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Date
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Subject:

Declaration on the Further Development of the Environmental Policy in Austria;
Joint Declaration on Local Agenda 21 in Austria;
Resolution of the Conference of the Environmental Spokespersons of the
Federal Provinces on 9 October 2003

2 Appendices

To the Honourable:

Provincial Governor Hans NIESSL, Eisenstadt
Provincial Governor Dr. Jörg HAIDER, Klagenfurt
Provincial Governor Dr. Erwin PRÖLL, St. Pölten
Provincial Governor Dr. Josef PÜHRINGER, Linz
Provincial Governor Dr. Franz SCHAUSBERGER, Salzburg
Provincial Governor Waltraud KLASNIC, Graz
Provincial Governor DDr. Herwig VAN STAA, Innsbruck
Provincial Governor Dr. Herbert SAUSGRUBER, Bregenz
Provincial Governor Dr. Michael HÄUPL, Vienna

To the Honourable:

Environmental Spokesperson(s) of the Federal Provinces
Provincial Councillor Verena DUNST, Eisenstadt
Provincial Councillor Paul RITTSTEUER, Eisenstadt
Provincial Councillor Ing. Reinhart ROHR, Klagenfurt
Provincial Councillor Mag. Wolfgang SOBOTKA, St. Pölten
Provincial Councillor Mag. Günther STEINKELLNER, Linz
Provincial Councillor Dr. Othmar RAUS, Salzburg
Provincial Councillor Johann SEITINGER, Graz
Deputy Provincial Governor Hannes GSCHWENTNER, Innsbruck
Provincial Councillor Ing. Erich SCHWÄRZLER, Bregenz
Head of Office City Councillor Dipl.-Ing. Isabella KOSSINA, Vienna

To the Director of the Provincial Government
of
Burgenland
Carinthia
Lower Austria
Upper Austria

Salzburg
Styria
Tyrol
Vorarlberg
Vienna

To the
Cabinet of the
Federal Minister
of Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management
Dipl.-Ing. Josef PRÖLL
Stubenring 1
1010 Vienna

To the
Federal Ministry of
Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management
Stubenbastei 5
1010 Vienna

Due to a report from Salzburg on last year's activities of the federal and provincial Sustainability Co-ordinators, given on 9 October 2003, the Conference of the Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces also dealt with the topics "Declaration on the Further Development of the Environmental Policy in Austria" and the "Joint Declaration on Local Agenda 21 in Austria" and adopted accordingly the following **Resolution:**

1. The Conference of the Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces gives its approval to the report of the joint expert conference of the Federal Government and the Provinces (Sustainability Co-ordinators).
2. The Conference of the Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces resolves the submitted "Joint Declaration on Local Agenda 21 in Austria" (Appendix 1) and approves of the implementation of the Common Action Plan on Local Agenda 21 in Austria (Appendix 2) as common concern of the provinces with inclusion of the federal government, and would like to invite the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management to lend his support to the aforementioned declaration, and to participate in the Common Action

Plan in a co-ordinative and supportive way. It will instruct the Sustainability Co-ordinators to further co-ordinate and implement this Action Plan and settle the finance matters.

3. The Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces will notify each of the Provincial Governors as well as any other members of the local government who are in charge of this matter of the Joint Declaration on Local Agenda 21 and the Common Action Plan and request their support.
4. The Conference of the Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces welcomes the continuation of the "Round Table Sustainable Austria" and the Newsletter for the action network "Sustainable Austria" based on the preliminary talks between the Federal Government and the Provinces.

The Liaison Office of the Federal Provinces takes the liberty to present this resolution taking account of TOP 3a and 3b of the meeting of the Conference of the Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces on 8/9 October 2003 and kindly requests you to give this matter your attention.

