Modelling Tools
for Sustainable Development Policies

" [...] the United Nations shall promote: higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development.
– UN Charter, Art. 55 a "

Understanding Modelling Tools for Sustainable Development

MODULE

THE 2030 AGENDA: A LEARNING GUIDE

Modelling Tools to Inform Policies for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development endorsed by UN Member States in September 2015 calls for transformative and integrated policies leading towards a sustainable development path. Realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda requires better informed policy decision-making in all three dimensions of sustainable development along with dedicated attention to their interlinkages. Policies need to support a complex balancing of global goals with national development aspirations while also balancing trade-offs across sectors, goals and targets. Science-informed policymaking will help unveil policy and investment opportunities in all three dimensions. It will also help to define interlinkages that will lead countries towards sustainable development.

This **outreach hands-on training course** aims to enhance understanding of how modelling tools can be used to unveil interlinkages across different policy areas, and how they can inform policy decision-making. The course is a practical guide on the principles of five modelling tools and the insights they can offer to policy decision-making. It is targeted to policy decision makers and development practitioners who want to gain understanding about a selected number of modelling tools available for evidence-based decision-making for sustainable development.

This module analyses the complexity of designing integrated policies seeking to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the contributions that modelling tools can provide to policy decisions.

MODULE: THE 2030 AGENDA

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the challenges of designing integrated policies for the transformative challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Understand the contributions of integrated assessments of sustainable development at the global scale and its limitations for national policymaking.
- Identify the potential contributions that the suite of modelling tools introduced in this course can make to policy decisions to both retain sector pertinence and ensure links across sectors.
- Appreciate the usefulness of developing capacity in countries to assess policies assisted by modelling tools, with specific reference to this suite of tools.

HOW TO USE THE MODULE

The module consists of two components:

A. The contribution of modelling to sustainable development policies; and
B. Discussion of country experiences in tackling the challenges of sustainable development.

This is a flexible module that can be adapted to different environments. It can be used in different combinations of parts A and/or B. It can be included at the beginning or the end of a one-week workshop. Sections of part A can serve as an introduction to one- or two-day workshops covering two tools.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

A. The contribution of modelling to sustainable development policies			
Key	Activity	Resources	Time
A1	Presentation	PowerPoint A (16 slides)	40 minutes
A2	Group discussion	Reading and questions	30 minutes
A3	Group report and plenary session	Group reports	20 minutes
Total time			90 minutes

B. Discussion of country experiences in tackling the challenges of sustainable development

Key	Activity	Resources	Time
B1	Open discussion by participants	No specific resources	30-40 minutes
B2	Feedback from trainers on the tool that can more suitably address the concerns raised by participants	Online tools and selected slides on the modeling tools	10-20 minutes
Total time			40-60 minutes

Depending on the format, the workshop might include a final discussion to assess:

- Achievement of learning objectives;
- Adding or dropping learning objectives; and/or
- Usefulness of the module for participant's practice.

REFERENCES

Le Blanc, D. (2015). "Towards integration at last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets." DESA Working Paper No. 141. ST/ESA/2015/DWP/141. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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