



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE
Sustainable Development Section

Sustainable Development of Cantons and Cities in Comparison: «Cercle Indicateurs»

Daniel Wachter

Head Sustainable Development Section

Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE

Forum of Federations, London, 22 – 23 February 2012



Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation

Art. 3 Cantons

The Cantons are sovereign except to the extent that their sovereignty is limited by the Federal Constitution. They shall exercise all rights that are not vested in the Confederation.



Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation

Art. 2 Aims [of the Swiss Confederation]

² It shall promote the common welfare, **sustainable development**, internal cohesion and cultural diversity of the country.

Art. 73 Sustainable Development

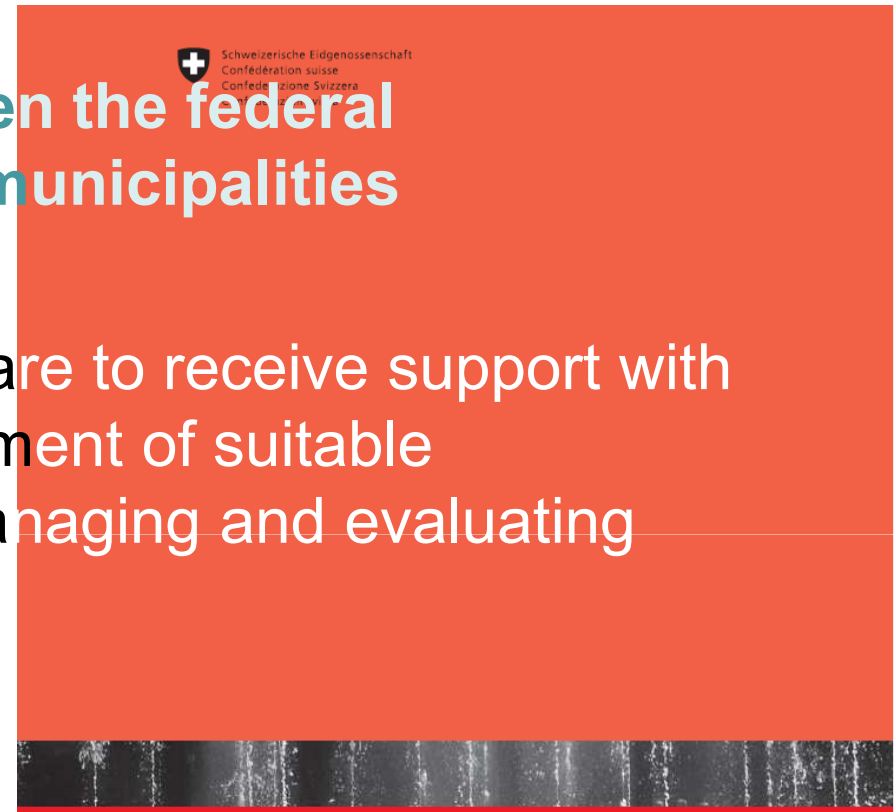
The **Confederation** and the **Cantons** shall endeavour to achieve a balanced and sustainable relationship between nature and its capacity to renew itself and the demands placed on it by the population



Federal Council's SD Strategy

Ch. 4.4 Cooperation between the federal government, cantons and municipalities

„Cantons and municipalities are to receive support with the development and deployment of suitable instrument for monitoring, managing and evaluating sustainable development.“



