



Policy (in)coherence in Germany's *Energiewende*: synergies, trade-offs  
and political drivers

19 June 2023, 13:00 – 18:00

## Background

Despite less than 10 years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, no country is on track to meet all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts - through SDG 13 “Climate action” and in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement - remains the single biggest challenge to pursuing sustainable development. Equally important is to address the distributional impacts and inequality outcomes of climate action efforts. The ClimEQ project, funded by the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (FORMAS), seeks to analyse conditions for policy coherence between climate change, reducing inequality and other SDGs when implemented nationally in six studied countries: Germany, Kenya, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Sweden. To that end, it additionally aims to provide tools to identify synergies and to make trade-offs transparent between the two agendas. The focus is primarily on investigating how the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are being implemented locally, drawing on the comparative politics literature, and in particular on the role of institutions, ideas, interests, and political inequality, in influencing the politics of policy coherence.

Key to meeting both agendas in Germany is the energy transition – dubbed the *Energiewende* - for which several policy plans and packages have been envisioned, proposed and passed into law. One of the most controversial has been the Coal Exit Law, which, enacted in May 2020, set 2038 as the deadline by which Germany had to phase out coal. At the same time, the so-called ‘Easter Package’, passed in May 2022, commits Germany to ambitious renewable energy targets to uphold its ambitious climate aims and become independent from gas from Russia, in light of the latter’s invasion of Ukraine. At the same time, the war is testing Germany’s energy security and resilience and the coherence of the *Energiewende* process at-large. For example, it is unclear how the expansion of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals, and a revival (albeit supposedly temporary) of coal-fired power plants will enable Germany to forge ahead with the *Energiewende*.

## The study

Between June 2022 and March 2023, two parallel studies in Germany were conducted by IDOS. First, key interactions between 20 relevant climate, energy and land use policies were analysed, focusing on the federal level, and regionally, in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Here, 380 interactions between policies seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy availability and affordability, reduce social inequalities and protect biodiversity were examined through a matrix approach. Half of these interactions are centered around new policies that are part of the ‘Easter Package’. Second, twenty-seven semi-structured interviews with policy-makers, civil society, NGOs and activists were conducted to: 1) explore the politics behind policy (in)coherence of Germany’s *Energiewende* process at the federal level and, regionally,

in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia: 2) study whether political inequality – as manifested by inequality of voice, treatment, representation and influence - matters for this policy (in)coherence; and 3) to understand whether this (in)coherence is leading to or deepening social inequalities.

## Aims of the workshop and outputs

This workshop – hosted in-person and online - seeks to convene the study’s interviewees and other energy and climate experts to provide feedback on the results, foster deliberation and debate with the view of devising carefully drafted policy recommendations towards coherence in the *Energiewende*, and provide an opportunity for further networking and collaboration on these important issues. The workshop will be hosted at IDOS and online, and will follow strict Chatham House rules. A draft policy brief and further insights will be shared with all participants beforehand. Expected outputs include an IDOS policy brief and two journal articles in leading environmental governance and/or energy journals.

## Programme

Time	Item
12:15	Arrival - Tea, coffee and light lunch offered
13:00	Welcome - Welcome to IDOS and purpose of the workshop (5 mins) <i>Dr. Ines Dombrowsky (IDOS)</i>  - Chatham House rules (5 mins) <i>Dr. Ines Dombrowsky</i>  - Round of introductions (15 mins) <i>Each participant is invited to explain who they are and their role in Energiewende policy and/or research.</i>
13:50	Health break
14:00	Feedback plenary on the policy matrix - Items: o First observations ( <i>based on presentation and draft document</i> ); o Discussion of main synergies and trade-offs; o Usefulness to inform <i>Energiewende</i> policy / participants’ work

