

STUDY

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Europe's approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: good practices and the way forward



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STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development offers a unique framework for transformative pathways towards sustainability worldwide. The 2030 Agenda also requires a paradigm shift in governance, - at and between all levels. This study examines the governance frameworks put in place for SDG implementation in all EU Member States, and the resulting country fiches constitute the first comprehensive comparative overview of these. The study also provides an overview of the developments at EU level and has a special focus on the role of parliaments in implementing Agenda 2030.

Our analysis shows that EU Member States are integrating SDGs into national strategies. While Member States have taken steps to enhance horizontal policy coordination, there is a continuing need for better mainstreaming sustainability. Member States innovate with SDG budgeting, science-policy interface, and stakeholder participation mechanisms for making these strategies more operational. Parliaments show increasing activity on the SDGs and the EP could benefit from enhanced collaboration. The EU could learn from and support these initiatives. Dynamising the multi-level governance bears a great potential for sustainable progress for all players and is a requisite to accelerate SDG implementation at all levels. By capturing the two-level character of SDG implementation at the EU and the Member State level, the study contributes to an overarching joint voluntary EU report at the HLPF 2019.

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Executive Summary

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a unique framework for transformative pathways towards sustainability worldwide. It is universal, to be implemented by all countries within their national context, and calling on all sectors, levels and actors in society to work coherently. The paradigm shift implied with Agenda 2030 requires changes in governance – at and between all levels from the local to the global.

This study examines specific governance frameworks put in place for the implementation of the SDGs in EU Member States and presents the results in 28 Country Fiches. This constitutes the first comprehensive comparative overview of SDG governance arrangements in the 28 EU Member States. The study also provides an overview of the activities and policy developments at EU level. A special focus has been put on the role of parliaments in implementing Agenda 2030, both at national and EU level.

SDGs at Member State level

Where Member States stand with institutional responses to SDG implementation can be summarised as follows:

- The majority of countries has or is about to update their National Development Plan or SD strategy with the SDGs. In around half of the countries these strategies are actually operational.
- Half of the countries have clear coordination mechanisms between ministries, often with Prime Minister leadership; the link between domestic and external dimension remains weak as does vertical coordination.
- Extensive efforts are made to improve stakeholder participation and SDG implementation in many countries and follows an inclusive approach. In a few countries, stakeholder participation remains absent.
- Most Member States have regular progress reports and indicators on the SDGs but there is room for improvement in the area of target setting and independent review.
- Sustainability impact assessments and budget checks are still rare, but many countries are planning to undertake efforts in this direction.
- In an increasing number of countries, parliaments have special committees or arrangements dealing with Agenda 2030.

SDGs at EU level

- The Commission has not developed an SDG implementation strategy in the more than three years that have passed since the adoption of the SDGs. Council and Parliament, as well as most other actors have criticised this but not vigorously. Many EU actors argue that monitoring and assessment of progress on the SDGs should be integrated into the European Semester. Monitoring by Eurostat on the SDGs at EU level does not tell where the EU stands and where to and how fast it would need to go in order to achieve the SDGs, which is inter alia due to the lack of targets in most areas.
- The Commission has so far not fulfilled its intention to mainstream the SDGs in all policies, in particular through the better regulation tools, and other instruments such as structural funds. There is scope to revise the Commission's impact assessment in the light of Agenda 2030, as the economic dimension currently dominates the environmental and social dimensions.

- The Commission's Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs has successfully produced a joint statement in its first year (2018), showing that an ambitious EU approach to sustainable development is supported across the various civil society, business and think tank groups.
- For the important horizontal coordination, the Commission has a good basis in regular practice, but there is room for improvement and dynamisation. The Council has taken an extra step with its new Working Party for Agenda 2030, explicitly aiming at better linking the internal and external dimension. It has gotten in full swing with regular meetings in 2018, is planned to continue, and will prepare council conclusions on the EU's SDG activities early 2019.
- The SDGs imply the need for supplementing the traditional coordination between different levels of administration with collaborative mechanisms in an improved multi-level governance.

SDGs in Parliaments

- There have been activities around Agenda 2030 in 22 national parliaments. In three countries there are planned activities, and only three have no recognisable activities or plans. Overall it can be said that the activities of parliaments have clearly increased since the adoption of the SDGs, hence indicating an increased awareness to sustainable development.
- In nine national parliaments, and planned in one other, there are specific institutional arrangements for SD in general or Agenda 2030 in particular (partly existing, partly new, and partly mixed council-like bodies). They are all very interesting for further exchange, and in particular the new set-ups or mandates in the parliaments of Denmark, Finland and Germany, and other examples to watch, in particular Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Spain.
- The European Parliament was an early mover at the EU level regarding commitment to Agenda 2030. However, it has not yet succeeded to response to the reinvigorated challenges and opportunities of Agenda 2030 in a satisfactory way. Activities have remained in the DEVE realm for long, and taking somewhat vigorous institutional steps has not succeeded. Now there is at least a co-leadership of DEVE and ENVI approved, with a joint report and a HLPF delegation. Putting at least this on an annual basis by the outgoing Parliament, as proposed by the two committees, would be highly recommendable.
- The many already existing good practices in national parliaments and the efforts in the European Parliament point to the potential for enhancing the interparliamentary cooperation and with this the role of parliaments in the SDG implementation in their legislative function, budgetary power, and scrutiny and monitoring. There are interesting examples in each area, in different national parliaments.

Conclusions and recommendations

Create a winning two-level dynamic

Implementation of the SDGs at EU and at Member State level could reinforce each other under some conditions:

- Joint multilevel governance mechanisms are needed to address urgent problems faster and tackle complex issues with an open mind - beyond silos. There is no time to wait until innovations at the bottom come to the top (to get the right framing) and that top steering reaches the bottom. Bottom-up and top-down are both necessary approaches, but both are generally slow.
- It is time for a front-runner approach, from coalitions of the willing that turn into coalitions of the winning. Looking through a two-level lens as motor for mutual dynamisation instead of mutual standoff brings about new perspectives and ideas for more joint and mutually reinforcing work.

- The moment is now. It is important that a new two-level dynamic will come into effect soon when the priorities of the next Commission will be shaped. The campaigns for the European Parliament elections are a good moment in time for (bottom-up) discussions on how to get to a sustainable future of Europe, and how the SDGs can provide guidance and give a bearing. Complementary, Head of States will hopefully show leadership on sustainability at the Sibiu informal council in May.

