

National Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Strategies in the EU

A comparative review of selected cases

Background paper for the conference 'Time for Action — towards Sustainable Consumption and Production in Europe'



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Context

This study is primarily intended to be used as a background paper for of the conference “*Time for Action - towards Sustainable Consumption and Production in Europe*”.

The conference is jointly organised by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP). It takes place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 27-29 September 2007. More information is available at: <http://www.mop.gov.si>

Disclaimer

**This background paper has not been subjected to
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Context and purpose

This study is primarily intended to be used as a background paper for the conference “*Time for Action - Towards Sustainable Consumption and Production in Europe*”, which is to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 27-29 September 2007¹.

The overall objective was to provide information on national strategies addressing sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the EU.

Strategies in focus of the study included dedicated SCP frameworks of programmes or action plans as well as national sustainable development strategies (NSDSs) integrating SCP as a key component.

The aim was to identify publicly available cases and to conduct a comparative review of a limited number of examples.

The more detailed objectives of the study were to provide information about the preparation of strategies, their main foci and content – in this respect particularly to which extent the strategies include actions on mobility, food and drink, and housing – as well as about targets and indicators defined for monitoring purposes and main responsibilities for implementation.

The methodology of information collection was primarily desk research, mainly in English. In a later phase of the research informal communication with SCP experts of the selected countries was also conducted.

The study focuses on the content of strategies. The evaluation of implementation was not in the scope.

SCP strategies reviewed

For the selection of examples for the review, several aspects have been considered. High level of political approval of the strategy and public availability of information were prerequisites. The most important further aspects included country representation of a wide geographical range, a variety of institutional structures etc., and representation of a good spectrum of concrete actions planned.

Based on these considerations the following examples have been selected for the review:

- i) The SCP perspective in the national sustainable development strategy of Austria, “*Building our Future – a sustainable future for Austria*” (2002) and its annual work programmes;
- ii) The “*Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production*” (2005) in the Czech Republic;
- iii) “*Getting More and Better from Less*”, the Finnish National Programme to Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production (2005);
- iv) SCP as one of the identified key challenges in the national sustainable development strategy of France, “*Acting in the European Dynamic*” (2006);
- v) The UK Government programmes on sustainable consumption and production, “*Changing Patterns – UK government framework for SCP*” (2003) and Chapter 3 “*One Planet Economy – Sustainable Consumption and Production*”, in “*Securing the Future*” (2005), the UK national sustainable development strategy;

The above group of cases includes both dedicated SCP strategies and NSDSs integrating SCP as a key component, it represents both old and new Member States as well as small and large countries, and it includes a variety of institutional structures. It should be noted that the strategies presented here do not cover the full extent of SCP related strategies in the EU.

Main findings

Sustainable consumption and production is being addressed in national strategies in an increasing number of cases. During the period of research, up to the end of August 2007, almost a dozen of examples of dedicated SCP strategies or NSDSs integrating SCP as a key component were identified. In terms of starting points, foci of action, instruments and targeted stakeholders etc. the identified examples represent a very wide range of approaches.

¹ The purpose and objectives of the conference are described in the conference paper “*Action towards Sustainable Consumption and Production in Europe*”. The conference paper is available at <http://www.mop.gov.si>

In addition to the already existing strategies, there are several other examples where a relevant strategy is currently being prepared.

For the list of identified strategies please refer to *Chapter 1.4*.

The most important findings of the comparative review are summarised as follows.

Governance of preparing the strategies

For the elaboration of strategies or at least to support the preparation of strategy by the government, a dedicated multi-stakeholder body (a committee or working group) was set up in all cases. The mechanisms of coordination and the range of involved stakeholders, however, show remarkable differences. The coordination of preparation was in general vested in the ministries of environment. In the cases of Finland and the UK the ministry of industry also played a key role. By various means and to various degrees the wider public was also consulted, mainly in the framework of Internet-based consultations.

In three out of five cases, in the Czech Republic, Finland and the UK, dedicated SCP strategies have been prepared in a first stage. In a second stage, however, in each of these countries SCP has been or is being integrated into the NSDSs. For Austria and France the entry point for SCP into the strategic planning policy arena was directly through the NSDSs.

Level of planning and novelty

The SCP strategies reviewed in this paper contain elements of both framework strategies (i.e. aimed to set out general policy directions etc.) and action plans (describing concrete objectives and detailed measures).

The level of novelty in terms of measures and actions planned also varies. With the exception of the Finnish SCP Programme, the strategies also report extensively on already implemented or ongoing activities. The strategies of Austria and the UK contain several provisions regarding the strengthening and extension of existing activities and at the same time also a good number of new initiatives. The Czech, Finnish and French strategies seem to have focused more on planning for new initiatives.

Major new initiatives have been included in the strategies in all reviewed cases.

Priority implementation areas and production-consumption systems in focus

The defined priority implementation areas represent a very broad range, including e.g. sectoral, thematic, horizontal and cross-cutting as well as overall policy coordination and integration type of topics. Nevertheless, some common implementation areas as well as preferred tools and instruments can be identified as follows:

- The improvement of eco-efficiency is the most broadly and uniformly shared overall implementation area. The focus, however, is on production processes and domestic economy.
- Commitment for setting the example in the public sector is in the forefront of most strategies and ambitions usually go beyond Green Public Procurement (GPP).
- A key role is assigned to market interventions in the promotion of SCP in all reviewed cases. Voluntary agreements also play an important role in a number of cases. There are only some sporadic examples for planned normative regulation.
- Key fields of consumption side measures are education, sensitisation for responsibility and provision of information. Only few activities go beyond these issues. At the same time research aimed at understanding the dynamics of consumption decisions is a common element of strategies.
- Promotion of research and innovation and furthering of the environmental technologies sector is a broadly shared implementation area.
- Consumer goods and/or product policy are addressed in the forefront of strategies in a good number of cases.
- Institutional innovations play a key role in some of the countries.
- It can be broadly confirmed that “food and drink”, “housing” and “mobility” are in the foci of strategies. At the same time, in most of the cases these areas are already addressed or planned to be addressed in more detail in relevant dedicated strategies. Lastly, as regards the comprehensiveness of action (e.g. from the life-cycle perspective etc.), some areas considered of key importance (e.g. consumption side impacts of food consumption, energy use of household appliances etc.) are not specifically addressed.

Implementation and monitoring

Main responsibilities for the implementation of strategic SCP approaches are summarised in *Annex I*. In most cases the overall responsibility for the coordination of implementation lies with the ministry of environment, which is supported by a larger group of committee members etc., usually the same as were involved in the development of the strategy.

In Finland and the UK, similarly to the case of the preparation of strategies, the coordination is the joint responsibility of the ministry of environment and the ministry of industry.

Most strategies specify some kind of monitoring mechanisms, typically annual or biannual evaluation reports and indicator reports.

Targets and indicators

Quantitative targets for SCP were defined by the strategies themselves very sporadically only. An exception to this is Finland.

Despite this fact there seem to be SCP-related targets set in the countries, but they are included in the sectoral (such as transport, agriculture) or thematic (e.g. climate change, energy efficiency) strategies etc. Some examples of targets set in these thematic strategies have also been collected. For an overview of identified targets please refer to *Annex IV*.

The most broadly and uniformly used targets are related to improvements in energy efficiency (both in general and specific e.g. to the housing sector), the share of organic farming in total arable land, furthermore the share of renewable energy in final consumption (in different categories, e.g. electricity, heat etc.). The use of various types of targets in the transport sector (e.g. specifying limits for related emissions or the share of transport modalities etc.) is also common.

As regards SCP indicators, most countries use some indicator frameworks to monitor the implementation of their SCP approach.

Two countries, France and the UK, have defined dedicated SCP sets of indicators within their larger set of sustainable development (SD) indicators. The Czech Republic defined potential clusters of SCP indicators.

Austria and Finland at the time being monitor the implementation of SCP by their general set of SD indicators.

For an overview of indicators set by the countries please refer to *Annex V*.

Some particular SCP considerations

Environment vs. other considerations

The main focus of the reviewed strategies lies on the ecological aspects of consumption and production.

As regards interaction between the elements of sustainability (environmental, economic and social aspects), actions which represent a win-win situation for the environment and the economy can widely be found in the strategies.

Regarding social aspects, considerations usually do not go beyond the employment potential of planned action, and the particular social drivers (e.g. demographic trends) of contemporary consumption patterns seem not to be amongst the main issues.

Domestic issues vs. considerations from the global economy perspective

The strategies dominantly focus on domestic issues. In most of the cases they also contain an international dimension (especially the NSDSs), where some important elements are covered, such as liberalisation of trade, promotion of the SCP concept in international policy-making process etc. At the same time planned action taking the perspective of the global economy, burden shifting and the global use of resources is only very sporadic. Exceptions to this are several examples to promote the consumption of locally produced food.

SCP building blocs vs. systems approach

The overall approach of strategies seems to combine consistent planning with the “building blocks” of SCP (e.g. labelling, GPP, education etc.) with some more holistic considerations, according to the systems approach (e.g. fostering structural changes and new modes of satisfying societal needs).

As regards holistic considerations, the most broadly shared type of action in this respect is related to overall ecological tax reform and/or system of ecological taxation. Fostering structural change in agriculture and to a lesser extent in the transport sector is also a broadly shared category of ambitions.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Setting the scene – the context of strategic policy-making for sustainable consumption and production in EU Member States

In the overall context of promoting sustainable development, sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is an emerging field of targeted policy-making at all levels of governance (supranational, national and local) worldwide.

The two most emblematic **international policy commitments** giving impetus to this trend have been *Agenda 21* and the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* (JPOI), both calling governments and stakeholders to develop and implement policies and measures aimed at promoting sustainable patterns of production and consumption. In order to foster the elaboration of strategies and implementation mechanisms with regional and national ownership, as well as to develop an overall “10-Year Framework of Programmes towards SCP”, a global multi-stakeholder initiative, the so-called *Marrakech Process* was launched in 2003. For an illustrative map of SCP initiatives at the global, EU and EU Member States’ level, please refer to *Figure 1*, next page.

In the European Union both the European Commission and the Member States promote the transition towards SCP in several ways. Relevant activities may or may not be labelled with the tag “SCP” (i.e. implemented “in the name” of SCP) and include both top-down (i.e. broader strategic frameworks and initiatives) and bottom-up approaches (i.e. pieces of legislation, thematic initiatives etc.) as well as coordination.

A major milestone in the evolution of SCP in the EU policy arena was the launch of the renewed *EU Sustainable Development Strategy* (EU SDS) in June 2006. It identifies sustainable consumption and production as one of seven key challenges to be tackled by implementation action. Amongst other provisions in the subject, it makes a commitment for the development of an *EU SCP Action Plan*, which is expected to be launched by the European Commission by the end of 2007 or early 2008. In July 2007, a consultation process was opened on the *EU SCP Action Plan*, in parallel to the consultation on an *Action Plan on Sustainable Industrial Policy*.

Furthermore, several broader EU strategic frameworks and initiatives as well as strategies and action plans also have high relevance to SCP. Examples include the *Cardiff Process*, the *Lisbon Strategy*, *Integrated Product Policy* (IPP) and the *Environmental Technologies Action Plan* (ETAP) the *Thematic Strategies*, the *Energy Policy for Europe* etc.

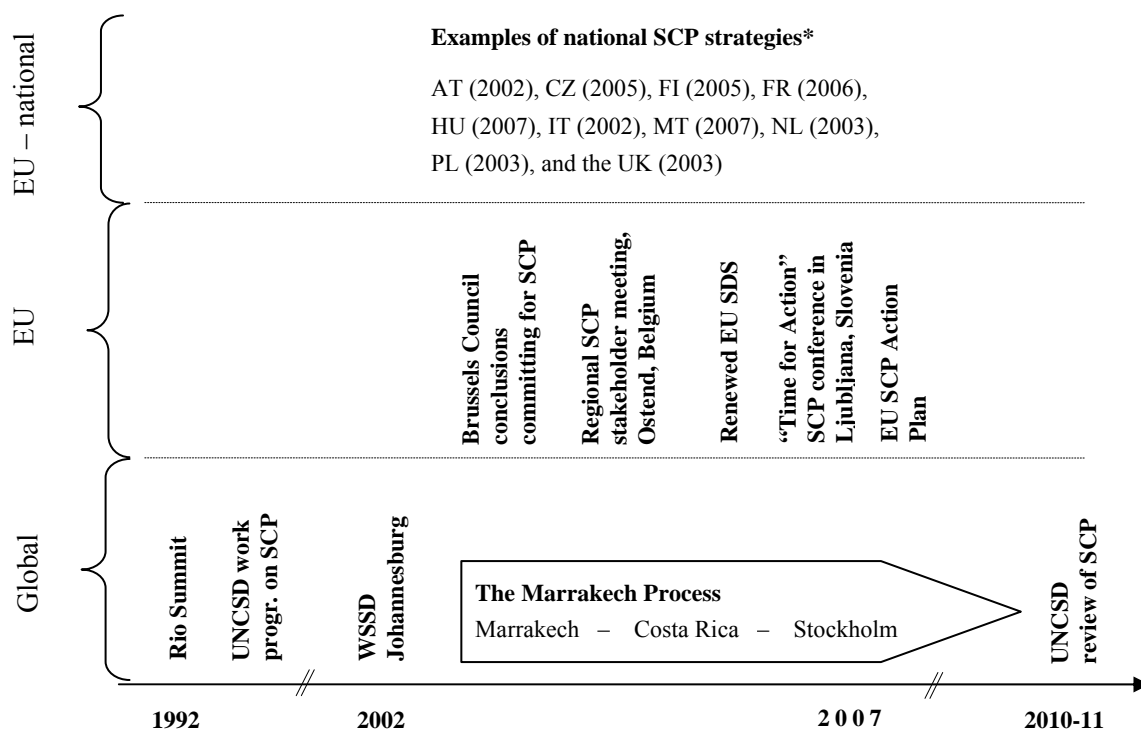
Last but not least, environmental legislation and regulation and to some extent market-based instruments are the cornerstone of the EU bottom-up approach in the broader subject. Relevant examples in this respect include the EU waste regime with a range of producer responsibility directives, the *Energy-using Products Directive* (EuP), *Green Public Procurement* (GPP), the *Eco-Management and Audit Scheme* (EMAS) and the *European Eco-label Scheme* as well as the *EU Emissions Trading Scheme* (ETS).