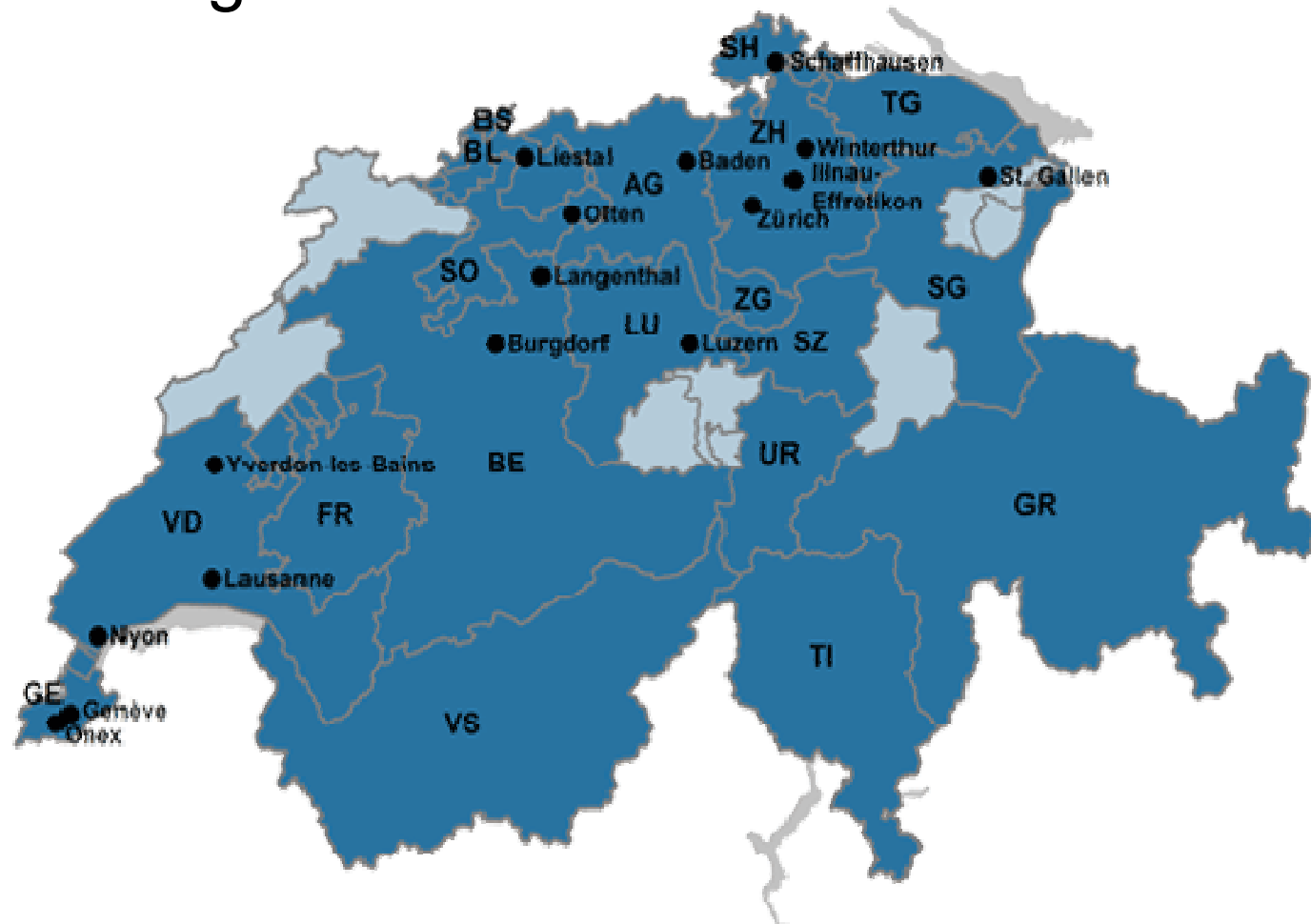
Swiss Federal Council

Sustainable Development Strategy:
Guidelines and Action Plan 2008–2011



Cercle Indicateurs: Overview (I)

- **Participants** 2011: 19 cantons + 16 cities + federal government



Cercle Indicateurs: Overview (II)

- **Origin:** several **bottom-up initiatives** of cantons and cities
- **Coordination by federal government**
 - ARE: political coordinator
 - Federal Statistics Office FSO: technical support
- **Periodicity:** every 2 (cantons) / 4 years (cities)
- **No legal obligation**
- Voluntary participation, but **adhesion for 4 year planning periods**
- **No immediate political consequences**, not part of a particular sectoral policy



Types of Monitoring and Benchmarking

(→ Fenna 2010)

Cercle Indicateurs

- Internal vs. **external**
- Independent vs. coercive vs. **collegial**



Cercle Indicateurs: Objectives

- **Monitoring** and **benchmarking** of SD on a strategic level
- **Definition** and **periodic calculation** of a common indicator system for both cantons and cities
- **Exchange platform** for SD indicators and their use by public entities, including SD reporting