Dynamise the multi-level governance in Europe for the SDGs

The report offers 7 recommendations about how to 'dynamise' the two- and multilevel governance for SDGs:

- Develop a comprehensive post-2020 SDG implementation strategy, as requested in 2018 by the European Council, and since 2016 by the Parliament, building on the Commission's reflection paper on the SDGs and on work in Member States.
- Integrate the SDGs in the EU's economic monitoring (European Semester) and budgeting processes, including in the investment priorities of the new Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF).
- Scale up the use of peer learning mechanisms at all levels of governance, taking the existing examples at EU level as inspiration for national peer-to-peer mechanisms for the Agenda 2030.
- Dynamise stakeholder engagement and full, collaborative multi-level governance which engages EU, national, regional and local authorities.
- Promote the use of the EU's Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) to reform policies and institutions to gear them towards implementing Agenda 2030.
- Promote interconnectedness, a core principle of the 2030 Agenda, between SDGs and between the external and internal dimension of SDG implementation, by making institutional silos 'dance' together, and by integrating the SDGs in the Better Regulation guidance.
- Join SDG implementation with the momentum for digitalisation (e.g. the EU's e-Government Action Plan), which offers an opportunity to improve coordination and integration of policies and policy learning between authorities and in interaction with stakeholders.

Key opportunities in 2019

2019 will be a crucial 'test' for sustainable development at the EU level and globally.

- The HLPF in July and the SDG Summit in September will be two good occasions to showcase progress on the 2030 Agenda and bring the EU to the fore as front runner.
- The momentum of the European elections and of the process of selecting a new Commission could inspire and fuel the debate on the Future of Europe and the May 2019 Sibiu Summit where the 2030 priorities for the EU and the new Commission will be set.
- When the new MEPs will be getting ready to take the helm, it is an opportunity not to be missed to inform about the SDGs and Agenda 2030.
- A political debate between the European Parliament and the new Commission around a new post-2020 strategy which is based on the Agenda 2030 could be organized in a timely manner and be followed by a 'joint sustainable development declaration' of the three institutions, which should consequently also be anchored in the Trio Presidency programmes.

How to get the European Parliament more ready

- All parliaments will need to 'teach their silos to dance': setting up internal working mechanisms to better tackle overarching issues, including Agenda 2030. At EU level, relations between the Council and Parliament would benefit if the Parliament established an interlocutor on the SDGs, such as the Working Party for Agenda 2030 in the Council.
- There is great potential to improve and use the interparliamentary dialogue and collaboration of the EP and national parliaments for cross-fertilisation to advance SDG implementation.

Outlook

This study provides a comprehensive overview and light assessment of the institutional response to the SDGs in the Member States, at EU level and in (EU and national) parliaments. It is desirable to further deepen this assessment and repeat it regularly, partnering with other actors. With its two-level character, covering SDG implementation at the EU and the Member State level, the study contributes to an overarching joint EU report to be prepared for and presented at the HLPF 2019, complementing the 'Joint Synthesis Report' on development policy. The EU's overarching report needs to cover all external and domestic EU policy and the governance aspects, as well as an analysis of where the EU stands and how it will achieve the SDGs if current trends continue. These are key elements of the Future of Europe debate as well.

List of abbreviations

AFCO	Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament
AFET	Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament
AGRI	Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the EP
Cie	Committee
CoR	Committee of the Regions
Council WP 2030	Council Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
CULT	Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament
CWP	Commission Work Programme
DG	Directorate-general
DEVE	Committee on Development of the European Parliament
DROI	Committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament
EC	European Commission
ECON	Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
ENVI	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the EP
Envi (in tables)	Environment (in tables)
EP / Parliament	European Parliament
EPSC	European Political Strategy Centre
ESDN	European Sustainable Development Network
EUCO	European Council
FEMM	Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the EP
FNCS	Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development
GSDR	Global Sustainable Development Report
HLPF	High-level Political Forum
HoSG	Heads of State and Government
IA	Impact Assessment
ICM	Interparliamentary Committee Meetings
IPU	Interparliamentary Union
ISG	Interservice group
LIBE	Committee on Civil Liberties and Justice and Home Affairs of the EP
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MFF	Multi-Annual Financial Framework
MSP	Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OMC	Open method of coordination
PBNE	Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Sustainable Development
PCD	Policy coherence for development
PCSD	Policy coherence for sustainable development
PETI	Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament

REGI	Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament
RIA	Regulatory Impact Assessment
RNE	German Council for Sustainable Development
SD	Sustainable Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIA	Strategic Impact Assessments
TRAN	Committee on Transport and Tourism of the European Parliament
UKSSD	UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development
UN ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WP	Working Party

1 Introduction

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs connect the big problems of our times and offer a framework for the implementation of sustainable development worldwide. The SDGs are intended to be universal, while at the same time allowing each country to develop its own approach to implementation.

The adoption of the SDGs represents a paradigm shift in how development is considered in every aspect of society. It represents a change in thinking about domestic and international development, about economics, environment, and society, and a transformation of those towards sustainability. With this shift in thinking must come a shift in how we govern societies and implement solutions to these global challenges.

Crucial for governance are the principles underpinning the SDGs. Some key principles are elements in the analytical framework and reflections in this study (as elaborated in chapter 2). These are

Interconnectedness and indivisibility – meaning that the 17 SDGs need to be considered in their entirety, and require a strong level of policy integration, coherence, and coordination.

Universality – stressing that the Agenda 2030 is applicable to all countries and thus require considerations of the interconnectedness of the internal and external policies implementing the SDGs.

Inclusiveness and Leave no one Behind – calls for the participation of all segments of society and ensuring that no segment of society, or even an individual, is left behind in the process, taking care of the most vulnerable in particular.

Partnerships – the Agenda 2030 calls for multi-stakeholder partnerships to be established, for mobilising and sharing knowledge, technology and other resources to support the achievement of the SDGs in all countries.

Now, three years since the adoption of the SDGs, and less than one year ahead of the 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) it is a good time to take stock of how the EU and EU Member States have responded to the challenges posed by the SDGs. It is also timely to contribute to the preparation of the 'review HLPF' 2019, - the format for an HLPF every four years at the level of Heads of States and Governments under the auspices of the UN General Assembly end of September (now also called 'SDG summit'), as different from the annual HLPF under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, usually happening in July.¹

This study analyses and compares the governance frameworks, institutions and mechanisms put in place in EU Member States and at the EU level to implement the SDGs. It in particular captures the roles and activities of national parliaments, and presents a policy-relevant assessment of the 'readiness' to achieve SDGs by 2030.

The core objectives of this study are:

- To present a detailed overview of how the EU and its Member States have integrated the 2030 Agenda into their institutional arrangements, and what role parliaments in Member States play in this regard;
- To identify governance approaches that support mainstreaming the SDGs in EU policy; and

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/summit2019>

- To indicate possible course of actions to the European Parliament to improve EU-wide implementation of the SDGs by the EU and member States', including how the European Parliament can improve cooperation with EU national parliaments on this matter.

