SDG VISION PATH

Exploring and shaping pathways to a sustainable future

Results of the second workshop

Where do we want to go?

The vision 'in a nutshell'
A hypothetical future panel
Concretisation of the goals
Merging the vision and goals

BOKU UNIVERSITY

di:ˈʌngewʌndtə

cooppa
Nachhaltigkeit kommunizieren

klima+ energie fonds

sdg.visionpath.at

WORKSHOP 2
Where do we want to go?

Future perspectives with the means of art

On 25 September 2023, the second stakeholder workshop in the sdg.visionpath project took place at the University of Applied Arts, where goals for a desirable future were formulated in a speculative setting.

Building on the results of the first workshop, in which SDGs1&10 (No Poverty & Reduced Inequality), SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG13 (Climate Action) were placed in a systemic impact context (see the handouts "Results of the first workshop", "A cross-SDG systems picture" and "System dynamic causal loop diagram"), the participants designed in two fictitious 'future panels' visionen and goals.

The future visions and goals from this workshop provide the basis for deriving indicators that can be used to measure the achievement of the vision and for developing paths in the third workshop to achieve the future vision.

Introduction

In the first workshop, the participants used the "Causal Loop Diagrams" method (system-dynamic impact diagrams) to develop a systemic understanding of SDG1&10 (No Poverty & Reduced Inequalities –Indicator: "Energy Poverty Rate"), SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth – Indicators: "Job Satisfaction" & "Real GDP per Capita"), and SDG13 (Climate Action – Indicator: "Greenhouse Gas Emissions"). (see the handouts "*Results of the first workshop*", "*A cross-SDG systems picture*" and "*System dynamic causal loop diagram*"). Based on these results, two central focus topics were derived for the second workshop, which served as the basis for the conceptualisation of the second workshop:

> (1) growth ('beyond growth') and
> (2) distributive justice

The second workshop started with the key question:

"Where do we want to go? – The future we want"

The aim of the second workshop was therefore to develop a common vision for the future and goals for a socio-economically just and climate-safe future for the achievement of SDGs 1&10, 8 and 13 in the Austrian context. In doing so, it was deliberately allowed to think beyond the boundaries of these four SDGs. Art-based methods and different formats were used to stimulate as many different visions as possible.

The challenges in the overall conception of the all-day workshop were the heterogeneity of the participants in terms of disciplines and organisations as well as the requirement to formulate goals from a broad vision, which in turn should enable the derivation of indicators. In order to link all factors productively, the workshop hosts from the University of Applied Arts Vienna convened the fictitious "Futures Panel" think tank, which acted as an overarching framework and connecting element between the participants throughout the entire workshop day.

On the following pages, you will find a summarised overview of the visions for the future developed by the participants and their goals.

The vision "in a nutshell"

The vision developed by the participants can be summarised as follows:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by the global community
- SDG1&10 (No Poverty & Reduced Inequalities),
- SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and
- SDG13 (Climate action)

are **set in relation to each other** and should be implemented in such a way that they take into account both **further social goals** to guarantee sustainable **community cohesion** and further **ecological goals** to **comply with planetary boundaries.**

Other social goals include a **work-life balance**, **gender equality** and the **revalorisation of care work**, which should create space for more personal involvement in the community and for maintaining meaningful relationships.

Other ecological goals include the **preservation of biodiversity** and the **conservation of resources in the sense of a circular economy**.

