

PATH2030 - An evaluation of Finland's sustainable development policy

#polku2030 #tietokäyttöön

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Evaluation aims...

- 1) To produce **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.
- 2) To produce **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.

Time periods under review

Update of the Finland's
national strategy for
sustainable development

Commitment2050

Main focus of the study:
the 2030 Agenda
implementation

2013

2015

2016

Original evaluation questions (1/2)

1. Will the **current sustainable development policy and measures** help achieve societal **changes that promote permanent socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development**?
 - What **added value** does the policy model bring to the operation of the administrative branches?
 - To what extent does the policy model **work in the desired way**?
 - Are the activities **coherent** from the sustainable development point of view? Are the measures **comprehensive, relevant and proportionate** in relation to the goals?
 - Are the measures **cost-effective** compared with alternative measures?
2. What kind of **impact pathway thinking/ theories of change** is Finland's sustainable development policy based on?



Original evaluation questions (2/2)

3. How are the **human rights -based approach** and the **Leave No One Behind** thinking of Agenda 2030 realised in Finland's sustainable development policy?

4. Definition and **systematic presentation of the links** between the **different administrative branches of foreign policy** and the **sustainable development goals**

- How **coherent** is Finland's foreign policy in terms of achieving the sustainable development goals?
- Does Finland's policy model support the coherence of sustainable development policy outside Finland and in the **different administrative branches of foreign policy**? How and to what extent?
- What are the **policy measures that would improve the coherence and effectiveness** of external policies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda significantly in the short, medium and long term?



Challenges with the original evaluation questions

Sustainable development policy of Finland an **extremely complex phenomenon**

A long list of evaluation questions made the evaluation task even harder

Answering many of the evaluation questions **required de facto that many other questions were answered first**, e.g.

- How are the SDGs understood in practice among the key stakeholders?
- What is the state of sustainable development in Finland? What are the most central substantive issues to focus on in sustainable development policy?

Some questions **needed to be excluded**, e.g. dealing with **cost-effectiveness** in a thorough manner would have required very different research approach

Specified evaluation questions

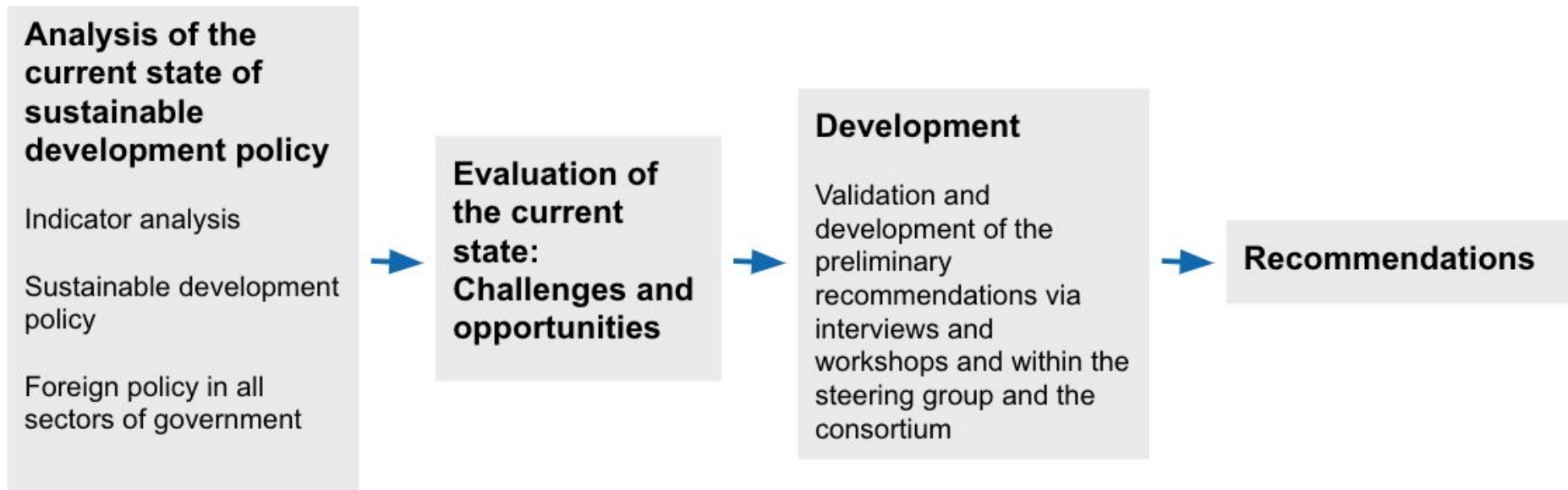
What is the **state of sustainable development** in Finland in the light of indicators? What are the **key issues** that should be addressed in sustainable development policy?

What are the **main goals and means** of Finland's sustainable development policy? How are they **understood in practice** among key agents? What is the **theory of change** in sustainable development policy?

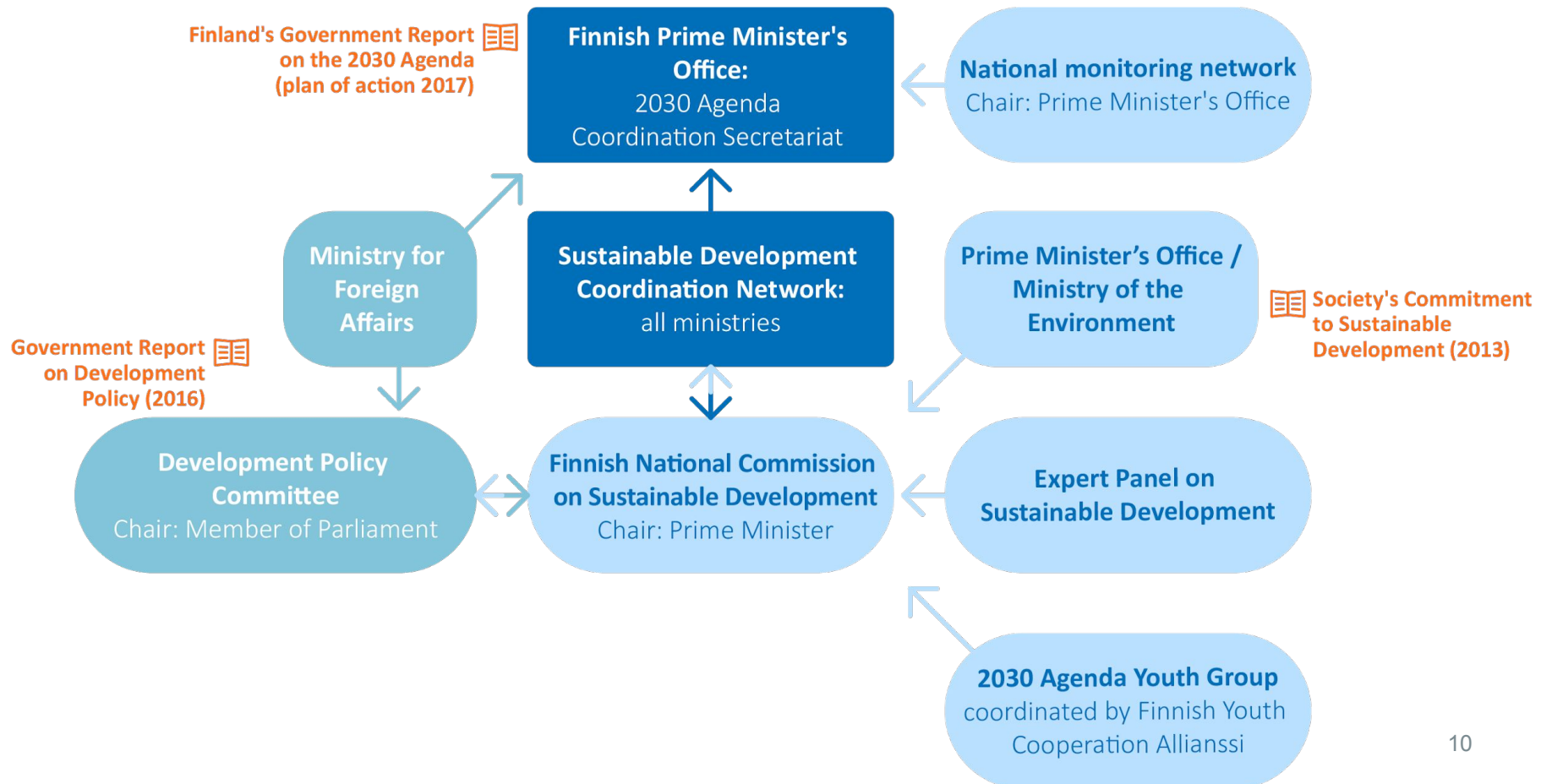
How are the **key targets and means** of sustainable development realised? Have central policy measures had an **impact on the state of sustainable development**?

