

## **Sustainable Development in the EU (2010/11)**

Theme/Topic:	Sustainable Development in the EU
Expert:	<b>Jørgen K. Knudsen</b> , SINTEF Energy Research, Norway
Character:	optional
ECTS-Credits:	3 Credit-points
Teaching methods:	lecture, seminar and discussion at the presence workshop
Assessment methods:	final exam at the end of the term, assignments, active participation in workshop and forum discussion
Language:	English

### Objective and course content:

The objective of this course is to understand the three concerns of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), and how sustainable development is interpreted in EU policy and practices – by focusing on the energy policy sector.

The European Union's Strategy for sustainable development (EU SDS) was first adopted by the Council in June 2001. It identified four priority action areas: limiting climate change and increasing the use of clean energy; addressing threats to public health; managing natural resources more responsibly; and improving the transport system and land use management. In June 2006, the European Council adopted a revised SDS in which the scope was enlarged by including – *inter alia* – social inclusion, migration, and global poverty.

As a way of promoting sustainable development, and particularly the environmental dimension, the concept of 'Environmental policy integration' (EPI) has been launched. EPI implies a focus on principles and practices for integrating environmental concerns into the formulation and implementation of sectoral policies. Measures associated with EPI have been employed through nearly 20 years within the EU and in its Member States, mainly in the form of procedural and institutional instruments. With an explicit reference to production and consumption of energy, the course will highlight how EPI can function as a tool for implementing the EU SDS. Thereby, the course also aims to contribute to a more general understanding of the political-institutional challenges of sustainable development.

## **Bibliography (recommended reading)**

Bomberg E., 2004, "Adapting Form to Function? From Economic to Sustainable Development Governance in the European Union", in W.M. Lafferty (ed.), *Governance for Sustainable Development. The Challenge of Adapting Form to Function*, Cheltenham, UK: Edw. Elgar Publ., pp. 61-94.

CEC, 2005, "Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: On the review of the Sustainable Development Strategy. A platform for action", *COM(2005) 658 final*, Brussels 13 December 2005: Commission of the European Communities (CEC).

CEC, 2009, "Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies: 2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development", *COM(2009) 400 final*, Brussels 24 July 2009: Commission of the European Communities (CEC).

Jordan A.J., Schout A. & Unfried M., 2008, "The European Union", in A.J. Jordan and A. Lenschow (eds), *Innovation in Environmental Policy? Integrating the Environment for Sustainability*, Cheltenham UK: Edward Elgar, pp. 159-179.

Lafferty W.M., 2004, "From environmental protection to sustainable development: the challenge of decoupling through sectoral integration", in W.M. Lafferty (ed.), *Governance for Sustainable Development*. Cheltenham UK: Edward Elgar, pp. 191-220.

Lafferty W.M. & Ruud A. (eds), 2008, *Promoting Sustainable Electricity in Europe: Challenging the Path Dependency of Dominant Energy Systems*, Cheltenham UK: Edward Elgar.

World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). 1987. Our Common Future, Oxford: Oxford University Press