In order to achieve these objectives, we analysed and compared policy frameworks (e.g. strategies and action plans) and the structures and coordination or steering mechanisms that have been put in place at EU level and within Member States to implement the SDGs.

This study provides the first comprehensive and current overview of the existing and planned (where applicable) governance frameworks in all the 28 EU Member States, presented in two-page country fiches (Annex 1). Based on a clear methodological approach (chapter 2), the report presents an in-depth overview of these governance frameworks through the lens of seven governance elements, highlights examples of good practices, and provides observations and reflections (chapter 3). For the EU level the study presents an overview of the steps taken by the EU institutions for Agenda 2030 implementation, and an overview on how the seven governance elements feature at EU level (chapter 4). The report also takes stock of the activities by national parliaments in EU Member States with respect to SDG implementation, including amended internal governance arrangements (chapter 5).

In conclusion, we suggest a possible course of actions for the EU Institutions and recommendations to the European Parliament to improve EU-wide implementation of the SDGs by the EU and its Member States (chapter 6).

Scope of the Research

This report provides an overview of the governance frameworks for achieving the SDGs in all EU Member States and the EU level, and identifies good practice in order to improve mutual learning. While it identifies some nuances and challenges, as well as exemplifies some good practice in Member States' national governance systems, it does not analyse the substantive decision-making or even specific policies. Rather, it focusses on the architecture of governance for implementing and integrating the SDGs into national governance and on analysing the degree of institutionalisation of the SDGs. We have maintained a consistent level of granularity throughout the research in the comparison of Member States, and included a specific focus on the parliaments. The framework detailed in Table 1 illustrates the basis of the level of detail and aspects of the governance system that has been researched. For the EU level, the same framework is used in the analysis of SDG governance efforts across the institutions.

The study performed desktop research on existing surveys and studies at the country level, and performed interviews at national and EU level (altogether around 45). It also builds on our existing intelligence gathered on SDG matters in all EU institutions since the adoption of the Agenda 2030, on previous studies on internal governance mechanisms in the European Parliament, on experience in the Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs of the European Commission, on a very good network of sustainable development (governance) experts and stakeholders in governments, civil society and academia, and on country level research and experience in sustainability governance by all team members, both in the domestic and external dimensions the SDGs.

2 Methodology

This study analysed the governance architecture in place in Member States and at the EU level to implement the SDGs. The core objectives of this study were: to present a detailed overview of how the EU and its Member States have integrated the 2030 Agenda into their policies and in the institutional arrangements, and what role parliaments in Member States play in this regard; to identify how the SDGs can be better integrated in EU policy; to indicate possible course of actions to the European Parliament to improve EU-wide implementation of the SDGs by the EU and member States', including how the European Parliament can improve cooperation with EU national parliaments on this matter. To do so we developed a unique analytical framework, collected data from a variety of sources, and assessed each Member State. These steps are explained in this chapter.

2.1 Approach

We conducted own empirical research with analysing original data, surveys and reports, on strategies, policy and governance for sustainable development. We enhanced this with the input of relevant experts and practitioners through interviews, also for verification. For this empirical research, we developed a unique analytical framework (Table 1) which integrates various perspectives on governance for sustainable development. We furthermore elaborated an assessment scheme for the governance elements (Table 2). These steps move beyond previous work on this topic as it offers both a comprehensive comparative overview of each Member State as well as an aggregated perspective and assessment of institutionalisation.

For the **national level**, a first round of desktop research on all 28 EU Member States took stock of the governance arrangements that have been put in place, both in terms of institutions as well as processes, largely based on three main sources of country-level surveys and reports of almost all EU 28. On the basis of existing strong networks and experience in Member States, the desk research process facilitated an overview of stakeholders to be discerned for each Member State which lead to interview selection. Desk research was complemented by at least one interview in all Member States, including e-mail exchange about the analysis in many cases. This resulted in country fiches for each Member State (see Annex 1) through which we mapped out governance mechanisms and procedures at national level.

The structure of the country fiches is based on the integration of conceptual foundations of governance for sustainable development in our analytical framework. Therefore, these country fiches present an overview of the governance mechanisms in each Member State contributing to the integration of Agenda 2030. These 28 overviews provided the basis for both individual analysis and assessment as well as an overarching understanding of the progress of the EU as a whole.

National parliaments were covered in additional desk research and in the interviews with Member States' representatives. Additional interviews were then conducted in parliaments that have specific arrangements for sustainable development in place. The study also made use of recent work and proposals under discussion for improved mechanisms in the European Parliament.

The study analysed how the SDGs can be used in the context of and strengthen the three core functions of parliaments (all including tool use):

- Policy-making in the parliament's role as co-legislator and agenda setter.
- Scrutiny and monitoring in the parliament's role to hold governments into account.
- Budgetary powers to provide for the allocation of resources linked to SDG implementation.

At the EU level, the study provides a chronological overview of the developments and actions since the adoption of the Agenda 2030 in 2015, what individual institutions have done and how (chapter 4.1).

With respect to governance mechanisms for mainstreaming the SDGs, the study captures and assesses the different measures taken by the EU institutions: the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the advisory bodies: the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee, and its Sustainable Development Observatory, SDO) and the Committee of the Regions (chapter 4.1).

Governance issues of the European Parliament are addressed together with the national parliaments (in a separate chapter 5). We also analysed the current arrangements for cooperation of the European Parliament with national parliaments and develop recommendations on how to use or adapt this 'interparliamentary cooperation' for Agenda 2030 implementation.

The portrayal is based on desktop research and interviews, and builds on information shared in the Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs, including direct exchange with the Secretariat-General of the European Commission that serves as secretariat, as well as with other involved Commission services (e.g. DG International Cooperation and Development (Devco), DG Environment, and Eurostat). Regarding the Council, it analysed the work of the new Working Party on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with respect to Member States participation and issues discussed.

This approach offers both an illustration of the country level governance for the SDGs of all EU 28 Member States, based on systematic data collection, aggregation, analysis and assessment, as well as an overarching perspective which is relevant for the EU, the European Parliament, and indeed for each Member State itself.

2.2 Analytical Framework

A unique analytical framework was developed for this study which integrates multiple perspectives on governance for sustainable development. The framework integrates five key governance elements and principles for sustainable development², corresponding Agenda 2030 principles³ and the OECD's building block for policy coherence⁴, hence offering a comprehensive approach to understanding governance for sustainable development.

Our analytical framework uses the seven key governance principles of commitment, horizontal and vertical coordination, participation, knowledge, monitoring and continuity and links them with Agenda 2030 principles as outlined in Chapter 1: universality, interconnectedness, leave no one behind, and partnerships.