Two **supranational sustainability strategies** with EU relevance, namely the *Nordic Strategy of Sustainable Development* (2004) and the *Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development* (2005), also integrate SCP as a key component.

In the case of the former, SCP is defined as one of the horizontal action areas. In the latter case, one of the four main objectives of the strategy is to “change unsustainable production and consumption patterns and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources”.

At Member State level, above the fulfilment of relevant EU obligations, SCP in a broader sense has already been addressed in a large variety of ways. The range of related action includes both explicit (i.e. SCP-labelled) and indirect measures as well as both top-down and bottom-up approaches. Due to different starting points in the subject, varying underlying assumptions etc., the width and depth and the foci of individual approaches cover a very broad spectrum.

Figure 1: Illustrative map of major SCP initiatives at global, EU and EU Member State level



* AT- Austria, CZ – the Czech Republic, FI – Finland, HU – Hungary, FR – France, IT – Italy, MT – Malta, NL – the Netherlands, PL – Poland, UK – the United Kingdom

At the highest level of strategic planning, SCP is being addressed in an increasing number of cases by dedicated “framework of programmes” or “action plans” and/or integrated into national sustainable development strategies (NSDSs) as a key component. For an overview of identified cases, please refer to *Figure 1*, above and *Chapter 1.4* “Identified examples of national SCP strategies in the EU”.

There is also a tendency for incorporation of an SCP-component or for making reference to SCP as a main guiding principle in relevant thematic national strategies.

Examples include national environment policies or action plans, national reform programmes (NRPs)², national consumer policies and operational programmes of national strategic reference frameworks (NSRFs)³.

² Related to the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy

³ Related to the implementation of the European Regional Policy

1.2. Purpose

This paper is primarily intended to be used as a background paper for of the conference “*Time for Action - towards Sustainable Consumption and Production in Europe*”, which is to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 27-29 September 2007⁴.

The overall objective was defined as to stimulate and foster discussions at the conference by providing background information on some examples of national strategies and actions addressing sustainable consumption and production in the EU.

The more detailed objectives of the paper were defined as to provide information in the following respects:

- **Governance of preparing the SCP strategies** in the focus of this study.
- **Main foci and content of strategies**, particularly from the perspectives of stakeholders, the instruments of implementation and categories of production-consumption systems, especially to which extent the strategies include actions on mobility, food and drink and housing⁵;
- **Targets and indicators** set for the monitoring of implementation and **main responsibilities for implementation**;
- **Examples of concrete measures and actions** planned or being implemented or operated per main field of action.

Further to the objective of providing background information to the conference participants, the paper may also be valuable for a wider range of stakeholders. Particularly in this respect it also aimed at providing input to the joint UK / UNEP initiative to develop a non-prescriptive guideline to support the preparation of national strategies on SCP⁶.

1.3. Methodology and structure

Methods of information acquisition for the purpose of this paper included:

- **desk study**, and
- **informal communication with experts in governments**.

The term “national sustainable consumption and production strategy” has been defined for the purpose of this study as follows:

⁴ The conference is jointly organised by the *Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia*, the *European Environment Agency (EEA)* and the *UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP)*. Purpose and objectives of the conference are described in the conference paper, titled: “*Action towards Sustainable Consumption and Production in Europe*”. For more information please visit: <http://www.mop.gov.si>

⁵ These are the three sectors of production-consumption systems that have been pointed out for SCP policy making by several researches on the subject, based on their overall environmental impact. See e.g. Tukker et al. (2006) and Moll et al. (2006).

⁶ For more information please visit: http://www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/initiatives/Project_Overview_final.pdf

- **dedicated national SCP framework of programmes or action plan;** or
- **national sustainable development strategy with SCP integrated as a key component⁷** and relevant action planned comprehensively;

In order to fulfil the objectives of the study as defined above, particularly to also provide more in-depth information on some examples, the preparation of a comparative review of selected country cases was decided.

The paper consists of the following four main parts:

- This **introduction**;
- **Presentation of country cases**, where an overview of the preparation and priority implementation areas of the national strategies is provided. More detailed information about special features of the strategies is summarised in the annexes, or in the comparative assessment section, see below;
- **Comparative assessment of country cases**, where the results of the analysis are summarised and examples of concrete actions and measures are outlined;
- **Annexes**, containing more detailed information about the country cases in tabular format – in order to provide a better overview of available information.

1.4. Identified examples of national SCP strategies in the EU and case selection for the comparative review

Sustainable consumption and production is being addressed in national strategies in an increasing number of cases. A range of examples for dedicated SCP strategies or NSDSs integrating SCP as a key component have been identified in the framework of this study. However, as Member States have not been systematically contacted, there may be additional countries which have national strategies addressing SCP.

As of end August 2007, the following examples had been identified:

- **Austria** – the NSDS (2002) and its follow-up working programmes take a particular SCP-featured approach towards sustainability, with sustainable products and services as well as consumption and lifestyles amongst the central themes addressed;
- **Czech Republic** – a dedicated SCP framework of programmes was prepared in 2005. The renewed NSDS, which is expected to be launched later in 2007, also identifies SCP amongst the priority fields of action.
- **Finland** – a proposal for a national SCP programme was finalised in 2005. It was endorsed for implementation by the government by means of approval of the renewed NSDS in 2006, which also addresses SCP and makes a commitment for the implementation of the SCP programme.
- **France** – the updated NSDS (2006) identifies SCP as one of the key challenges to be tackled by implementation action.

⁷ I.e. identified as a key challenge to be tackled, or being amongst the top priority of action fields as a main cross-cutting / horizontal theme, or by other ways

- **Hungary** – the NSDS, approved by the government in June 2007 identifies SCP as one of the priority fields of action. Furthermore, a proposal for a national SCP framework of programmes was commissioned by the Ministry of Environment in 2003 and finalised in 2006. It is now being considered for implementation.
- **Italy** – the “*National Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development*” (2002) identifies the addressing of “production-consumption cycles” as a key field of action under strategic priority “Sustainable management of the natural resources”.
- **Malta** – the promotion of SCP is one of the highlighted areas of action under “*Sustainable Economic Development*” in the NSDS (2007).
- **Netherlands** – an “*Action Programme for Sustainable Development*” was prepared in 2002-2003 and sustainable consumption and production is amongst the 12 priority “sustainability themes”.
- **Poland** – a “*Strategy of Changing Production and Consumption Patterns*” was prepared in 2003. An implementation report, also including recommendations for the preparation of a detailed action plan, is currently being drafted.
- **United Kingdom** – a framework for SCP was prepared by the government in 2003, furthermore SCP is one of four priorities set by the renewed NSDS (2005).

Several other Member States are currently on the way to prepare dedicated strategies or to integrate SCP into their NSDS, for example:

- In **Belgium**, “changing consumption patterns” was already amongst the four priority themes in the first *Federal Sustainable Development Plan (2000-2004)*. By the end of 2007, a federal-level SCP strategy will be prepared, which is also planned to be included in the next *Federal Sustainable Development Plan (2009-2012)*.
- In **Greece**, an SCP section, aimed at describing a framework of actions in the subject, is included in the updated NSDS (expected to be finally endorsed by the end of 2007).
- In **Romania**, SCP is planned to be addressed in the 2007 update of the NSDS.
- In **Sweden**, an action plan for sustainable household consumption was prepared in 2005. It is, however, not endorsed by the new government for implementation. A new document describing current SCP initiatives and additional needs in the country will be published later this year.

Apart from national strategies, other types of approaches to address SCP at the national level are used by some EU Member States.

Some countries use mainly bottom-up approaches. These include for example **Denmark** and **Germany**, both with a large number of individual pieces of SCP policies and the building of a comprehensive range of national SCP policies. In Germany this approach is additionally supported by a national dialogue process on SCP, which brings together different stakeholders to promote options and solutions towards SCP.

Another example for addressing SCP at the national level, which is mainly used in some of the New Member States, is to address SCP in the framework of various EU policies and development instruments.

Lithuania, for example, addresses SCP in its national reform programme; SCP is one of the priority fields of actions in the *Environment and Energy Operational Programme* of **Hungary's National Development Plan**; a large scale SCP programme aimed at establishing SCP information centres in the **Czech Republic** is being implemented with the co-financing of the *European Social Fund*. Last but not least in **Slovenia**, the promotion of SCP is one of the strategic guidelines of the *National Environmental Action Plan 2005 – 2012* and SCP is planned to be addressed by the *National Council for Sustainable Development* in 2008.

Case selection for the comparative review

In order to be able to conduct a comprehensive and detailed comparative analysis, the selection of a limited number of examples was decided already from the outset.

For the selection of country examples several aspects have been considered. High level of political approval of the strategy and public availability of information were prerequisites. The most important further aspects included country representation of a wide geographical range, a variety of institutional structures and representation of a good spectrum of concrete actions planned in the identified strategies.

Based on these considerations the following examples have been selected for the review:

- **Austria** – the SCP perspective in the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development, “*Building our Future – a sustainable future for Austria*” (2002) and its annual work programmes;
- **Czech Republic** – the “*Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production*” (2005) in the Czech Republic;
- **Finland** – the Finnish National Programme to Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production “*Getting More and Better from Less*” (2005);
- **France** – sustainable consumption and production as one of the identified key challenges in the French National Sustainable Development Strategy, “*Acting in the European Dynamic*” (2006);
- **United Kingdom** – the UK Government programmes on sustainable consumption and production, “*Changing Patterns – UK government framework for SCP*” (2003) and Chapter 3 “*One Planet Economy – Sustainable Consumption and Production*”, in “*Securing the Future*” (2005), the UK national sustainable development strategy.

The above group of cases includes both dedicated SCP strategies and NSDSs integrating SCP as a key component, it represents both old and new Member States as well as small and large countries, and it includes a variety of institutional structures.

2. PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY CASES

2.1. SCP perspective in the sustainable development strategy of Austria, “Building our Future – a sustainable future for Austria” and its annual work programmes

The necessity of change in current production and consumption patterns, particularly by the promotion of sustainable products and services and by change in societal values and lifestyles is one of the central themes in the Austrian national sustainable development strategy, titled “*Building our Future – a sustainable future for Austria*”⁸.

Although in 2002, at the time of completion of the strategy, “sustainable consumption and production” as such was actually not yet referred to in the document, *Building our Future* takes a particular SCP-featured approach towards sustainability.

In principle the strategy has been defined as a “learning approach” and intended to be put into concrete terms and implemented by means of so-called “work programmes”, each focussing on several specific subjects. Besides the innovative adoption of the above SCP-related perspectives in the overall strategy, “sustainable consumption” was defined as one of the implementation priorities in the second work programme, which was launched in 2004.

Preparation of strategy

In order to work out the strategy, the federal government established a *Committee for Sustainable Austria (CSA)*, consisting of representatives of relevant ministries, interest groups and the coordinators of the provinces. Participation of a wider range of stakeholder groups was ensured through public events/workshops and an internet platform. Furthermore, NGOs participated in expert panels. Coordination was vested in the *Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management*.

Rationale for addressing SCP-related issues in the strategy

The most important specific SCP-related drivers referred to in the document include the inefficient use and overuse of natural resources and energy and at the same time the unfair distribution of resources in global dimensions, deficiencies in the ecological properties of products (energy efficiency, life span etc.), the impacts of the domestic transport sector (particularly the high level of greenhouse gas emissions) and the necessity to change consumption-related perceptions in society.

SCP-related considerations in the Austrian approach towards sustainable development

The concept of transition towards sustainable development has been defined in the strategy with particular emphasis on considerations related to the ideal of sustainable consumption:

“The transition to sustainable development cannot be limited to individual and gradual improvements, but rather requires a fundamental reorientation in politics, society and economy that comprises all areas of life. [...] As a social process, sustainable development cannot be achieved with standards and technological change alone. It also requires a fundamental shift in values, goals and – as a result – in the behaviour of society with regard to how it faces the challenges of the future.” (Building our Future, pp. 11-12).

