



# Understanding Sustainability Evaluation and its Contribution to Policy-making

## Keynote speech

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*Centrum für Evaluation*



*Center for Evaluation*



Characteristics of the modern society

Program-level sustainability-dimensions

Sustainability profiles

Advantages of the multidimensional sustainability concept

Vision of sustainable modernity

Triple functions of sustainability evaluation

Sustainability Evaluation on Micro-/Macrolevel

Tension between policy and evaluation

Challenges

1. Macro- and micro-approach of sustainability
2. Three functions of sustainability evaluation for the political process
3. Tensions between policy-making and sustainability evaluation

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Challenges

- ✓ growing, self supporting economy
- ✓ democratic participation in politics
- ✓ culture-orientated towards secular, rational norms
- ✓ competitive society equipped with personal freedoms (Daniel Lerner, 1968)

Additional aspect: SUSTAINABILITY



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Dimension	Type	Characteristics
I	Project-/program-oriented	The target group and/or executing agency continues the innovations to serve their own interests and for their own benefit.
II	Output-oriented	Other groups/organisations have adopted the innovations long-term to serve their own interests and for their own benefit.
III	System-oriented	The innovations lead, via processes of diffusion, to an increase in the performance of the system as a whole (e.g. the health or education system).
IV	Innovation-oriented	The target group/executing agency has a potential for innovation that enables it to react flexibly and appropriately to changed environmental conditions.



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a)

Dim. I	Dim. II	Dim. III	Dim. IV
+	-	-	+

b)

Dim. I	Dim. II	Dim. III	Dim. IV
+	+	+	-



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1. No normative sustainability limit necessary.
2. Clear criteria that can be operationalised and empirically measured.
3. Evaluation results can be represented completely and clearly by using sustainability profiles.
4. Comparisons over time and between programs are easily possible.
5. Creation of an additive sustainability index is possible.



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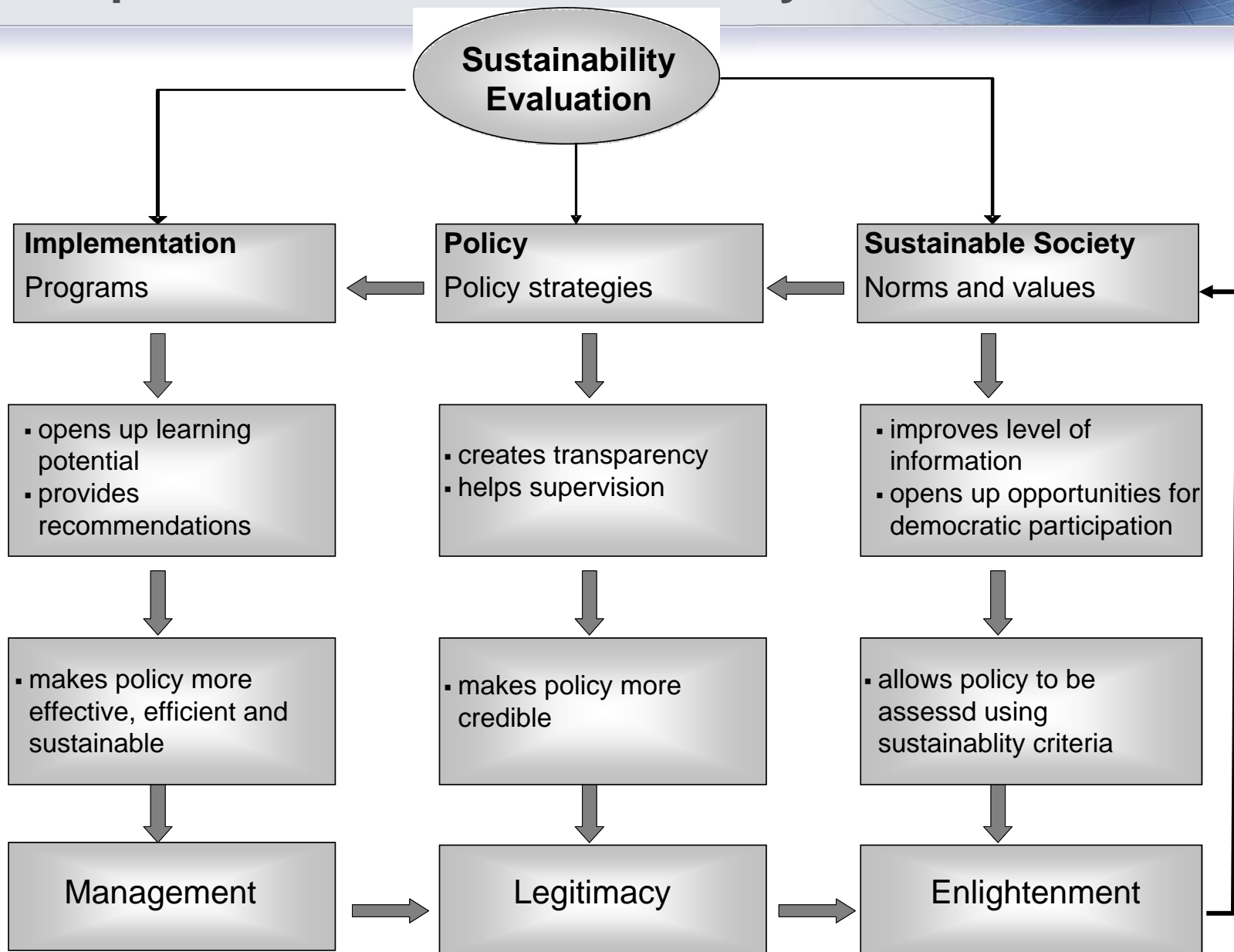
Vision of sustainable development as balanced economic, social and ecological progress

