Dialoge_Zukunft_Vision2050

Project – Information on status as at 1 March 2011

Why future?

The "*Dialoge_Zukunft_Vision2050*" project prompts discussion on the concrete visions for Germany's future. This is necessary due to a lack in society and the political and business communities of an overarching vision of sustainability and guiding principles for the future. This was made clear in the Peer Review of Germany's sustainability policy submitted by a team of international experts to the Federal Government in 2009.

Visions require informed discussions. In today's world, they cannot be devised in a back room or by a chosen few. The future is only conceivable and effective if dialogue-based. The year 2050 must be made the focal point of long-term thinking, whether in terms of demographic change in Germany, whether in global climate strategies, investments or fiscal inter-generational justice. For many, and young people below the age of 27 in particular, the year 2050 may still appear a very distant future. Yet, it denotes very clearly the next 40 years of their family life, their professional career, and their life in the community in which they will make decisions for themselves and for the community. Today, we are already taking decisions – on infrastructure, education and climate protection, for example – which are of direct relevance to the year 2050.

Anyone wishing to learn "future" will endeavour not to repeat the same mistakes time and time again. We know for certain that a "business as usual" approach will significantly endanger life on the planet. We can grasp so much about the year 2050 today if we look at our natural resources, the climate balance or even the social dimension.

A special procedure

Within the "*Dialoge_Zukunft_Visionen2050*" project, the principle of dialogue begins as early as the selection of the participants. The German Council for Sustainable Development has asked today's decision-makers from civil society and the political and business communities known to be credible advocates of sustainable development to nominate the young people who should participate in the *Dialoge_Zukunft_Vision2050* project. This approach ensures that today's expertise and capacity ties in with the interests and skills of the decision-makers of tomorrow. The nominations come from:

- Sustainability politicians in the German Parliament,
- CEOs of companies who either won the German Sustainability Award in 2008, 2009 or 2010 or were nominated for it in 2010,
- the winners of the 2009 and 2010 "Social Entrepreneur for Sustainability" award,
- deans of universities which offer sustainability courses,
- lord mayors involved in the Sustainable City dialogue,
- state premiers of *Laender* with sustainability strategies,
- members of the German Council for Sustainable Development.

The selection process has now been completed. 86 stakeholders have been invited to take part, discuss, formulate and discard visions, develop possibilities, explore horizons and identify paths. The project aims to encourage people to think outside the box.

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Kick-off: what does a vision entail today?

Berlin-based company Triad provided valuable input for the *Dialoge_Zukunft_Vision2050* project through its "*Visionen 2050. Dialoge Zukunft 'Made in Germany'*" report which was commissioned by the German Council for Sustainable Development. Over 30 visions deliver a deep insight into the future-oriented mindsets of today's decision-makers. They describe social fantasies, technical ideas, wishes and the likelihood of future developments, but also fears, concerns and insights into the impossibility of the "business as usual" approach, which are significant determinants of modern-day behaviour.

Preliminary procedure: what is dialogue-based?

To organise and implement the dialogue, we have commissioned the lab concepts agency (organisation) which will team up with e-fect (facilitation) and zebralog (e-participation).
The project will involve a 4-week online phase based on over 30 personal visions provided by experts from a wide variety of fields spanning all areas of society as well as a compilation of academic/scientific studies.

The preparatory online dialogue will culminate in a 3-day conference to be held at the *Allianz Stiftungsforum* at *Pariser Platz* beginning at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 March and ending around 4 p.m. on 25 March.

Wednesday, 23.03.2011		
17:00	Welcome / Presentation of results from the online phase Meet and greet	Max Schön Member of RNE
19:00	Evening snack	
20.00 – 22:00	Visions 2050 – what is pending? Stakeholders discuss with Rita Süssmuth and Franz Müntefering	Prof. Dr. Rita Süssmuth, former President of the German Parliament Franz Müntefering (MP), former Federal Minister
Thursday, 24.03.2011		
9:00 – 19:00	Substantive work (topic-based / further development of visions)	Prof. Dr. Angelika Zahrnt Dr. Hans Geisler Members of RNE
Friday, 25.03.2011		
9:00 – 12:00	Substantive work (framework conditions for developing a long-term, societal vision)	
12.00 – 13.00	Visions in dialogue – Presentation of findings and feedback	Department representatives
13:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	General discussion on central ideas, long-term thinking and visions	Johannes Geismann (Head of Department) Dr. Stefan Bauernfeind (Head of Division) Federal Chancellery
15:00	Summary and conclusion	Dr. Günther Bachmann General Secretary of the RNE

Anticipated outcomes

Through the above approach, the German Council for Sustainable Development seeks to

- produce a contribution to the Progress Report on the 2012 Sustainability Strategy
- identify a model for new dialogues and participation within the framework of the German sustainability policy, and
- link sustainability to envisioning and to entrench this notion in society.

If you would like to learn more about the dialogue project on the future, please visit the RNE website at

http://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de

http://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/en/projects/

Should you have any questions, please contact

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