In the same notion, the annual Work Programme 2004 also adopts the consumption perspective:

⁸ The document is available in English at <http://www.nachhaltigkeit.at/strategie.php3>

“A change of consumption habits in industrialised countries is one of the most essential preconditions for achieving sustainable development. Potential for change can be found primarily with increasing the re-source consumption efficiency and with the change of values and lifestyles, as well as with a broader participation of the population (e.g. separate collection of waste). [...] Taking orientation with available scientific concepts of new “models of affluence” (e.g. “less is more”, “elegance by simplicity”, “deceleration”, “benefits instead of possessions”) it is the task to develop and enlarge strategies, measures and options for action in these areas. A further objective is to propagate the citizens’ consumer awareness by showing which alternatives exist”.
(Building our Future, Work Programme 2004, pp. 39)

Priority implementation areas and guiding objectives

As starting points for prioritising activities, the strategy defines altogether twenty “guiding objectives“, which are sorted under four main “action fields”. Out of the twenty objectives eleven can directly be associated with SCP. These are listed under the four main action fields below.

I - Quality of life in Austria

- A sustainable lifestyle - *by means of the reorientation of resource and energy intensive lifestyles and initiating a change in values;*
- Solutions through education and research - *by means of a sustainable utilisation of the opportunities offered by the knowledge society by research, training and life-long learning;*

II - Austria as a dynamic business location

- Innovative structures to promote competitiveness - *by means of making research, technology and development fit for sustainable change, and by aiming at innovative systemic solutions;*
- A new understanding of business and administration - *by means of strengthening entrepreneurial responsibility and by raising the efficiency of administrative structures and procedures;*
- Correct prices for resources and energy - *by internalising external costs in order to create incentives for sustainable behaviour through the right pricing signals;*
- Successful management through eco-efficiency - *by utilisation of cleaner production, of renewable resources and of integrated product services systems in order to increasingly decouple resource and energy consumption from economic growth and fostering the utilisation of renewable resources and energies;*
- Promoting sustainable products and services - *by providing the right impetus to increase the market share of sustainable products and services;*

III - Living spaces in Austria

- Responsible use of land and regional development - *by orientating spatial policy to the population’s rising standard of living, the strengthening of regional economic cycles and to optimise/minimise distances between the home, workplace and recreation;*
- Shaping sustainable mobility - *by reducing mobility pressures and by meeting mobility needs in a sustainable way;*
- Optimising the transport systems - *by developing and disseminating alternative and energy efficient propulsion concepts, logistics’ structures and transport technologies;*

IV - Austria's responsibility

- Fighting poverty, creating a social and economic balance - *by combating poverty and seeking social and economic balance within and among countries;*

As regards SCP-related sectoral priorities, the targeted areas are mainly “dwelling”, “food”, “leisure”, “tourism” and “transport”. Furthermore, special attention is paid to “consumer goods”.

Instruments and stakeholders in focus

In the course of the development of the strategy by means of the annual work programmes, up until now more than 280 measures are defined and nearly every kind of instrument is involved. Focus lies with providing information, motivation, institution building and voluntary agreements.

Main actors addressed by the strategy are the different government bodies (at local, regional and federal levels), the chamber of workers and employees, the chamber of commerce and its members. Scientific institutions are involved in the planning of the programmes and the implementation of the measures. The subject group comprises all members of the Austrian economy from bio-farmers and production industries, to commerce and service providers, from public administration and schools to pupils and private consumers.

Main responsibility for implementation

Implementation of the strategy is coordinated by the *Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management* in cooperation with the *Committee for Sustainable Austria (CSA)*. Means of implementation are the referred annual work programmes, which are also to be approved by the *Council of Ministers*. Furthermore, a multi/stakeholder expert advisory panel, the so-called *Forum for Sustainable Austria (FSA)* was set up to support the implementation process and advise the CSA.

Targets and indicators

The strategy and the work programmes have defined several targets in the broader context of sustainable development. Furthermore a comprehensive range of sustainable development indicators have been defined for the monitoring of implementation. Targets and indicators directly SCP-related in the authors' evaluation are presented in *IV* and *V*.

Reporting and review

The CSA is responsible for preparing yearly progress reports focused on the results of implementation of the annual programmes. The FSA is mandated to come up with annual reviews on the progress made with the implementation of the strategy.

An overall external evaluation of the strategy was already carried out in 2005/2006. Based on this evaluation a plan for further steps has been developed. The new SD strategy and the related first action plan should be adopted in the course of 2008.

2.2. Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic summarised its approach towards SCP in a dedicated strategic document, titled “*Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Czech Republic*”⁹ (2005).

The *Framework of Programmes*, according to a reference in the document itself, is based on the current national sustainable development strategy of the country¹⁰, as well as on other adopted strategies and policies in process, e.g. *State Environmental Policy*, *Raw Materials Policy* etc. Its overall purpose was defined as to elaborate on the principles, priorities, objectives and activities needed for achieving SCP in the country.

As regards its official status, at the time being the *Framework of Programmes* is approved by a high level governmental advisory body (see later). It should be noted here that the draft version of the updated Czech NSDS¹¹ also recognises SCP as one of the priority areas for action and makes a commitment for its implementation.

Preparation of strategy

In order to work out the *Framework of Programmes*, under the lead of the *Ministry of Environment*, a multi-stakeholder expert and consultative body, the *Working Group for Sustainable Consumption and Production (WGSCP)* was set up within the *Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD)*¹² in October 2003. The WGSCP consist of representatives of key ministries, furthermore NGOs, research and the Confederation of Industry and Transport of the Czech Republic. A wider range of stakeholder groups were involved in the development process by means of rounds of calls for commenting by e-mails. The final version of the *Framework of Programmes* was approved by the GCSD in June 2005.

Rationale for addressing SCP and the Czech context

According to the *Framework of Programmes*, the reason for the development of an overall approach has been the “necessity to address sustainable consumption and production in a systematic and active way, in view of the increasing consumption of natural resources and growing environmental burden”.

Furthermore, several national characteristics have been outlined in the document as factors necessitating the addressing of SCP at a strategic level. The most important ones include the “unacceptably high” material and energy intensity of domestic production processes, the ever growing consumption and the overuse of resources, uncertainty about the effects of chemicals used in large quantities and the country’s limited access to fuel energy sources.

Last but not least, according to the strategy, to attain sustainable consumption and production is an “essential precondition” for achieving sustainable development.

⁹ The document is available in English at <http://www.env.cz>

¹⁰ The Czech Republic Strategy for Sustainable Development (2004)

¹¹ The updated NSDS is to be adopted by the government by the end of November 2007

¹² The GCSD is a high level standing advisory, initiative and coordinating body of the Czech Government in the field of sustainable development and strategic management. The WGSCP is one of the designated seven working groups established within the GCSD.

The Czech SCP concept statement

The document interprets SCP as follows:

“SCP is a basic precondition of sustainable development. Consumption means both the use of products and services and the use of natural resources, energy, water, land, etc. SCP is not an obstacle to economic development; on the contrary, it is a challenge and an opportunity for the private sector to optimise the production process in terms of energy and material intensity and to make products with a competitive advantage for the increasingly aware consumer market in the European Union – products with an emphasis on quality, health and protection of the environment. It also offers an opportunity to create new jobs and thus considerably contributes to finding a solution to the social problem of highest priority – unemployment.”

(Framework of Programmes on SCP in the Czech Republic, pp. 4)

The strategy’s two overall approaches towards achieving SCP

In order to put SCP into practice, the *Framework of Programmes* proposes that action is to be made according to the following two basic approaches¹³:

- reducing the material and energy intensity within the systems of production and consumption (by increasing their efficiency);
- optimising the systems of production and consumption (substitution of inputs, processes, products, services and requirements).

The main goal of the above optimisation approach, according to the document, is a continuous improvement in the quality of life.

Key elements of the transition towards SCP

The document defines the following key elements / preconditions necessary for the change of current production and consumption patterns:

- political will;
- a change of behaviour on the side of consumers (the state, enterprises, individual consumers, etc.);
- a change of behaviour on the side of producers and service providers;
- a change of the regulatory system and conditions in the market to motivate the key players (producers, public administration, consumers) to strive to achieve sustainable consumption and production;

Priority implementation areas

The following six strategic priorities have been defined:

- Education and transfer of information;
- Integration of policies, strategies and programmes;
- Eco-efficiency throughout the life-cycle;
- Local SCP initiatives;
- Sustainable public administration – green public procurement; and
- Market conditions.

¹³ According to the document, these two approaches are adopted from UNEP’s “Consumption Opportunities - Strategies for Change” (2001).

No sectoral priorities have been defined in the *Framework of Programmes* itself. However, as essential parts of implementation, the preparation of thematic action programmes was planned. The “*National programme for the energy management and the use of renewable sources of energy for 2006 – 2009*” was already launched in July 2005. An “*Action Plan on Eco-agriculture and Organic Food*” was finalised in May 2007 and an action plan for transport is under preparation.

Instruments and stakeholders in focus

The range of instruments planned as well as the type of key stakeholders and their role during implementation of the framework is outlined in dedicated chapters in the document. Both lists are comprehensive and at the same time normative in their character. Practically they include all types of instruments and stakeholders typically listed in SCP literature.

As regards practical foci in the application of instruments, based on the list of proposals for specific activities, again, a wide range of instruments are referred to. Instruments particularly in the focus of planned implementation include education and training, informative instruments, integration and coordination, and “getting the prices right”.

Regarding stakeholders, no particular stakeholder groups have been prioritised. The most broadly addressed stakeholders are producers and consumers in general and the state administration.

Main responsibility for implementation

The main responsibility for implementation / coordination of implementation lies with the *Ministry of Environment*. The ministries relevant to the defined priority areas of implementation are responsible for preparing follow-up action plans. The action plans are to be approved by the WGSCP and in the next step also by the GCSD. Implementation will also be linked with the renewed NSDS.

Targets and indicators

No quantitative targets are set in the *Framework of Programmes*, however, it is to be mentioned that several thematic strategies are referred in the document, e.g. the *State Environment Policy* etc. and these strategies did set targets. The action programmes to be developed in the course of implementation will also set targets¹⁴.

The document proposes two clusters of potential indicators for the monitoring of implementation (see *Annex V*) and also formulated several goals regarding their future development.

Reporting and review

Implementation of the *Framework of Programmes* is monitored within the progress report on the implementation of the NSDS, which is prepared annually. Furthermore, the WGSCP is obliged to inform the GCSD about its activity and the achieved results (also annually) and last but not least monitoring and evaluation should also be part of the action plans. A mid-term review and revision is planned.

¹⁴ Some targets from the related strategies have been listed in *Annex IV*

2.3. Getting More and Better from Less – Finland’s National Programme to Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production

In order to address SCP-related challenges at a strategic level in Finland, a comprehensive proposal, titled “*Getting More and Better from Less - proposals for Finland’s national programme to promote sustainable consumption and production*”¹⁵ (2005) was elaborated.

In a first stage the proposal was first approved by a high level governmental advisory body (see later). In the second stage it was also endorsed by the government by the enacting of the country’s renewed NSDS, “*Towards Sustainable Choices - a nationally and globally sustainable Finland*” (June 2006), which makes a commitment for the implementation of the *Programme*.

Preparation of strategy

For the preparation of the *Programme*, a multi-stakeholder body, the so-called “*KULTU Committee*”¹⁶, was set up jointly by the *Ministry of Environment* and the *Ministry of Trade and Industry* in November 2003. The *Committee* consisted officials from various ministries as well as representatives from industry, business, and environmental and consumers' organisations. A broad range of experts and specialists, including experts from abroad, were also invited to contribute. The wider public was invited to submit ideas on the Internet. The final proposal was unanimously accepted by the *Committee* in June 2005.

Rationale for addressing SCP

According to *Getting More and Better from Less*, the necessary transition towards sustainable consumption and production represents a tremendous challenge both at the national and global levels and therefore a vision for the future and the setting of related goals with a timeframe of about twenty years is to be worked out.

Amongst environmental pressures, climate change, the levels of consumption of natural resources and the amounts of waste generated are mentioned. The increasing global impact of Finland through the globalisation of production chains is also mentioned amongst the main drivers.

A particular aspect, namely Finland’s suspected increasing vulnerability to globalisation and how it could be turned from a threat to an opportunity, e.g. by increased reliance on domestic sources, is also highlighted.

The Finnish vision of SCP

The overall vision of the future from the SCP perspective – for the year 2025 – has been defined by the *Programme* as follows:

“In the future Finland will base its economy on forms of production that increase national wealth and well-being without depleting biodiversity or exceeding the carrying capacity of natural systems through their environmental impacts. This will give rise to new business opportunities and jobs in sectors that promote well-being and environmental innovations. The eco-efficiency of production in Finland will rise throughout the product chain, with Finland being among the world’s leading countries in this respect. [...] New eco-efficient product-service systems, sustainable high-quality products and social innovations will encourage a shift away from the accumulation of material goods to more service-based consumer cultures.”

(*Getting More and Better from Less*, pp. 3-4).

Furthermore, a vision of the future has been defined per defined main fields of action too (these main fields are listed below).

¹⁵ The document is available in English at: <http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=149254&lan=en>

¹⁶ The Committee on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Overall objectives

The key objectives of *Programme* have been defined as follows:

- improvement of the efficiency in the usage of materials and energy through all stages of product life cycles;
- promotion of environmental education; and
- the development and adoption of environmental technologies.

Main fields of action

There are altogether 73 action points put forward by the document, which are sorted under eleven main fields of action. The eleven main fields of action areas are as follows:

- Forms of production that save materials and energy;
- Fewer material goods, but a higher quality of life;
- Building pleasant and functional communities;
- Improving the quality of construction;
- Getting transport on the right track;
- Sustainable food production from the farm to the table;
- Promoting well-being in workplaces and leisure activities;
- Setting an example in the public sector;
- Values, knowledge and skills;
- An active international role for Finland.

