

What & why?

- Implementation National Sustainable Development Strategies (SDS) requires reflection
- Instrument for reflection: international peer review: experts/colleagues from other countries are reviewing
- Opportunity: June 2006 revised EU SDS:
 - All EU countries make or revise their SD strategy;
 - Peer reviews are recommended
 - Involve stakeholders, if possible by the support of SD councils
 - And.... 50% Funding for some pilots

How?

- RMNO to coordinate the 2007 Peer Review of the Netherlands SDS
- 12 Peers from Finland, Germany and South Africa.
- Per country: 1 expert from Government, 1 Science, 1 Business, 1 Civil Society Organisation (through networks SD councils)
- More than 80 national experts invited.
- 4 Steps:
 1. (October 2006): background document for the peers
 2. Scoping meeting 2 days
 3. Peer review week 4-5 days
 4. (June 2007): editing final report & presenting to PM and 2 other ministers

Main Conclusions and Recommendations of the Peers:

1. The current Action Program on Sustainable development 'Sustainable Action' is **not a sustainable development strategy**.
2. The SDS must be developed as a **process rather than being just a document**, supported by a strong focus on communication.
3. Make the **Prime Minister** and PM's office central
4. Embed some rights regarding SD in the **constitution**

Peer Review NSDS

Looking back:

1. Overall: successful intervention; new dialogue, SD promoted as a process, PM Office becomes coordinator SDS
2. But.... One year later: Impact on government did not last:
 - PM office coordination is 'empty
 - There is no printed SD strategy anymore (SDS is a process, not paper),
 - SD coord. is back to Environment Minister: others not interested.

Peer Review NSDS

Lessons learned

(analysis EEAC secretariat/Niestroy)

1. Prepare, prepare! (Commitment, methodology, roles)
2. Organisation very resource-intensive (ca. 8 'man' months)
3. 2 days scoping is the very minimum
4. Peer week: minimum 5 days incl. enough deliberation time
5. Every peer review process will be different!