The Head

Dr. BRAND

Certified as a true copy

Illegible signature

Joint Declaration on Local Agenda 21 in Austria

Aware of the fact that efforts towards Sustainable Development at international, European, national and provincial levels can be successful only if small units – regions, cities and municipalities – undertake independent and decentralised development processes in the course of which citizens and private institutions identify and implement Sustainable Development in conjunction with business, political and administrative bodies, the Environmental Spokespersons of the Austrian Federal Provinces submit the following Declaration:

1. The Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces call attention to the following:

- In Europe there are already over 5,000 municipalities and regions that are involved in Local Agenda 21 processes. Austria accounts for processes in 149 municipalities (as per February 2003 – around 7 per cent of all municipalities) and seven regions.
- Local Agenda 21 is the model approach towards the implementation of Sustainable Development at a communal and regional level. Ongoing approaches and programmes such as *Dorferneuerung* (Village Renewal), the Climate Alliance, *Familienaudit* (Family Audit), *Gesunde Gemeinde* (Healthy Community) and LEADER+ are all making valuable contributions in various subsections. Not seeking to replace these approaches, Local Agenda 21 is considered a multisectoral integration and networking tool.
- When it comes to the implementation of Sustainable Development, comparison shows that Austria along with its Federal Provinces is among Europe's leading countries in the areas Climate Protection, Organic Farming and Renewable Energy Resources.
- It is therefore a declared objective to promote Sustainable Development by means of Local Agenda 21. For the medium term, our aim is to quadruple the number of Local Agenda 21 processes in Austria.

2. From the accelerated implementation of Local Agenda 21 the Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces expect benefits in multiple respects: The broad-based participation of citizens encourages social cohesion and identification with one's environment. To compensate for globalisation, historically grown rural and urban

structures are strengthened. As “help towards self-help”, Local Agenda 21 enables tailor-made local and regional solutions. It contributes to the safeguarding of natural heritage and to the improvement of the environmental situation. It enhances regional trade cycles and creates new local employment opportunities. It strengthens social cohesion and encourages a new relationship culture between the political-administrative system and its citizens. Local Agenda 21 allows sustainability to assume concrete forms in our day-to-day thoughts and actions.

3. The Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces attach importance to the fact that in terms of quality assurance the Local Agenda 21 instrument requires typical minimum standards, thus above all:

Orientation towards sustainability, intergenerational justice, gender mainstreaming, citizen participation, long-term perspective, wholeness, combination of local, regional and global responsibility, orientation towards implementation.

Local Agenda 21 processes are very clearly structured, based on municipal policymaking and are supported by proficient process assistance.

Further key characteristics are: implementation of an assessment of the current situation (Sustainability Check), development of Visions, Agreement upon Objectives and Measures, development of Guiding Principles (Target Systems), implementation of Innovative Projects and constant Progress Monitoring (e.g. by means of indicators).

4. The Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces agree that at a provincial level specific structures to sensitise, support and interlink the municipalities and regions in their Local Agenda 21 work are required. For LA21 implementation various programmes, co-ordination offices and promotion options at a regional level provide effective support.
5. The Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces approve of the “Common Action Plan on Local Agenda 21 in Austria” as a common concern of the Federal Provinces with inclusion of the Federal Government. The aforementioned bodies shall instruct the Sustainability Co-ordinators to continue to co-ordinate the implementation of the Action Plan.

The Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces appeal to the responsible bodies in municipalities and regions, in terms of the Declaration, to enter into dialogue with the actors and institutions concerned and to go ahead with the Agenda 21 processes and implement them in a committed way.

Due to Local Agenda 21's integrative thematic reference, the Resolution will be brought to the attention of the Provincial Governors and other (co-) responsible members of the provincial governments along with a request for support.

The Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces would like to invite the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management to lend his support to this declaration and to participate in the "Common Action Plan on Local Agenda 21 in Austria" in a co-ordinative and supportive way.

Appendix 2
Ad VST-3824/23
Dated 10 October 2003

Local Agenda 21 in Austria

Sustainable Development at a Communal and Regional Level

Common Action Plan **(Basic Consensus and Implementation Steps)**

Created by the expert group

“Decentralised Sustainability Strategies – Local Agenda 21”
On behalf of the Sustainability Co-ordinators of Austria

31 March 2003

As a sub-working group of the Sustainability Co-ordinators of Austria, the expert group “Decentralised Sustainability Strategies – Local Agenda 21” devised the following Action Plan on behalf of the Conference of the Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces 2002. This Action Plan consists of

- A **Basic Consensus** in terms of an inter-regional Local Agenda 21 “Guiding Principle” and
- **Joint Implementation Steps** for the nationwide establishment of Local Agenda 21