Instruments and stakeholders in focus

The proposals listed in the *Programme* involve a large variety of instruments and stakeholders. Provision of environmental information together with education and training, coordination amongst different stakeholder groups, economic incentives and institutional innovations are the most commonly proposed types of measures. As regards stakeholders, the programme makes no special focus, all general stakeholder groups (producers, citizen-consumers, government) are addressed equally.

Main responsibility for implementation

The responsibility for the coordination of implementation is shared between the *Ministry of Environment* and the *Ministry of Trade and Industry*. Otherwise, for the implementation of particular proposals, a broad range of stakeholders have been named in *Programme*, ranging from different ministries and state institutions (e.g. on research) to NGOs.

Targets and indicators

The *Programme* defines several targets (see *Annex IV*). SCP indicators have not yet been defined. However, several proposals have been made for the development of indicators and the renewed NSDS defines a comprehensive set of sustainable development indicators, several of them SCP-related (see *Annex V*).

Reporting and review

At present an informal network from different ministries follows the implementation. The *Programme* itself also made several proposals for the monitoring of implementation. A mid-term review and update is planned after a period of five years (in 2010).

2.4. SCP as one of the key challenges in the national sustainable development strategy of France, “Acting in the European Dynamic”

Sustainable consumption and production is identified as one of the key challenges to be tackled in the updated national sustainable development strategy of France, titled “*Acting in the European Dynamic*”¹⁷ (November 2006).

One of the main goals of the 2006 update was to harmonise the NSDS with the renewed *EU Sustainable Development Strategy* (EU SDS), which was due in the same year. Consequently, the seven key challenges identified for top priority action in the EU SDS, amongst them sustainable consumption and production, have been almost completely been adopted.

Preparation of strategy

The update of the existing NSDS was carried out during 2006 and managed by the *Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development*. The main body responsible for updating the strategy was the co-called *Inter-ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development* (ICSD), consisting of the ministers of the government and chaired by the prime minister. The ICSD was supported in this task by an operational body, the so-called *Permanent Committee of Senior Officials in charge of Sustainable Development*. A stakeholder consultation body, the so-called *National Council on Sustainable Development*, which consists of the representatives of civil society, local authorities, and businesses as well as trade unions, consumers’ organisations, media and scientists, also provided input. The government approved the updated strategy in November 2006.

Rationale for addressing SCP

According to *Acting in the European Dynamic*, France has been one of the countries favouring the inclusion of sustainable consumption and production amongst the key challenges to be tackled in the renewed EU SDS. Furthermore, the necessity for addressing SCP is summarised in the strategy as follows:

“Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and the overexploitation of natural resources have an impact on the balance of ecosystems, biodiversity and human development. International competition and environmental problems imply that we have to search for solutions for a reduced utilisation of used resources and also to make our production systems socially more responsible. Consumers also have a major role to play by demanding producers to provide comprehensive information describing the advantages and disadvantages of consumed goods and services.”
(*Acting in the European Dynamic*, pp. 22)

Overall and specific objectives of the strategy in the field of SCP

The overall objective of the strategy in the field of SCP is defined as “to gradually turn all production and consumption patterns sustainable”. Furthermore, the following five specific objectives – targeting five different implementation areas and stakeholder groups – are set:

- encourage all companies to get involved in activities related to sustainable development;
- better inform consumers and improve the environmental and social performance of products and production processes;
- accompany the development of agriculture and fisheries according to the principles of sustainable development;
- increase the share of sustainable public procurement; and

¹⁷ “Agir dans la dynamique européenne” – the document is available (in French) at <http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr>

- encourage innovation and establishment of enterprises active in the field of sustainable development.

Priority areas for implementation action

The overall and specific objectives of the strategy are aimed to be achieved by the implementation of ten action programmes. Out of the ten action programmes the following five are associated with SCP:

- Economic activity, companies and consumers;
- The citizen, a player in sustainable development;
- Agriculture and fisheries;
- Towards an exemplary State;
- International action;

No sectors other than agriculture and fishery are developed directly under the key challenge SCP.

Instruments and stakeholders in focus

Amongst the instruments of implementation particular importance is given to “funding and economic instruments” and to education and training, which are also defined as transversal themes in the strategy.

A further particular lever in the general subject of sustainable development is the constitutional law on the *Environmental Charter*¹⁸, which introduces explicit reference to sustainable development in the constitution.

No particular stakeholder group is prioritised in the strategy. There are action programmes targeted directly to citizen-consumers, the public administration and businesses.

Main responsibility for implementation

The new *Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning* manages the implementation of the strategy. For this purpose a dedicated body, the so-called *Sustainable Development Delegation* was established within the Ministry in 2005. In order to lead and coordinate the implementation within the government, a function of the so-called “inter-ministerial delegate” was created already in 2004. The forum for the coordination of implementation within the government is the *Inter-ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development* (ICSD) consisting of the ministers of the government. Each minister is responsible for the implementation and follow-up of the actions in the strategy that fall under that Ministry’s authority. S/he nominates a senior official in charge of sustainable development who has the responsibility to ‘champion’ sustainable development within his/her ministry. The work of the ICSD is thus supported by the *Permanent Committee of Senior Officials in charge of Sustainable Development*, which meets regularly (every 2 months) and prepares the work of the ICSD.

Prefects coordinate the action of the government at regional and county levels. They are responsible for the implementation of the strategy at the decentralised level, promote sustainable development, including SCP actions, and advise local authorities.

The *Agency for the Environment and Energy Management* (ADEME) is responsible for promoting SCP through public awareness and habits change, eco-responsibility of State, specific support to SMEs, support to local *Agenda 21* elaboration.

¹⁸ The Environmental Charter was adopted by parliament meeting in congress on February 28th 2005 and promulgated on March 1st 2005 by the President of the Republic. Article 6 in particular specifies that “public policies must promote sustainable development. The charter includes references to key environmental principles concerning precaution, polluter-pays and prevention.

Targets and indicators

Targets directly set by the strategy or referred by the strategy in relation to SCP are listed in *Annex IV*.

For monitoring of the strategy a general set of sustainable development indicators have been defined. Since SCP is one of the identified key challenges to be tackled, a sub-set of SCP indicators are also defined and are listed in *Annex V*.

Reporting and review

The *Permanent Committee of Senior Officials* in charge of Sustainable Development prepares annual reports on implementation of the strategy to the Parliament. The NSDS is programmed for review every five years in France, with interim actualisation after 2-3 years. A new strategy will be issued in 2008.

The revision of the strategy will be carried out during 2008, although some activities, e.g. collection input for the revised strategy have already been started.

2.5. “Changing Patterns” and “One Planet Economy” – the UK Government programmes on sustainable consumption and production

Sustainable consumption and production has been addressed in the United Kingdom in two governmental strategies.

The UK Government framework for SCP, titled “*Changing Patterns*”¹⁹, was jointly prepared and published by the *Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs* (DEFRA) and the *Department of Trade and Industry* (DTI) in 2003. Notably, it was the first ever governmental strategy in Europe dedicated to the subject of SCP.

In the next stage, in 2005, SCP was selected as one of the four priority areas for UK action in the country’s updated sustainable development strategy, titled “*Securing the Future*”²⁰. Details of action are set out in a chapter dedicated to SCP and titled “*One Planet Economy*”.

Preparation of strategies

Changing Patterns was co-authored by DEFRA and DTI and contains elements of both a report of government on SCP and a white paper on further directions of policy in the subject. The preparation of this paper was carried out without particular stakeholder participation.

The preparation of *Securing the Future*, including *One Planet Economy*, was lead by DEFRA’s *Sustainable Development Unit* (SDU) in cooperation with the so-called “*UK Sustainable Development Commission*”²¹. Furthermore, for the involvement of a wider range of stakeholders an Internet-based consultation as well as regional workshops and surveys were conducted.

Rationale for addressing SCP and the UK concept of SCP

One Planet Economy sets the scene by listing six noteworthy statements under the heading “the facts”, ranging from forecasts on rapidly raising global energy demand to the estimated immense saving potential which exists in the UK manufacturing industry. It continues with a symbolic explanation why addressing SCP at the strategic level is imperative:

*“Current developed country patterns of consumption and production could not be replicated worldwide: some calculations suggest that this could require three planets’ worth of resources.”*²²

(*Securing the Future*, pp. 43)

Continuing this line of thought, the most pressing issues and the necessity of a new approach to tackle the challenges are outlined as follows:

“The largest and fastest growing pressures on the global environment come from areas such as household energy and water consumption, food consumption, travel and tourism. Past environmental policy focused mainly on pollution from domestic production activities. We now need a wider and more developed approach that focuses across the whole life cycle of goods, services and materials, also includes economic and social impacts, and in particular encompasses impacts outside the UK. There would be little value in reducing environmental impacts within the UK if the result were merely to displace those impacts overseas, or close off benefits at home or abroad.”

(*Securing the Future*, pp. 43).

¹⁹ The document is available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/scp/>

²⁰ The other three priority areas are: climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities. The document is available at the same link as *Changing Patterns*, above.

²¹ The *Sustainable Development Commission* is an independent advisory body that consist of representatives of business, NGOs, local and regional administration as well as academia

²² World Wildlife Fund (WWF), 2004, ‘Living Planet Report’ at www.panda.org/news_facts/publications/general/livingplanet/index.cfm

Strategic objectives

Changing Patterns has defined the following four overall policy objectives:

- decoupling economic growth and environmental degradation;
- focusing policy on the most important environmental impacts associated with the use of particular resources, rather than on the total level of all resource use;
- increasing the productivity of material and energy use, as part of the broader Government commitment to increase the productivity of the nation; and
- encouraging and enabling active and informed individual and corporate consumers who practice more sustainable consumption;

One Planet Economy aims at achieving the following three overall SCP objectives:

- better products and services, which reduce the environmental impacts from the use of energy, re-sources, or hazardous substances;
- cleaner, more efficient production processes, which strengthen competitiveness; and
- shifts in consumption towards goods and services with lower impacts;

Priority implementation areas

The particular elements of the UK strategy towards SCP have been set out in *Changing Patterns* as follows:

- Taking a holistic approach that considers whole life-cycles of products and services;
- Working with the grain of markets and identifying and tackling market failures;
- Integrating SCP thinking and objectives in all policy development and implementation;
- Using a well-designed package of policy measures and following the principles of better regulation; and
- Stimulating innovation in all its facets;

The planned measures and actions put forward in *One Planet Economy* are sorted under the following seven headline areas:

- Sustainable Products – cutting out problems at source;
- Sustainable Production – greater efficiency and value with less resource use, pollution and waste;
- Sustainable Consumption;
- Leading by example in what we do;
- Catalysing change within the economy and key sectors;
- Sustainable Waste Management; and
- Evidence and indicators;

Furthermore, the sectors which have a particularly strong influence on the sustainability of goods and services consumed in the UK, according to the strategy, are “retailers”, “tourism”, “construction and construction minerals”, “transport”, “food” and “environmental industries”.

Instruments and stakeholders in focus

As regards the means of achieving the intended results, *Changing Patterns* is focused on market interventions and coordination and integration.

The more practical set of proposals outlined in *One Planet Economy* are particularly focused on institutional innovations and market interventions. As regards stakeholders in focus, *One Planet Economy* puts a particular emphasis on the role and opportunities with SCP to the business community.

Main responsibility for implementation

Monitoring and implementation is carried out via DEFRA, which has a joint programme with DTI on SCP. Further to the central role of the government, there are several ‘*Delivery Bodies*’ being funded to implement action and undertake more day-to-day liaison with businesses and consumers.

Targets and indicators

No quantitative SCP targets as such have been set in *Changing Patterns* and *Securing the Future*. Several SCP-related targets, set elsewhere in the government’s strategic portfolio, are referred in *Securing the Future* (please refer to *Annex IV*). Furthermore, it is to be mentioned here that a diverse range of strategies and programmes exist, which have high/direct relevance to SCP, and these strategies and programmes did set several targets²³.

The UK has chosen a comprehensive set of indicators from its general SD set of indicators to monitor the implementation of SCP²⁴ (see *Annex V*).

Reporting and review

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFRA) has the lead responsibility for monitoring, reporting and reviewing the process towards the objectives set out in the NSDS. The following two types of monitoring mechanisms are operated: yearly indicator reports and policy monitoring, based on the so-called Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets²⁵.

²³ Some targets from the related strategies have been indicated in *Annex IV*

²⁴ Regional versions of the UK Government’s indicators of sustainable development were also published in December 2005 to help provide a perspective of sustainable development in each region.

²⁵ Public Service Agreements define each government department’s aims and objectives and describe how the targets will be achieved and how performance against the targets will be measured.

3. COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF COUNTRY CASES

3.1. SCP in national strategies – a variety of approaches

Use of different types of strategies and political status of strategies

The five countries in the scope of this study have used either dedicated framework of programmes or action plans, or national sustainable development strategies to bring SCP to the level of strategic policy making. In some of the cases, during the course of the development of the strategic approach, SCP has already been addressed by both types of documents. *Table 1* below takes stock of the SCP-relevant strategic documents produced by the five countries.