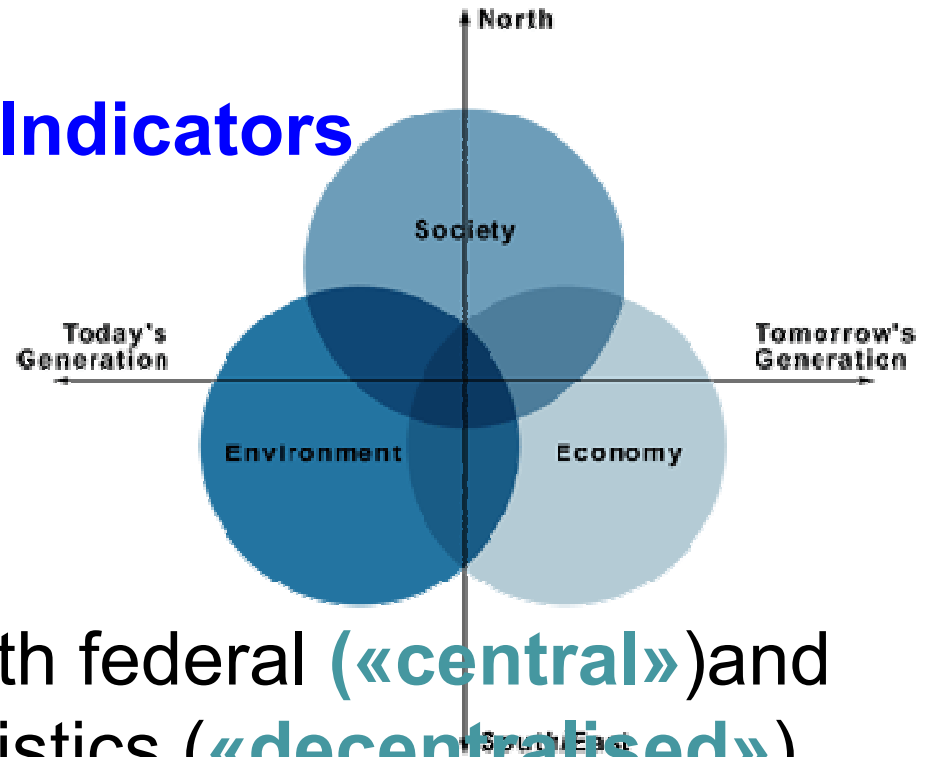
Cercle Indicateurs: Rules of Cooperation

- **Statute** setting rules and obligations for all participants
- **Decisions** taken **by majority** of votes
- **One vote per canton / city / federal office**
- **European Statistics Code of Practice** part of statute (limits to political influence)



Cercle Indicateurs: Indicators

- **3-dimensional SD model** with 35 target areas
- **37 indicators**
- Indicators from both federal («**central**») and cantonal / city statistics («**decentralised**»)
- **Outcome indicators** of cantonal / city policies, if possible





Cercle Indicateurs: Procedure

- **Cantons and cities provide data** for the «decentralised» indicators
- **FSO calculates** «central» indicators and collects «decentralised» data
- **Publication on FSO's website**
- **Participants provide commentary** to their own results
- Publication of **aggregated benchmarking on ARE's website**
- **No sanctions or incentives**