The expert group consists of the following persons responsible for Local Agenda 21 in the Federal Provinces and/or at the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management:

Office of the Provincial Government of Burgenland, Provincial Head Office, Staff Unit Spatial Development, Department Village Renewal and Maintenance of Local Societies

Dr. Franz Artner

Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia, Academy for Rural and Urban Development

Mayor Herbert Gaggl, Dipl.-Ing. Christina Sadjina

Office of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria, Department Spatial Development and Environmental Protection

Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Steiner

Office of the Provincial Government of Upper Austria, Academy for Environment and Nature

Dipl.-Ing. Dietmar Kriechbaum, Dipl.-Ing. Günther Humer

Office of the Provincial Government of Salzburg, Department Environmental Protection

Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Markus Graggaber

Office of the Provincial Government of Styria

Section 19d

Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Wilhelm Himmel, Sepp Fiedler (Ecological Rural Development)

Section 1C, Department Perspectives and Sustainable Development

Dr. Klaus Rundhammer

Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol, Department Environmental Protection

Mag. Eva Loidhold

Office of the Provincial Government of Vorarlberg, Office for Questions of the Future

Dipl.-Ing. Martin Strele

Administration of the City of Vienna, MD¹ Council Head Office, Group Planning

Dipl.-Ing. Otto Frey

Association Local Agenda 21 in Vienna

Mag. Josef Taucher

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Dr. Wolfram Tertschnig, Dipl.-Ing. Werner Thalhammer

We would be happy to provide further information:

**The Chairperson of the Expert Group
Decentralised Sustainability Strategies and LA21**

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Basic Consensus on Local Agenda 21 in Austria

The following “Basic Consensus on Local Agenda 21 in Austria” was composed as a common content- and method-based framework for the implementation and further development of Local Agenda 21 in Austria. It is based on existing practical experience with reference to the Federal Provinces’ existing strategies and tools and reflects international programmes and developments. Without seeking to limit the diversity and particularity of province-specific approaches, it serves as an orientation not only to the people responsible for Local Agenda 21 in the Federal Provinces and at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, but also to any people interested in Local Agenda 21.

1. Introduction

Agenda 21, the programme for global Sustainable Development, was resolved by 180 countries at the UN Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and reaffirmed at the UN World Conference on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The municipalities and regions have a significant part to play in the implementation of Sustainable Development: *“Every municipality/every region is to enter into a dialogue with their citizens, organisations and business, and resolve and implement a Local Agenda 21, a guiding principle for Sustainable Development.”* (Agenda 21, Chapter 28) Worldwide, the LA21 has been implemented over 7,000 times in 113 countries; Europe-wide, there are so far 5,000 Agenda 21 municipalities and regions while Austria accounts for processes in 149 municipalities (as of February 2003 – around 7 per cent of all municipalities) and in seven regions.

“**Local Agenda 21**” is the model approach towards the implementation of Sustainable Development at a communal and regional level. While not seeking to replace existing approaches, it is understood as an integration and networking tool.

A host of political programmes and decisions emphasise the significance of Local Agenda 21:

In the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (Art. 149), the necessity to strengthen the continuing support for Local Agenda 21 processes for the effective implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg objectives is stressed particularly.

In their declaration at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, the global communities reaffirm their support of the Agenda 21 and undertake

*“... to devise development strategies that integrate the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of the development;
... to build upon the achievements of Local Agenda 21 over the next decade and to accelerate their implementation with the help of LA21 campaigns and programmes;
... to develop a new and profound culture of sustainability in our cities and municipalities...”*

Following the Johannesburg Summit in September 2002, the EU Ministers responsible for the horizontal co-ordination of Sustainable Development re-emphasised that actions would have to be taken *“at all levels and founded particularly on local processes within the framework of Local Agenda 21”*.