These goals can only be achieved if the following institutional goals are pursued:

- an education that produces *responsible and critical citizens* through *free access to holistic education and the anchoring of education for sustainable development*,
- increased **transparency** regarding the environment, wealth/income and democracy, e.g. *through institutionalized monitoring based on a wide selection of social and environmental indicators*,
- a **governance** in which *citizens' councils* have the power to decide on trend-setting measures and a *climate audit court* checks compliance with agreed climate targets.
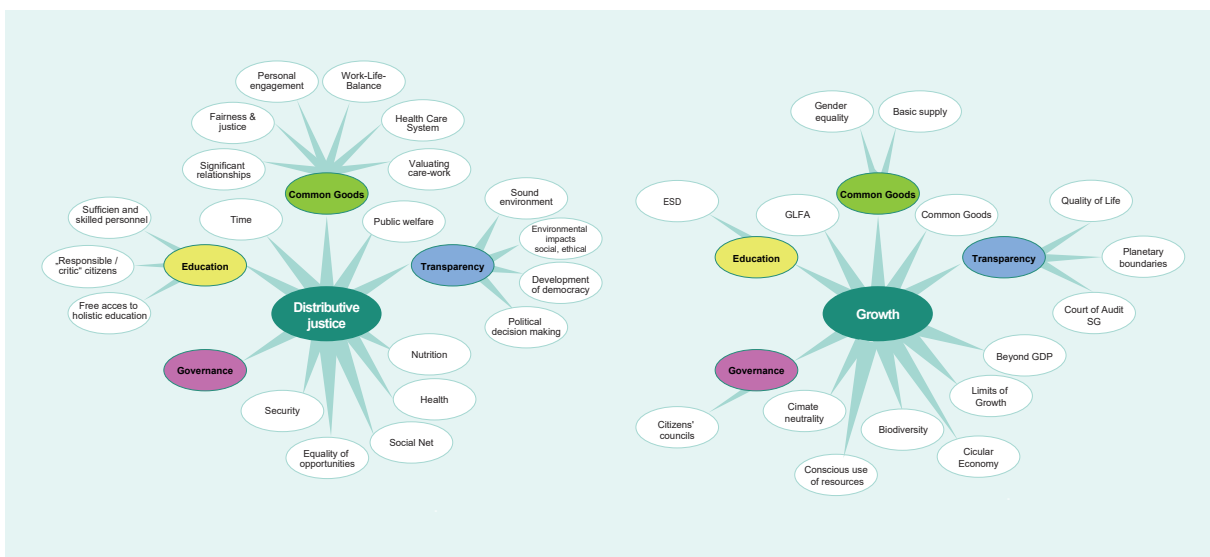

Figure 1: Vision goals

A hypothetical future panel

Two future panels, one for the main topic of "growth" and one for the main topic of "distributive justice", each created a "newspaper supplement" in the sense of a positive vision for the future. For details on this method, see the handout "**Speculative Thinking and Speculative Settings**". The results are presented in this handout.

When focusing on **distributive justice**, the main topics addressed were the common good, transparency and education. In the newspaper collages designed by the participants, topics such as absolute equal opportunities, a network for all cases, health, safety, time and nutrition appeared.

Figure 2: Newspaper collages by the Panel „Verteilungsgerechtigkeit"

When focusing on **growth**, the main topics were "Beyond Growth" ("Limits to Growth" / "Degrowth" / quality of life beyond growth), climate (neutrality), circular economy and species-diversity addressed. Specific topics depicted in the newspaper collages were about "a good life", common good, Beyond GDP indicators (happiness, satisfaction, common good) and a conscious use of resources.

Figure 3: Newspaper collages by the panel "Growth"

Concretisation of the goals

After the future panel, the participants were asked to specify goals that could show them the way to the visions outlined in newspaper collages.

Panel "Distributive justice"

For the topic of *education*, the goals "right to free access to holistic basic education" and "sufficient staff with the necessary know-how" were formulated. What skills and abilities the education system will promote in the future were also discussed. Specifically, it was argued that "responsible/critical citizens" should be trained.

On the topic of *transparency*, the participants agreed on making "income and asset transparency", "political decision-making" and "social, ethical and environmental impacts" of products and services visible in order to create an "intact environment". Transparent "democracy development" (e.g. freedom of speech) was also considered a goal in order to create more transparency.

For the participants, goals for a better *common good* were the existence of "meaningful relationships", "personal commitment" and "fairness and justice". This requires, above all, an "upgrading of care work", an "adequate healthcare system" and an appropriate "work-life balance".

