

Challenges in the transition towards sustainable development in Bulgaria



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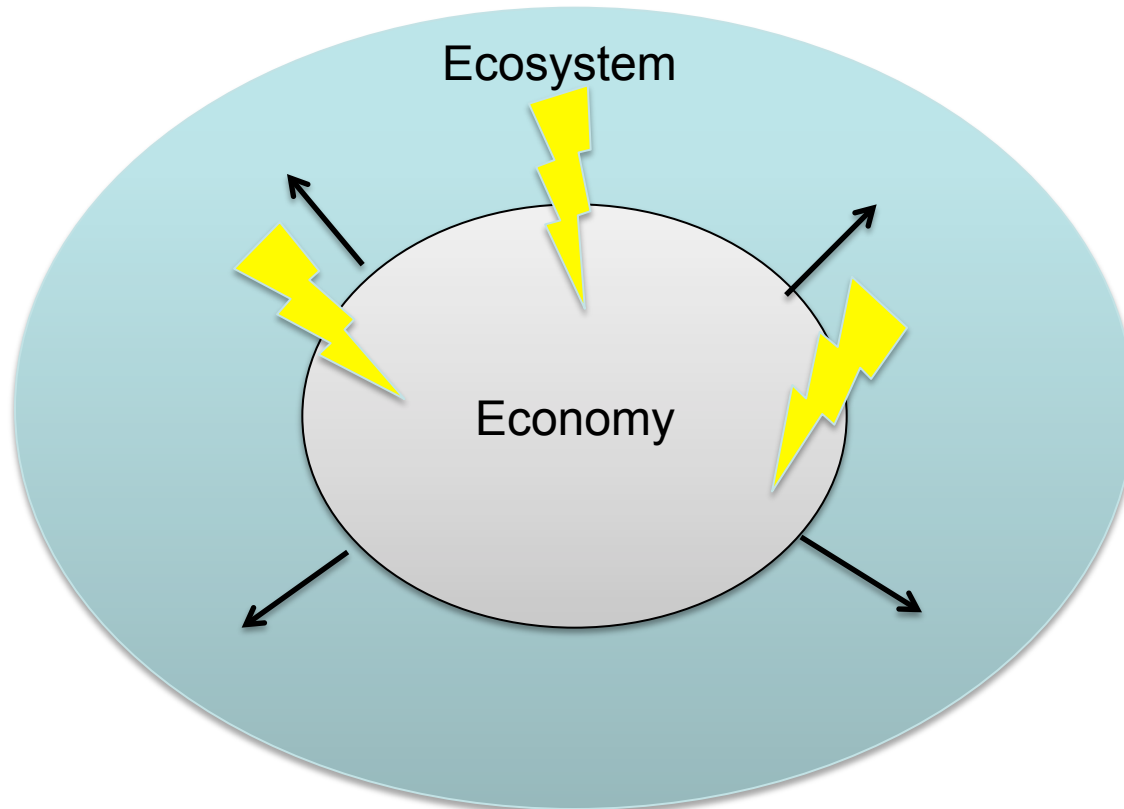
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Source: WWF Bulgaria

Which are the major challenges of advancing sustainable development in Bulgaria?



Overview

- The concept of EPI
- Reasons for EPI failure
- Awareness of the need for learning
- Conclusion

Environmental policy integration (EPI)

- Agenda 21 (Chapter 8); EU Cardiff Process (1998)
- “*axiom*” of modern environmental policy
- Integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors and policy areas
- Addressing causes rather than symptoms
- **Success criterion:** capacity and sectoral expertise

(Jänicke and Jörgens 2004)

Why does EPI still fail in Bulgaria?

- a lack of adequate communication
- absence of an effective institutional framework
- limited strategic capacities

How to face the challenge of EPI? (1)

“After all these changes, nobody thinks that the administration is important. But for sustainable development and for everything else, it is fundamental for driving processes.” (B25)

How to face the challenge of EPI? (2)

*“Sustainable development needs wider promotion, not only of the common phrases, but in terms of concrete topics, which to be worked out in trainings and seminars. Thus, **starting from the administrative level**, there is no way not to involve the decision-makers [...].“ (B8)*

How to face the challenge of EPI? (3)

*“We have a strategy for everything, only for sustainable development not. **And this integration, we should at least learn how to do it”** .*

“The relation to the economic development has always been of interest to me, because I am an economist [...] How to achieve this balance?” (B4).

How to face the challenge of EPI? (4)

*“Sustainable development is related to the **sustainable development of media** [...]. We need adequate trainings of the staff personnel and management personnel who believe that this topic will become a leading topic [...]”. (B14)*

Conclusion

- Success criteria for EPI not yet met
- EU policy falling short of creating governance conditions
- Demand for learning processes



Capacity development needs to be prioritized as a key area of intervention for resolving potential environment-related conflicts in Bulgaria!