*Moderated by Dr. Ines Dombrowsky*

15:00	Coffee break
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation on the political drivers of policy (in)coherence in the <i>Energiewende</i> and consequences (10 mins) <i>Alexia Faus Onbargi</i></li></ul>
	Feedback on the political drivers of (in)coherence in the <i>Energiewende</i> and consequences
15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Items:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o First observations (<i>based on presentation and draft policy brief</i>);</li><li>o Participants are invited to provide their own input on the political drivers of (in)coherence, based on their work / research;</li><li>o Discussion on how (in)coherence might be deepening inequalities</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>Moderated by Alexia Faus Onbargi</i></p>
16:40	Health break
	Feedback on policy recommendations to ensure coherence in the <i>Energiewende</i>
16:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Participants are sorted into break out groups for the following items (20 mins):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o First observations (<i>based on draft policy brief</i>);</li><li>o How can civil society work with government to ensure coherence?;</li><li>o Other recommendations not covered</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>Groups moderated by one member of the research team</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Each group presents its feedback and main recommendations (40 mins): <i>Moderated by Dr. Ines Dombrowsky</i></li></ul>
17:50	Closing the session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Thank you and follow-up outputs <i>Dr. Ines Dombrowsky, Alexia Faus Onbargi and Dr. Adis Dzebo</i></li></ul>
18:00	Drinks and light snacks offered

## Contact

Please note that this workshop is by invitation only. If you would like to attend, please e-mail the organizer, Alexia Faus Onbargi, at [alexia.faus-onbargi@idos-research.de](mailto:alexia.faus-onbargi@idos-research.de) to inquire about possible attendance **by Thursday 15 June 2023 at the latest.**

## Organiser



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### Contact:

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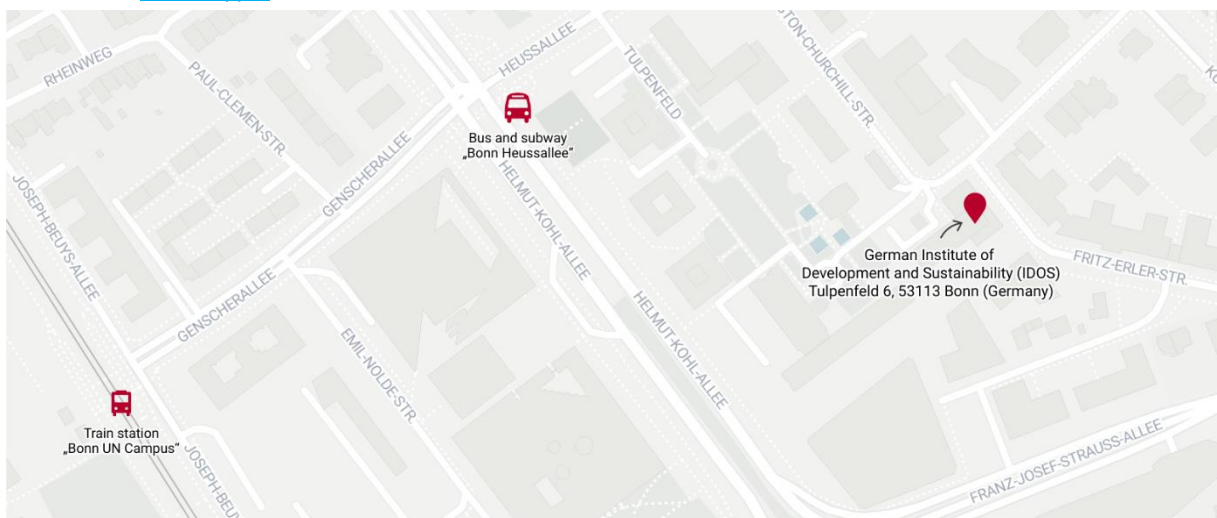
## Directions

Link to Datawrapper: <https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/dGwYF/1/>

### From Bonn Central Station (Hauptbahnhof):

Take the U-Bahn (Subway) U 16 / U 63 or U 66 towards “Bad Honnef / Bad Godesberg” and get off at the station “Heussallee / Museumsmeile”. You may buy your ticket at vending machines either at the Station or on board (choose ticket type 1b; 2.50 Euro, coins only). At Heussallee Station, follow the signs towards the Heussallee exit. After coming up the escalator, walk straight ahead for about 50 m and turn right onto the footpath towards the “Tulpenfeld” office complex. Follow the signs across Tulpenfeld to the building of the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), at Tulpenfeld 6.

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