Are there any challenges in **achieving the key objectives**? What are the **challenges and strengths**? How can overall policy be assessed from the perspectives of **coherence, coverage, and relevance**? What is or could be the **added value** of sustainable development policy?

PATH2030 process



SD Policy Coordination model



A photograph of a dense forest of evergreen trees, likely spruce or fir, shrouded in a thick mist or fog. The trees in the foreground are dark and silhouetted, while the background is a lighter, hazy green. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat somber.

**The key methodological
choices made**



Evaluation approaches

Evaluation refers to the assessment of **merit, worth and value** of. e.g. a policy or a strategy (Scriven 2007)

Theory-based evaluation seeks to understand the **preconditions and mechanisms** of programme implementation (Weiss 1997)

When and how programmes work? How do the results correspond with the plans?

Developmental evaluation supports the practical **development** of the evaluated issue (Patton 1994)



As evaluation criteria acted the focus areas and policy principles of Government's 2030 Agenda Report

Focus areas

- 1) Carbon-neutral and resource smart Finland
- 2) A non-discriminating, equal and competent Finland

Policy principles

- 1) Long-term action and transformation
- 2) Policy coherence and global partnership
- 3) Commitment and participation

Analysis based on 4Is-framework (Brockhaus & Angelsen 2012)

Institutions (rules, path-dependencies or stickiness)	How do structures restrict/promote sustainable development policy? (issues that are hard/possible to change)
Interests (potential material advantages)	Actors' interests. Why does an actor lobby a certain issue? Is it somehow beneficial? Are different opinions heard? Who can participate?
Ideas (policy discourses, underlying ideologies or beliefs)	What ideologies guide the action of different actors? What new ideas are emerged?
Information (data and knowledge, and their construction and use).	What kind of information is used in politics? Who has produced it?



POLKU2030- evaluation is based on extensive and versatile data as well as a participatory approach

Indicators	SDG Index and Dashboards -indicators National SD indicators (10 indikator baskets) , Helsus Policy Dialogues -material (expert evaluation and workshops)
Key policy documents	Government's SD programs and strategies Planning documents for development co-operation projects, E- and U- letters
Survey (N = 238)	Closed survey to key SD actors and practitioners. open survey to all interested
Interviews (around 80 interviewees)	Key professionals in SD Representatives of all ministries Scientific advisory panel for SD Key process stakeholders
Workshops (3)	Two open stakeholder workshops (around 80 and 40 participants) International evaluation workshop



Reflections on the methodological choices- **Indicators**

NO particular **EVALUATION** indicators used

Benefits - Two sets of SD indicators analysed to get a more reliable picture: **SDG Index** and **Finnish national indicator set**

Challenges - Different goals and aims, data used, method of evaluation. Need to combine indicators with survey and interview data to find the **key questions**. **The greatest challenge - no target levels set.**



Reflections on the methodological choices- **Document analysis**

Benefits - Comparable, open source information indicating the official viewpoints and actions of the government and ministries.

Challenges - Plenty of potential documents to be analysed. **Hard to find essential actions** - therefore the composed lists were shown to the interviewees and asked to be complemented. Still, some actions may have been missed because of the nature of the used documents.



Reflections on the methodological choices - interviews, open survey & co-creation workshops

Benefits - Multitude of views gathered, creating **shared understanding and policy recommendations that are easier to implement**, supporting the interaction; the process itself was empowering for many stakeholders

Challenges - variety of participants (representativeness), **dominant vs. silent participants (possible bias)**, managing expectations and wishes



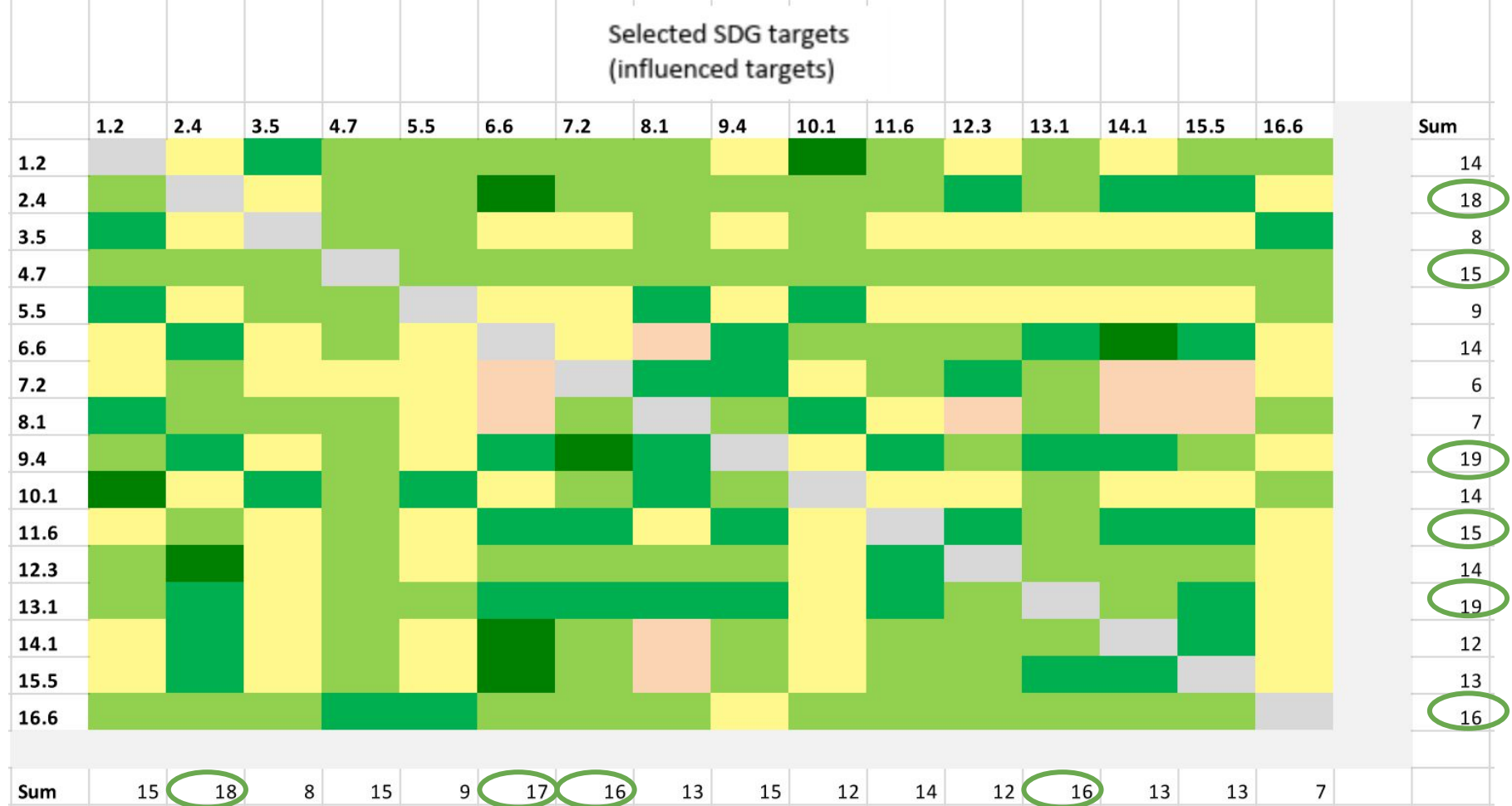
Reflections on the methodological choices-