In its Statement on the EU Sustainability Strategy, the EU Commission states: *“In order to implement changes at a local level, initiatives such as Local Agenda 21 have proved an efficient means of consensus shaping. [...] The fact that increasingly larger parts of the population are adopting the objective of Sustainable Development also depends upon a larger openness of the policy and upon the insight that, in actual fact, individuals are capable of changing things by their own behaviour. Local Agenda 21, for example, has succeeded in effectively promoting Sustainable Development at a communal level.”*

In the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), the Ministers responsible for EU spatial development at their meeting in May 1999 in Potsdam arrived at the conclusion: *“We suggest that the Member States, regional and local authorities participate in the development and implementation of regional and local Agendas 21 by means of concepts and projects.”*

The Conference of the Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces resolved on 28 May 1999: *“The Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces welcome Local Agenda 21 processes at a municipal level as decentralised nuclei for Sustainable Development in the Federal Province that integrate all affected parties. The Conference of the Environmental Spokespersons of the Federal Provinces advocate the initiation and promotion of Local Agenda 21 processes.”*

2. What are the Objectives of Local Agenda 21?

- 2.1. Identifying and implementing “**Sustainable Development**” in day-to-day thought, decisions and actions.
- 2.2. Renewing, strengthening and ensuring historically **grown structures** in rural areas and in urban centres as a pro-active response to globalisation.
- 2.3. **Help towards self-help** to bring about tailor-made solutions for municipalities/regions (making potential visible, activating local know-how that cannot be replaced by external expertise).
- 2.4. Setting important **impulses in terms of direct democracy** by involving wide parts of the population (increased citizen commitment, encouragement of individual responsibility for one’s own living space, raising the level of identification with one’s environment).
- 2.5. Strengthening **social cohesion** and promotion of a new culture of relationship between the political-administrative system and its citizens in terms of a new collective responsibility.
- 2.6. Promoting and implementing the principle of **equal rights between men and women**.
- 2.7. Ensuring the **ecological heritage and/or balance** (improving the environmental situation by e.g. sustainable management of resources, conservation of natural habitats, designing sustainable settlement structures, and setting tangible environmental goals).
- 2.8. Strengthening **regional economic cycles** (interlinking business with municipalities, creating multisectoral partnerships and new job opportunities, local supply).
- 2.9. Achievement of a **fair distribution of resources and capital** from a regional and global point of view among people currently alive and also among **generations**.
- 2.10. Establishment of a modern future planning – socio-cultural, ecologic, economic and “globally responsible” – in municipalities/cities/regions - in order to face the current and future challenges in a better way.

3. Who does Local Agenda 21 address?

- 3.1. The **people** with their needs, visions and abilities.
- 3.2. The **municipalities, cities and regions** as key actors in the realisation of a positive development of society.
- 3.3. The **business, associations and organisations** as principal partners in goal identification and implementation.

- 3.4. All other **political levels (Provinces, Federal Government, EU, UN) along with their administrations as supporters** in terms of active subsidiarity.

4. What distinguishes Local Agenda 21?

Local Agenda 21

- 4.1. is oriented towards an independently developed **guiding principle (target system)**
- 4.2. is designed for the **long term** (for at least 10 years) and oriented towards **intergenerational justice**
- 4.3. is based on an **integrative approach** in terms of combined ecological, economic and socio-cultural objectives
- 4.4. observes communal, regional, interregional, and global **responsibilities**
- 4.5. is a public and transparent process based on active **citizen commitment**
- 4.6. is a **result-oriented and evaluable process** that shows noticeable effects
- 4.7. relies on participants' **motivation and qualification**
- 4.8. pays attention to **justice between men and women** and the different **social groupings**

5. What happens in a Local Agenda 21 process?

A Local Agenda 21 process

- 5.1. is founded on a **policy formation and policy declaration** at a municipal and council level (resolution)
- 5.2. builds upon an assessment of the current situation (**Sustainability Check = analysis of the existing situation in terms of sustainability**) and takes values and visions into consideration
- 5.3. subsequently follows a **controlled process of continual improvement** of goal definition, measure planning, implementation and evaluation
- 5.4. proceeds with **broadly based participation and activation of the population** combining top-down and bottom-up strategies
- 5.5. is **implementation-oriented**, makes sustainability tangible through emotionally perceivable successes while its own strengths lead to successful projects
- 5.6. is accompanied by **progress control** (e.g. by indicators that measure the achievement of set goals)