Table 1 Overview of SCP strategic documents produced by the countries

	Dedicated framework of programmes or action plan	National sustainable development strategy (NSDS)
Austria	N/A	<i>Building our Future – a sustainable future for Austria</i> (2002)
Czech Republic	<i>Framework of Programmes on SCP</i> (2005)	(The Czech Republic Strategy for Sustainable Development - renewed strategy, upcoming in November 2007)
Finland	<i>Getting More and Better from Less</i> (2005)	<i>Towards Sustainable Choices - a nationally and globally sustainable Finland</i> (2006)
France	N/A	<i>Acting in the European Dynamic</i> (2006)
UK	<i>Changing Patterns – UK government framework for SCP</i> (2003)	<i>Securing the Future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy</i> (2005)

As it appears from the table, in three out of five cases – in the Czech Republic, Finland and the UK – dedicated SCP strategies have been prepared in a first stage. By now in all three countries the strategic planning for SCP has entered or is in the process of entering a second stage, during which SCP is integrated into the NSDSs. For Austria and France the entry point for SCP into the strategic planning policy arena was directly via the NSDSs.

As regards the political status (approval by government etc.) of strategies, they are as follows:

- In the cases of Austria, France and the UK²⁶ the political status of strategies is government-approved NSDS.

²⁶ This is valid for *Securing the Future*. The UK Government SCP framework, *Changing Patterns* (2003), is a white paper by DEFRA and DTI.

- At present the *Framework of Programmes on SCP* in the Czech Republic bears the approval of a high-level standing committee advisory to the government. By the end of the year, through the enacting of the renewed Czech NSDS, which will make a commitment for the implementation of the *Framework of Programmes*, the status will be upgraded to government-approved strategy.
- The Finnish SCP programme, *Getting More and Better from Less*, after being in the status of a white paper for a while, is endorsed for full implementation by the renewed NSDS, which was en-acted by the government end of 2006. With this act it became the official SCP programme of the country.

Levels of strategic planning and novelty

General policy directions and guidance vs. concrete objectives and measures

The strategic SCP documents reviewed in this paper contain elements of both **framework strategies** (aimed to set out general policy directions and guidance, combined with overall objectives etc.) and **action plans** (describing concrete objectives and detailed measures with short and medium term planning horizon). *Table 2* below describes the main character of national approaches in this respect.

Table 2 Characterisation of documents: elements of framework strategies vs. action plans

Austria	<i>Building our Future</i> is rather a framework strategy, which defines the main directions of required work and related broader lines of action. Some concrete planned measures called “the first steps” are also outlined. Since the strategy has been designed as a “learning approach“, the priorities of implementation with more concrete objectives and measures are defined by means of annual work programmes.
Czech Republic	The <i>Framework of Programmes on SCP</i> defines the principles of future SCP policy as well as the broader priority areas of required action and, last but not least, proposals for specific activities in the short and medium terms. The detailed objectives and measures per defined priority area are intended to be defined by dedicated follow-up action programmes.
Finland	The SCP programme <i>Getting More and Better from Less</i> is rather an action plan defining an overall vision for SCP and then vision, objectives and proposed measures for eleven priority fields of action are set out.
France	<i>Acting in the European Dynamic</i> consists of three main parts. The first part, “objectives” defines an overall objective and five specific objectives for SCP. The second one consists of ten action programmes of which five are associated with SCP and the third one defines indicators.
United Kingdom	The UK government SCP framework <i>Changing Patterns</i> explains the means and broader objectives along which the UK intends to implement SCP and also the main directions of future action in the short term. The SCP chapter in the UK NSDS, <i>One Planet Economy</i> describes vision and objectives for SCP and concrete measures in the short term.

Novelty of planned action

The level of novelty in the actions also varies. With the exception of the Finnish *Getting More and Better from Less*, the strategies also report extensively on already implemented or ongoing activities. The strategies of Austria and the UK contain several provisions regarding the strengthening and extension of existing activities, at the same time also a good number of new initiatives. The Czech, Finnish and French strategies seem to have focused more on planning for new initiatives.

3.2. Governance of preparing the strategies: responsibilities, coordination and participation

For the elaboration of strategies or at least to support the preparation of strategies by the government, a dedicated body (committee or working group) was set up in all cases. Furthermore, with the exception of France, where SCP was integrated into the NSDS during its mid-term update²⁷, each of the established bodies were multi-stakeholder in their character and brought together representatives of civil society, private enterprises, academia and governments. The representatives of local governments were involved in the preparation process in all these cases. For an overview on the related bodies and their composition please refer to *Annex I*.

As regards overall responsibility for the content of strategies and for the coordination of their preparation, the ministries of environment played a central role.

In Finland and the UK the ministries of industry also played a key role. In Finland the coordination of preparing the strategy was the joint competence of the ministry of environment and the ministry of industry. In the UK the SCP framework, *Changing Patterns* was co-authored by the ministry of environment and the ministry of industry.

In France the update of the NSDS was led and coordinated on behalf of the government by the so-called “inter-ministerial delegate”, which is a unique structure.

Across the five countries, the most broadly involved key ministries other than the ministries for environment were the ministries of industry, ministries of transport, ministries of agriculture, ministries of education and ministries of finance (or equivalent ministries).

To various extents the wider public was also consulted in the preparation of strategies. For this purpose Internet and/or e-mail based rounds of comments were conducted in all cases. In some cases public hearings or regional consultations and surveys were also organised.

²⁷ In France, the body in charge of the mid-term update of the strategy consisted of solely governmental officials.

3.3. Content of strategies

Rationale given for addressing SCP and overall objectives

To set the scene and to argue for the necessity of addressing sustainable consumption and production at the strategic level, a large variety of environmental, social and economic factors and issues are outlined in the documents. By reviewing the key elements of their reasoning, one can gain a good insight into the concrete improvements countries expect SCP to bring about.

The most broadly and uniformly referred drivers to address SCP at a strategic level are global environment-related pressures, such as the overuse of natural resources, the depletion of non-renewable resources and climate change. In this context, however, only Finland and the UK refer explicitly to the negative environmental consequences of their domestic consumption patterns in other regions of the world²⁸. Furthermore, chemicals dispersion and particularly the uncertainties of impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment were also amongst the broadly referred drivers.

National environmental issues are listed amongst the important drivers in a fair number of countries. Examples in this respect include the country's struggle with high levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector in Austria, the "unacceptably high" material and energy intensity of the economy in the Czech Republic, and the particularly high amounts of waste in Finland, France and the UK. Ever growing amounts of waste and final energy consumption are referred at several points. At the same time the "rebound effect" as such, is not mentioned in the strategies.

The business case for SCP is a widely shared argument too. In this context the rhetoric of countries widely refers to the line of thought along "new innovative products and services – new markets – more jobs and renewed competitiveness – more prosperity", with the acknowledgement that SCP is both a challenge and opportunity for businesses. Particular domestic characteristics are also referred to in this context. Finland, for instance, expects that due to globalisation pressures in order to create employment and resulting well-being it will need to turn back towards a diverse domestic market.

Social issues are mentioned sporadically, the central issue being demographic changes. In other cases they are usually connected to environmental, economic or other aspects. Examples include the countries' renewable energy sector and its job creation potential in France, or health concerns, such as obesity due to changes in lifestyles in the UK. Intra-generational inequality in the distribution of wealth is referred at sporadically only.

²⁸ Despite the fact that life-cycle considerations are also a broadly shared feature of strategies

Priority implementation areas and instruments in focus

The main directions of planned action as well as the policy tools and instruments in the focus of implementation are outlined in *Chapter 2* country by country. For a better overview, the main directions of planned action are also summarised in *Annex III*.

Annex III demonstrates that there is a large variety in defined priority implementation areas. They include a broad range of sectoral, thematic, horizontal and crosscutting as well as overall policy coordination and integration type of topics. A close examination of the substance behind the headlines, e.g. in terms of the underlying assumptions and the particularities of planned implementation etc., reveals again a very broad range. This wide variety makes it particularly hard to make meaningful comparisons between the countries in terms of priority actions. Nevertheless, some common implementation areas as well as preferred tools and instruments can be identified as follows:

- **The improvement of eco-efficiency is the most broadly and uniformly shared overall implementation area** for SCP in the strategies. The focus, however, is on production processes and the domestic economy.
- **Commitment for setting the example in the public sector is in the forefront of most strategies** and ambitions usually go beyond Green Public Procurement (GPP).
- **A key role is assigned to market interventions** in the promotion of SCP in all reviewed cases and they are put either explicitly into the forefront of strategies or distinguished emphasis is made on them in other ways. **Voluntary agreements also play an important role in a number of cases. There are only sporadic examples for planned normative regulation.**
- **The key fields of consumption side measures are education, sensitisation for responsibility and provision of information.** Only few examples go beyond these issues. At the same time **research aimed at understanding the dynamics of consumption decisions is a common element of strategies.**
- **Promotion of research and innovation and furthering of the environmental technologies sector is a broadly shared implementation area.**
- **Consumer goods and/or product policy are addressed in the forefront of strategies in a good number of cases.**
- **Institutional innovations play a key role in some of the countries.**
- **It can be broadly confirmed that the production-consumption categories “housing”, “food and drink”, and “mobility” are in the foci of strategies,** however, as regards the comprehensiveness of action (e.g. from the life-cycle perspective etc.), some important areas are not specifically addressed in the strategies (see the next chapter).

These common implementation areas are described in more detail on the next pages.

➤ **Improvement of eco-efficiency**

The improvement of eco-efficiency or resource-efficiency²⁹ is a central tenet of strategies. *Table 3* provides an overview of the cases where it was put explicitly amongst the priority implementation areas³⁰.

Measures and activities most broadly planned or reported as being implemented under this common headline include **economic incentives**, **voluntary agreements** and **institutional arrangements**, the drafting of **specific action programmes to improve eco-efficiency** in general as well as in more specific fields (e.g. waste prevention) and last but not least the **enhancement of related research and innovation** and the **exchange of information** (best practices etc.). Normative regulation, i.e. in the forms of standards etc. is not in the scope of measures.

As regards economic incentives Finland, for instance, under its relevant priority area to improve efficiency refers to the necessity of working out long-term policy guidelines for an ecological tax reform with the ultimate aim to encourage favourable innovations etc. The UK refers to its climate change levy and the landfill tax, where the latter, actually, is the source of funding for a new so-called “*Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme*”, which provides funding for programmes aimed at business waste minimisation and the improvement of resource efficiency.

Voluntary agreements with industry are also a broadly planned category of activity, e.g. in Finland, France and the UK.

An emblematic example of institutional arrangements is the planned “material-efficiency service centre” in Finland, the objective of which will be to give expert advisory services that promote eco-efficient production and consumption. The *National Cleaner Production Centre* of the Czech Republic is operated under the *Environmental Information Agency* (CENIA). Services offered by the *Centre* range from the development and maintenance of relevant databases (best practices etc.) to the conduction of cleaner production assessments etc.

For the elaboration of specific action programmes, the most relevant examples are Austria and the Czech Republic, both planned to work out dedicated action plans for the improvement of eco-efficiency in their strategies.

The improvement of eco-efficiency of public services is particularly highlighted in the cases of Finland, France and the UK (see also the section on “setting the example in the public sector”).

Table 3	Priority implementation areas – eco-efficiency / resource-efficiency
Austria	“Successful management through eco-efficiency”
Czech Republic	“Eco-efficiency through the life-cycle”
Finland	“Forms of production that save materials and energy”
UK	“Sustainable production – greater efficiency and value with less resource use, pollution and waste”

²⁹ Eco-efficiency in the strategies of Austria, the Czech Republic and Finland, and resource-efficiency in the UK

³⁰ In the French NSDS it is addressed indirectly in the action programmes “*Economic activity, companies and consumers*” and “*Preventing risks, pollution and other threats to health and the environment*”

Last but not least, regarding the overall approach of strategies, it is to be remarked that even if life-cycle considerations are broadly mentioned in the documents at various points, concrete action planned or referred as being implemented seem to focus on the eco-efficiency of production processes and particularly in the domestic context³¹. Global supply chains or particular consumption side measures in this respect are not highlighted.

➤ **Setting the example in the public sector**

All reviewed countries address the exemplary role of the public sector and four of them put it explicitly in the forefront of their SCP activities (see *Table 4*).

By reviewing the range of measures planned or being implemented by the countries in this field, it stands out that that **in most of the cases ambitions go beyond green public procurement (GPP)**.

As regards GPP, the EU’s *IPP Communication* seems to have given an impetus for planning on this front: all four countries listed in the table have made a commitment in their strategy to prepare a national GPP action plan³².

Broadly shared related objectives include in this field the **widening of the range of product categories falling under national measures already in place**, measures to foster the **exchange of information and best practices** in the subject as well as **education and capacity building for state officials**. In the UK, for instance, the *Strategic Supply Chain Group* (SSSG) offers a series of one-day “sustainable procurement training” for businesses and public sector organisations. Forms for GPP practitioners to share experiences, information and good practices have already been established or planned in most reviewed cases.

Further examples, going beyond the scope of GPP, include various plans or current activities and/or criteria in place, which are already being implemented with the overall objective to improve **eco-efficiency in the public sector** (Finland, France and the UK). In this respect for instance in France a wide range of performance targets and other criteria have already been set (see also *Annex IV*).

Another area of practical activity is **planning for sustainable development at the organisational level in government and related reporting**: e.g. in the UK, all government departments are to produce sustainable development action plans for their policy area, furthermore, an annual report on environmental and sustainable development issues covering the entire central government is to be published³³.

