

PART III: ANNEXED PROFILE ON NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES; INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NSDS)

Strategy Title: *Sustainable Development Strategy 2002*

Strategy website: <http://www.are.admin.ch/themen/nachhaltig/00262/00528/index.html?lang=en>

Coordinating Body: *Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE)*

Coordinating Body website: <http://www.are.admin.ch/org/index.html?lang=en>

Strategy Status: *NSDS being implemented*

Date of Adoption: *NSDS has been adopted in 2002.*

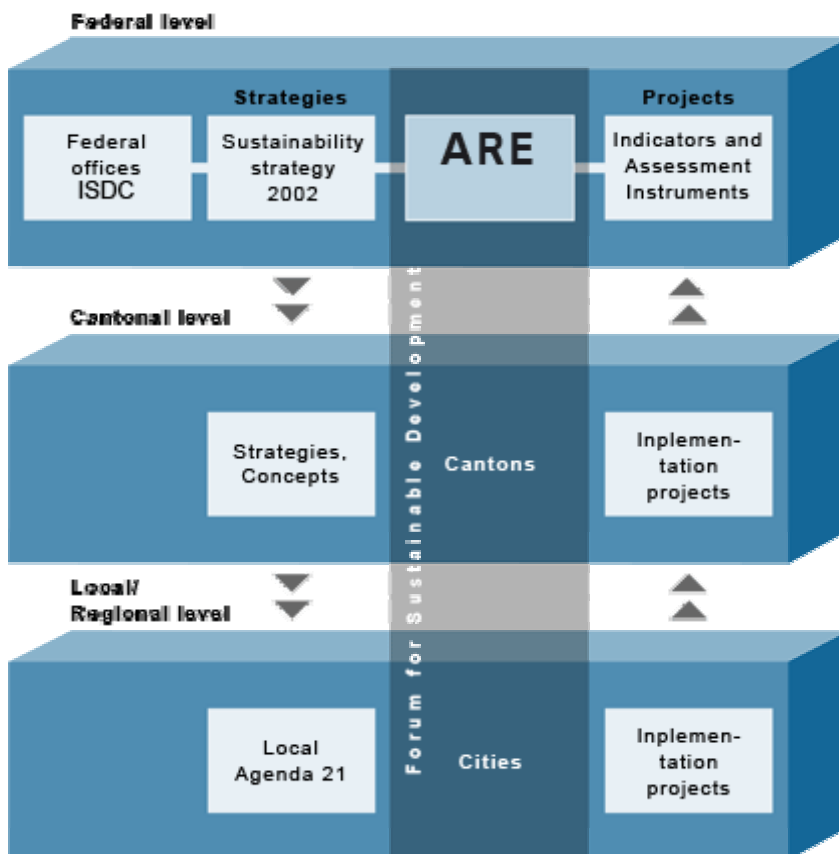
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Additional Information:

The new NSDS 2007 is on the way:

At the same time the strategy 2002 was adopted, the Federal Council instructed to conduct a critical evaluation of the present strategy and, on the basis of its findings, to present a new 2007 strategy, by the end of the 2004-2007 legislature period. The updated strategy 2007 will be produced on the basis of a report on sustainable development in Switzerland using the MONET system of indicators. It is also likely to draw on an evaluation of how the present strategy works (taking the federal level as well as activities at cantonal, regional and municipal level into account), as well as a review of conceptual principles that looks at sustainability strategies in the rest of Europe. Once this foundation has been laid, the new strategy will be drawn up. Every effort will be made to give the strategy as broad as possible a base of popular support in a participative process within the Federal Administration and involving cantons, regions and municipalities. There will also be public consultations.

How it works: ARE – the coordination platform



The Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) remit is to broaden the government's sustainable development policy, formulate it in specific terms and support its implementation. Furthermore, it ensures that the committees and processes involved (particularly the **Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC)** and the sustainable development strategy process, including monitoring, controlling and implementation) function smoothly and effectively. It fosters systematic collaboration with cantons, towns and cities in the field of sustainable development (in the context of the Forum for Sustainable Development) and promotes the Local Agenda 21 campaign at cantonal, regional and local level. ARE also maintains the momentum of sustainable development through its innovative projects (Sustainable Development Promotion Programme) and targeted information and communication campaigns.

Assessing Sustainability

Sustainability assessments, which are laid down in a corresponding framework strategy, are aimed at the federal government's strategic, programmatic and conceptual activities and projects, such as its legislation, programmes, strategies and concepts. They are intended to provide a transparent basis for decision making in the policy process. The central focus is less on whether a project is sustainable or not in itself, and more about optimising activities and projects in the light of sustainable development factors.

The framework concept proposes three stages of work:

1. Relevance analysis, which should clarify a project's relevance in sustainability terms in a straightforward way.
2. Impact analysis, which investigates a project's impact on the three dimensions of sustainability (in outline or in detail, as necessary) and analyses where objectives conflict with each other.
3. The assessment, which applies specific criteria to the impacts that have been identified – such as whether an irreversible trend might be triggered.

The methodology was tested using the agriculture example in the context of the 2005 Agricultural Report and the 2011 Agricultural Policy. Other case studies (sectoral transport plan (programme section), structural planning, aviation, ethanol as fuel, EURO 2008) are currently being tested and developed. Meanwhile, further analysis is required of where sustainability assessments touch on and display synergies with other existing or planned assessment tools.

The report and the method proposed can be downloaded on the website:

<http://www.are.admin.ch/themen/nachhaltig/00270/index.html?lang=en>