5.7. relies on **publicity** to activate and motivate people

6. What can Local Agenda 21 achieve?

- 6.1. It manages to **address and involve** population groups that were previously on the outside of municipal/city/regional development.
- 6.2. Villages, town districts, municipalities, and regions are filled with new life.
- 6.3. Regional **added value** is gained through new local supply models.
- 6.4. New **job opportunities** arise through entrepreneurial initiatives and agricultural innovations.
- 6.5. It encourages **social cohesion** and **understanding** among one another (among generations, genders, cultures, migrants).
- 6.6. **Perspectives within the local community** are opened up to families and young people.
- 6.7. **Women** are more tightly integrated into local developments.
- 6.8. New **neighbourhood models** help social solutions to be found within the community (e.g. **elderly people** can remain longer in the surroundings they are used to).
- 6.9. **Energy and resources are managed in a new “sustainable” way** by means of concrete and innovative solutions.
- 6.10. It raises the awareness for the **particularities of nature and the environment**, new models for the conservation of cultural landscapes and ecosystems are developed thus improving the environmental situation.
- 6.11. In tourism, agriculture and trade innovations in terms of **ecological management** contribute towards an improvement of added value.
- 6.12. It creates **communal and/or regional partnerships**.
- 6.13. It supports positive **European and global awareness with regional orientation**.
- 6.14. A **creative atmosphere** enables the continual development of innovative projects and initiatives that otherwise would not have come to be.
- 6.15. **Committed citizens become qualified decision-makers** and project managers.
- 6.16. New **public-private partnership models** improve the efficiency of the employed public subsidy funds.
- 6.17. **Municipal, urban and regional development** takes a further step towards professionalisation and modernisation.

7. And how much does it cost?

- 7.1. **Compared with projects relating to obligatory municipal tasks**, the costs of LA21 processes are relatively low.²
- 7.2. Development impulses and grouping together the different tasks of a municipality/region produce **multiple added value**.³

8. What guarantees the success of a Local Agenda 21 process?

- 8.1. The assistance provided by **qualified external process supervisors**.
- 8.2. The establishment of functioning **communication structures** between all participants.
- 8.3. The vitality of the process on account of its **wide variety of methods and tools**.
- 8.4. A continual flow of new **projects** and a steady widening of the circle of participants.
- 8.5. **Respect** for the participants from inside and outside (e.g. through patent protection for ideas).
- 8.6. Support by **charismatic people**.
- 8.7. LA21 co-ordination by special offices and **regional programmes**.
- 8.8. An **incentive financing package** for processes and innovative projects provided by Provinces, Federal Government and EU.
- 8.9. Broad-based **participation** of various sectors of society.

² A survey in the Federal Provinces Styria and Upper Austria revealed that in municipalities of up to 3,000 inhabitants the costs for the external LA21 process assistance amounted to an average 15,000 euros (min. 10,000 euros and max. 25,000 euros).

³ The added value results from new projects that otherwise would not have been established, from the contribution towards strategic future planning and from countless honorary activities. Accordingly, for example, one Local Agenda 21 municipality with 1,700 inhabitants performed 1,800 unsalaried hours of work during a two-year "Guiding Principle Stage". Costs for external process assistance amounted to 14,500 euros. A host of ideas were conceived and initial projects have already been put into practice.

Common Implementation Steps towards a Local Agenda 21 in Austria

The implementation ideas set forth below are intended as initial steps towards networking, co-operation and sharing of experience among the Federal Provinces in terms of a further development of Local Agenda 21 activities in Austria. While not seeking to replace or to intervene with the Province-specific considerations and activities towards the implementation of independent programmes for Local Agenda 21, the steps intend to build upon these. The object is to fill the contents of the “Joint Declaration on Local Agenda 21 in Austria” with life and to make them tangible.

1. Austrian LA21 Summit

An event lasting one or two days (dialogue forum, congress, workshops), to take place in intervals of one or two years; the event is to be organised alternately by various Federal Provinces and is intended to address not only communal and regional multipliers and decision-makers but also active Agenda 21 actors as main target groups.

Goals: National networking of local and regional “forces”, sharing of experience among actors; further development of the LA21 tool; implementation practice reports in conjunction with political, economic and research contributions; political dialogue forum at the communal, provincial and national levels; platform for innovative approaches and ideas.

