

Prof. Dr. Louis Meuleman

Louis Meuleman is an academic and practitioner on sustainability governance and metagovernance, science-society-policy relations, and policy coherence and - integration. He is member and currently Vice Chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency (EEA), visiting professor public governance at KU Leuven University (Belgium), research associate at Wageningen University (Netherlands), and teaching sustainability (meta)governance at the Netherlands School for Public Administration and the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (Romania).



During the last 10 years of his 40 years' public administration experience at subnational, national, European and UN level, he was policy coordinator at the European Commission (2011-2020). Earlier he was among others director of the Dutch science-policy advisory council RMNO. In 2010-11 he led the project 'Science for Sustainable Societal Transformations: Towards Effective Governance (TransGov)', the first research project of Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam, founded by former UNEP director Prof. Klaus Töpfer.

Louis is passionate about making science and policy work together to make sustainable development work, about better understanding long-term challenges, the drivers of change and linkages between them. He is also an experienced moderator and speaker on sustainability and environmental governance.

His first degree was an MSc in environmental biology, with extensive field work on the ecology of Irish peat bogs, on the vegetation of the Dutch dunes, and on eco-energetic analysis of farms. He has a PhD in public administration ([Public Management and the Metagovernance of Hierarchies, Networks and Markets](#) (Springer, 2008) His latest book is [Metagovernance for Sustainability](#) (Routledge, 2018). His conceptual work on governance of governance (metagovernance) is globally recognised, with his PhD book being cited over 630 times meanwhile.

As co-founder of the think tank Public Strategy for Sustainable Development (ps4sd), he advises among others national governments, the European Commission, UN bodies and the OECD on SDG implementation challenges (e.g., with UNITAR in Cyprus; SDG governance training in Romania), policy coherence for sustainable development (for UNEP, OECD and European Commission) science-policy relations, indicators, and sustainability assessment (JRC, EEA), mainstreaming SDGs in regulatory impact assessments (German BMU, with 20 EU countries, COM and OECD).

His experience in leading organisations includes having been elected in five consecutive years since 2018 as member of the Bureau of the high-level UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), which advises UN and member states on SDG implementation. For four years he was (and he currently is) Vice Chair and one year Rapporteur of the Committee. In addition, he has over 25 years' experience in leading roles in the Environment Ministry of the Netherlands and the European Commission, and as Chair of the Netherlands Association for Public Management (VOM).

Louis is a Dutch national and lives in Brussels, Belgium.

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