Figure 4: Goals of the panel "Distributive justice"

Panel "Growth"

This panel focused on compliance with planetary boundaries and their operational implementation. Important goals were:

- Monitoring for compliance with planetary boundaries is institutionalized at global and national levels.
- The quality of life of societies is measured using a wide range of indicators.
- Political and sustainability education is strongly anchored in all (further) educational institutions.
- Citizens' councils have the power to decide on groundbreaking measures.
- There is increased involvement in voluntary community activities.
- There is a Court of Auditors for Sustainable Development Goals.
- Gender-specific differences in terms of working hours, care work, wages and parental leave, and management positions are no longer significant.
- Idea of basic needs: Everyone has access to adequate housing, indoor climate, education, healthy food, opportunities to participate.

Figure 5: Goals of the panel "Growth"

Merging the vision and goals

Although the two groups developed future visions on different themes (inequality/growth), some converging points could be found. The graphic below (Figure 6) illustrates the vision goals developed in the groups.

For example, the topic of education was seen in both groups as a prerequisite and a priority in the hierarchy – on the one hand as a prerequisite for the creation of transparency and a sustainable community, on the other hand also for a new form of governance.

Transparency was also present as a topic in both groups: While transparency played a central role in the vision of the "Distributive Justice" group, in the "Growth" group it was discussed primarily in connection with institutionalized monitoring of planetary boundaries and the installation of a climate audit office . The "Distributive Justice" group also emphasized that strengthening transparency is associated with a great deal of leverage.

Finally, the topic of community was also discussed in both groups in the sense of voluntary work or care work.

All of the goals mentioned were assigned to the topics of *education, community, transparency and governance*, where this was not explicitly done by the participants, ex post by the scientific project team. In a further step, the project team will derive suitable indicators for these goals and conduct a survey to determine the significance and possible target values for these indicators.
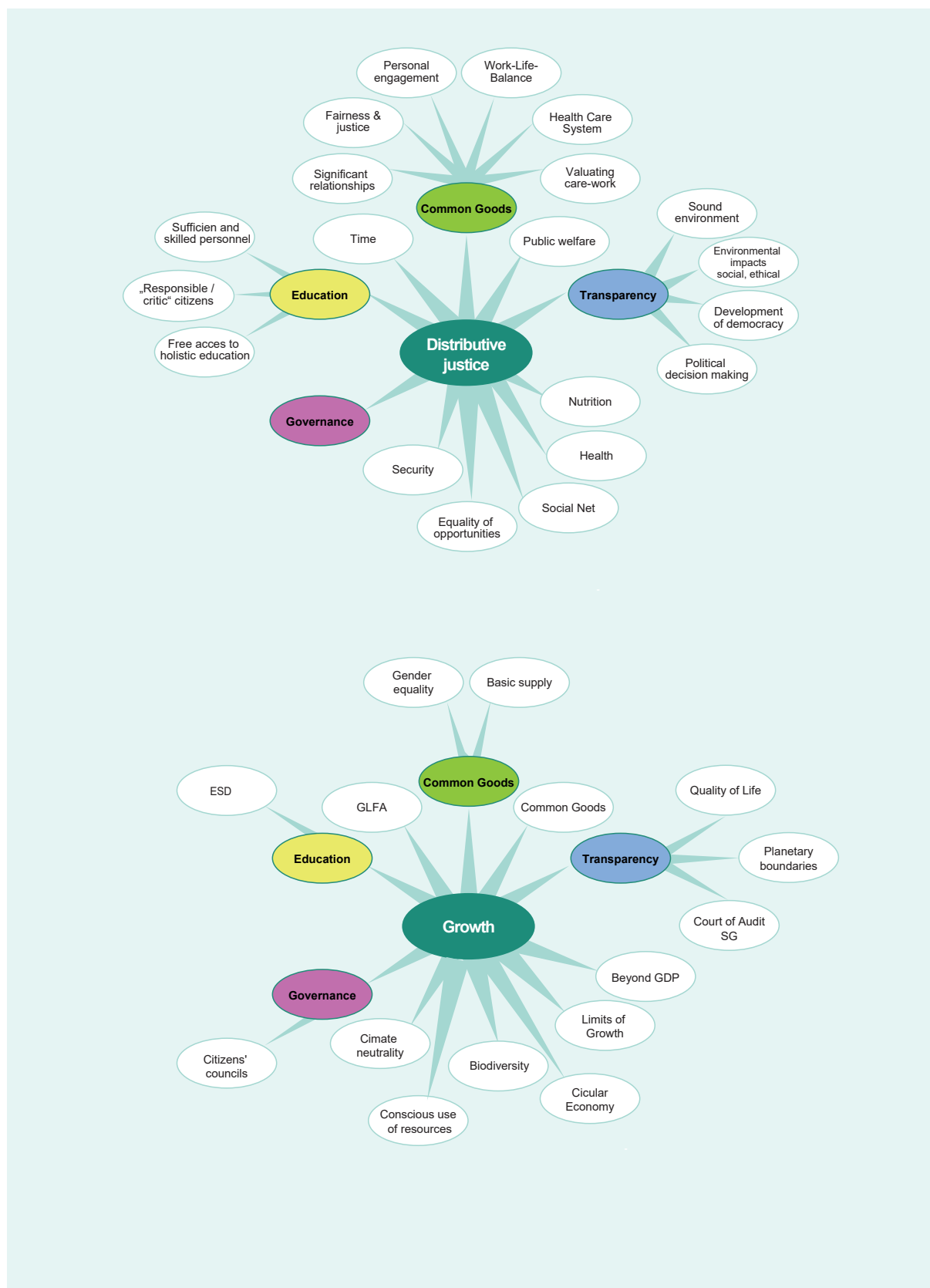
Figure 6: Vision goals