Policy coherence: two approaches used

- Analysis of the interviews and documents: title level vs decision level, coherence challenges in the budget and use of public funds, long-term (ecological and social) goals vs short-term (economic) goals
- SDG coherence mapping exercise (based on Weiss et al 2017)

Our policy coherence exercise in short

- Testing the assessment framework and typology proposed by Nilsson et al. 2016; following the cross-impact matrix approach by Weitz et al. 2018
- Only one Target selected to represent each SDG.
- Focus on future: *"If Finland succeeds to achieve the target by 2030, how this influences the possibilities to reach other targets?"*
- Consensus view built based on independent expert evaluations (N=6)



Cross-impact matrix of 16 SDG targets and their interaction in Finland

Our evaluation question was identical to that of Weitz et al (2018):

“If progress is made on target x (rows), how does this influence progress on target y (columns)”?

How to read the table:

Row-sum: the net influence from a target on all other targets

Column-sum: how much a target is influenced by all other targets in total.

-3	Cancelling
-2	Counteracting
-1	Constraining
0	Consistent
1	Enabling
2	Reinforcing
3	Indivisible



Windows of opportunities?

Synergistic targets that make it easier to achieve other targets

9.4 Infrastructure

13.1 Climate change adaptation

2.4 Food production / agriculture

16.6 Effective institutions

4.7 Education

11.6 Environmental impact of cities

Targets that are most positively influenced by other targets

2.4 Food production / agriculture

6.6 Water-related ecosystems

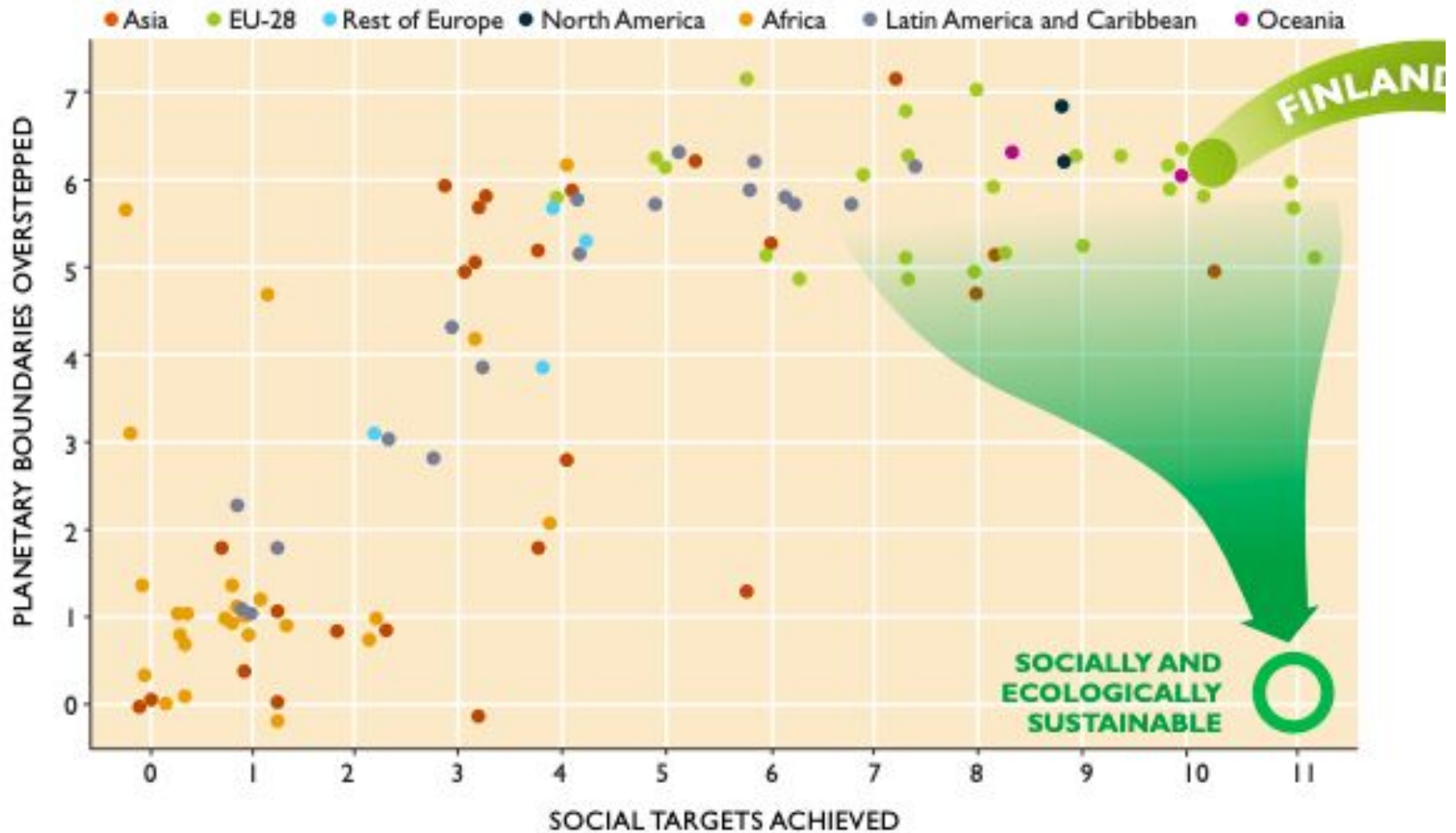
7.2 Renewable energy

13.1 Climate change adaptation

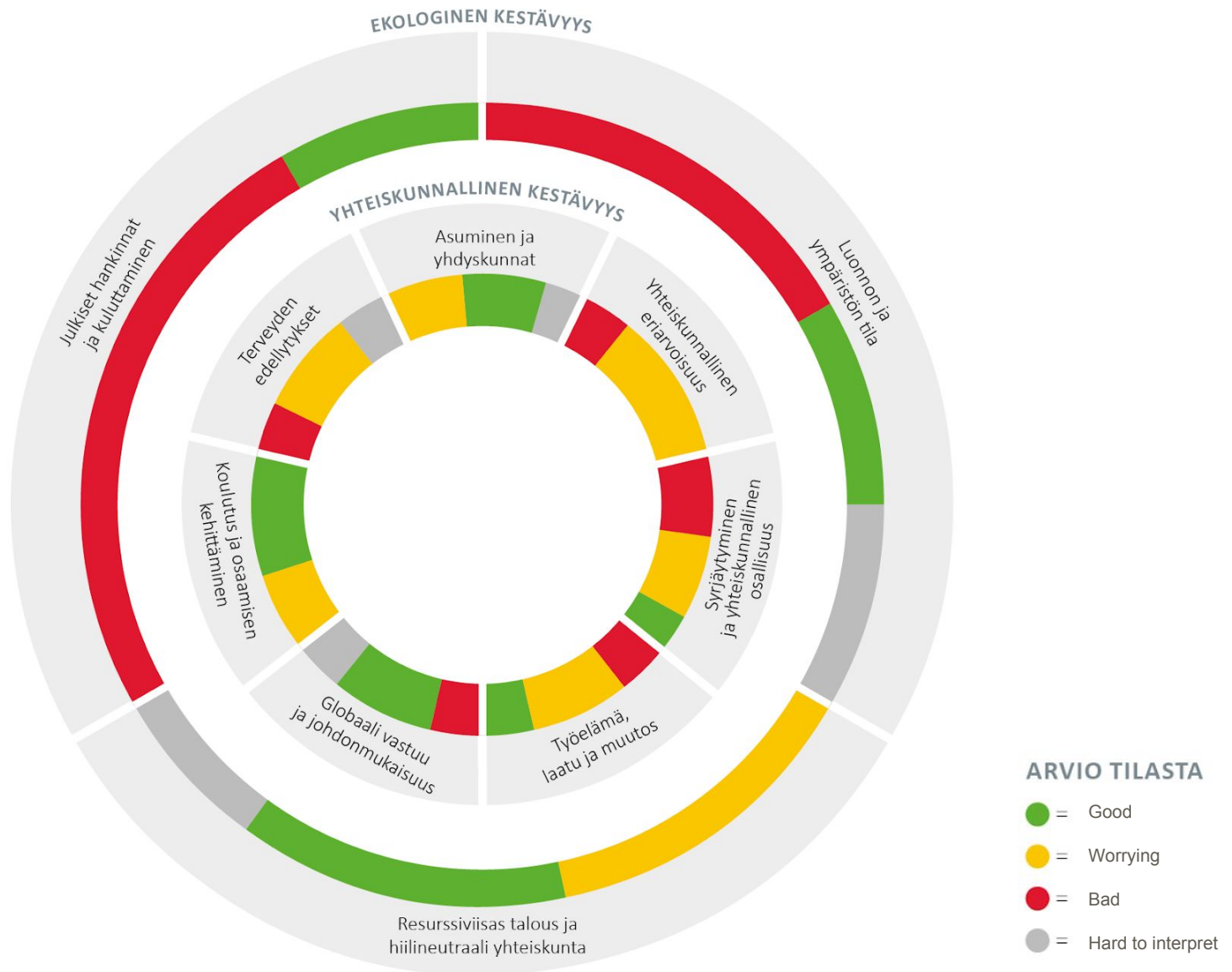
A blurred city street scene with pedestrians. In the foreground, a crosswalk with colorful diagonal stripes (green, yellow, and red) is visible. In the background, several people are walking, and a rainbow flag is hanging from a building. A red neon sign is also visible on the right side of the image.

Findings in a nutshell

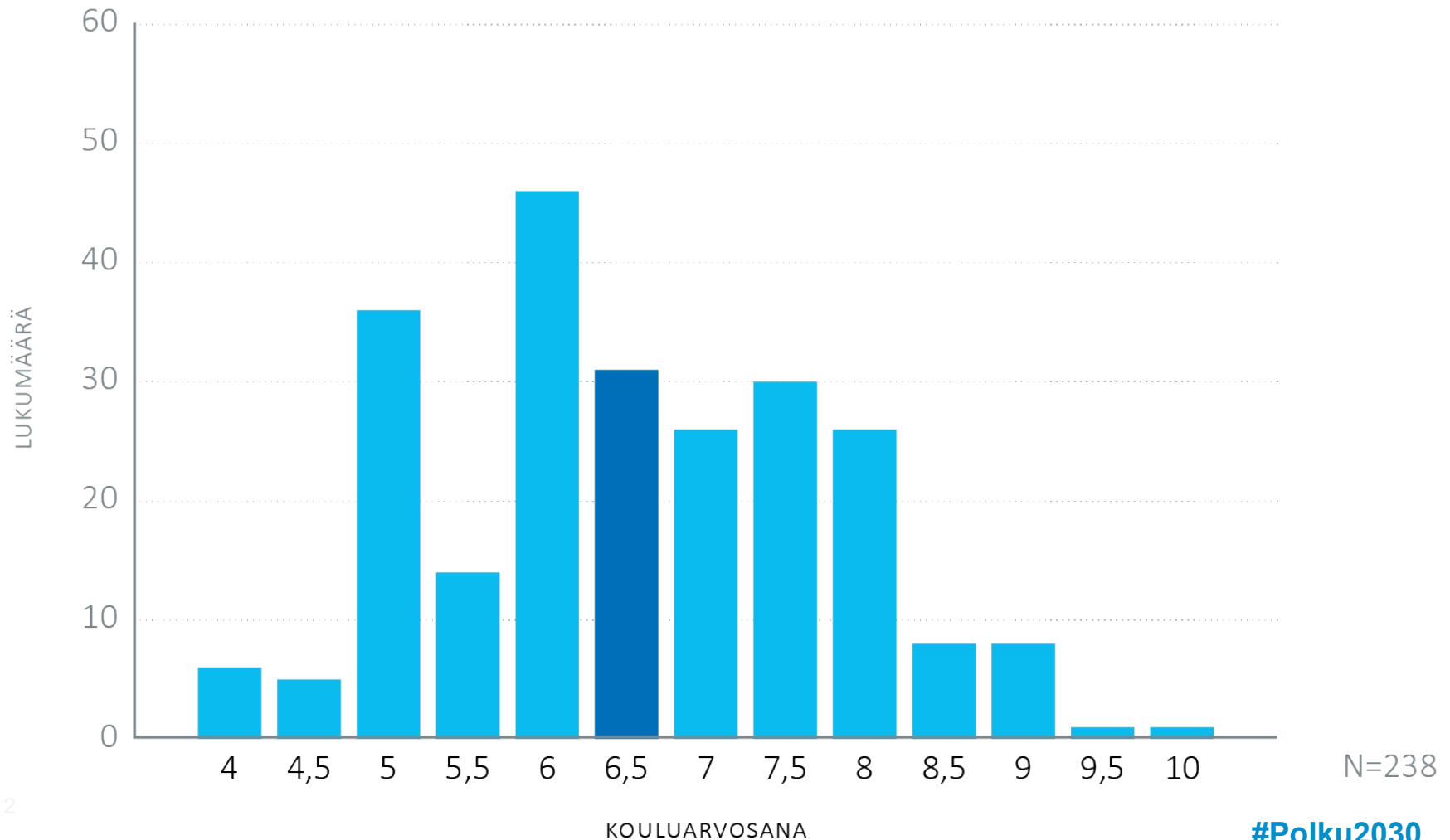
Not a single country has reached high standards of living in an ecologically sustainable way



The state of sustainable development in Finland in the light of indicators



The respondents graded Finland's sustainable development policy as 6,5 (scale 4-10)





The principles of sustainable development policy are fulfilled to a varying degree.