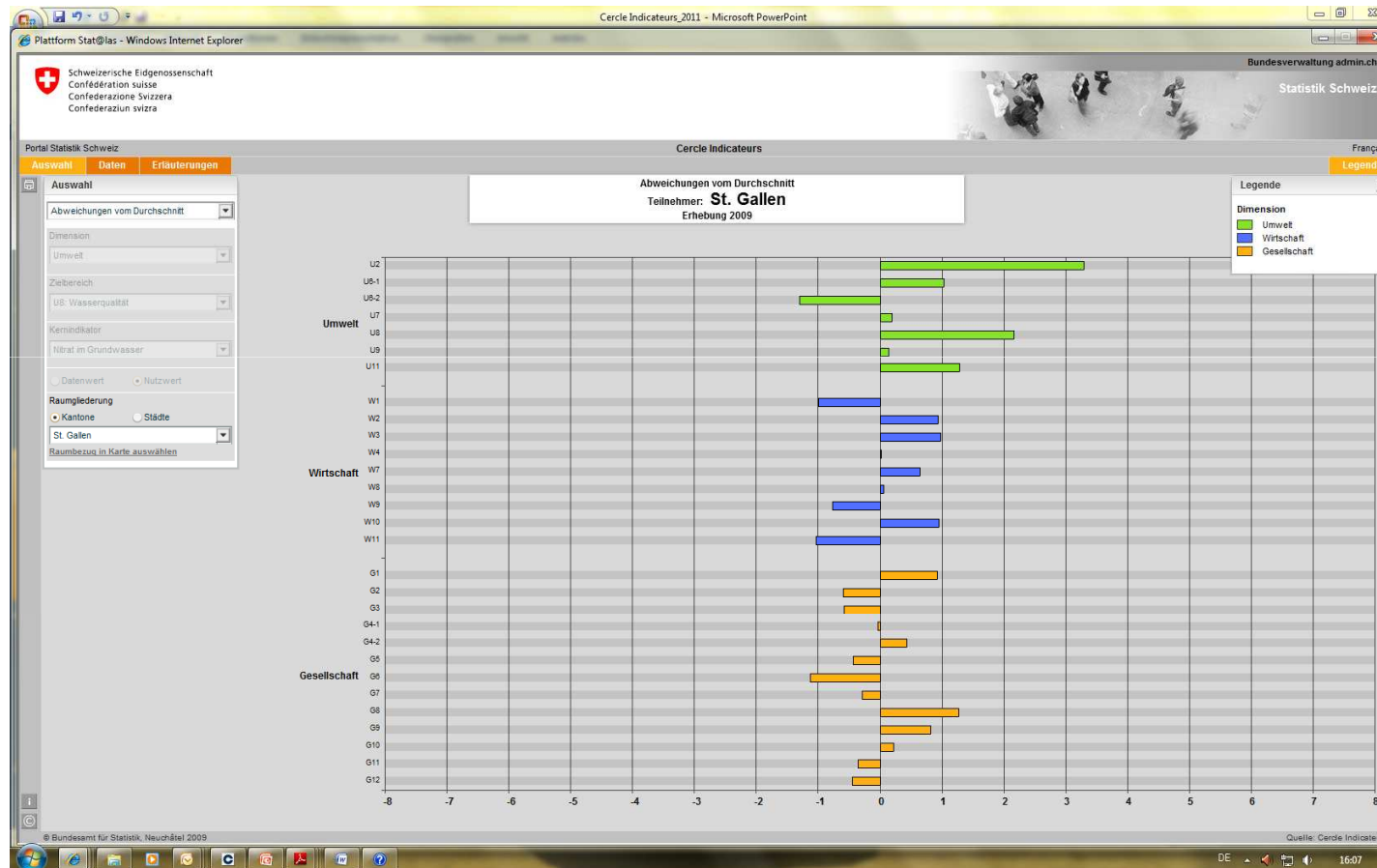


Strengths / Weaknesses Profile



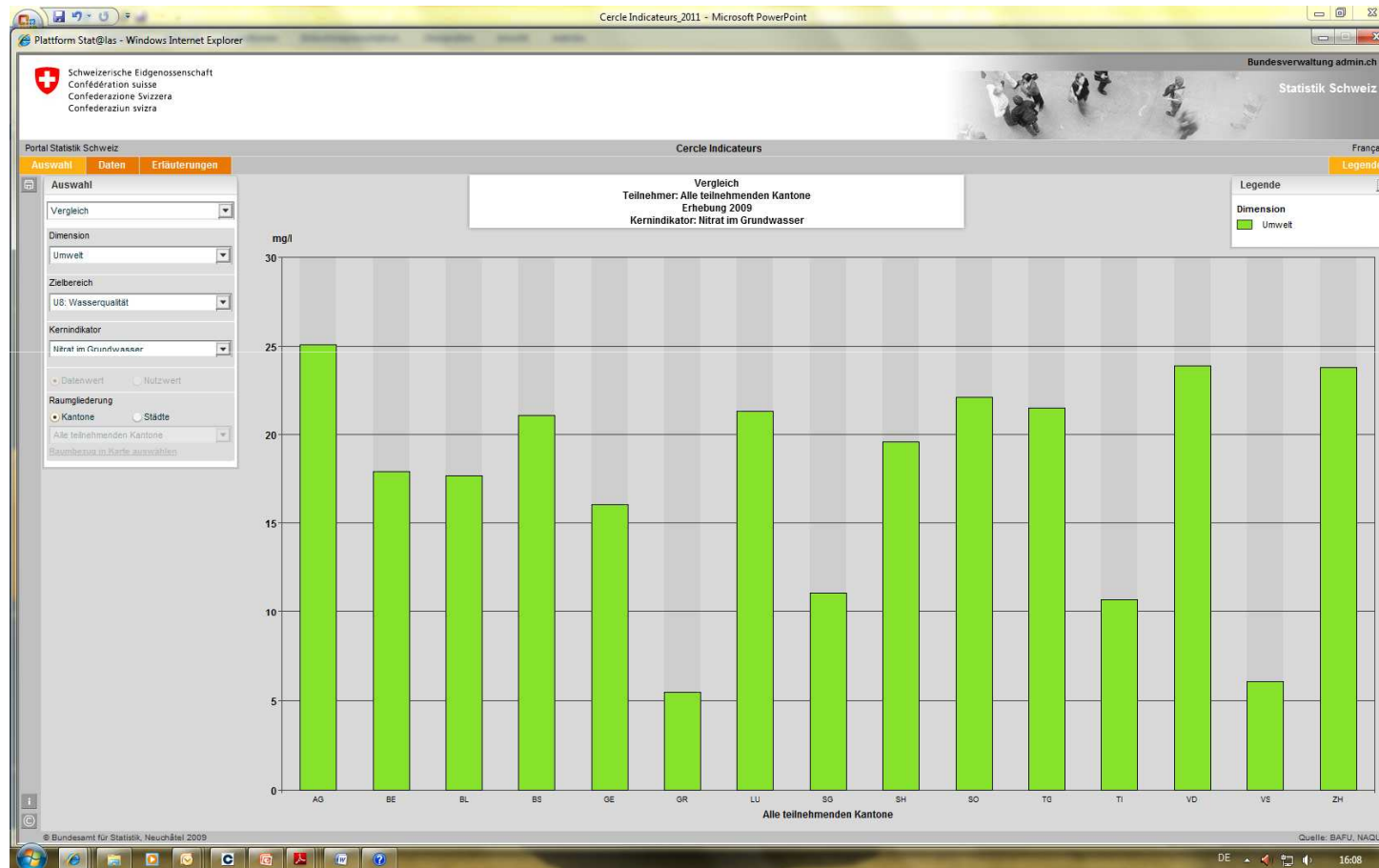


Deviation from Mean Value