The **principle of interconnectedness and indivisibility** of the SDGs emphasises an integrated approach. Sustainable development challenges are closely interlinked and require integrated solutions, including the social, economic and environmental dimensions as mutually dependent factors. This principle has strong connections to **integration** and **policy coherence**, as indivisibility leads to an integrated approach and requires policy coherence to achieve such principles.

The **principle of universality** not only means that Agenda 2030 is to be implemented by each country, but also that each country needs to consider its own actions in relation to others. 'With the 2030 Agenda, sustainable development and its integrated perspective become the mainstream approach to development, increasing the political salience of integrated approaches, including in developed countries due to the universality of the SDGs.⁵ Universality hence reinvigorates the need to pursue policies and policy coherence in the domestic and external dimensions, and address the links between

² Niestroy, 2014; ESDN guidelines, <https://www.sd-network.eu/?k=basics%20of%20SD%20strategies#guidelines>
³ https://www.unssc.org/sites/unssc.org/files/2030_agenda_for_sustainable_development_kcsd_primer_en.pdf

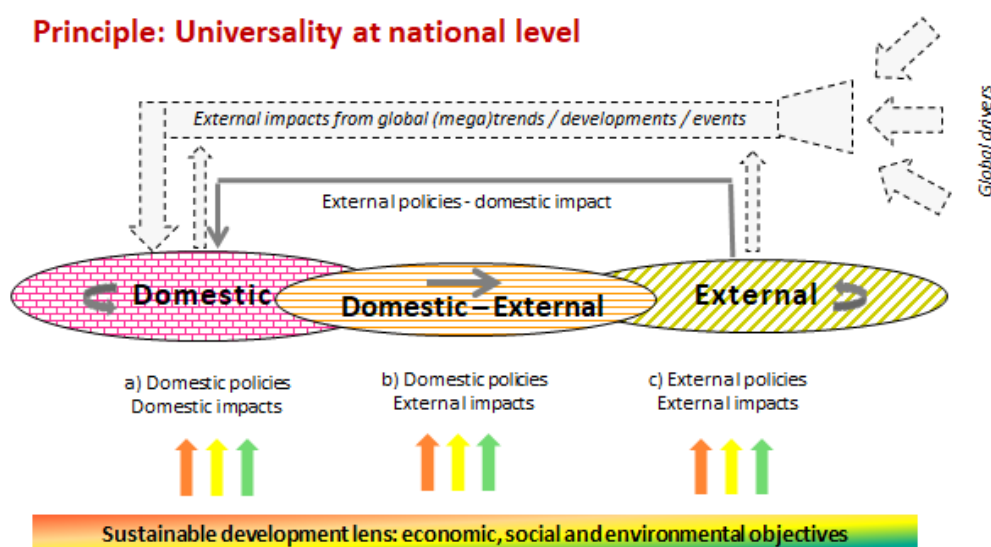
⁴ OECD, 2017.

⁵ <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN98144.pdf>

the two (e.g. spill over effects). This had been already conceptualised for one aspect with 'Policy Coherence for Development' (PCD, Art. 208 TFEU), and is now widened by the need to wear the three-dimensional lens on this 'domestic-external track'. Figure 1 illustrates the way that Agenda 2030 should be addressed by taking 'universality to the national level'.

Improving policy coherence for sustainable development ('PCSD', SDG target 17.14) across policy sectors, between internal (domestic) and external/international policies and law, as well as between levels of administration is essential to achieve the SDGs, as they are designed as being indivisible and universal was another focus and is thus integrated into our analytical framework.

Figure 1: The Agenda 2030 principle of universality in the perspective of implementation at national level



Source: Niestroy (2016): *How are we getting ready? DIE discussion paper.*

The **principle of leave no one behind** calls for the inclusion and participation of all aspects of society, but also of all countries across the world. Inclusion is a core principle not only in how the SDGs are implemented but also in how they are governed.

In order to include all aspects of society and all countries around the world, the **principle of partnerships** is also central to achieving the SDGs. Without partnerships between sectors, and across borders, interconnectedness, universality and participation cannot be achieved.

These principles and axes are examined in this study at both EU and national levels, and in differing levels of granularity: the higher granularity (i.e. less detail) for the EU and Member States level, and detailed focus into parliaments. The resulting analytical framework can be seen below, including how it connects to the data collected through our country fiches in the far-right column.

Table 1: Analytical Framework

Governance elements	Governance principles: what to achieve	What needs to be coordinated / integrated?	Related Agenda 2030 Core Principles	Related OECD Building blocks for PCSD	Typical approaches and tools	Corresponding Questions in Country Fiches
Leadership	Political commitment / will	Policy-making process		Political commitment (1)	Overarching strategies or action plan for SD(G)	Question 1 (&7.2)
Leadership	Policy continuity	Progress on political objectives	Accountability	Monitoring and reporting (8)	Review processes, monitoring & progress reports, strategy revisions	Question 5 (&7.2)
Sectors (Policy / admin. & other)	Horizontal coordination / integration / coherence	Multiple sectors: economic, social and environmental policies	Interconnectedness and Indivisibility, Integration for policy coherence across sectors ('breaking down the silos')	Policy coordination (5)	Coordination bodies (in government and other organisations)	Question 2 (& 7.2)
Levels (Policy / admin. & other)	Vertical coordination / integration / coherence	Multiple levels: local, subnational, national and supranational	Interconnectedness and Indivisibility, Integration for achieving policy coherence across governance levels	Subnational and local involvement (6)	Coordination bodies (in government and other organisations)	Question 3
Actors	Participation	Multiple actors: ...from politics, business and civil society	Inclusiveness, Leave no one behind, Multi-stakeholder Partnerships & Shared responsibility	Stakeholder engagement (7)	SD Councils or Commissions; Agenda 2030 Forum or Platform; dialogue formats	Question 4
Knowledge	Monitoring	Data and indicators	Accountability	Monitoring and reporting (8)	Indicators and targets which relate to strategic goals.	Question 5
	Reflexivity	Science-policy interface, Knowledge input from different sources ('transdisciplinarity')	Partnerships, Knowledge - mobilize and share knowledge and expertise; provide opportunities for peer learning	Policy integration (2)	Expert groups, councils etc. for science-policy interface Use of Sustainability Impact Assessment, Budget checks	Question 6 (& 7.2)
Time	Intergenerational justice	Long- and short-term perspective; Concern for Future Generations	Inclusiveness	Long term perspective (3)	Strategic frameworks, institutions like ombudsman	Question 7.1
Time	Policy continuity	Long- and short-term perspective	Accountability	Long term perspective (3)	An all-party group in the parliament	Question 7.2

Sources: Own composition, based on Jacob et al., 2013; Niestroy, 2014; OECD, 2017

2.3 Data Collection

Desktop research

We conducted desktop research focussed on three main data sources with broad coverage across all or many Member States about national level governance and implementation of the SDGs, as well as additional secondary data⁶. These main data sources are the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)⁷ of EU Member States, the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) Country Profiles and related reports⁸, and the OECD Country Profiles for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)⁹.

