

Promoting the transition to the Green Economy 3rd meeting of Thematic Working Group

Developing the Green Economy programmes

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Brussels – **17 May 2016**





What is the Green Economy?

United Nations Environment Programme defines green economy as:

'an economy that results in improved human well-being and reduced inequalities over the long term, while not exposing future generations to significant environmental risks and ecological scarcities' (UNEP, 2010)



Making the Transition to a Green Economy



Current Situation

Declining Sustainability in a Brown Economy

Resource over-exploitation & pollution pressures

Climate Change

Biodiversity and natural capital loss

Critical ecological and resource thresholds passed or at risk

Resource scarcity and limited access to a clean environment

Health impacts and manmade natural disasters

An economy that is not resource efficient, low carbon and socially inclusive

Building Blocks in the Transition to a Green Economy

Business-as-Usual Approaches

Avoiding Unsustainable Tradeoffs

+

Environmental compliance & infrastructure

+

Active environmental management

Governance

Active Risk Management

+

Proactive Investment in Natural Capital

+

Pursuing environmental sustainability

Eco-efficiency

+

Decoupling via Radical Innovation & Demand change

Ambitions for the Future

A Green Economy

Improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities

Staying within a 'safe operating space': using resources within the planet's regenerative capacities & avoiding critical ecological thresholds

No net loss of biodiversity and climate change within 'acceptable' limits

Sustainability for future generations and business: available natural capital and a clean environment

Health and livelihoods for citizens and communities

An economy decoupled from environmental impacts and resource use





From projects to programmes



making the green economy a reality through individual projects



making the green economy happen through RDP programming and implementation





Efficiency and effectiveness of public support

Is it delivering of green benefits AND economic benefits?

- + natural resources protected, conserved and enhanced
- + biodiversity + ecosystem services sustained
- + GHG emissions reduced, carbon stored
- + climate resilient
- + socially inclusive

- + jobs and skills
- + production potential
- + efficient sustainable businesses
- + new markets and products
- + economically viable rural communities







What does this mean for potential RDP beneficiaries?

- Understanding why moving their business or community into the 'green economy' is a good idea for them, now
- Knowing what the potential impact could be on their long-term business opportunities
- Having reliable, trusted and locally relevant sources of advice on best available technology, legislation, finance and how to develop their own ideas and plans
- Identifying and gaining access to new and existing markets for both 'private' and 'public' goods
- Having access to on-going advice and 'handholding'





What are the possibilities for managing authorities?

- Choosing and co-ordinating different Funds (and state aid)
- Working across sectors and institutional divisions (energy, climate, environment, agriculture, forestry)
- Using new sources of technical expertise
- Pro-actively 'green economy proofing' the RDP sub-measures and implementing decisions
- Tailoring and targeting packages of RDP support for specific green economy objectives





Is the key to delivering the green economy not just what the programme or project aims to achieves but how it is designed and implemented?

Thank you

