

PATH2030 - An evaluation of Finland's sustainable development policy

#polku2030 #tietokäyttöön

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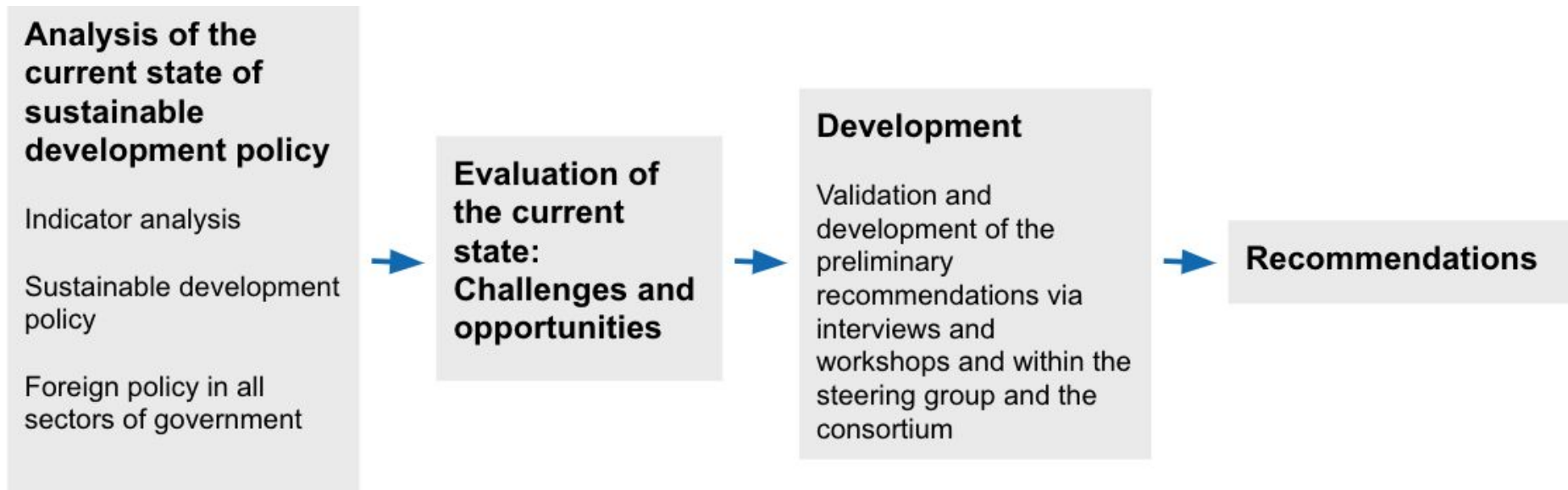
SDSN & SEI: EXTERNAL EXPERTS

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Evaluation aims at...

- 1) **an independent and comprehensive evaluation on sustainable development policy** in Finland, especially regarding Finland's national policy, the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Finland's foreign policy.
- 1) **concrete recommendations** on the future directions of Finland's sustainable development policy (taking into account different timespans and levels of ambition) as well as ways to evaluate it.

The PATH2030 process



The assessment shows the need for structural improvement of Finland's model for sustainable development policy

	Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Institutions</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A multi-faceted and inclusive operating model• Sustainability thinking is quite visible in the strategies of the ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable development is not integrated enough in throughout the administration• Consider the amount of work, sustainable development is poorly resourced.• Silos are problematic
<p>Interests</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conflicts of interests are settled through broadly shared goals and processes, such as the Agenda2030-report and budget evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conflicts of interests challenge policy coherence and impact
<p>ideas</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable development has become a societally accepted and mainstreamed goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In practice, there are many varying opinions regarding the solutions
<p>Information</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a lot of information available regarding the state of sustainable development and different solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The use of indicators and research in decision-making is insufficient

What worked well in Polku2030

1) **Participatory spirit.** “The sustainability development community” had ownership over the process during the evaluation. The draft recommendations were also discussed together with the stakeholders.

2) **Communication of the results.** Enough time and resources were left to communicate the results. E.g. four committees of the parliament had a hearing together.

3) **Timing** of publishing the results.

Recommendations for similar evaluations

- 1) **Plan carefully** in the beginning and make explicit choices
- 2) **Keep the list of evaluation questions short** - in best case, the questions would be negotiated in the beginning
- 3) **Giving time for the process** is often a cheap way to allow for high quality work and broad participation
- 4) Balancing between participation and “**evaluation peace**” is crucial

Recommendations for similar evaluations

- 5) Focusing on **well-developed recommendations and extensive interaction** important for the political influence of the evaluation results.
- 6) Focus also on the **possibilities** - not only the challenges.
- 7) **Visualise and simplify** the complex issue for the policy makers.

Thank you!

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