**Evaluation**

Belief in the possibility of shaping and controlling sustainable development

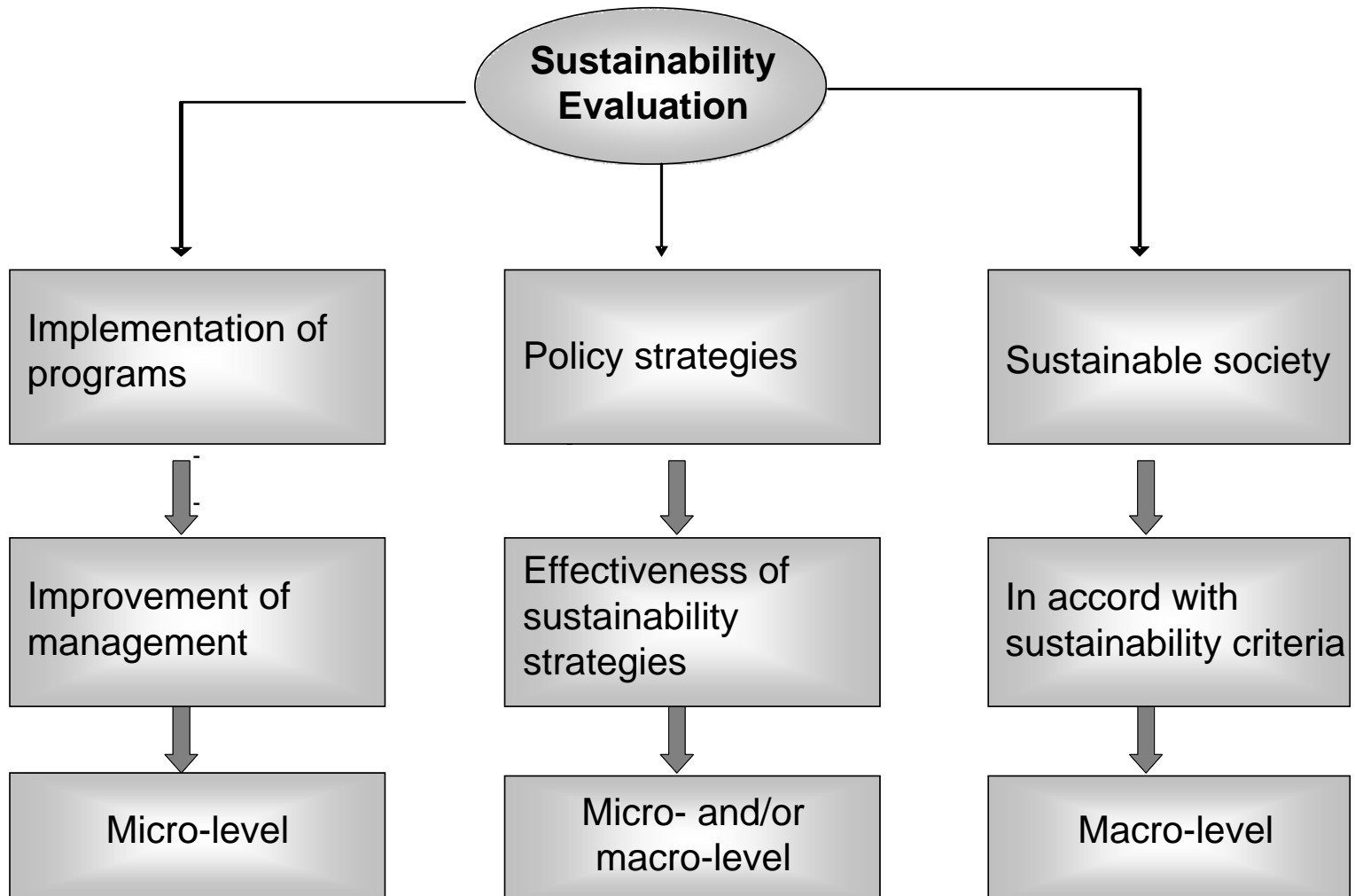
# Triple functions of sustainability evaluation