Diagram 1 — Distributive justice:
- **Common Goods** (branches): Personal engagement, Work-Life-Balance, Fairness & justice, Health Care System, Significant relationships, Valuating care-work, Public welfare
- **Education** (branches): Sufficien and skilled personnel, Time, „Responsible / critic" citizens, Free acces to holistic education
- **Governance**
- **Transparency** (branches): Sound environment, Environmental impacts social, ethical, Development of democracy, Political decision making
- Central node: **Distributive justice** with: Nutrition, Health, Social Net, Security, Equality of opportunities

Diagram 2 — Growth:
- **Common Goods** (branches): Gender equality, Basic supply, Common Goods
- **Education** (branches): ESD, GLFA
- **Governance** (branches): Citizens' councils, Cimate neutrality
- **Transparency** (branches): Quality of Life, Planetary boundaries, Court of Audit SG
- Central node: **Growth** with: Beyond GDP, Limits of Growth, Biodiversity, Cicular Economy, Conscious use of resources

SDG
VISION PATH
Pfade in eine nachhaltige Zukunft erforschen und gestalten

Wohin
wollen wir gehen?

Was
ist das Problem?

Was
empfehlen wir?

Wie
Kommen wir dahin?

Was
sagen die Modelle?

SDGVisionPath möchte Transformationspfade für Zukunftsvisionen zur Erreichung der SDG-Ziele Armut (1), menschenwürdige Arbeit und Wirtschaftswachstum (8), Ungleichheit (10), sowie Klimaschutz (13) mitgestalten. Dabei werden Stakeholder-Wissensintegrationsprozesse mit qualitativen und quantitativen Modellierungsansätzen angewendet und verknüpft. Ein solcher ganzheitlicher Ansatz des Systemdenkens, der die Perspektiven und Werte der Stakeholder sowie ergänzende Modellierungsansätze berücksichtigt, soll dabei helfen, robuste Transformationspfade zu identifizieren.

kontakt@sdg.visionpath.at

sdg.visionpath.at