



Fair sustainable development
based on the capability approach



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'Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.' (WCED 1987)

Report of the Closing workshop

On May 13-14th the final workshop of the project GeNECA took place at the Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg. The workshop's focus lay on the case studies on the first day and on presenting the data collected as part of the innovation sample of the German socio-economic panel (GSOEP-IS) on the second day. Despite their diversity the case studies all relate to the re-conceptualization of sustainable development that constitutes a major result of the project. The first case study investigates potential corporate impacts on sustainable development in the case of Bayer CropScience in India. The second study analyses the capabilities of (collective) agents in a nature related conflict in Leipzig. The third case study asks whether taking part in a regional currency enhances individual capabilities in the case of a regional currency in Graz, Austria. The GeNECA-conception is able to serve as a reference for all the cases and points to important differences concerning political participation.

The GeNECA data collected in 2012 as part of GSOEP-IS covers a broad range of issues: quality of life, capabilities, expectations about the preservation of living conditions for next generations, attitudes towards justice and the environment, actors for sustainable development, regional currency and sustainable consumption with regard to car use and organic food. First analyses of direct measures for capabilities on opportunities and constraints reveal at least two main factors: one is closely linked to socio-economic characteristics while the other is more related to attitudes and perceptions. Further, perceived capabilities have a large influence on subjective well-being. These general findings were underlined by more specific analyses on capabilities concerning job satisfaction and pro-environmental behavior. Apart from the GeNECA-data another module of GSOEP-IS for measuring general environmental behavior (GEB-scale) was also presented at the workshop and the links between the concepts have been explored. All in all the results are promising and reveal the potential of the data for further research on capabilities, freedom, and sustainable development.

<http://www.geneca.ufz.de>

Closing workshop 13-14 May 2013, Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg

Presentations:

Leßmann, Ortrud: GeNECA - overview

Volkert, Jürgen/Strotmann, Harald: Assessing corporate SHD impacts based on the CA: lessons of the Bayer CropScience India case

Rauschmayer, Felix: Auwald&Currencies [A nature-related conflict from a capability perspective (with Yuliana Griewald) and Can Community Currencies help increase Capability Sets for Sustainable Lifestyles? (with Mirijam Mock and Ines Omann)]

Krause, Peter: The data: Review of conception and empirical application

Michalski, Niels: Direct Measures of Capabilities – Exploring the Dimensionality of Direct Capability Measures

Arnold, Katrin/**Hochthanner, Andreas:** Autonomy and Job-satisfaction

Becker, Kerstin/Könnecke, Christian/Tietze, Svenja: CA and Region

Volkert, Jürgen/Krumm, Raimund: Sustainability and the CA: an Actors' Based Public Choice Perspective

Krause, Peter/Arnold, Katrin: Pro-environmental behavior and attitudes – conception and application

Masson, Torsten: Predictors of Pro-environmental Behaviour: A Capability Perspective

Otto, Siegmund: GEB and CA