Ownership and inclusion	Sustainable development is broadly accepted as a societal goal, but the interpretations of these goals vary. Different actors are fairly well included in the work.
Coherence and global partnership	The model for coordinating sustainable development supports the coherence of politics, and sustainable development is fairly visible in the strategies of e.g. different ministries and the management of their performance. In practice, rigid structures and conflicts of interests cause challenges.
Persistence and impact	Short-term goals are often emphasized at the expense of long-term goals, and the effects of decisions that have been made are not recognized well enough. Many wish for more dynamic policy and mechanisms.








Sustainable development is a part of the Budget in a **contradictory way**

The budget proposition of 2019 was the first one to include assessments regarding sustainability as a part of the rationale.

The budget proposition of 2019 advances carbon neutrality with around **1.7 b.** euros, while around **3.5 b.** euros are paid to environmentally harmful objectives (VM 2018).

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

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Institutions 	<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
Interests 	<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
ideas 	<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
Information 	<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

A person with long hair, wearing a red and black plaid shirt and dark pants, is walking away from the camera down a paved road. The road has white dashed lines and leads into a forest with trees showing autumn foliage. The sky is overcast.

**Conclusions, reflections and
recommendations for future
evaluations**



Challenges met in the analysis and development process as a whole (1/2)

Using multiple methods by a group of people from different institutes to analyse such a complex phenomenon would have required **substantial investment in project-internal workshopping in the beginning of the process**

Agreeing on the timetable & tools used

Analysing the state of sustainable development - and particularly the most challenging questions - **by indicators the most contested** of the methodological choices

Yet, the best of the non-perfect alternatives available?



Challenges met in the analysis and development process as a whole (2/2)

As the steering group of the project consisted of e.g. representatives of various ministries, some methodological choices and (initial) **findings were difficult to accept for some members of the steering group**

A lot of time used to discussions and correspondence with these members

There should have been **a more stringent & open process to cope with the myriad of (contradictory) expectations** related to the evaluation



Reflections on the process as a whole: pros

- + **The participatory process** and the events successful: a lot of key experts with various backgrounds were involved
- + After some struggles, **the report** became clear and consistent
- + **The policy recommendations** have been seen to be clear and relevant for policy-makers
- + **The interactive phase** after the evaluation intensive and fruitful: we were able to communicate the results to the policy makers



Reflections on the process as a whole: cons

- The **short time-span** (7 months) of the project presented a real challenge due to the complexity of the evaluated questions
- A lot of time was used to present various initial **versions** of the project and its results.

The project would have benefitted from having some time to **concentrate solely on the research** & internal processes

- **The results and recommendations rather general** - e.g. no link found between SD policy instruments and concrete environmental, social or economical outcomes.

Recommendations for similar evaluations (1/3)

- 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) Try to keep up **participatory spirit** - by simultaneously dealing with the fact that **all expectations cannot be met** by a single evaluation.



Recommendations for similar evaluations (2/3)

- 4) **Giving time for the process** is often a cheap way to allow for high quality work and broad participation
- 5) Writing the report in **scientific evaluation format** makes it easier for readers to grasp the complex process and its results
- 6) Focusing on **well-developed recommendations and extensive interaction** important for the political influence of the evaluation and the implementation of the Agenda2030. Focus also on the **possibilities** - not only the challenges.

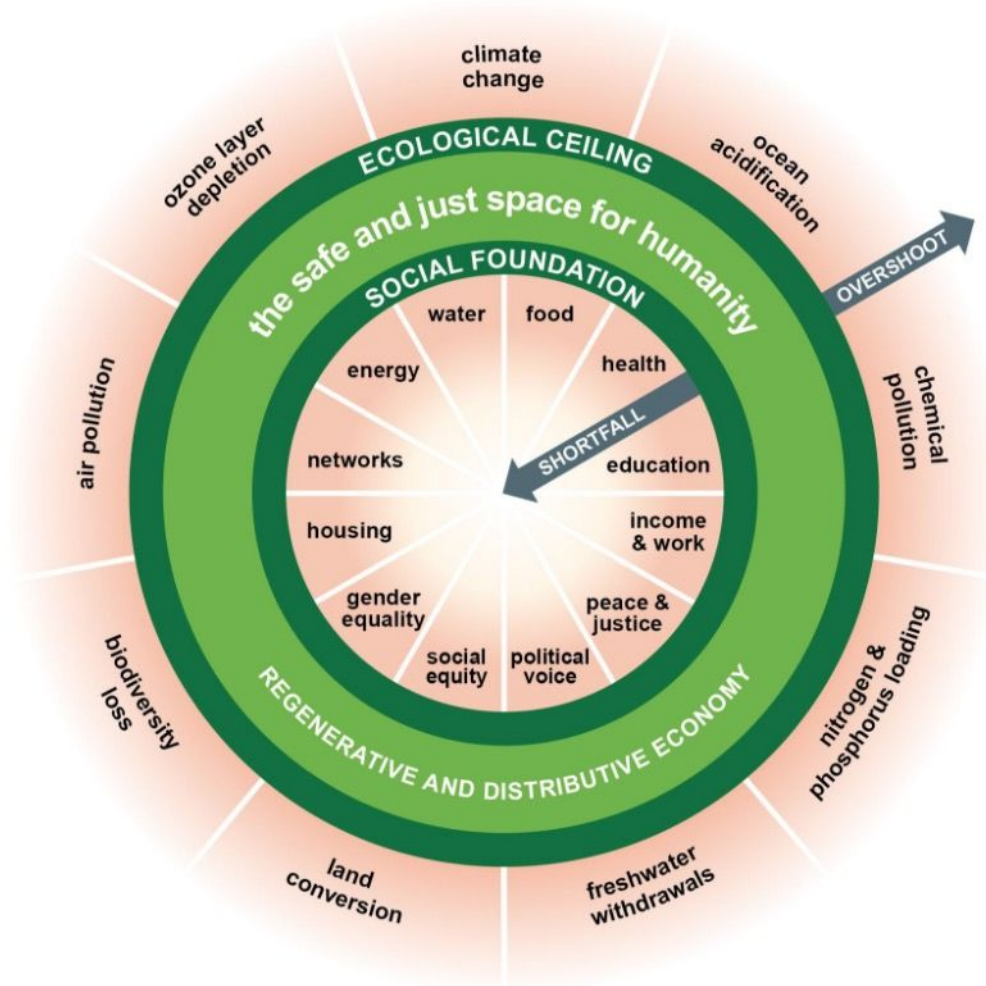


Recommendations for similar evaluations (3/3)

7) Visualise and simplify the complex issue for the policy makers. We used. e.g the Doughnut economy model (Raworth 2012) and the Leeds university calculations (O'Neill et al 2018) (see following slides)