A note on the VNRs: By the end of the 2018 High Level Political Forum, most EU Member States had published a Voluntary National Review (VNR) during any of the HLPF sessions. These reports constitute important input for the study, but they should be seen in context: self-reporting usually does not highlight the weaknesses of national approaches hence needed to be complemented and corroborated with other sources. The United Nations publishes annual synthesis reports analysing the VNRs.¹⁰

In addition, comparative analyses that have already been conducted on the strengths and weaknesses in implementation of the SDGs and sustainable development strategies within the EU has been used as sources for this study.

Interviews

The desktop research has been accompanied by interviews with one or two individuals per Member State, who are experts on the process nationally and capable to have a balanced view. These semi-structured interviews were initially conducted with one government representative from each Member State. A second round of interviews was conducted in four of the national parliaments that have mechanisms in place for mainstreaming the SDGs, as well as in the European Parliament with respect to cooperation with national parliaments.

Finally, the country fiches were revised after the interviews with representatives from the government, or other country experts to ensure that they accurately reflect the current situation.

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Finally, the country fiches were revised after the interviews with representatives from the government, or other country experts to ensure that they accurately reflect the current situation.

Constraints

It is generally understood that there is no one-size fits all approach to implement the SDGs at national and subnational level, but there are lessons to be learnt between countries. While it is outside of the scope of this study to include detailed contextual considerations, the interview process and the background knowledge of the researchers allowed for some considerations of contextual information, such as how public administration and governance are organised, how parliaments, subnational

⁶ E.g. Bachus et al. (2018), see Annex 1 - Country Fiches.

⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

⁸ <https://www.sd-network.eu/?k=country%20profiles>; <https://www.sd-network.eu/?k=quarterly%20reports>

⁹ <http://www.oecd.org/development/pcd/pcsd-country-profiles.htm>

¹⁰ United Nations, 2016; 2017; 2018

¹¹ In several cases followed-up by e-mail exchange about the Country fiches.

governments and stakeholders are involved, how reforms are decided and implemented, and what might be typical strengths and pitfalls of SDG approaches chosen in each country.

It is also beyond the scope of this study to provide a comprehensive picture of the vertical coordination with sub-national government across all Member States in order to identify coordination mechanisms or tools for policy coherence. We discuss some aspects of the subnational level in chapter 3.4, but do not assess it as systematically as the other aspects included in this study.

2.4 Assessment Scheme

Following the data gathering at the country level, the findings of the country fiches are captured and summarised by theme and across all countries, i.e. for the **seven governance elements for sustainable development that structure this study**. The assessment scheme for this is based on the assumption that a higher degree of institutionalisation is positive for the implementation of the SDGs. This assumption is considered applicable for this assessment of the architecture of governance for SDGs.

This assessment scheme provides an indication only for where a country stands with respect to the governance elements analysed in this study. Each aspect of our assessment scheme in Table 2 below links directly with these governance elements, as well as to the corresponding questions in the country fiches (see right column in Table 1). All elements in the analytical framework link with one aspect of our assessment scheme, except activities of parliaments (Question 7.2). This is a recognition of the fact that activities of parliaments connect to several governance elements and principles.

While this results in a useful overview, it is obvious that some generalisation and simplification was needed. Where necessary, significant deviations are footnoted and explained. The assessment overview per country is depicted in a bar graph included in each Country Fiche in Annex 1.

The scheme assesses, at a high granularity, the design of the governance framework. It does neither assess the effectiveness (functioning and quality) of the governance framework, nor the impact. Some information about the functioning is captured where possible in the interviews, but for verification or illustration only.

Table 2: Assessment Scheme for the country level

	0	1	2	3	4
Q1. Commitment and strategy	No strategy	Some cross-sectoral long term strategy or some NSDS but with no recent update	Overarching strategy (or action plan) for sustainable development new or updated since SDGs (adopted or work in progress)	Overarching strategy or action plan with some visible operationalisation (measures, actions ...)	Strategy linked to national budget
Q2. Leadership & horizontal coordination	No ministerial lead or ownership	Leadership with 1 or 2 Ministries (external and/or domestic; often continued separation	Leadership at the centre of government (typically Prime Minister, or Deputy PM; or Finance Minister, if cross-cutting or central lead)	Visible coordination mechanism with clear engagement across all departments & ministries (often with leadership at the centre of government)	Improved coordination between external and internal implementation since SDGs, with all others aspects

		of the agenda)			
Q4. Stakeholder participation	No coordination	Consultation on SDS (and/or VNR)	Enhanced process and/or regular participation/deliberation, some kind of coordination mechanism, forum, or dialogue	Institution or mechanism for multiple stakeholders (e.g. SD council) (a), also linked/ with government (b)	All previous aspects plus additional steps (such as, stakeholder engagement w/ HLPF, speaking slots, additional bodies)
Q5. Monitoring & Review	No monitoring	<i>regular</i> progress reports	Indicators updated since SDGs	Quantified and timebound targets, or Special attention to measuring spillover effects and/or Special attention to leave no one behind	<u>Recent</u> external review (e.g. recent peer review)
Q6. Knowledge & tools	No tool	Some light version of a tool (e.g. science involved in SD Council)	1 tool in place (SIA / SDGs integrated in IA, or budget check, or new science-policy interface mechanism)	2 tools in place	3 tools in place
Q 7.1 Institutions for the long-term	No priority	Include priority, but no additional steps. (e.g. strategy for 2050), - ['Future in another frame']	A further measure about the long term but is not institutionalised (e.g. working group, strategy), - ['Future is the dominant frame, not institutionalised']	Explicit within another institution or measure (e.g. constitution/law, a special WG w/in another body), - ['Future is within another institution']	A specific institutional measure to address this: like Ombudsman for future gen., parliamentary committee, - ['The institution is for the future']
Q 7.2 Activities of parliaments for A 2030	No activity	Debate (typically in Plenary, often the VNR)	1 or 2 Cie's deal with SDGs	new institutional arrangement (a special Cie or working method)	Systematic scrutiny, sustainability check of the budget, or other tool use like SIA in law-making

3 SDG implementation in EU Member States: actions so far & good practice

3.1 Commitment, Strategy and its Monitoring and Review Process

3.1.1 Introduction

This section will discuss the level of commitment and strategies countries use for SDG implementation, monitoring and review. The SDGs are a global agenda that sets a vision with goals and targets for the world in 2030. It is not very explicit about its theory of change and does not state how these goals should be achieved. The responsibility for implementing these goals and for defining the means to achieve them lies within each UN Member State. The goals need a translation into the national context which requires a strategic understanding of what the SDGs mean in that context. How do they challenge national policies and existing strategies? Do they allow to identify gaps?

