

NATIONAL EFFORTS TO INCREASE CO-
OPERATION AND SYNERGIES
BETWEEN MEAS IN AN
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY: CASE OF
FINLAND

Outi Berghäll
Ministry of the Environment, Finland



**Finland strives to promote synergies at
various levels**

- international: multilateral activities, bilateral aid
- national: policies and programmes
- sub-national and local levels
- public/ private partnerships



Aims of co-operation: efficient use of resources

- Resource efficiency makes sense: human resources, financial resources
- Efficacy in the use of resources:
 - need to avoid working at cross-purposes
 - need to avoid or at least minimise trade-offs
 - exploiting opportunities for double dividends



Creating an institutional framework conducive to co-operation and synergies

- Existing institutional set up as a starting point: large vs small, high vs low, administrative culture
- Ensuring common language
- Setting up appropriate institutional arrangements - commissions, committees, task forces etc. and their memberships.



Tasks :

- Streamlining tasks and combining similar tasks: e.g. reporting, capacity building, promotion of technology transfer
- Identifying and taking action on critical issues for synergies/ trade-offs
- Monitoring – indicators



Basis for genuine co-operation: sharing same concerns

- (a) "Creating the demand"- need to make policy makers and implementers aware of commonalities
- (b) Developing the theory" - identifying common issues in the context of differentiated mandates, CBD AHTEG as an example, research
- (c) "Applying the theory": Need to be practical; avenues and tools of issue identification in practice; task forces, EIA, SEA
- (d) Adopting an integrated approach



*Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) as an example of the integrated approach

- ACIA: comprehensive assessment of climate change and its impacts on the Arctic Regions
- much focus on social and economic impacts, impacts on ecosystems, assessing key vulnerabilities, adaptive capacities
- multistressor situation: impact of UV and pollution
- Leading to policy recommendations on mitigation, adaptation, education, training and partnerships, as well as research, monitoring and observation.
- Regional approach – recommendations at all levels, addressed to all actors.