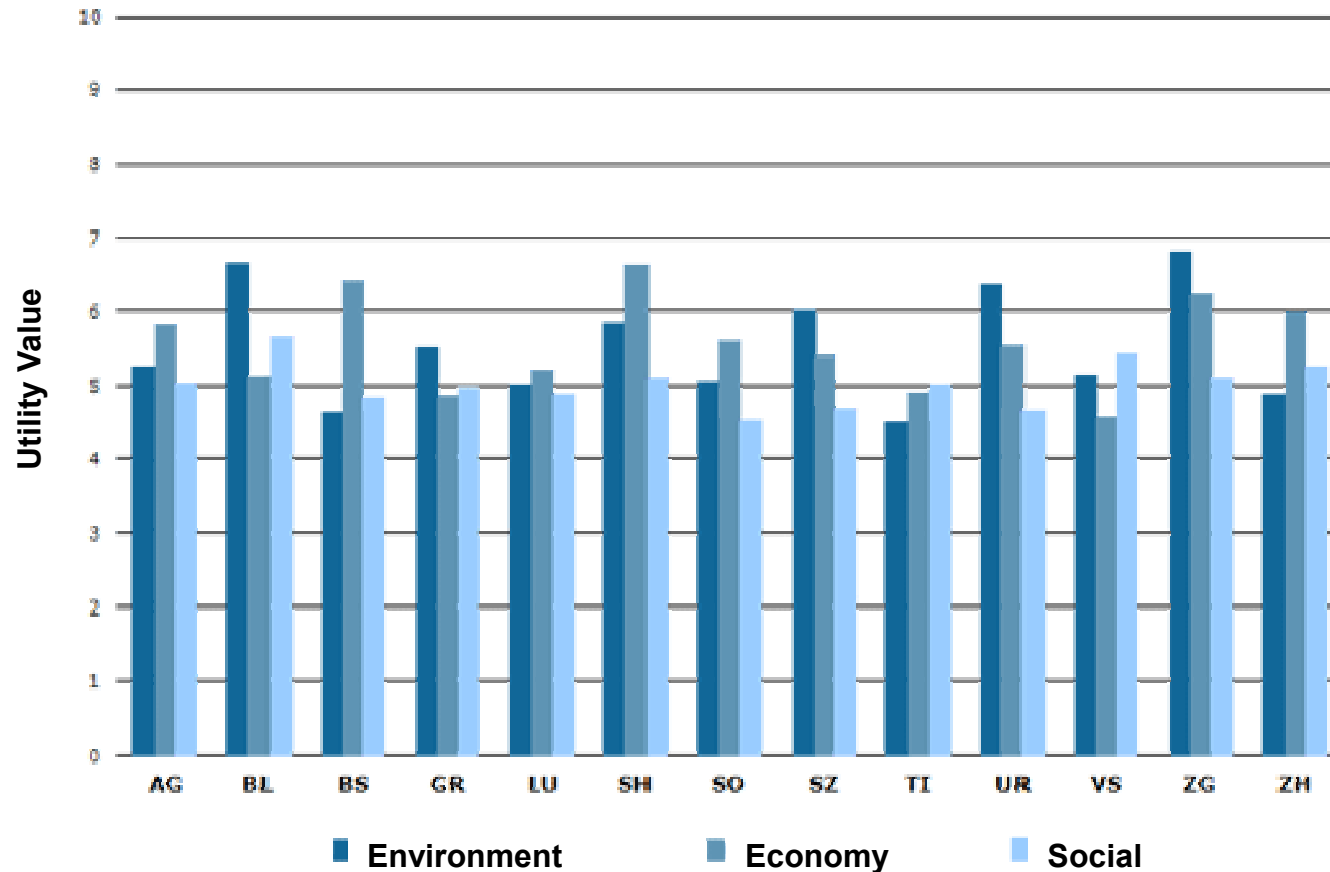
Comparison per Indicator





Aggregated Benchmarking

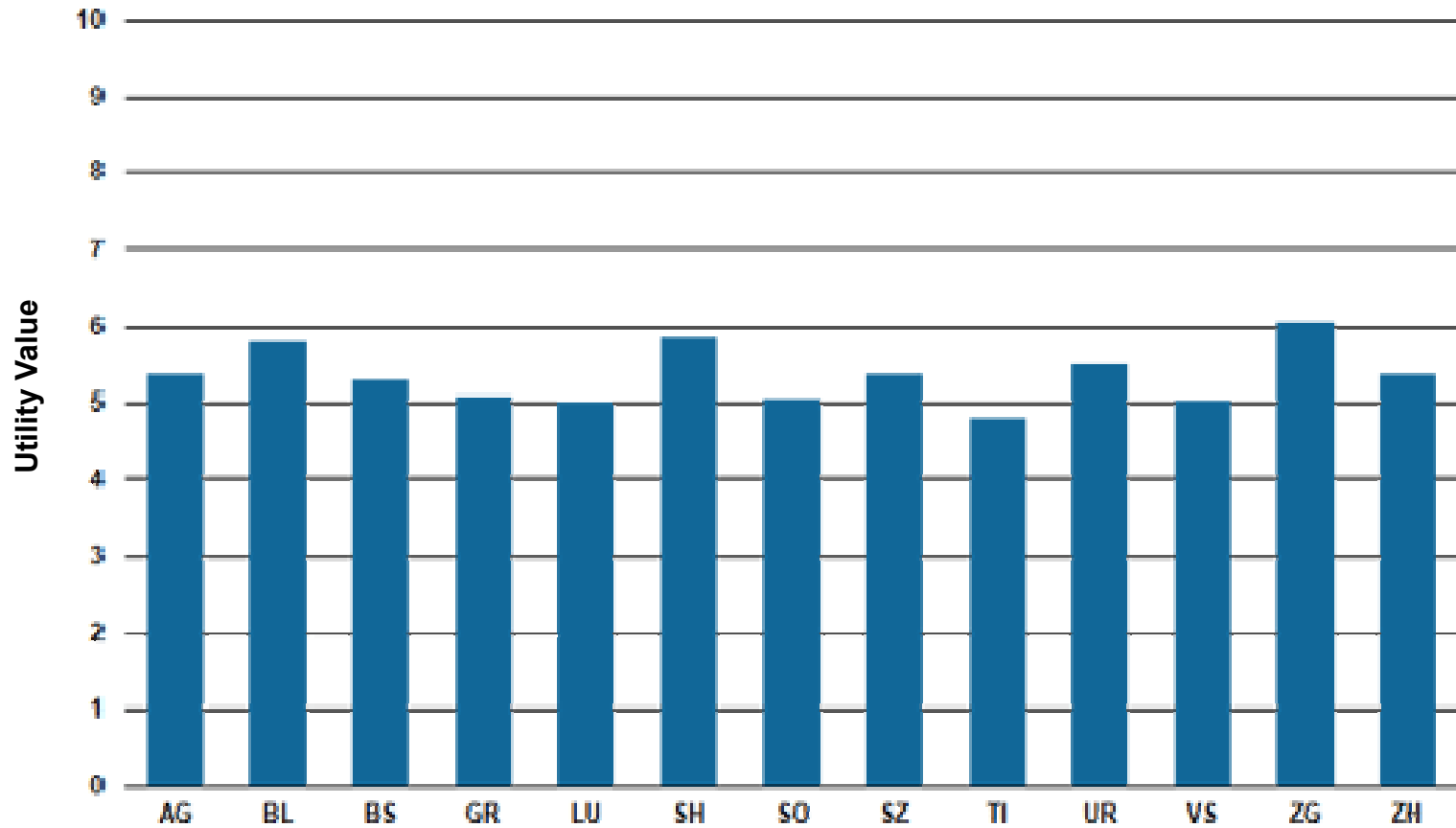
a) per SD dimension





Aggregated Benchmarking

b) full aggregation





Utilisation of Data

- ARE / FSO provide indicator information
- Utilisation in participants' competence
- Indicators as a basis for
 - Analyses by cantons / cities
 - SD reports
 - Cantonal / city government programs or strategies
 - Communication to wider audience