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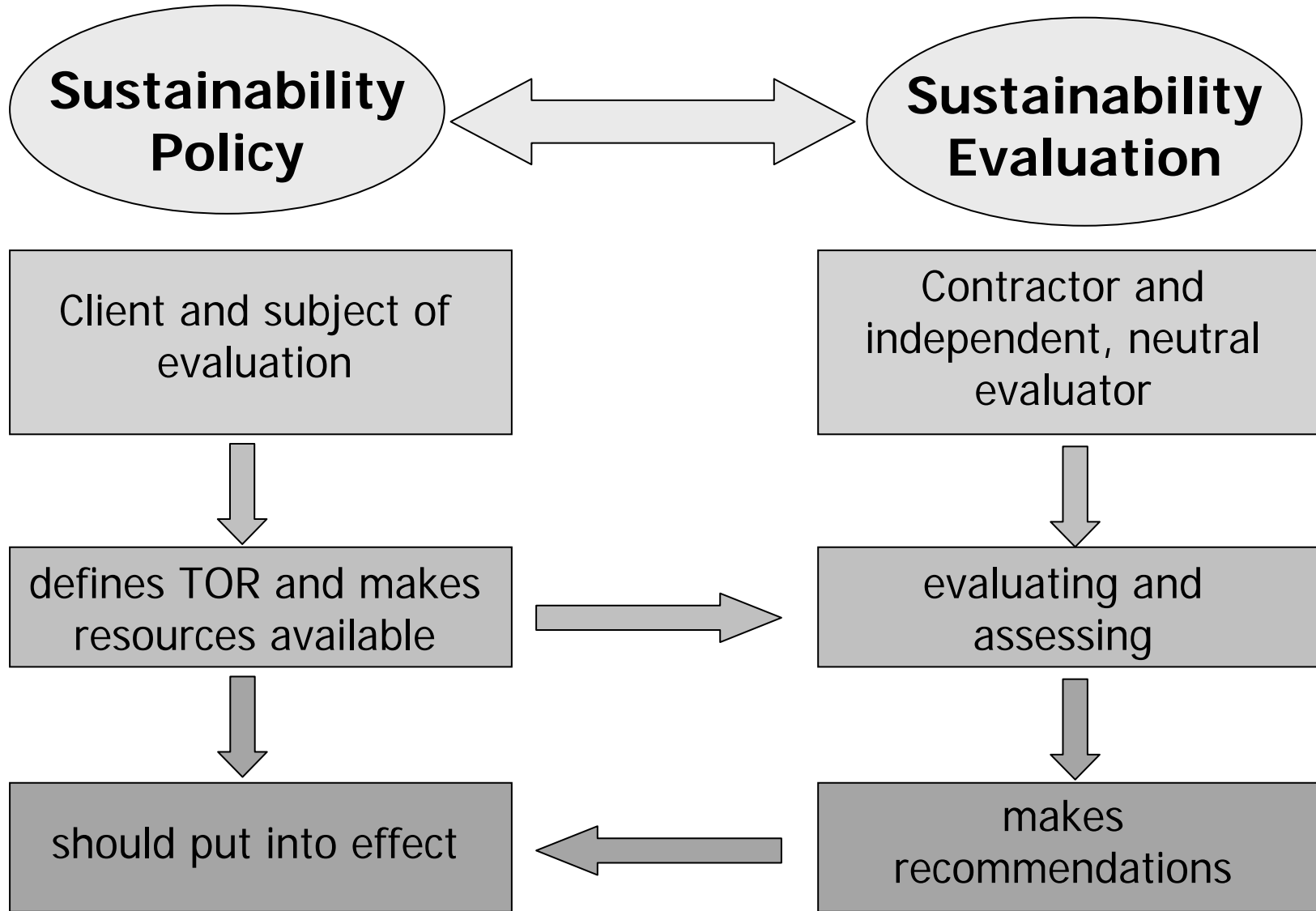




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1. Definition of the evaluandum “sustainability”
2. Micro-macro-problems of sustainability
3. Usefulness of sustainability evaluation for policy making with regard to the micro-/macro-level
4. Approaches and methods for evaluation of sustainability
5. Relationship between policy making and sustainability evaluation
6. Institutionalization of sustainability evaluation in the policy cycle.



Thank you for your attention!

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