context of: 'Making energy more secure, affordable and sustainable'

The UN Agenda 2030 – the SDGs

- ***Sustainability Now! A European Vision for Sustainability.*** **European Political Strategy Centre July 2017 (Karl Falkenberg)**
  Sustainability could well become the rejuvinated brand of Europe – 'living well and sharing fairly within the limits of our blue planet2'

- EC Communication (Nov 2016) –*'what we are already doing and planning to do'*

  - *SDG2 – end hunger:* CAP, Common Fisheries Policy, R&I Food 2030: aqua ponics, smart precision farming, circular farms, sustainable food cities, etc.
  - *SDG 3: health:* initiatives on public health, health systems and environmental related health problems (air quality, chemicals and waste)
  - *SGD 10: reducing inequality:* EC social agenda and cohesion policy

Many EU MS governments do not consider it sufficient. At a EU Council meeting in 20 June 2017, all member states requested that the **Commission develop an implementation strategy by July 2018**, setting out a road map and objectives leading up to 2030 and including more specific measures.

Circular Economy Package (2015)

- Proposed Directives on waste, packaging waste landfill and electrical and electronic waste

The EC Communication (2017): Waste–to-energy in the circular economy – to shift waste management upwards towards prevention, reuse and recycling (higher targets for municipalities)

➢ Action Plan to 'close the loop with benefits for environment and the economy'
– but: what about health?

Digital Single Market strategy (2015)

Three policy pillars:

- **Improving access to digital goods and services**

  by e.g. removing barriers to cross-border e-commerce and access to online content while increasing **consumer protection**.

- **An environment where digital networks and services can prosper**

  e.g. high-speed, secure and trustworthy infrastructures and services supported by the right regulatory conditions. Key concerns include cybersecurity, **data protection/e-privacy**, and the fairness and transparency of online platforms.

- **Digital as a driver for growth**

  The Digital Single Market Strategy aims at maximising the growth potential of the European Digital Economy, by **enhancing digital skills**, which are essential for an **inclusive digital society**.

- What about health?

The role of public health?

"Dear President Juncker,

EU Health Collaboration is crucial for Europe's future"

200+ signatory organisaitons

Thank you!

Your Views?

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