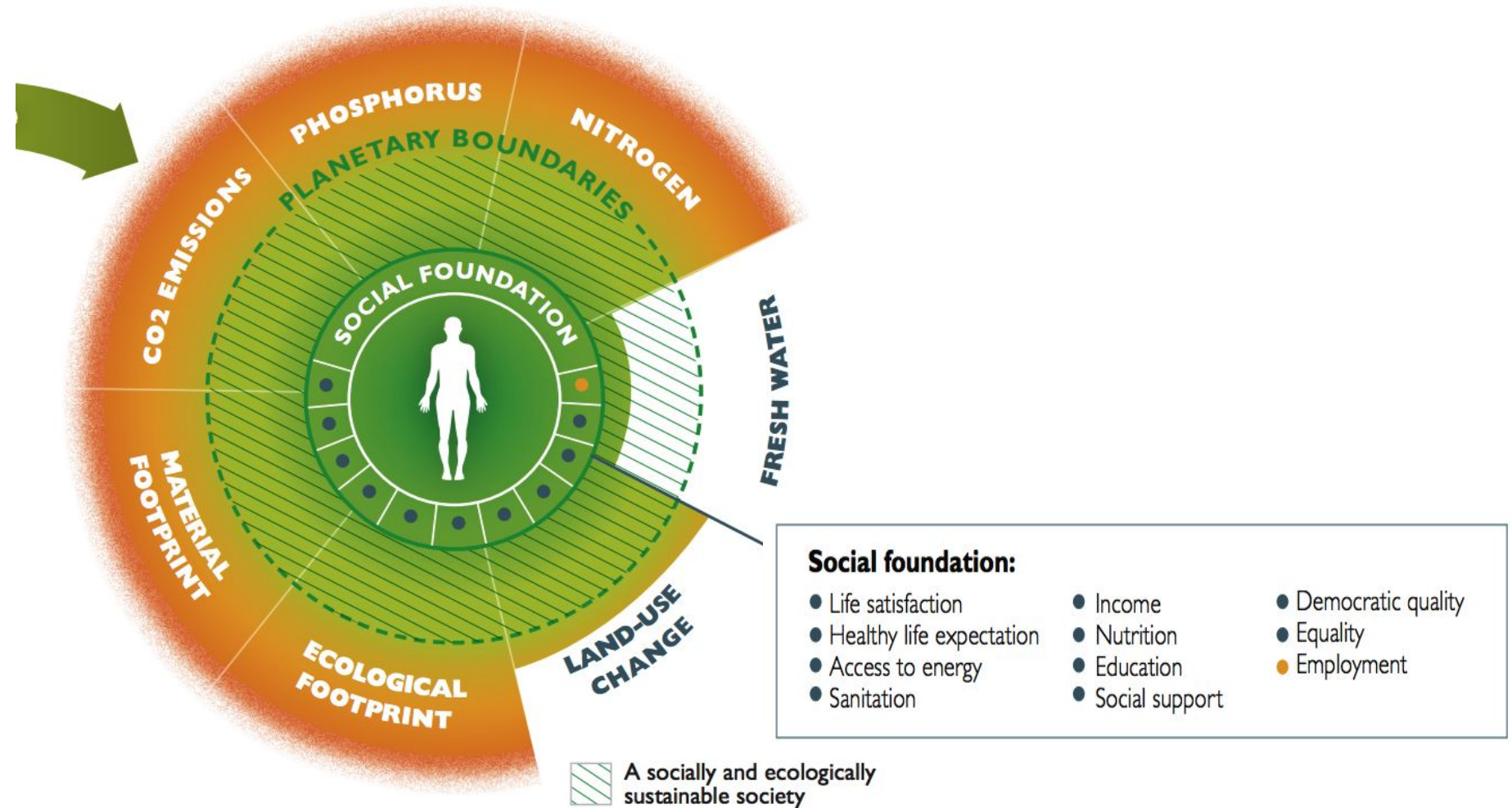
8) When communicating the results, **tie it to the actual challenges of the society** and **focus on the most important priorities.**

Examples of visualisation: doughnut economy



Example of visualisation (based on O'Neill et al 2018)

WHICH PLANETARY BOUNDARIES DOES FINLAND OVERSTEP?



PATH2030-publications:

- Policy Brief:
<https://tietokayttoon.fi/julkaisu?pubid=30301>
- Final report (in Finnish, to be published in English soon:
<http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/16145>
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Thank you!

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Key messages

1. It is not enough to think about sustainable development within three pillars. We must introduce a more comprehensive model (e.g. the doughnut model)
2. Finland still has a lot to do, especially in regards to increasing inequality, climate change, environmental questions and consumption.
3. Not a single country has yet introduced a credible plan for how the goals of the 2030 Agenda will be reached. Finland can show the way. We have all the possibilities to do this, since we are the best in the world on many parameters.
4. The government should produce a credible national roadmap for how Finland plans to reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda. This requires extensive national targets.
5. The coherency of politics should be strengthened, and phenomenon based budgeting is a good start. Sustainable development must be brought from the headlines to jurisdiction, and it must be mainstreamed throughout foreign policy.
6. In order for the goals to be achieved, the next government must base their governmental program on the goals of the 2030 Agenda.



**Thinking in three pillars is not
enough**

**We must use a more
comprehensive interpretation -
for example the doughnut
model**

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SELVITYS- JA TUTKIMUSTOIMINTA

#Polku2030

**Finland still has a lot to do regarding
inequality, climate change,
environmental questions and
consumption**

No country has yet presented a credible plan for how the goals of the 2030 Agenda can be reached.

Finland can show the way. All the prerequisites are present, since we are the best in the world in on many metrics.

The government should produce a national road map for how Finland will achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The roadmap should include measurable national targets.

**Strengthening policy consistency:
phenomenon-based budgeting for
sustainable development is a good
start.**

VALTIONEUVOSTON
SELVITYS- JA TUTKIMUSTOIMINTA

**Sustainable development must be
brought from the headlines to
legislation, and streamlined into
all foreign policy.**

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**In order for this to be achieved,
future governmental programs
should be based on reaching the
Sustainable Development Goals.**

The state of sustainable development in Finland in the light of indicators

Kaisa Korhonen-Kurki, Ira Suutarinen, Paula Schönach,
the Helsinki Institute of Sustainable Science (HELSUS)



The sustainable development indicators

Currently there are multiple different indicator systems in place.

This assessment is based on two indicator systems:

The national indicators for sustainable development, which measure the 8 goals of the commitment for sustainable development, and the **international SDG-indicators** (the SDG Index)

The state of the sustainable development indicators looks more alarming when we observe the national indicators, than when looking at the international indicators.

The state of nature and the environment



- Kuollut puu metsissä ja luontoarvoiltaan arvokkaat maatalousalueet
- Suomen jokien fosfori- ja typpikuorma Itämereen
- Rikki- ja typpipäästöt sekä pienhiukkasten päästöt ilmaan Suomessa
- Tilastoidut ympäristönsuojelumenot Suomessa



Public procurements and consumption



- Kulutuksen hiilijalanjälki
- Kasvis-, liha- ja kalaperäisten elintarvikkeiden kulutus
- Yhdyskuntajätteen kehittyminen
- Ensirekisteröityjen henkilö- ja pakettiautojen keskimääräiset hiilidioksidipäästöt



Resource-smart economy and a carbon-neutral society



- Kasvihuonekaasupäästöt ja -poistumat
- Luonnonvarojen kulutus, RMC (raw material consumption) jaottelu
- Puuston kasvu ja poistuma
- Uusiutuvan energian osuus energian loppukäytöstä
- Tekesin rahoitus resurssitehokkaisuun ja hiilineutraaleihin ratkaisuihin



Societal inequality



- Perustoimeentulotuen saajien määrät ja alueellinen jakautuminen
- Tuloterot (Gini-kerroin, pienituloisuusaste, pienimmän ja suurimman kymmenesosan tulokehitys)
- Nuorten aikuisten (18–25-vuotiaiden) tyytyväisyys elämäänsä
- Kiintiöpakolaisten määrät ja turvapaikanhakijoiden/ myönteisen turvapaikkapäätöksen saaneiden määrät