There are plans for introducing a similar scheme in France at the level of ministries and two pilot cases are currently being implemented (in the ministry of the interior and spatial planning and the ministry of agriculture and fisheries).

Table 4	Priority implementation areas – the exemplary role of the public sector
Czech Republic	“Sustainable public administration – green public procurement”
Finland	“Setting an example in the public sector”
France	“Towards an exemplary State”
UK	“Leading by example in what we do”

³¹ The wording used is e.g. “increase the productivity of resources in Austria” or “eco-efficiency of production in Finland”. In the UK action aimed at improving resource efficiency takes place in the context of ambitions to increase domestic productivity (UK output per worker).

³² Actually, Austria, Finland and the UK are amongst the seven EU Member States which, according to a report published in 2006, implemented the “most elements of GPP”.

In Austria Green Public Procurement is addressed under “*Promoting sustainable products and services*” in the strategy. At the time being a pilot phase for GPP is being implemented with aims of adopting a final national action plan in 2010 based on experience/evidence gathered.

By this time several of the other four countries have finalised their action plans and started the implementation.

³³ The so-called “Sustainable Development in Government Report (SDiG)”

Last but not least, in the programmes of the Czech Republic, Finland and France, reference is made to the intended **inclusion of social considerations in the purchasing practices and other activities of the government.**

➤ **Market interventions**

All strategies reviewed attribute a key role to market interventions in the promotion of SCP. *Table 5* provides an overview of the priority implementation areas defined in the forefront of strategies in this respect³⁴.

The necessity of correcting externalities or market failures is broadly and uniformly recognised by the strategies. Measures and activities planned or reported as being implemented in this area cover a very broad range.

The most uniformly addressed overall implementation area in this respect is ecological tax reform or a system of ecological taxation, which has already been started or is under preparation in all countries. The strategies uniformly reflect commitment to the continuation of activities in this front.

The application of **economic instruments** is a vast area of implementation. A very broad range of particular instruments are reported/planned in the strategies (taxes, rebates, subsidy schemes etc.) with application of various fields (mainly energy savings and renewable energy, waste, transport, agriculture). **Differentiation in value added tax (VAT) rates and tradable permits are emerging fields of application.** Examples include the introduction of a pilot phase for a reduced rate of VAT on micro combined heat & power (mCHP) and ground source heat pump investments in the UK. The introduction of white certificate schemes for energy savings is a broadly shared field of application related to the implementation of the *Energy Use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive*.

The **phasing out of environmentally harmful subsidies** (Austria, Czech Republic, Finland) and the **assessment of externalities in the transport sector** (Austria, Czech Republic), or the identification of “most damaging environmental externalities” (France) is also on the agenda.

Last but not least, most of the strategic documents reviewed reflect that **the coordination of related activities and long-term planning in the subject has become a norm and furthermore innovative economic instruments are being used / planned in a large number.**

Table 5	Priority implementation areas – market interventions
Austria	“Correct prices for resources and energy”
Czech Republic	“Market conditions”
France	“Funding and economic instruments” is one of the defined transversal implementation areas
UK	“Working with the grain of markets and identifying and tackling market failures”

³⁴ Several major measures are also planned in the Finnish SCP programme, e.g. the development of long-term policy guidelines for an ecological tax reform, etc. However, market intervention related initiatives are dispersed amongst the chapters of the strategy (and not addressed under a single headline).

➤ **Key consumption side measures of education, sensitisation for responsibility and provision of information**

Major implementation areas of education, provision of information and/or the promotion of lifestyle changes are uniformly in the forefront of strategies (see *Table 5*).

The strategies are equally progressive in planning for **education, awareness raising** and the **provision of better environmental information** to consumers, as well as for **motivating smaller changes in everyday purchasing choices** etc.

Research aimed at understanding the dynamics of consumption and purchasing decisions is also a common element of strategies.

Measures promoting more substantial lifestyle

changes (e.g. switch to public transport) and the tackling of excessive levels of material consumption (i.e. the question of “sufficiency”), with a few notable exemptions, are very sporadic only.

Diverse **education and capacity building campaigns** are planned targeting different groups of stake-holders in all strategies, however, the main focus is on schools and young people. The integration of sustainable development into state curricula is a common component of approaches. Another example for education for SCP, is a large scale SCP programme in the Czech Republic, the so-called “*Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production*” (SCP) aimed at establishing several information centres and an education centre on SCP in five parts of the country.

Another **major stakeholder group addressed in this respect in some cases is public servants** (Finland, France), in the framework of activities “to set the example in the public sector”. An example of relevant activity could be the so-called “*Behaviour Change Forum*” in the UK, the goal of which is to familiarise the public sector with the topic of necessary behavioural change and eventually to develop skills in this field.

Major campaigns to the wider public in specific subjects e.g. energy efficiency, recycling, composting, the EU Flower etc. are also common. In Austria and in the Czech Republic, for instance, so-called “*Sustainable Weeks*” are organised annually. The goal is to raise consumer awareness and thus to enhance the sale of sustainable products, in co-operation with retailers. France conducts major media campaigns, e.g. in the subjects of energy saving, waste reduction and biodiversity.

A **deliberation forum on SCP** in the UK, the so-called “*Sustainable Consumption Roundtable*” (SCR) was the joint initiative of the *National Consumer Council* and the *Sustainable Development Commission*. The objective was to build wide ownership of sustainable consumption, and producing practical advice to Government for actions and policies to create a shift to more sustainable lifestyles.

Provision of information to consumers is another typical area of activities and most countries have concrete plans, e.g. either laws or regulations for the compulsory disclosing of information to consumers or the development of tools for citizens to evaluate their personal environmental impact.

For related research the Austrian “*Network of Sustainable Lifestyles*” project could be mentioned, the objective of which is to find effective ways of promoting lifestyle change.

Table 5	Priority implementation areas – consumption side measures
Austria	“A sustainable lifestyle”
Czech Republic	“Education and transfer of information”
Finland	“Values, knowledge and skills”
France	“Education and training ” & “The citizen as an actor of sustainable development”
UK	“Sustainable Consumption”

➤ **Research and innovation and furthering of the environmental technologies sector**

Promotion of research and innovation as well as of the environmental technologies sector is a key element of most strategies. Four countries have put the broader subject specifically into the forefront of their strategies (see *Table 6*).

Various types of research are planned on a wide spectrum of particular areas. The range includes **materials research, energy research, socio-economic research** etc.

The **fostering of the environmental technologies sector** is also a broadly shared priority by the countries, again in most cases (Austria, Finland, France and the UK) explicitly in the focus of strategies. For the promoting of innovation, **various types of incentives are referred from the broader category of ecological tax reform to subsidies and even tax rebate and reduced VAT for eco-design**.

An emblematic example of related research programmes in the subject is the initiative of the *Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology* (BMVIT), which sets out for research in three specific subjects: the “Building of Tomorrow”, the “Energy Systems of Tomorrow” and the “Factory of Tomorrow”. The sub-programmes foster research and development of new concepts and technologies as well as systems innovations and strategies in their particular subject.

Table 6 Priority implementation areas – research and innovation, and environmental technologies

Austria	“Promoting Austria’s competitiveness by innovative structures”
Finland	“Increasing sustainability through new technologies and innovations”
France	“Research and development” & “To stimulate innovation and the development of businesses active in the field of sustainable development”
UK	“Stimulating innovations in all its facets”

➤ **Consumer goods and product policy**

Consumer goods and/or product policy for the promotion of SCP have explicitly been addressed by Austria, France and the UK in their strategies (see *Table 6*).

Austria and France put special emphasis on ensuring the **availability of eco-products in the mass markets** and to make information on products’ environmental performance available to the consumer. Targeted measures include plans to enforce **compulsory labelling of product groups** (France) and the **mainstreaming of eco-labelled products from niche to mass markets** by several means in all countries.

An example for a planned comprehensive approach is the UK, which intends to work out a coherent product policy and a range of relevant new initiatives, with the ultimate goal of reducing the environmental impacts of everyday products across their life cycle. Its so called “*Market Transformation Programme*” (MTP) in the subject has been operational for years. The overall objective is to collect information (e.g. on sales, usage and resource consumption of household and industrial products) and then to building evidence (i.e. how products will evolve in the market place) in order to estimate future environmental impacts.

Table 7 Priority implementation areas – consumer goods and/or product policy

Austria	“Promoting sustainable products and services”
France	“To reinforce supply and demand for eco-products in the mass-consumption areas”
UK	“Sustainable Products – cutting out problems at source”

➤ **Institutional innovations**

Various forms of institutional innovations are a particular feature of SCP implementation in most cases. The most typical forms of new institutions established in order to foster the implementation of strategy include the outsourcing of specific governmental initiatives (e.g. waste minimisation in industry) to newly established government-funded bodies, so called “delivery bodies”, or the establishment of various coordination structures within government for the implementation of the strategy (e.g. inter-ministerial groups) and last but not least the establishment of multi-stakeholder advisory panels, forums etc. to support the implementation and monitoring of the strategy (see also above).

Production-consumption categories of “food and drink”, “housing” and “mobility”

It can be broadly confirmed that “food and drink”, “housing” and “mobility” are in the foci of strategies. At the same time, in terms of comprehensiveness of action (e.g. from the life-cycle perspective etc.), some areas considered of key importance are not specifically addressed. Below is a summary of main findings of the assessment per production-consumption category.

Food and drink

All countries associate food and drink consumption with SCP directly. The overwhelming focus under this broader category, however, is put on agriculture, that is on the production stage in the life-cycle. Agro-environmental programmes and biodiversity preservation, the issues of fertilisers, pesticides and externalities, as well as organic food action programmes are broadly referred in the strategies either in the form of ongoing activities or as planned measures.

The life-cycle stage of distribution and retail of food is addressed only in Austria, Finland and the UK, but only sporadically.

Environmental impacts at the final consumption stage associated with e.g. the use of energy (refrigeration, preparation of food at home etc.) and the generation of packaging waste etc. are in most cases not addressed directly by the strategies. Exceptions to this are some related initiatives in the Finnish SCP programme, furthermore an overall sectoral sustainability strategy was planned to be prepared in the UK, the overall objective of which is (to foster) “economic, environmental and social improvements in the wider food industry”³⁵.

Global food chains (i.e. the question of food miles) and corresponding impacts are addressed in the strategies only indirectly, through some initiative to promote local food.

Neither the consumption of meat and meat products nor food wastes in retail and in households is addressed in the strategies. At the same time, public health aspects of food consumption are referred to, and sometimes specifically addressed, in all cases reviewed.

Housing

The production-consumption category “housing” covers a broad range of environmental issues with “hot-spots” at various stages of the life-cycle. The reviewed strategies focus on several particular issues in the broader subject.

In the case of national sustainable development strategies, however, the subject is not necessarily associated with SCP, but addressed under different main headings (e.g. climate change and energy).

³⁵ The strategy was delivered in 2006 (*Food Industry Sustainability Strategy*)

In France, for instance, the general subject area of housing is addressed extensively in the NSDS under the specific action programmes of “*Territories*” and “*Climate change and energy*” (and not directly “in the name of” SCP). Similarly, the NSDSs of Austria and the UK address several housing-related issues under different main headings, not necessarily under SCP. Consequently, it was decided to also review these related headings.

The construction phase of the life-cycle is broadly addressed in the strategies of Austria, Finland, France and the UK, however, at a varying level of detail. The focus is on the management of minerals, thermal insulation, voluntary standards for resource efficiency and in some cases construction-related waste management / reuse of used goods and building components. The NSDS of France refers to a separate strategy dedicated to the subject. A dedicated strategy is currently being finalised in the UK. In the Czech Republic, although the overall objective of improving the eco-efficiency of economy and the planned action plan in this respect is relevant, construction as such is not specifically addressed in the strategy³⁶.

As regards the use phase of the life-cycle of buildings and associated environmental impacts, the overwhelming majority of initiatives are made under the headings climate change and energy. Most of the countries refer to already existing dedicated climate change strategies and/or energy efficiency strategies. As regards the provision of heat, a large number of initiatives are related to both the improvement of energy efficiency and the switching to alternative energies. The most broadly shared examples include the promotion of combined heat and power (CHP) and heat from renewables (biomass, heat pumps), which are addressed directly or indirectly (e.g. via the relevant thematic strategies) in most cases.

Electricity use of appliances is broadly addressed under measures aimed at providing consumer information and in some cases in connection with product policy. The influencing of final consumption behaviour in households in this context, however, is not in the focus of strategies.

Mobility

All strategies have a strong component on transport with activities referred as being either underway or planned. The existence of related thematic strategy / transport policy or plans to devise dedicated strategies is also referred in most cases. The approach of strategies, however, covers a very wide range.

In the NSDSs of Austria and France transition towards a more sustainable transport is identified amongst the key challenges / main objectives, therefore related issues are addressed extensively. Planned action and provisions in this respect, however, are not made “in the name of SCP”.

In the Czech Republic, the SCP Framework has been prepared with due attention, amongst other relevant policies, to the *Czech Transport Policy*. As one of the follow-up activities of the *Framework of Programmes*, an action plan is being prepared in the subject.

In Finland transport is one of the primary implementation areas of the strategy (“*Getting transport on the right track*”).

In the UK strategy transport is most extensively addressed under the priority implementation area of climate change, but at the same time a lot of references and contextual provisions are made under the SCP as well as other priorities (e.g. communities, behavioural change) as well.