This chapter analyses how countries integrate the SDGs in their national plans and strategies. It also looks at the starting points of each country regarding SDGs or national sustainable development strategies, including previous commitments. The chapter then discusses whether the plans and strategies that Member States use for sustainable development are operational and whether they are connected to measures and means, including the national budget. The overview of the results is shown in Table 3.

Whether these plans and strategies are actually operational is an important question. We will discuss to what extent progress is being monitored and followed up in the countries. Do these plans and strategy have a robust monitoring and review framework? How is progress measured? Who is reviewing progress? How precise are the targets that countries set for themselves? These questions relate to the principle of accountability in the Agenda 2030. Table 4 gives the overview of the countries.

3.1.2 Assessment

Assessing strategy and commitment, two important elements of SDG implementation processes, is difficult. Nevertheless, we defined assessment criteria that will be briefly presented here.

Countries with currently no overarching, cross-sectoral strategy were ranked as 0. This concerns only two countries (UK and Portugal) for different reasons that are analysed below. Six countries have some cross-sectoral long-term strategy in place, more or less linked to sustainable development. This is the case of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France and the Netherlands (1 point). In contrast, the countries graded with two points, these countries have not yet updated their strategy since the adoption of the SDGs. The countries that have recently updated their strategy or adopted a new one are: Belgium, Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia and Sweden (2 points). The countries that signalled visible measures of operationalisation received three points in our grading: Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. The countries that in addition linked their strategy to the national budget received four points. This is, so far only the case of Denmark and Finland. About half of the Member States are about to take measures to operationalize their strategies or to link them to the budget: Croatia, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

The robustness of the monitoring and review framework has been assessed along the following criteria: Countries with no or no clear monitoring framework so far are Bulgaria, Austria, Greece and Spain (0 points). The latter three are about to develop monitoring frameworks. The countries that reported regular progress report but none of the other elements of a robust monitoring framework were: Belgium, Croatia, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Romania (1 point). Ten countries have regular progress reports and have updated their indicator sets since the SDGs: Czechia, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland,

Slovakia, Sweden and the UK. In addition, a few countries have quantified and time bound targets¹². Those were graded with three points (Denmark, Latvia, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Slovenia), unless they also have recently conducted an independent peer review of their strategy in which case they received four points (Finland, Germany).

	0	1	2	3	4
Q1. Commitment and strategy	No strategy	Some cross-sectoral long term strategy or some NSDS but with no recent update	Overarching strategy (or action plan) for sustainable development new or updated since SDGs (adopted or work in progress)	Overarching strategy or action plan with some visible operationalisation (measures, actions...)	Strategy linked to national budget
Q5. Monitoring & Review	No monitoring	Regular progress reports	Indicators updated since SDGs	Quantified and timebound targets, or Special attention to measuring spillover effects and/or Special attention to leave no one behind	<u>Recent</u> external review (e.g. recent peer review)

3.1.3 Overview of findings

Year of first commitment

The majority of EU countries has or did have at some point in recent history a sustainable development strategy. Eight countries adopted their sustainable development strategy in the years 2002 or 2003 as a result of the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. This is the case of Germany, France, Italy, Poland, Austria, Slovakia, Lithuania and the Netherlands (the latter developed a Sustainable development program rather than a strategy). Other countries followed and adopted sustainable strategies between the years 2004 and 2007 (Finland, Estonia, Czechia, Malta, Portugal, Spain). The Portuguese SD strategy expired in 2015 and has not been updated yet.

There are a few Member States that have a tradition of sustainable development strategies dating back even longer. Sweden, as the earliest example that we have, adopted a first sustainable development strategy in 1994, Ireland in 1997, and Luxemburg and Romania followed in 1999, and Belgium in 2000. The UK is an interesting example because it was among the very early countries, adopting a sustainable development strategy in 1994 and 1999. They then changed the approach towards mainstreaming sustainable development into sectoral policies in 2011 after closing down the sustainable development commission. Today they do not have any overarching strategy, anymore and it would be an interesting case to study to understand what may cause a sustainable development tradition to disappear. Bulgaria has a National Programme for Development that is linked to the EU 2020 strategy, and is planning a VNR in 2020, which might align this more with the SDGs.

¹² There seem to exist different views and definitions on what countries consider as quantified and time bound targets, and the difference to indicators, so this category is difficult to assess and findings need to be read with precaution.

We see that there are great discrepancies between the countries. The sometimes limited political weight of sustainable development strategies was and is a widely shared challenge, especially since traditionally it was often environment ministries that were leading the efforts. In France for example, the current sustainable development strategy that was adopted in 2014 and will run until 2020 has not had political impact and the challenge for the SDG roadmap currently being developed will be to overcome this implementation gap.

Updated strategy and commitment

Now important questions are: what do the SDGs change in the picture? How do countries integrate them into their national strategies? Are they an opportunity to get sustainable development out of its niche?

The Agenda 2030 stipulates that 'Each Government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies. It is important to recognize the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes in the economic, social and environmental fields' (§55 Agenda 2030). It also encourages 'all Member States to develop as soon as practicable ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this Agenda. These can support the transition to the Sustainable Development Goals and build on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate' (§ 78 Agenda 2030).

Since the adoption of the SDGs, most countries have revised plans or strategies to integrate them in national policy documents. What we observe is that countries often follow the encouragement of the 2030 Agenda and integrate the SDGs either in an updated version of their sustainable development strategy or in their development plan, where such plans exist. Many countries integrate the SDGs into existing strategies rather than to create a new one. The processes in which Member States integrate the SDGs vary, however. There is one group of countries that links the SDGs to national development plans (e.g. Croatia) or (green) growth programs (e.g. Greece) and these plans and programs are often linked to the EU 2020 strategy. The majority of countries uses the SDGs to revise their sustainable development strategy (e.g. Finland, Germany). For some countries, the SDGs were an occasion to broaden their sustainable development approach that was very environmentally focused so far (e.g. Italy). Around twenty countries have revised or updated their (sustainable) development strategic goals and priorities since the adoption of the SDGs. A few countries have also revised their international cooperation policy and integrated an SDG focus (e.g. Slovenia).

Some countries also create new action plans that are either in addition to an updated strategy or a parallel process. Not all countries have visible signs that their SDG implementation processes are operational. Only eight countries have or plan to have quantified and time bound targets which would be an indication for a more operational strategy or approach. In total around eighteen countries have signalled what we have considered as signs of operationalization: an action plan in addition to a strategy or vision; clear targets and measures; actions.