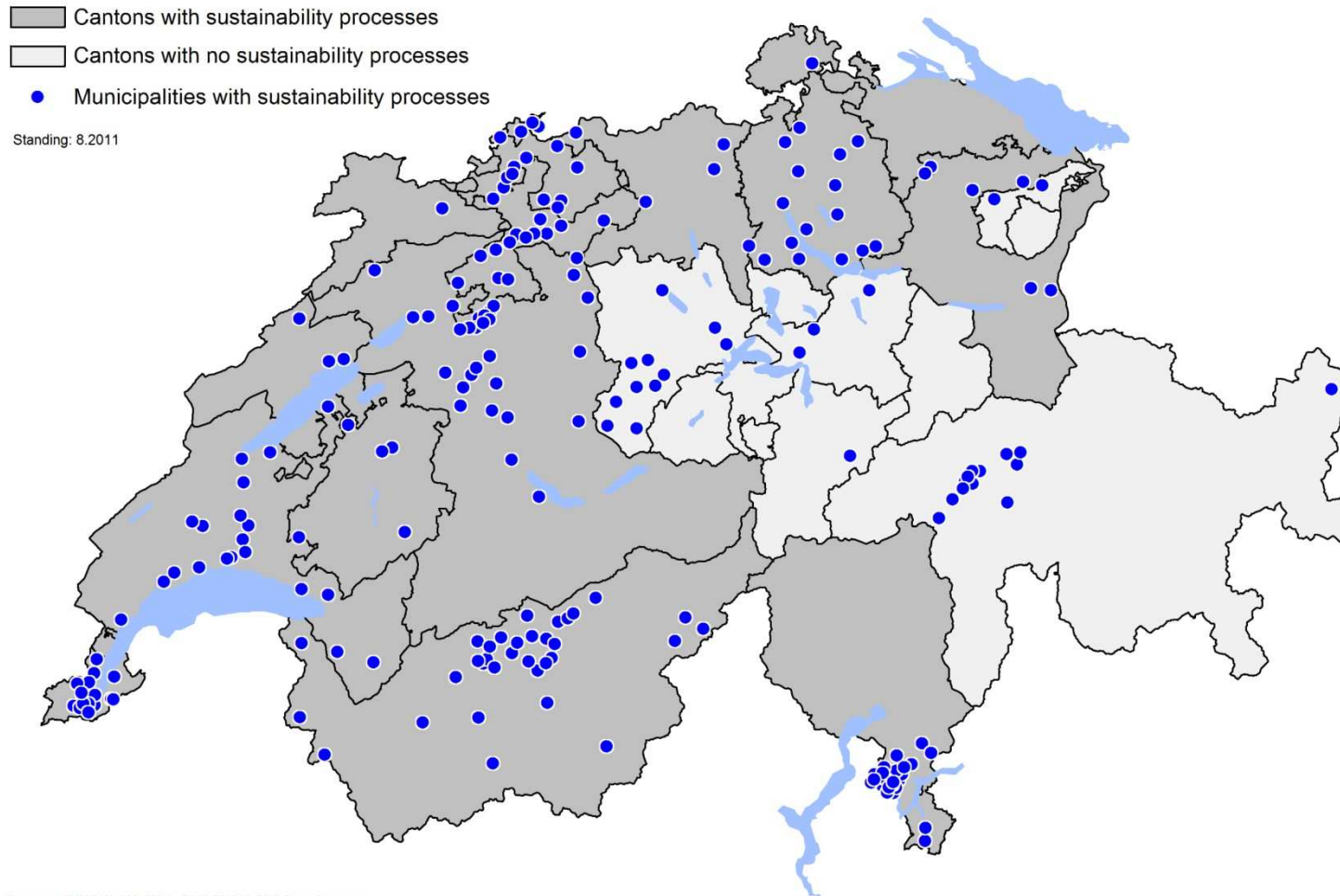


Results / Impacts

- Increasing number of participants (from 8 cantons in 2005 to 19 of 26 in 2011)
- Increasing number of cantonal / cities SD reports
- Impacts on «new public management» policies of cantons / cities (target setting, reporting)
- «Cercle Indicateurs» as an entry point for broader SD programs by cantons / cities
- «Cercle Indicateurs» as a key element of cantonal / local SD governance



Local SD processes in Switzerland



Sources: INFOPLAN-ARE, GEOSTAT-SFSO, swisstopo

© ARE



Experiences and „Lessons Learned“ (I)

- Clearly defined objectives and rules are essential (collegial \neq cosy)
- Governance is essential for every benchmarking project
- Methodical and technical quality is crucial (cf. involvement of FSO)
- Indicators: «2nd, 3rd best» as a concession to the reality of data availability
- Participatory approach secures long-term support



Experiences and „Lessons Learned“ (II)

- Collegial approach appropriate, where central government does not need to or cannot exert control
- Collegial elements also to consider in stricter benchmarking projects (common definition of rules, e.g.)
- Exchange of experiences important to support learning effects



Thank you!

www.are.admin.ch/sustainabledevelopment

www.are.admin.ch/cercleindicateurs