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### **Policy integration through foresight**

The quest for policy integration is older than the problem of environmental policy or sustainability. It is the unbeloved downside of modern governance in terms of formal bureaucratic procedure and functional division of labour. But it has only made it to much public recognition in the fairway of sustainable development as a cross-cutting problematique which is considered severe enough to touch on the institutional principles of the modern state.

In contemporary perspectives on governance, policy integration should not be confined to intra-state relation but include the integration of public policies with and between (informal) governing activities that take place throughout society; strategic actions of large companies or influential interest groups have a similar potential to foil sustainability policies as counter-running departmental policies.

The paper therefore puts policy integration between departments and levels of public policy making in context of more general requirements of reflexive governance.

Sustainability Foresight is introduced as a method to operationalise these requirements, illustrated with examples from practical application to the problem of shaping sustainable transformation in the German utility systems for electricity, gas, water, and telecommunications. At its core is a process which comprises interactive scenario building, sustainability assessment and development of strategies to shape the course of transformation. Potential and limits of the method with respect to a wider concept of policy integration are discussed in light of these practical experiences.