Personal mobility and the use of cars, the priority issues under the production-consumption category mobility, are broadly in the focus of strategies. Another common area is the provision of public transport services. The particular addressing of cycling in this respect is also on the agenda, e.g. the Czech Republic and the UK having dedicated strategies in the subject.

³⁶ The country, however, has a relevant dedicated strategy too, “*The Raw Material Policy of the Czech Republic*”

As regards aviation, Finland and France and the UK make statements in their strategies supporting the extension of the *EU Emissions Trading Scheme* to this field and/or finding global solutions in the subject.

Quantification of SCP: targets and indicators

Quantitative targets for SCP were defined by the strategies themselves very sporadically only. An exception to this is Finland. (For an overview of targets set by the countries please refer to *Annex IV*.)

Despite this fact there are SCP-related targets set in the countries, but they are included in the sectoral (such as transport, agriculture) or thematic (e.g. climate change, energy efficiency) strategies and in some cases defined by a governmental decree or similar legal act.

Taking stock of the relevant strategies and the SCP-related targets set in these sectoral etc. strategies goes beyond the scope of this paper. Nevertheless, for inspiration, some example indicators from these strategies are also shown in the *Annex IV*.

In some cases reference is made to targets which were set elsewhere in the government's strategic portfolio, but it is far from universal nor comprehensive. The most references in this respect were made in the French NSDS.

The most broadly and uniformly used targets are related to improvements in energy efficiency and the share of organic farming in total arable land, furthermore the share of renewable energy in final consumption (in different categories, e.g. electricity, heat etc.). The use of various types of targets in the transport sector (e.g. specifying limits for related emissions or the share of transport modalities etc.) is also common.

It is also to be mentioned in the context of targets that there are several related "objectives" set or referred in the strategies, which can be regarded as first steps towards setting targets³⁷. These statements, however, are made at various levels of concreteness and commitment according to the context in which they are used.

As regards SCP indicators, all countries use some indicator frameworks to monitor the implementation of their SCP approach. The number of indicators used for this purpose and their scope varies to a large extent, however. The indicators already in use are summarised, together with the most important statements by the countries regarding their continued work in *Annex V*.

Two countries, France and the UK, have defined dedicated SCP sets of indicators within their larger set of sustainable development (SD) indicators. The Czech Republic defined potential clusters of SCP indicators in its *Framework of Programmes* and a set of SCP indicators was also defined for inclusion in the updated NSDS where they will constitute the integral part of the general set of SD indicators (the updated NSDS is expected to be approved in November 2007).

In Austria and Finland at present there are no specific SCP indicators defined, however, amongst the general SD set of indicators developed for the monitoring of the NSDS several are directly SCP related. In the table listing the indicators (*Annex V*) the authors' selection of SCP-related indicators from the general set of SD indicators is indicated.

Last but not least it is to be remarked here that all countries have made statements about their ongoing work with indicators and set out the main direction of necessary work.

³⁷ Objectives are general statements like "increase in the share of" or "the levels" or the "amount of" something "should increase" or "should decrease" etc. setting the direction of expected development in a particular area.

Particular SCP considerations

Environment vs. other considerations

The principal focus of the reviewed strategies clearly lies on the ecological aspects of consumption and production.

As regards interaction between the elements of sustainability (environmental, economic and social aspects), actions which represent a win-win situation for the environment and the economy can widely be found in the strategies. There are ample initiatives in this respect e.g. for the improvement of business resource efficiency as well as for the mainstreaming of green(er) products etc.

Regarding social aspects, considerations usually do not go beyond the employment potential of planned action, and the particular social drivers of contemporary consumption patterns seem not to be amongst the main issues. For instance demographic trends (e.g. smaller households, ageing etc.), and the distribution of wealth within society and their impacts on consumption patterns are addressed by some indirect measures only. Gender issues, with the exception of Austria, are not dealt with in the scope of strategies. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is referred to in many cases, but it does not constitute the main element of strategies.

Domestic issues vs. considerations from global economy perspective

The strategies dominantly focus on domestic issues. In most of the cases they also contain an international dimension (especially the NSDSs), where some important elements are covered, such as liberalisation of trade, the promotion of the SCP concept in international policy-making process etc. At the same time planned action from the perspectives of the global economy and the global use of resources is very sporadic only. Exceptions to this are several examples to promote the consumption of locally produced food. Global supply chains as well as import of resources both directly and as embedded into products are not addressed as such.

SCP building blocs vs. systems approach

The overall approach of strategies seems to combine consistent planning with the “building blocks” of SCP (e.g. labelling, GPP, education etc.) with some more holistic considerations, according to the systems approach (e.g. fostering structural changes and new modes of satisfying societal needs).

As regards holistic considerations, there are already a good number of examples. The most broadly shared type of action in this respect is related to overall ecological tax reform and/or system of ecological taxation. Fostering structural change in agriculture and to a lesser extent in the transport sector is also a broadly shared category of action. There are some signs of addressing the question of investments too, e.g. by encouraging socially responsible investment (SRI) schemes. Other examples include the “enable – engage – exemplify – encourage“ model for influencing behaviour of actors in the UK, integrated transport, urban and regional planning and also aims in some countries, but mainly in Finland, to foster the development of product-service systems.

Finally, despite the inherent dominance of planning for production side measures, there are several attempts to understand and interfere in the dynamics of consumption decisions better, mainly in the form of research.

3.4. Main responsibility for implementation

Main responsibilities for the implementation of strategic SCP approaches are summarised in *Annex I*. In most cases the overall responsibility for the coordination of implementation lies with the ministry of environment, which is supported by a larger group of committee etc., usually the same which was involved in the development in the strategy (see *Annex I*).

An exception to this is France, where the coordination of implementation (of the NSDS) is managed at the highest level by the *Inter-ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development* (further to the overall coordinator role of this delegate, a unit has also been set up for the coordination in the ministry of environment). Furthermore, in France all ministers were members of the coordination body in charge for implementation.

In the case of NSDSs additional stakeholder forums were set up to advise the government in the course of implementation. In Finland and the UK the coordination is the joint responsibility of the ministry of environment and the ministry of industry.

Ministries other than the environment involved in the implementation are the same as the ones involved in the preparation of the strategy. Further to the coordination and implementation responsibilities within the government, in some of the countries several specific implementation roles are “outsourced” to bodies founded by the government, but with independent management.

In the cases of national sustainable development strategies (Austria, France and the UK) regional and local authorities also have some short of defined role in implementation. One of the priority implementation areas of the Czech SCP Framework is “Local SCP initiatives”. A dedicated action plan is planned to be worked out in this field. The regional authorities and/or their association are specified several roles in the range of actions planned in the Finnish SCP programme.

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ANNEXES

Annex I – Overview of preparation, implementation, and the monitoring of the analysed national strategies

	Austria	Czech Republic	Finland	France	United Kingdom ³⁸
National strategy	<i>“Building our Future – a sustainable future for Austria”</i> – the national sustainable development strategy of Austria	The Czech Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production	<i>“Getting More and Better from Less”</i> – Finland’s National Programme to Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production	<i>“Acting in the European Dynamic”</i> – the updated French national sustainable development strategy	<i>“Securing the Future”</i> – the national sustainable development strategy of the UK
Preparation					
Coordinators of the preparation process	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management	The Ministry of Environment	Ministry of the Environment with close cooperation with the Ministry of Trade and Industry	Inter-ministerial delegate for sustainable development	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Bodies in charge for the development of strategy	Committee for a Sustainable Austria (CSA)	The Ministry of Environment & The GCSD’s ³⁹ Working Group for Sustainable Consumption and Production (WGSCP)	Committee on Sustainable Consumption and Production (“KULTU Committee”)	Inter-ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development (ICSD)	DEFRA’s Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) & The UK Sustainable Development Commission
Composition of bodies in charge for development	40 experts from key federal ministries, regional administrations, interest groups from industry, commerce, agriculture, employees and local communities	19 members including key ministries, confederation of industry and transport, national educational fund, UNEP national committee and key NGOs	31 members including officials from various ministries as well as representatives from industrial, business, environmental and consumers’ organisations	All ministers of the government supported by the ministries’ senior officials for sustainable development	22 members including representatives of business, NGOs, local and regional administration as well as academia
Participation of wider civil society	Public events/workshops and an internet platform. NGOs also participated in expert panels.	Rounds of comments by e-mail	Internet consultation and public hearings	N/A ⁴⁰	Large-scale internet consultation, regional consultations, surveys

³⁸ Most of the cells are not relevant for “Changing Patterns – UK government framework for SCP”, which is a white paper by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Therefore it is not included here.

³⁹ Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD)

⁴⁰ The preparation of the 2003 strategy and the Environment Charter adopted in 2005 was conducted with extensive public involvement.

	Austria	Czech Republic	Finland	France	United Kingdom³⁸
Development period	June 2001 – April 2002	October 2003 – June 2005	November 2003 – June 2005	During 2006 ⁴¹	During 2005 ⁴²
Approved by	Federal Government of Austria (April 2002)	Government Council for Sustainable Development (June 2005) ⁴³	KULTU Committee (June 2005) & Endorsement by the renewed Finnish Sustainable Development Strategy (Dec. 2006)	Government of France (November 2006)	UK Government (March 2005)
Implementation, monitoring and revision					
Main responsibility for / coordination of implementation	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management & The Committee for a Sustainable Austria	Ministry of Environment & key ministries relevant to the defined priority areas of implementation	Ministry of Environment & The Ministry of Trade and Industry	Inter-ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development & The new Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning	DEFRA's Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) ⁴⁴ & the UK Sustainable Development Commission
Monitoring and reporting	Annual progress reports and indicator reports; External evaluation (2005)	To be defined by the action plans, which are to be developed for the priority areas ⁴⁵	An informal network from different ministries follows the implementation	Annual evaluation reports	Annual The UK Sustainable Development Commission is responsible for issuing progress reports
Indicators ⁴⁶	General set of sustainable development indicators	Two general areas of SCP indicators are described, however, no concrete indicators are defined	No indicators are defined in the Programme The NSDS defines a general set of sustainable development indicators	A set of SCP indicators, embedded into sustainable development indicators	A set of SCP indicators, embedded into sustainable development indicators
Implementation period / revision	Not specified / a revised strategy will be adopted in 2008	Until 2010 / a mid-term revision is planned	Until 2010 ⁴⁷ / in 2010	Until 2008 / a revised strategy will be adopted in 2008	Not specified

⁴¹ It was the revision of existing strategy (the initial NSDS was launched in 2003).

⁴² It was the revision of existing strategy (the initial NSDS was launched in 1999).

⁴³ The Framework will also be endorsed by the updated NSDS, which is expected to be approved by end of November 2007.

⁴⁴ The implementation of SCP-related action is the joint competence of DEFRA and DTI.

⁴⁵ It is also covered in the annual progress reports on sustainable development. Furthermore, the WGSCP prepares reports on its activity and achieved results.

⁴⁶ See more details in *Annex V*.

⁴⁷ However, some of the actions will not start before the end of 2008 and will continue after 2010.

Annex II – Objective framework of national strategies

Austria	Czech Republic	Finland	France	United Kingdom
<p><u>Specific objectives</u></p> <p>Altogether 20 specific objectives have been formulated, the following 11 of which are of high relevance to SCP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → A sustainable lifestyle; → Solutions through education and research → Innovative structures to promote competitiveness; → A new understanding of business and administration; → Correct prices for resources and energy; → Successful management through eco-efficiency; → Promoting sustainable products and services; → Responsible use of land and regional development → Shaping sustainable mobility; → Optimising the transport systems; → Fighting Poverty, Creating a Social and Economic Balance 	<p><u>Overall objectives</u></p> <p>Absolute decoupling of environmental degradation from economic growth and continuous improvement in the quality of life.</p> <p><u>Specific, horizontal objectives</u></p> <p>I Reducing the material and energy intensity within the systems of production and consumption (by increasing their efficiency).</p> <p>II Optimising the systems of production and consumption (substitution of inputs, processes, products, services and requirements) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - changed consumption; - responsible consumption; - adequate consumption. 	<p><u>Overall objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Improvement of the efficiency in the usage of materials and energy through all stages of product life cycles; → Promotion of environmental education; and → The development and adoption of environmental technologies <p><u>Specific objectives</u></p> <p>Numerous specific objectives have been formulated under the 11 main fields of action defined by the Programme.</p>	<p><u>Overall objective</u></p> <p>To gradually turn all production and consumption patterns sustainable.</p> <p><u>Specific objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Stimulate all companies to make efforts towards sustainable development; → Better inform the consumers and improve environmental and social performance of products and ways of production; → Ensure that development in agriculture and fisheries follows a sustainable path; → Increase the share of sustainable public procurement; → To stimulate innovation and the development of businesses active in the field of sustainable development; 	<p><u>Overall objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Better products and services, which reduce the environmental impacts from the use of energy, re-sources, or hazardous substances; → Cleaner, more efficient production processes, which strengthen competitiveness, and → Shifts in consumption towards goods and services with lower impacts

Annex III – Overview of main directions of required action in the national strategies

