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Policy integration in practice: some experiences of integrating transport, land-use planning and environmental policies in local government

There is widespread acceptance that integrating decisions across different sectors of policy is crucial for sustainable development. This is certainly the case in the area of transport, land-use planning and environment policy and is exemplified in various high-level reports on transport and sustainable development. For example, the final report of the ECMT-OECD project on Implementing Sustainable Urban Travel Policies states that 'sustainability requires that policy-making for urban travel be viewed in a holistic sense: that planning for transport, land-use and the environment no longer be undertaken in isolation one from the other' (European Conference of Ministers of Transport, 2001:19). It also notes that 'without adequate policy co-ordination, the effectiveness of the whole package of measures and their objectives is compromised' (ibid). The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development urges governments to 'promote an integrated approach to policy-making at the national, regional and local levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development, including policies and planning for land use, infrastructure, public transport systems and goods delivery networks...' (UN, 2002: para 21).

Despite these calls for policy integration, however, information about policy integration in practice, the experiences of policy-makers with policy integration in this field and the mechanisms or tools for policy integration that could help to lead to more integrated policy are all difficult to find. This paper attempt so shed some light on these issues and reports on some recent experiences of policy integration in local government in Denmark, England and Germany. The main focus of the paper is on methods and instruments that help to promote policy integration, including impact assessment techniques and policy targets and indicators. The material is based primarily on indepth interviews which were recently carried out with key actors involved in policy making in the selected case study areas.

References

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