Moreover, around twelve countries link the strategies in which they have integrated the SDGs to their national budget or other financial measures. Often this link is still being developed or just planned (for more analysis on the integration of SDGs into national budgets see subchapter 3.4). Denmark launched an SDG fund mixing public and private resources, Slovakia plans to create an investment plan for

Table 3: Political commitment and overarching strategy in EU 28

	Type of strategic document/ year of first commitment	New/revised overarching strategy/plan since SDGs?	Some degree of operationalization (eg. Strategy&Action plan, measures, actions clear targets)	Strategy linked to national budget	Ass. (plan)
AT Austria	SDS since 2002/2006	Line ministries asked to create individual action plans in 2016			1
BE Belgium	SD in constitution, Vision for SD since 2013, Federal plan for SD	Updated SDS since 2017			2
BG Bulgaria	National Programme for Development Bulgaria2020				1
HR Croatia	SDS since 2009	Currently working on NDS Croatia2030, mapping the link to SDGs	Planned: measures	Croatia2030 National Development plan will be linked to the budget	1 (4)
CY Cyprus	SDS since 2007, revised in 2010				1
CZ Czechia	SDS 2004, Strategic SD framework 2010	2018 Czech Republic Agenda 2030 implementation strategy	Vision & more concrete implementation strategy		3
DK Denmark	SDS 2009	SDG action plan since 2017	Action plan with national measurable targets, projected implementation through progress monitoring, Finance Ministry involved	SDGs integrated in national budget bill since 2016, ODA target 0,7 achieved, launches SDG fund (public/private)	4
EE Estonia	SDS 2005 "Sustainable Estonia 21"	Alignment of Sustainable EE with SDGs by 2019, framework for policy coherence and action plans by 2020, Min of Fin involved	Gap analysis for baseline, action plan	Planned, Ministry of Finance involved	3 (4)
FI Finland	SDS since 2006	Alignment SDS with SDGs in 2016	Clear goals & measures	Integration of SDGs in budget doc 2019 (pilot in 2018), assesment of impact of harmful subsidies and taxes on envi SDGs	4
FR France	SDS since 2003, current 2015-2020	SDG roadmap to be prepared by 2019		Transversal documents to show budget contributes to some SD aspects (eg. ODA, environment), law for beyond GDP indicators, link SDGs & budget under debate	1 (3)
DE Germany	SDS since 2002	SDS aligned with SDGs since 2017, including operational measures	Clear targets & measures		3
EL Greece	SDS since 2002, growth program in 2010	2018 holistic national growth strategy in line with SDGs, additional implementation plan planned for 2019	Clear targets & measures		2 (3)
HU Hungary	SDS since 2007, current 2012-2024				1
IE Ireland	Project Ireland 2040, SDS since 1997, current 2012	SDG national implementation plan 2018-2020 and others to follow, new SDS by 2020	Distance to target analysis for baseline, planned: measurable targets	For aid budget already a process to tag the SDGs, planned to extend to other policies	2 (4)

			directly on <i>SDGs</i> , new dev policy 2018			
IT	Italy	<i>SDS</i> since 2002 but environment only	2017: new law and new broader <i>SDS</i> aligned with <i>SDGs</i> , 2017-2030	Planned: Action plan with clear targets & measures	Beyond <i>GDP</i> indicators integrated in Economy & Finance Document, 4 in 2017 & 12 in 2018	3 (4)
LV	Latvia	<i>SDS</i> 2010-2030, <i>NDP</i> to 2020	<i>SDGs</i> integrated in current <i>NDP</i> , but needs to be fully operationalised in new <i>NDP</i>	Baseline assessment <i>SDGs</i> , measurable targets	Investment analysis to see how much spent from national & local budgets & <i>EU</i> funds on <i>NDP</i> and <i>SDS</i> (pre- <i>SDGs</i>)	3 (4)
LT	Lithuania	<i>SDS</i> since 2003, Lithuania progress strategy "Lithuania 2030" since 2012	Update Lithuania 2030 planned for 2020	Measurable targets		2 (3)
LU	Luxembourg	<i>NSDS</i> since 1999, 2010 update and <i>NDP</i> for <i>SD</i>	New <i>NSDS/NDP</i> 2018	Partly yes		3
MT	Malta	<i>SDS</i> 2007, <i>SD</i> Act 2012	Vision 2050, will be followed by strategy& action plan	Planned: action plan	Planned to do sustainability checks of the government working (incl. budget)	2 (4)
NL	Netherlands	First <i>SD</i> Action programme 2003, revision 2008 (<i>KADO</i>), green growth policy paper 2013	General development strategy: confidence in the future 2017-2021, <i>SDG</i> strategies by line ministries, no overarching strategy			1
PL	Poland	Long term Development Strategy 2030, mid-term DS 2020, <i>SDS</i> 2000-2007	Strategy for responsible development since 2017 until 2020			2
PT	Portugal	<i>SDS</i> since 2007, expired in 2015				0
RO	Romania	<i>SDS</i> since 1999, current 2013-2020/2030	New strategy adopted 2018	Measurable targets		3
SK	Slovakia	<i>SD</i> Plan 2005, <i>SDS</i> since 2001	Roadmap 2017 to prepare <i>SDS</i> 2030, 2018 priorities, 2019 Vision and <i>NDS</i> 2030 expected	Work in progress	Planned: Investment plan for <i>SD</i>	2 (4)
SI	Slovenia		<i>NDS</i> 2017 until 2030; Revised International Cooperation Act	Clear targets & measures	<i>NDS</i> 2030 <i>KPIs</i> integration into budget planned for 2020	3 (4)
ES	Spain	<i>SDS</i> since 2007	Transitional Action plan 2018-2020 to prepare long term <i>SDS</i> 2030	Transformational measures	Planned: alignment of ministries budget with <i>SDGs</i> , Ministry of Treasury leading the measure	3 (4)
SE	Sweden	<i>SDS</i> since 1994, Policy for Global Development since 2003	Action plan 2018-2020; five new global strategies; new dev cooperation policy framework based on <i>SDGs</i>	Work in progress	Budget bill 2017 announced an action plan on <i>SDG</i> 10.1, thinking about stronger link <i>SDGs</i> and budget	2 (4)
UK	United Kingdom	<i>SD</i> vision 2011-mainstreaming <i>SD</i> , was: <i>SDS</i> 1994, 1999, 2005	Line ministries asked to integrate <i>SDG</i> targets into departmental plans (2017)			0 (0)