Austria ⁴⁸	Czech Republic ⁴⁹	Finland ⁵⁰	France ⁵¹	United Kingdom
<p>1) <u>Quality of life in Austria</u> → A sustainable lifestyle; → Solutions through education and research</p> <p>2) <u>Austria as a dynamic business location</u> → Innovative structures to promote competitiveness; → A new understanding of business and administration; → Correct prices for resources and energy; → Successful management through eco-efficiency; → Promoting sustainable products and services;</p> <p>3) <u>Living spaces in Austria</u> → Shaping sustainable mobility; → Optimising the transport systems;</p> <p>4) <u>Austria's responsibility</u> → Fighting Poverty, Creating a Social and Economic Balance</p>	<p>1) Education and transfer of information;</p> <p>2) Integration of policies, strategies and programmes;</p> <p>3) Eco-efficiency throughout the life-cycle;</p> <p>4) Local SCP initiatives;</p> <p>5) Sustainable public administration – green public procurement;</p> <p>6) Market conditions;</p>	<p>1) Forms of production that save materials and energy;</p> <p>2) Fewer material goods, but a higher quality of life;</p> <p>3) Building pleasant and functional communities;</p> <p>4) Improving the quality of construction;</p> <p>5) Getting transport on the right track;</p> <p>6) Sustainable food production from the farm to the table;</p> <p>7) Promoting well-being in workplaces and leisure activities;</p> <p>8) Setting an example in the public sector;</p> <p>9) Increasing sustainability through new technologies and innovations;</p> <p>10) Values, knowledge and skills;</p> <p>11) An active international role for Finland.</p>	<p>1) Economic activity, companies and consumers;</p> <p>2) The citizen, a player in sustainable development</p> <p>3) Agriculture and fisheries;</p> <p>4) Towards an exemplary State,</p> <p>5) International action;</p>	<p>I) Taking a holistic approach that considers whole life-cycles of products and services;</p> <p>II) Working with the grain of markets and identifying and tackling market failures;</p> <p>III) Integrating SCP thinking and objectives in all policy development and implementation;</p> <p>IV) Using a well-designed package of policy measures and following the principles of better regulation;</p> <p>V) Stimulating innovation in all its facets⁵²</p> <hr/> <p>1) Sustainable Products – cutting out problems at source;</p> <p>2) Sustainable Production – greater efficiency and value with less resource use, pollution and waste;</p> <p>3) Sustainable Consumption;</p> <p>4) Leading by example in what we do;</p> <p>5) Catalysing change within the economy and key sectors;</p> <p>6) Sustainable Waste Management;</p> <p>7) Evidence and indicators⁵³;</p>

⁴⁸ The four main fields of action and the corresponding nine SCP-related guiding objectives defined in *Building our Future*

⁴⁹ The six “strategic priorities” of the *Czech SCP Framework*

⁵⁰ The eleven main fields of action defined by *Getting More and Better from Less*

⁵¹ The five action programmes, which have been associated with SCP in *Acting in the European Dynamic*

⁵² The five main guiding principles defined by *Changing Patterns*

⁵³ The seven main areas of action defined in *One Planet Economy*

Annex IV – Overview of the targets set by the national strategies

	Targets
Austria	<p>Eco-efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → On the short term the resource throughput should be stabilised, on the long term increase the productivity of resources by factor 4 by the year 2015; → Improvement of energy intensity by 1,6 %/year; <p>Food and drink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To increase the organically managed farming surfaces by 50% within a period of 5 years; <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → reduction in the increase of permanently sealed surfaces to a maximum of one tenth of the current growth rate should be achieved by the year 2010; <p>Mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Decoupling of growth of traffic from economic growth; → Improvements in energy-efficiency and energy saving must halt the rising trend in energy use within a decade;
The Czech Republic	<p>Eco-efficiency⁵⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 3,7 PJ per year average energy savings in the manufacturing industry; <p>Food and drink⁵⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ca. 10% of agricultural land in the Czech Republic must be farmed ecologically or in transition to eco-farming till the end of 2010; → Raise awareness about eco-agriculture: in the year 2010, min. 80 % of consumers know the brand „BIO“, know the differences between bio-products and conventional products and can define the principles of eco-agriculture; → Support development of the market with organic food and increasing the proportion of Czech organic food within it; → By the end of 2010 1% of the total food consumption in the Czech Republic is organic food; → Min. 25 % of the Czech citizens buy organic food regularly (at least once a week); → By the end of 2010 at least 60 % of the total organic food consumption is produced domestically; → By the end of 2010 min. 80 % of consumers know organic food and min. 25 % of consumers buy them regularly;

⁵⁴ Targets set in the “National programme for the energy management and the use of renewable sources of energy for 2006 – 2009”

⁵⁵ Targets set in the “Action Plan on Eco-agriculture and Organic Food”

	<p>Housing⁵⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Average energy savings: 5,3 PJ per year in the housing sector; <p>Mobility⁵⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Stabilization of greenhouse gas emissions derived from transport classified as fossil fuel sources and sources based on biomass to 2010 and reduction by 5% to 2013; → Reduction in emissions of sulphur dioxide from transport by 3% to 2010 and by 5% to 2013; and → Reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions from transport by at least 10% to 2010;
<p>Finland</p>	<p>Eco-efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Improvements in energy-efficiency and energy saving must halt the rising trend in energy use within a decade; → Systems designed to reduce material and energy consumption (such as the WWF's Green Office system) should be set up by 2015 in all workplaces with more than 50 staff; <p>Setting the example in the public sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The proportion of environmentally favourable public procurements must increase annually; → All ministries and the municipal sector should by 2010 draft procurement strategies that stress the importance of sustainable development; <p>Food and drink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Some 10% of arable land must be farmed organically by 2010, and 25% by 2025. Organic ingredients must be used more widely in processed foods, and organically produced choices must be available in almost all product areas; → The proportions of organic and locally produced foodstuffs used in the canteens of public sector organisations and firms must be increased by 10-15% a year; <p>Mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Traffic-related environmental problems are reduced, ensuring that CO2 emissions from traffic in Finland in 2010 do not exceed 1990-levels, and that traffic-related emissions of both nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs, including hydrocarbons HCs) are reduced to 25 % of their 1990-levels by 2010;

⁵⁶ Targets set in the “National programme for the energy management and the use of renewable sources of energy for 2006 – 2009”

⁵⁷ Targets set in the “Czech Transport policy for 2005 – 2013”

<p>France</p>	<p>Eco-efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Reduced energy intensity by 2 % per year by 2015 and 2.5 % per year by 2030 (referred, law of 13th of July 2005); → 54 TW/h of energy savings by energy providers between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2009 (referred, decree of 23rd May 2006); <p>Setting the example in the public sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To reduce CO2 emissions in the public sector by 20% by 2008 from transport activities (10%) and related to buildings (10%); → 20 % savings in water, 10% reduction of energy consumption, recycling rate of 60 % for white paper; → 20 % of new vehicle fleet in the form of clean vehicles (emergency vehicles excluded) of which, if possible 5% electrical vehicles; → 20 % of new state construction works must conform to the procedure of 'high environmental quality' (HQE) or the high energy performance label (HPE) or to a similar reference, and as from 2008 this must be 50 %; → All state purchasing of wood should be certified by 2010 (referred, circular of the prime minister dated the 5th of April 2005); → For administration's and public companies' vehicles use one third of biofuels by 2007 (referred); <p>Food and drink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 5% of farms are qualified according to ago-environmental management schemes by 2008 <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The use of a minimum level of wood in housing has been set (referred); → The proportion of heat produced from renewable energy should rise to 50% by 2010 (referred, law of 13th of July 2005); <p>Mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Become a leader in the market for “clean and energy-efficient vehicles” by 2010-2013; → 1800 pumps delivering of E85 are announced by 2008; → Share of biofuels is to be increased to 5,75 % by 2008 and to 10 % by 2015 (beyond EU targets); <p>Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Reduce the quantity of household waste sent for landfills to 250 kg/year per capita by 2010 and then to 200 by 2015 (referred, Waste Prevention Plan); → 100% of bags are made from biodegradable plastics by 2010;
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<p>United Kingdom⁵⁸</p>	<p>Eco-efficiency</p> <p>→ Demonstrate further progress by 2008 on the Government's long-term objective of raising the rate of UK productivity growth over the economic cycle, improving competitiveness and narrowing the gap with our major industrial competitors (referred DTI PSA 1)⁵⁹</p> <p>Food and drink</p> <p>→ halting the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole (referred DH PSA 3)⁶⁰</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>→ improve the average energy efficiency of the domestic housing stock by 20% compared with 2000 (referred "Community Action 2020 – Together We Can)</p> <p>→ Eliminate fuel poverty in vulnerable households in England by 2010 (referred, DEFRA PSA 7)⁶¹</p> <p>Mobility</p> <p>→ By 2010, increase the use of public transport (bus and light rail) by more than 12% in England compared with 2000 levels, with growth in every region (referred, DfT PSA 3)⁶²</p> <p>Waste</p> <p>→ Enable at least 25% of household waste to be recycled or composted by 2005-06, with further improvements by 2008 (referred, DEFRA PSA 6)</p>
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⁵⁸ Most of the examples referred in the strategy are related Public Service Agreements (PSAs). Only the most relevant ones are listed.

⁵⁹ Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

⁶⁰ Department of Health (DH)

⁶¹ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

⁶² Department for Transport (DfT)

Annex V – Use of SCP indicators for the monitoring of national strategies

	Indicators for SCP in the monitoring system
Austria ⁶³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Material input (DMC and DMI); - Energy consumption absolute and relative to GDP; - Share of renewable energy sources in total primary energy consumption; - Net import tangent of energy supply; - Waste amounts; - Number of products with eco-label; - Number of EMAS and ISO 14001 sites; - Share of bio-farming on agriculturally used area - Share of sealed area - Length of high order roads and railway tracks - Traffic kilometres - External costs of transport; - Emission of hazardous substances from traffic - Share of alternative motor fuels; - Energy efficiency of means of transport (fleet consumption); - Access to mobility (availability of public transport); - Number of traffic deaths and casualties;
The Czech Republic	<p>The following two indicator clusters are defined for the monitoring of the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decline in material and energy consumption and in the generation of waste, furthermore pollution per unit of production or service; - tax revenues in the private sector or savings of public expenditure in the public sector achieved through reduction of production costs (lower material and energy requirements).

⁶³ This is the authors' own selection of indicators which seem to be of highest relevance for SCP. The indicator report of the NSDS in total lists 48 types of indicators.

Finland ⁶⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to mobility (availability of public transport); - Environmental Sustainability Index; - Human Development Index; - Greenhouse gas emissions; - Total energy consumption; - Use of renewable energy sources; - Environmental loading in relation to economic growth; - Energy and natural resource consumption in relation to economic growth; - The development in use of Finland's natural resources; - Proportion of household expenditure on services; - Relative change in population across different regional types in continental Finland; - Development of public and passenger car transport;
France	<p><u>Economic activities, enterprises and consumers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of companies' annual management reports including social and environmental information; - Number of French enterprises having a national or European eco-label; <p><u>Agriculture and fishing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total area of agricultural land certified or committed under schemes related to sustainable agriculture practices; - State of fishing resources exploited by French ships; <p><u>Exemplary state, research and innovation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of staff given training on sustainable development; - Number and size of subsidy projects sponsored by the National Research Agency on the topic of sustainable development; <p><u>International Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size of renegotiated debt; - Number of HIV-infected people who have been treated; <p><u>The citizen, a player in sustainable development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rate of people declaring having heard about sustainable development - Rate of school academic plans dedicated to Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (EESD)

⁶⁴ This is the authors' own selection of indicators which seem to be of highest relevance for SCP. The indicator report of the NSDS in total lists 34 indicators.

United Kingdom

Decoupling indicators

- Greenhouse gas emissions (Kyoto target and CO2 emissions);
- Carbon dioxide emissions by end user (CO2 emissions from industry, domestic, transport sectors - excluding international aviation and shipping);
- Aviation and shipping emissions (greenhouse gases from UK-based international aviation and shipping fuel bunkers);
- Household energy use (domestic CO2 emissions, domestic energy consumption and household spending);
- Road transport (CO2, NOx, PM10 emissions from road transport and Gross Domestic Product);
- Private vehicles (CO2 emissions, car-kilometres and household spending);
- Road freight (Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) CO2 emissions, kilometres, tonnes and Gross Domestic Product);
- Manufacturing sector (CO2, NOx, SO2, PM10, emissions and output);
- Agriculture sector (fertiliser input, farmland bird population, ammonia and methane emissions and output);
- Service sector (CO2, NOx emissions and output);
- Public sector (CO2, NOx emissions and output);
- Emissions of air pollutants (NH3, NOx, PM10 and SO2 emissions and GDP);
- River quality (rivers of good biological quality and rivers of good chemical quality);

Resource use

- Resource use (Domestic Material Consumption and Gross Domestic Product, and Construction output and extraction of construction materials);
- Fish Stocks (sustainability of fish stocks around the UK);
- Water resource use (total abstractions from non-tidal surface and ground water, leakage losses and Gross Domestic Product);
- Domestic water consumption (litres per person per day);
- Land recycling (new dwellings built on previously developed land or through conversions and all new development on previously developed land)

Waste

- Waste (waste arisings by sector and disposal);
- Household waste per person (arisings and recycled or composted);

Other contextual indicators

- Economic output (Gross Domestic Product);
- Productivity (UK output per worker);
- Investment (total investment and social investment relative to GDP);
- Demography (population and population of working age);
- Households and dwelling (households, single person households and dwelling stock);