



Press Invitation

Sustainable Development

Innovative Ways to Deliver Accelerated Action in Europe

Join us for a one-day workshop on 5 March in Berlin hosted by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and the Welsh Government. The workshop will be an opportunity to explore questions like: What can governments and public administrations learn from the experience of innovative communities and regions? And how can a European-level dialogue between governments, civil society, science and business communities strengthen our collective capacity to mobilise and accelerate transformation processes? The Welsh government will present its response to these questions: The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

At the UN Sustainable Development Goals Summit last September, world leaders called for a decade of collective, global and local action to “unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals.” The title of the Global Sustainable Development Report is, fittingly, “The Future is Now”. This is also the theme of a one-day workshop on 5 March in Berlin, which is jointly organised by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and the Welsh Government.

The workshop will focus on the following questions: How can we use the decade of action to close the sustainable development implementation gap in Europe? What can governments and public administrations learn from the experience of innovative communities and regions? How can those initiatives be linked to regional, national and European governance structures and programmes? The event will show how we can stimulate a European-level dialogue between governments, civil society, and science and business communities in order to mobilise and accelerate transformation processes in our communities and regions.

The Welsh Government will share its innovative response to the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which translates the SDGs into law and established the world’s first Future Generations Commissioner. IASS teams will present aspects of their work with a range of partners in federal and state governments.

Workshop venue: Radisson BLU Hotel, Berlin Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 3, 10178 Berlin

Programme (in English):

9:30: Opening and welcome remarks by IASS Scientific Director Prof. Patrizia Nanz, followed by a talk on “Sustainable Development in Wales – The Journey to Legislation” by Dr Jane Davidson, Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Session A

Governance:

Explore how innovative modes of integrated governance and legislation can contribute to the transformation.

- Governance for future generations – The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act: Amelia John, Welsh Government
- The Berlin Mobility law: Dr Dirk von Schneidmesser, IASS Potsdam

Economy and finance:



Explore how the concept of the well-being economy can contribute to enhancing human well-being and reduce environmental externalities.

- The Foundation Economy: Lee Sharma, Simply Do Ideas
- Economy for the Common Good: Christian Felber, author and initiator

Session B

Individual and collective action:

Explore the challenges and innovations associated with empowering and enabling communities and regions, with examples from post-industrial regions in Germany and Wales.

The challenges of the post-coal transition and innovative regional responses in:

- Lausitz: Evelyn Bodenmeier, Zukunftswerkstatt Lausitz and Dr Johannes Staemmler, IASS Potsdam
- South Wales Valleys – the Skyline Project: Chris Blake, The Green Valleys

Science and Technology:

With a focus on energy transition, explore and probe the role of science and technology in local, regional and global transformation.

- Energy transition in Germany: IASS
- The development of marine energy in Wales: David Jones, Marine Energy Wales

Plenary and closing remarks for the morning session

12:45 Lunch and networking

Share. Inspire. Act:

- Integrated Approaches to Transformation – Keynote address by First Minister of Wales Mark Drakeford
- Accelerating transformation through citizen participation and European collaboration – Prof. Patrizia Nanz, Scientific Director, IASS Potsdam
- Giving a Voice to Future Generations – Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
- Social Inclusion and Equality in a Sustainable Future: How do we ensure no-one is left behind as we seek to achieve the SDGs?
- Planetary Health: Food Systems and Nutrition Patterns – Prof. Sabine Gabrysch, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Plenary Panel Discussion

Views on the pathways forward and key next steps: feedback from young people and the perspectives of future leaders on the urgency and decade of action for the SDGs.

Closing remarks: Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

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The IASS conducts research with the goal of identifying, advancing, and guiding processes of social change towards sustainable development in Germany and abroad. Its research practice is transdisciplinary, transformative, and co-creative. The IASS cooperates with partners in academia, policymaking, civil society, and the business community to understand sustainability challenges and generate potential solutions. A strong network of national and international partners supports the work of the Institute. Among its central research topics are the energy transition, emerging technologies, climate change, air quality, systemic risks, governance and participation, and cultures of transformation. The institute is funded by the research ministries of the Federal Government of Germany and the State of Brandenburg.

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