Managing Transitions

János ZLINSZKY
Director, Sustainable Development Academy
Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
Sustainability and Green economy

Source: EEA
Transition experience for planning

Economic transitions in the CEE countries

- The key is the social environment in which the new institutions must take root
- Strong expectations of improvement at the personal level release handbrakes
- Key issues with transition:
  - Speed of transition (‘shock therapy’ or slow and evolutionary change)
  - Sequencing of specific reforms (where to begin, complementarities)
  - Development of institutions and policies, (”guardrails”, guarantees)
  - Agreeing upon international policies
  - CAPACITY BUILDING!

The Economist (March 24-30, 1990: 22) “Hundreds of books have been written on the transition from capitalism to communism but not the other way. There is no known recipe for unmaking an omelet.”

- Changing the economic paradigm
- Exploring win-win opportunities
- Increasing resource efficiency and productivity, improving quality
- Upgrading technology
- Releasing entrepreneurial and innovation potentials
- Enhancing jobs creation for the new economy

Transition to a Green Economy
Transforming Human Capabilities for the 21st Century

- Non-linear societal changes, tipping points
- The transformation of societal norms and standards of behaviour: a learning process: Unlearning and acquiring new capabilities
- Adapting to a systemic change and managing a paradigm shift requires a variety of new capabilities
- Closing the skill gaps to build a green economy

(UNEP Foresight Process, 2012)
SDGs and the Governance Challenge: Reconnecting Science and Policy

- Rebuilding the "broken bridge" between the policy and science communities
- Systems thinking: policy-relevant environmental scenario analysis for decision-makers
- ‘Measure what we value’ instead of ‘valuing what we measure’
- Global intergovernmental process for data collection, regular monitoring, reviewing and assessment of the implementation of the goals
Thank you for your attention!