

**TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES & SOCIETY: ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS (SEMINAR)**

NYU BERLIN

**ENVIRONMENTAL THINK TANKS
ECOLOGIC INSTITUT**

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Susanne Langsdorf
Ecologic Institute

What are Think Tanks?

“organizations engaged on a regular basis in research and advocacy on any matter related to public policy. They are the bridge between knowledge and power in modern democracies.” (UNDP 2003)

>>> In Germany we have a “colorful network” providing environmental policy advice

Which forms of scientific consultancy for policy making exist in Germany? Example: Environmental politics

- ▶ Think Tanks?
- ▶ German oddity: Institutionalised Advisory Boards
 - Government: Advisory Councils (German Advisory Council on Global Change, German Advisory Council on the Environment)
 - Parliament: committee of enquiry, scientific services
 - Federal Agencies (Federal Environment Agency, BfS, BfN)
- ▶ Universities
- ▶ State-funded research institutes
 - Helmholtz-Zentrum
 - PIK, Wuppertal Institut
- ▶ Foundations

- ▶ **...and us...**

Type of Think Tank	Per Cent
Academic Think Tanks	65%
Advocacy Institutes	30%
Party Think Tanks	5%

Quelle: Martin Thunert: Think Tanks in Germany, FES Briefing Paper Special Issue.

A well organised system?

Well, it is not organised..., the ideal system doesn't exist. We have a broad market place of advisors...diversity and overlaps make the system more resilient...



DirProf. Dr. Christian Hey

General secretary, German Advisory Council on the Environment

Independent environmental think tanks - origins

- Origins in the environmental movement, which required scientific advice
- Topics: Chemicals; and nuclear power
- Topic had no home
- Intertia at universities

Geschichte der **Umweltpolitikforschung**

oral history.



Der Himmel über dem Ruhrgebiet muß wieder blau werden!

Garrett Hardins Artikel „Gefährdete Zukunft“ wird veröffentlicht

UNESCO Konferenz: „Mensch und seine Umwelt: Aussichten auf Überleben“ in San Francisco

Institutionalisierung der staatlichen Umweltpolitik im Bundesministerium des Innern

Dennis Meadows und Jørgen Randers verfassen das von dem Club of Rome veröffentlichten Werk „Grenzen des Wachstums“

Internationale Tagung der IG Metall zu Lebensqualität in Oberhausen

Konferenz der Vereinten Nationen über die Umwelt des Menschen (UNCHE) in Stockholm

Konflikt um das Kernkraftwerk Wyhl

Verabschiedung des ersten Umweltaktionsprogramms der Europäischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft



1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978



Bau der Berliner Mauer



Studentenrevolten

Gründung des Zentrum Berlin für Zukunftsforschung



United Nations Environmental Program



Erste Ölkrise



Internationales Institut für Umwelt und Gesellschaft (IIUG)

Institut für Energie- und Umweltforschung (ifeu) in Heidelberg



Institut für Europäische Umweltpolitik (IEUP)

The Ecologic Institut

- ▶ Founded 1995
- ▶ 120 employees
- ▶ Transdisciplinary research organisation, main focus is environmental research
- ▶ Offices in Berlin, Washington D.C. and Brussels
- ▶ Project funding, no state funding
- ▶ Topics: climate and energy, biodiversity, agriculture, water, resources, integration of environmental concerns, economic and legal assessments

For whom we work: Clients

- ▶ Government and Federal Agencies
 - Federal Ministry for the Environment, Federal Agency for the Environment, Federal Ministry for Education and Research
- ▶ European Commission
 - DG Environment, DG Climate, DG Energy, DG Research
- ▶ Other institutions
 - EUROSTAT, EP, EEA
- ▶ GIZ, „Landesregierungen“
- ▶ Foundations, NGOs
- ▶ No „corporate sponsoring“

Typical projects

- ▶ **Studies**
 - Evaluation of policies and programmes
 - Development of political strategies and policies, cost-benefit analyses
 - Legal assessments
 - Advice on compliance with EU legislation
- ▶ Support of international negotiations
- ▶ Organising conferences, workshops, visits of delegations..
- ▶ Publishing scientific results

Typical projects: characteristics

- ▶ Duration: several weeks to several years
- ▶ Consortia
- ▶ Interdisciplinary, flexible teams
- ▶ Several projects
- ▶ Transparency of results

Aquisition and process

- ▶ Calls for proposals
- ▶ Award, signing of contract
- ▶ „Kick-off Meeting“
- ▶ Project work: several phases finalised with deliverables and milestones
- ▶ Revision phase („Commenting“)
- ▶ Final conference and dissemination of results
- ▶ Internal evaluation

What do I do here?

- ▶ Aquisition(incl. Budget and contact with partners)
- ▶ Project work: research, writing of reports, interviews etc.
- ▶ Management (budget control, organisation in consortium and with sponsor)
- ▶ Face to the public (presentations, website)
- ▶ publishing

- ▶ >>Deadlines, lots of action

Projects examples

- ▶ FP 7 Project - Dynamix
- ▶ UBA Project- SimRess

Dynamix - Decoupling growth from resource use and its environmental impacts

- ▶ EU- research project, duration: three years
- ▶ Working on policy mixes for decoupling (resource use and growth); qualitative assessment and quantitative modeling
- ▶ Nine work packages
- ▶ Nine partners
- ▶ Goal: Policy recommendations for resource efficiency

SimRess – Models, potentials and scenarios for resource efficiency

- ▶ UFOPLAN
- ▶ 37 months
- ▶ Four partners

- ▶ Goal: Recommendations for German resource policy programme; scientific advances regarding integration of models

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

Susanne Langsdorf

Ecologic Institute, Pfalzburger Str. 43-44, D-10717 Berlin
Tel. +49 30 86880-0, Fax +49 30 86880-100

Susanne.Langsdorf@ecologic.eu

www.ecologic.eu