Social exclusion and societal participation



- Syrjinnän tai yksinäisyyden kokemus
- Äänestysaktiivisuus
- Työn tai koulutuksen ulkopuolella olevat nuoret
- Nuorten luottamus yhteiskuntaan ja sen tulevaisuuteen
- Suomen kehitys Corruption Perceptions ja World Press Freedom -indekseillä



Health



- Väestön lihavuus
- Koettu hyvinvointi eri väestöryhmissä alueittain
- Alueellisesti yhdenvertaiset ja tasa-arvoiset terveys- ja hyvinvointipalvelut
- Naisiin kohdistuva väkivalta / turvakotien käyttö



Worklife, quality and change



- Naisten keskiansiot miehiin verrattuna
- Työllisyysaste (Tilastokeskus, työvoimatutkimus)
- Hyvä työelämä
- Työelämän globaali vastuu



Global responsibility and consistency



- Suomen kehitys yhteistyörahoituksen kehitys
- Suomen kehitys Commitment to Development-indeksin kauppapolitiikkaa mittaavalla osa-indeksillä
- Suomen osallistuminen kansainväliseen kriisinhallintaan
- Suomen tuonti ja vienti tonneittain ja materiaalityypittain



Education and development of knowledge



- Lukutaidon ja nuorten yhteiskuntataitojen kehitys
- Tutkimus- ja kehittämismenojen osuus bruttokansantuotteesta
- Perusasteen jälkeisen tutkinnon suorittaneiden osuus sekä osallistuminen aikuiskoulutukseen
- Kestävän kehityksen sertifikaatin omaavien päiväkotien, koulujen ja oppilaitosten määrä
- Kirjastopalveluiden käyttö



Housing and communities



- Asumismenot
- Päivittäistavarakauppojen saavutettavuus
- Kotona asuvat yli 75-vuotiaat
- Tulvariski
- Yhdyskuntarakenteen eheys ja joukkoliikenteen toimintaedellytykset



The central questions emphasized by the PATH2030-assessment

Challenges include:

- Rising inequality
- Climate change
- The state of the environment
- Consumption, particularly the **global environmental consequences of national consumption.**

Strengths include:

- Knowledge
- Societal stability
- An integrating model for the governance of sustainable development

These central questions are based on an analysis of the key indicators and supplemented by interviews and surveys.

Recommendations to monitoring sustainable development

Monitoring the goals of the 2030 Agenda should be strengthened, and the usefulness of indicators should be improved

- **The 2030 Agenda** should be the basis of national work on sustainable development, and its goals should be adapted to a Finnish context
- We should give up the 8 national targets and develop national indicators for sustainable development, that are tightly knit to the 17 SDG
- We should strive towards one, clearly visualised metric system that works broadly as the core of the national discussion.

An assessment of Finland's sustainable development policy

Annukka Berg, Hanna Salo, Jari Lyytimäki, Suomen
ympäristökeskus (SYKE)



The Finnish work for sustainable development is internationally known and acknowledged

Many of the changes made in recent years are seen to be successful, e.g.

Moving the secretariat for sustainable development to the Prime Minister's Office, the Agenda2030-Report and its **hearing in the parliament**, making **budget assessments** based on sustainable development, launching the Commitment2050-tool and its wide use.

The main challenges of the Finnish operating model are **overlaps and detachment** from central decision-making bodies.



Sustainability is broadly a part of the ministries' strategies but implementation varies

Sustainable development has only recently become a part of all the ministries' work.

Almost all the ministries strategies and budget control mechanisms take sustainability into account to some degree.

In order for sustainable development to become a principal guiding the ministries' work, it must be included in the government program and leadership practices.

Sustainable development policy: Recommendations

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Future governments need to harness the goals of the 2030 Agenda as a base for government policy

The political leadership should focus on the parts of sustainable development, which Finland still needs to work with in order to achieve the goals - or which Finland has a possibility to become a global leader within.

All the ministries should integrate the 2030 Agenda into their units' **strategies, activities, metrics and future reviews.**



One of the most important tasks of the next government will be to carry out a fair structural change towards a **carbon neutral and resource-smart Finland**

The government should, through a parliamentary process, draw up a national **roadmap** that defines how Finland will reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda, and how Finland supports the achievement of these goals in the EU and globally.

Simultaneously **extensive national levels of ambition** should be defined, and long-term political commitment to a fair structural change should be secured.



The government needs to direct **public funds** to sustainable development in a more coherent way

Budget procedures taking sustainability into account must be efficient. Budgets should have targets based on sustainability, for example phasing out support for environmentally harmful activities.

Government investments, such as **tax- and innovation support**, should be directed towards activities advancing sustainable development.

We must secure that the work done for sustainable development has the **human resources** that are necessary for securing pervasiveness and consistency.



Strengthening **scientific support and monitoring** for the 2030 Agenda

It must be secured that sustainable development has a central role, when **scientific advising** is renewed.

The expert panel for sustainable development must have **sufficient resources and a mandate** to comment on the most crucial governmental plans that affect sustainable development. The panel could for example work under the Prime Minister's Office.

Ministries must make sustainable development goals into a part of their legislative drafting. Evaluations should be organized systematically so that it covers the issue-areas relevant to sustainable development. The government's central bills and the Budget should be **assessed from a sustainability perspective**.



The path to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda

	2019
1. Political mindset and mandate	2030 Agenda as the baseline for the Government Programme
2. Setting and tracking	Start of process to define the national targets for the 2030 Agenda goals
3. Scientific support	The position and resources of the expert panel on sustainable development are strengthened
4. Budgeting and investments for sustainable development	The scope of sustainable development budgeting is widened and aims for the sustainability of the budget are formulated
5. Foreign and development policy	Better consideration of sustainable development in Finland's foreign policy (incl. development policy) in all governmental sectors



The path to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda

	2019	2021
1. Political mindset and mandate	2030 Agenda as the baseline for the Government Programme	Publication of a roadmap and list of actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals.
2. Setting and tracking	Start of process to define the national targets for the 2030 Agenda goals	The set national targets will guide policy. These goals will be updated according to research data.
3. Scientific support	The position and resources of the expert panel on sustainable development are strengthened	Public and private investments and innovations generate sustainable solutions and support to achieve the goals
4. Budgeting and investments for sustainable development	The scope of sustainable development budgeting is widened and aims for the sustainability of the budget are formulated	Development cooperation budgets are significantly augmented and political consistency has grown notably.
5. Foreign and development policy	Better consideration of sustainable development in Finland's foreign policy (incl. development policy) in all governmental sectors	



The path to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda

	2019	2021	2030
1. Political mindset and mandate	2030 Agenda as the baseline for the Government Programme	Publication of a roadmap and list of actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals.	Finland has achieved its 2030 Agenda goals.
2. Setting and tracking	Start of process to define the national targets for the 2030 Agenda goals	The set national targets will guide policy. These goals will be updated according to research data.	The sustainability of Finland's policy is monitored and assessed in a systematic manner.
3. Scientific support	The position and resources of the expert panel on sustainable development are strengthened	Public and private investments and innovations generate sustainable solutions and support to achieve the goals	Comprehensive private and public funding produce sustainable development innovations and support political coherence.
4. Budgeting and investments for sustainable development	The scope of sustainable development budgeting is widened and aims for the sustainability of the budget are formulated	Development cooperation budgets are significantly augmented and political consistency has grown notably.	Finland's foreign policy supports the achievement of 2030 Agenda goals with coherence and sufficient resources globally and inside the EU.
5. Foreign and development policy	Better consideration of sustainable development in Finland's foreign policy (incl. development policy) in all governmental sectors		#Polku2030

Sustainable development in Finland's foreign policy

Matti Ylönen & Anna Salmivaara, University of Helsinki

Two perspectives on foreign policy

1

The foreign political background of the sustainable development goals is in the **Millennium Development Goals**

They emphasize social development, while the 2030 Agenda broadens the perspective

Traditionally, the development policy lead by the foreign ministry becomes foreign policy: e.g. international questions regarding taxation (EU, OECD etc.)

