

## **Abstract for workshop at IAS-STS, Graz, 2014-03-19**

### **Managing sustainable development of energy and transport systems – the case of an institutional arrangement for policy integration**

In order to manage a development towards a more sustainable society several different instruments are suggested. One instrument suggested for public authorities in their policy-making processes is the integration of policy and policy sectors. The idea is that more integrated policy, which implies more collaboration between authorities and departments, will result in harmonized policy between different sectors and prevent policy from becoming contradictory. Sustainable development is considered as a complex issue with many aspects and therefore the integration of policy is regarded as a necessary instrument to manage it.

This study is focusing on a Swedish case of an institutional arrangement to manage policy integration between different governmental levels (regional and local), between different local governments and between different policy sectors. The case is also representing an initiative to manage sustainable development within a region; gathering decisions and discussions regarding several technological and social systems together in one forum. In this case the focus will be on transport and energy systems and how they are managed in a joint institution. The aim is to describe the institutional arrangement: the Advisory Committee of Sustainable Development in West Götaland region, and discuss how it works in order to understand how policy integration can be performed in an institutional setting. The questions asked are what issues are handled in the committee, how are they handled and why? What questions are not on the agenda and why? How are the different actors participating in the committee acting and why? The material used to answer these questions is interviews with committee participants (politicians), officials working with issues managed by the committee, other politicians and officials not involved in the committee and note documents and preparation documents from the committee meetings.

Some questions:

This is the first attempt to write an empirical article describing an institutional arrangement I have come across in my study of West Götaland region, Sweden – the focus should be about the empirical case and what to learn from it from a policy integration and sustainable development perspective. The question is then: how to make this empirical example interesting to an international audience? Of course the theoretical background is important, but do you have other tips and tricks on how to write it etc?

The audience for this article is not mainly STS researchers, but political scientists, planners and others interested in public administration, but is there anything interesting from a STS perspective? I am open for new ideas, perspective etc.