

**Project on fair sustainable development
on the basis of the capability approach:**

GeNECA

*(Gerechte Nachhaltige Entwicklung
auf Grundlage des Capability-Ansatzes)*

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'Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.' (WCED 1987)

Aims and Objectives

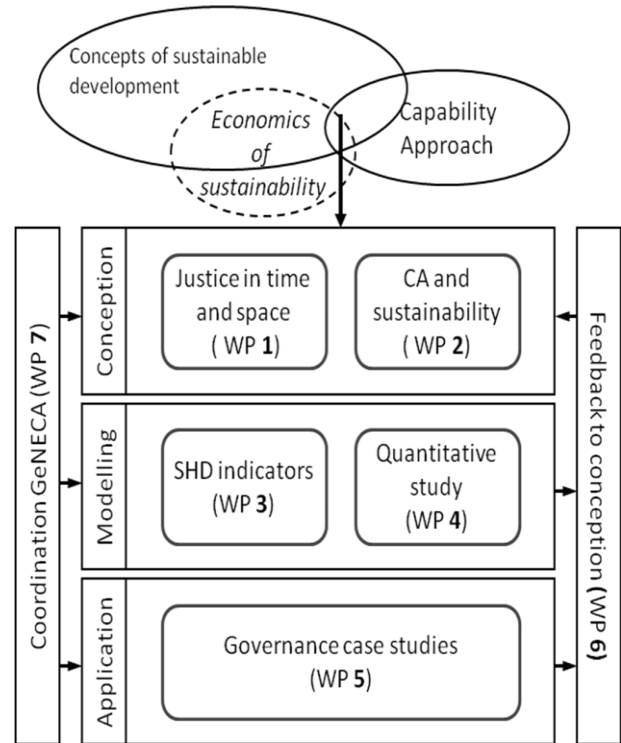
Sustainability policy has to consider the interdependencies of human life and nature; it has to meet the high moral standards of intra- and intergenerational justice set by the Brundtland Commission in 1987; and, finally, it has to motivate people to behave accordingly. This is quite a challenging task that often is responded to in a too simplistic way. Current sustainability science and civic engagement often focus on the environmental dimensions and herewith on intergenerational justice.

The Capability Approach is a leading paradigm in development economics that has informed development policy during the last 20 years. With its focus on human development it has highlighted the interaction between social and economic development. The issue of intragenerational justice constitutes an ongoing motive within the Capability Approach, but intergenerational justice and environmental concerns have often been left out of its scope. The project GeNECA aims at conceptualizing sustainable development on the basis of the Capability Approach so as to combine the issues of inter- and intragenerational justice drawing on an integrated understanding of social, economic and environmental development. Resuming the spirit of the Brundtland commission, GeNECA puts the needs and capabilities of people all over the world, now and in future into its focus.

On the basis of conceptual reflections, a set of indicators for sustainable human development (SHD) is to be proposed and tested within the project. The concept will further be used in case studies on various areas of governance to prove its usefulness in decision processes. A feedback mechanism will be installed to amend the conception to the demands of applicability.

Work Packages

The project proceeds in three steps. The first is conceptual, the second applies the concept quantitatively, and the third applies it in case studies. The conceptual part consists of two work packages (WPs): WP1 focuses on the question how to conceive justice going beyond geographical and temporal limits. Does the CA provide the right measure of evaluation? What about future generations who have “no identity” (Parfit) for us? WP 2 aims at integrating issues of sustainability into the CA. In which ways does the CA go beyond the Brundtland-conception? How do ecosystem services affect people’s capabilities?



The second part converts the conception into a model apt for quantitative measurement in two WPs: WP 3 first reviews existing indicators for sustainability, capabilities and justice and then proposes indicators suitable for the GeNECA conception. WP 4 tests the informative value of the new SHD indicators and conducts partial analyses of the concept on the basis of the German socio-economic panel and other data sets.

The third step of applying the concept to actual political decision problems builds WP 5. In at least two case studies the concept will be used to explore the explanatory power of the concept.

WP 6 constitutes the feedback mechanism. Enriched by the experience of applying the concept quantitatively and qualitatively it will be adjusted and areas of future research identified.

The project is co-ordinated throughout the whole duration in WP 7.

Work Package	Lead by	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	
1 Justice in time and space	Rechenauer																			
2 CA and sustainability	Leßmann																			
3 SHD-indicators	NN																			
4 Quantitative Study	Krause																			
5 Governance case studies	Rauschmayer																			
6 Adaptation of concept	Leßmann/ Rauschmayer																			
7 Co-ordination	Rauschmayer																			
Workshops		w	w		w				w				w						w	

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