2

On the other hand the broadening of the sustainable development goals brings **new actors to the field of foreign policy**

Themes: for example advancing trade and innovation

Actors: companies have also joined the movement, and are now carrying out the SDG's.



Finland's positioning and focus

The Agenda2030-report: “As a global partner, Finland supports the sustainable development of developing countries using the **tools of foreign- and security policy, such as trade and development policy.**”

The political program of the government: “In development policy, the Government emphasizes strengthening the developing countries' own businesses and taxation. The government makes the development cooperation more successful, impactful and measurable. As a long-term goal the development aid will be raised to be accordance with the UN's goal of 0,7 of GDP, even though development aid will be subject to budget cuts during this mandate period.”

➡ The more precise focus of the part on foreign policy: cross-administrative private sector foreign- and development policy.

Research questions

1. Is Finland's sustainable development policy based on human rights, and is it in accordance with the 2030 Agenda's "Leave No-One Behind" principle?
2. How consistent is Finland's foreign policy with achieving the sustainable development goals?
3. Does Finland's policy model support policy coherence outside of Finland's borders and in the different sectors of foreign policy?

Material

1. 22 interview person's, out which some were interviewed twice
2. The government's relevant EU-policies
3. Documents regarding development cooperation projects
4. Other relevant documents
5. Material from stakeholder workshops



A nut to crack

17 goals

169 targets

230+ indicators

No strong international model for coordination

= how can cross-administrative foreign- and development policy be harnessed to support the achievement of the goals?

There are multiple relevant policies...

Valiokunnan mietintö TuVM 1/2017 vp– VNS 1/2017 vp

Tulevaisuusvaliokunta

Valtioneuvoston selonteko kestävän kehityksen globaalista toimintaohjelmasta Agenda2030:sta Kestävän kehityksen Suomi – pitkäjänteisesti, johdonmukaisesti ja osallistavasti

JOHDANTO

Vireilletulo

Valtioneuvoston selonteko kestävän kehityksen globaalista toimintaohjelmasta Agenda2030:sta Kestävän kehityksen Suomi – pitkäjänteisesti, johdonmukaisesti ja osallistavasti. Asia on saapunut tulevaisuusvaliokuntaan mietinnön antamista varten. Asia on lisäksi lähetetty ulkoasiainvaliokuntaan, hallintovaliokuntaan, liikenne- ja viestintävaliokuntaan, maa- ja metsätalousvaliokuntaan, sosiaali- ja terveysvaliokuntaan, talousvaliokuntaan, työelämä- ja tasa-arvovaliokuntaan ja ympäristövaliokuntaan lausunnon antamista varten.

Lausunnot

Asiasta on annettu seuraavat lausunnot:

- ulkoasiainvaliokunta UaVL 5/2017 vp
- hallintovaliokunta HaVL 10/2017 vp
- liikenne- ja viestintävaliokunta LiVL 9/2017 vp
- maa- ja metsätalousvaliokunta MmVL 6/2017 vp
- sosiaali- ja terveysvaliokunta SvVL 3/2017 vp
- talousvaliokunta TaVL 24/2017 vp
- työelämä- ja tasa-arvovaliokunta TyVL 1/2017 vp
- ympäristövaliokunta YmVL 7/2017 vp

Asiantuntijat

Valiokunta on kuullut:

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- opetusneuvos Raija Meriläinen, opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö
- neuvotteleva virkamies Leena Pentikäinen, työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö
- neuvotteleva virkamies Markus Seppelä, sosiaali- ja terveysministeriö
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- pääsihteeri Minna Paajanen, Valtion liikuntaneuvosto
- tutkimusohjaaja Marita Laukkanen, Valtion taloudellinen tutkimuskeskus VATT
- palvelujohtaja Kimmo Kanto, Innovaatiotrahottuskeskus Tekes
- erikoistutkija Riitta-Majja Hämäläinen, Terveiden ja hyvinvoinnin laitos (THL)

Valmis
5.9

Valtioneuvoston selonteko: Suomen kehityspoliittikka

4.2.2016



Valtioneuvoston ulko- ja turvallisuuspoliittinen selonteko

Valtioneuvoston kanslian julkaisusarja | 7/2016



... but how are they implemented in practice?

Concentrating the coordination of sustainable development to the Prime Minister's Office creates possibilities for truly cross-administrative sustainable development policy in all sectors of government.

The activities are however centralized in the Foreign Ministry, and at the office for development policy.

Finland has within development policy focused on the same sectors as most of the other OECD-countries (facilitating investments).

Simultaneously more traditional sectors (education, health, social policy) and the support of trade in the broad sense has suffered.

A lack of resources hinders the work

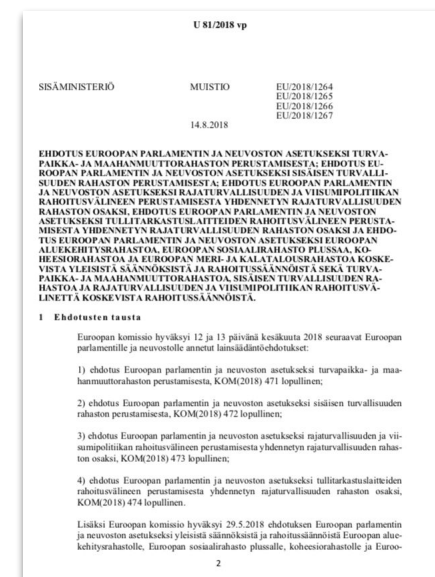
Example: the sum of workers that have been posted by the Foreign Ministry



1998



2017



Human Rights and the Leave No One Behind perspective are weak



Leave No-One Behind and Human Rights perspectives

Supporting human rights is a central principal in Finnish foreign- and development policy.

LNOB/Agenda 2030: *“We aim at reaching the ones first, who are furthest behind”*

Even though the connection between human rights and sustainable development is understood, **it is often forgotten.**

Finland profiles itself in official policies as a country that supports girls’ and women’s rights, but during this government **the support for UN Women has been cut with 29% and the support for UNFPA has been cut with 43%.**

In the discussions relating to corporate responsibility, sustainable development is often seen as “doing good”. **There is a risk that human rights obligations and avoiding harm is not paid attention to.**

In order for sustainable development policy to decrease inequality, **the weakest groups must be identified and the human rights aspects of all foreign policy must be assessed and resourced.**

Foreign policy: Recommendations



#Polku2030



Recommendations regarding foreign policy

Sustainable development should be a fixed cross-administrative part of foreign and development policy

Finland needs to have a plausible plan to raise development aid funding to 0.7 percent of the GDP

Resource scarcity must be solved

Human rights must be seen as a part of sustainable development; LNOB-policy must be emphasized across ministries

Also: the Government's Report on Finnish Foreign and Security Policy must be combined with the Government's Report on Development policy