Partners: Federal Provinces and Federal Government.

Costs: Borne by the host Province’s budget, with the assistance of the Federal Government.

2. LA21 Innovation prize

Prizes are awarded for

- the most innovative LA21 process
- the most innovative LA21 implementation project
- the most innovative actor

Selection is carried out by an expert jury of the Federal Government/Federal Provinces, if possible linked to the LA21 Summit; an award suitable and effective for media.

Goals: Information, creation of publicity, gaining actors; motivation through acknowledgement from the outside.

Partners: Federal Government, Federal Provinces; media.

Costs: External costs per call for tenders around 10,000 to 20,000 euros.

3. LA21 Website

LA21 website for information purposes, awareness building, best practice, annual brief report on Local Agenda 21 in Austria.

As to cost-efficiency, the implementation is planned within the framework of the already existing website www.nachhaltigkeit.at.

Goals: Increased integration of actors and the interested public; information platform, know-how transfer, discussion forum.

Partners: Federal Government, Federal Provinces.

Costs: Technical establishment reasonable, costs for continual maintenance as low as possible.

4. Concept for nationwide PR activities in Austria for “Local Agenda 21” while taking into account any ongoing Province-specific programmes

Goals: Sensitisation of the broad public, rise in the awareness level of Local Agenda 21, further development of the common umbrella trademark “Local Agenda 21”, development of tools that can be applied across all Federal Provinces (e.g. “Agenda Cabaret”).

Partners: Federal Government, Federal Provinces, public relations agency.

Costs: Public relations concept: 5,000 to 10,000 euros.

5. Further development of the LA21 Participant Network Newsletter supplement

Goals: Independent LA21 publication, expansion of its readership.

Partners: Federal Government, Federal Provinces.

Costs: Slight increase in budgetary funds in the course of re-awarding the Newsletter.

6. Training of LA21 Process Assistants

Due to a missing common basic profile for Process Assistants, inter-regional quality criteria and compatible training modules building upon the specific know-how of the respective Federal Provinces, are to be compiled; to this end the

sharing of experience and interlinking of provincial activities are planned which, in the medium term, should lead to the formulation of common basic standards for LA21 Process Assistants that could be offered as additional qualification options. The LA21 Process Assistant's training profile is to be conceived and defined in a way to permit its application in other sustainability-relevant, decentralised fields of development, too (regional management, regional innovation management, communal development processes in the fields of local supply, family, health, etc.).

Goals: To ensure and improve the quality of LA21 processes through the qualification of LA21 Process Assistants; to compile the existing educational approaches, to develop a uniform requirement profile (educational standards) for the Federal Provinces, to develop training modules.

Partners: Federal Government, Federal Provinces, educational institutions.

Costs: During the initial steps no costs will be incurred for external services.

7. Co-ordination of sustainability-relevant training options between the Federal Provinces

Almost all Federal Provinces offer meetings, courses, seminars, workshops, etc. to raise the awareness for sustainability. In the context of the exchange of experience between the individual Provinces an improved integration of the existing range of offers is to be achieved, synergies are to be identified and used, and co-operations are to be developed.

Goals: To learn from one another, to save costs through inter-regional conception of training options.

Partners: Federal Government, Federal Provinces.

Costs: During the initial steps no costs will be incurred for external services.

8. Quality assurance, self-evaluation and indicators

The tool Local Agenda 21 is to enable municipalities and regions to achieve much using relatively low funds, provided the processes and implementation measures meet certain quality standards; in the context of an exchange of experience between the Federal Provinces the relevant quality assurance instruments are therefore to be developed on a joint basis:

1. Derivation of self-evaluation tools from the quality standards for LA21 processes specified nationwide in the Basic Consensus on Local Agenda 21.
2. Assessment of already existing indicator models; development of practicable and compatible local/regional indicator systems for Sustainable Development taking into account any regional particularities.

Goals: To ensure and improve the quality of LA21 processes; to make visible and “remediable” any success factors and causes for poor goal achievement; to create the basis for methodical further development.

Partners: Federal Government, Federal Provinces.

Costs: During the initial steps no costs will be incurred for external services.