Table 4: Monitoring and review in EU 28

	indicators (pre-SDGs)	progress reports (pre-SDGs)	external review (pre-SDGs)	Progress reporting since SDGs?	Indicators updated since SDGs?	Quantified and timebound targets post SDGs, or special attention to spillover effects or leave no one behind	External review since SDGs?	Ass. (plan)
AT Austria	Yes	Biannual	External review and audit	Planned				0 (2)
BE Belgium	Beyond GDP indicators	Annual reports on federal plan for SD, biannual reports on long-term vision and policy coherence		Twice per legislature continued	Update in progress, link to Beyond GDP indicators			1 (2)
BG Bulgaria					Use EU SDG indicators			0 (0)
HR Croatia		Environmental status report every 4 years on envi legislation and SDS		Continued	Planned : indicators for Croatia2030, portal for SDG indicators			1 (2)
CY Cyprus		Internal review by Inter-govt committee in 2010			Statistical Annex for VNR, mostly based on Eurostat indicators			0 (0)
CZ Czechia	Yes	Progress reports every 1-3 years		Report on SDGs and indicators in 3 year cycle continued	Yes		Use OECD study to compare performance	2
DK Denmark				Annual SDG progress report to parliament since 2018, use reporting mechanism to project for future	Yes	Leave no one behind with a focus on increasing employment for people with disabilities		3
EE Estonia	Yes	Biannual indicator reports		Gap analysis, biannual indicator reports continued with new SDG indicators	Yes (selected in participatory approach)			2
FI Finland	Yes	Reports from every ministry	Independent review every 4 years	Independent review every 4 years continued	New indicators added, participative approach		External gap analysis as baseline, independent review every 4 years continued	4
FR France	Yes (beyond GPD and NSDS indicators)	Annual report on beyond GDP indicators, NSDS reports in 2006, 2013, and to parliament in 2016	Peer review report on SD plans 2005	Planned: SDG reporting, continued: annual report on beyond GDP indicators -potentially converging	List of around 100 indicators to follow up SDGs nationally, including Beyond GDP indicators			2
DE Germany	Yes	Indicator reports every 2 years plus government progress report every 4 years (2004, 2008, 2012)	International peer review	Review process expanded, includes stakeholder views	66 targets and indicators	Most targets quantified and timebound; measuring spillovers	International peer review continued, last version 2018	4
EL Greece	Yes (growth strategy)			Planned: annually - parliament	Planned for 2019, used Eurostat indicators for VNR			0 (2)
HU Hungary	Yes	Biannual		Continued				1
IE Ireland	Yes			Distance to target analysis	Website for SDG data since 2017, indicator selection in progress	Planned		2 (3)

IT	Italy	Yes			BES indicators reported in Finance document	100 <i>SDG</i> indicators, among them 38 <i>BES</i> indicators			2
LV	Latvia	Yes			Assessment <i>SDGs</i>		Yes	Survey of opinion leaders part of NDP assessment	3
LT	Lithuania	Yes	Biannual internal review, Rio+20 national report		Continued		Yes		2
LU	Luxembourg		2005, 2015		Mapping targets for <i>VNR</i> , regular reporting for new strategy	Yes	Partly yes		3
MT	Malta	Yes	Line ministries annual reports on <i>SD</i> activities		Continued				1
NL	Netherlands		Annual report to parliament on policy coherence	International peer review in 2006	Report on initial picture <i>SDGs</i> , annual <i>SDG</i> implementation report to parliament continued, annual <i>SDG</i> -monitor	Yes	Yes		3
PL	Poland				Planned	Yes		Expert report on Poland's position on <i>SDG</i> implementation	2 (3)
PT	Portugal		Was: monitoring through <i>EU SDS</i>			<i>SDG</i> data collection and policy mapping			1
RO	Romania	Eurostat indicators	Strategy review 2006-2008			Update of <i>SD</i> indicator set in progress, eurostat indicators	Yes and reporting on leave no one behind in <i>VNR</i>		1 (3)
SK	Slovakia		Annual		Planned: biannual reporting & evaluation scheme, first mid-2020	Work in progress	Work in progress	Intensive collaboration with <i>OECD</i> including gap analysis; Analysis of challenges and priorities by Scientific Institute	2 (4)
SI	Slovenia				Annual development report; dashboard for citizens to report on progress and raise awareness	Yes (<i>KPIs</i>)	Yes	Use <i>SDSN</i> and <i>OECD</i> studies to compare performance	3
ES	Spain			External assessment in 2007	Planned: annual comprehensive report to be handed to the parliament	Work in progress: scorecard official indicators <i>UN, EU</i>	Planned: measuring spillovers		0 (3)
SE	Sweden	Yes	Biannual reports on <i>PGD</i> /policy coherence for transparency to parliament	Peer review with Norway in 2006	Assessment of where Sweden stands on <i>SDGs</i> ; new reporting model links policy for global dev to <i>SDGs</i> , Swedish Agency for Public Management follows up on Action plan	Yes			2
UK	United Kingdom	Yes	Review of integration of <i>SD</i> in department policies, each department reports annually on embedding <i>SD</i> and scrutinized by parliament		Continued	Interactive website for public engagement with <i>SDG</i> Stats			2

sustainable development and Sweden announced an action plan, specifically on SDG 10.1 (reducing income inequality) in its 2017 budget bill. In Latvia, an investment analysis was done to see how much money was spent from the national budget, EU funds, as well as local government budgets to achieve progress to their national development plan. They also rank ministry annual budget requests (policy initiatives) according to their impact on targets of the National Development Plan and policy outcomes. This development plan will soon be revised and sustainable development is part of the deliberations. In our interviews, several countries have pointed out that linking SDGs to EU structural funds would be helpful to support national SDG implementation.

Monitoring & review

A robust monitoring & review framework is also crucial for an effective and operational strategy.

Many countries already had a system of regular progress reporting in place that they now continue to use for following up on SDG implementation. For other countries, the SDGs were the occasion to launch or relaunch a dynamic of regular progress reporting.

The important role parliaments can play in monitoring and review is recognized by several countries. Denmark for example has launched annual SDG progress report to parliament in 2018. It also uses SDG reporting mechanism to project for future. Spain plans to hand an annual comprehensive report to parliament. The Netherlands already had a tradition of annual reports on policy coherence and will continue to do so (see also chapter 5).

Progress reports are quite common. They are not so regular in all countries, however. A reasonable rhythm would be to report on progress every year, or every other year. Whereas the progress reports are often indicators reports, some countries have additional more in-depth evaluations in a longer cycle.

Interestingly, only some countries have conducted an assessment or gap analysis on where they stand with regards to the SDGs (Latvia, Sweden, Netherlands). In some countries this analysis has been conducted by or with independent experts (Finland, Poland, Italy).

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs put a lot of emphasis on data and indicators. We see some of this data emphasis reflected in the countries. Most of the countries (around 23 of them) have revised or updated their indicators with the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda encourages countries to add national indicators to follow up on SDG implementation, so countries often mix UN indicators and EU or national indicators. Some countries only use Eurostat indicators, either because of a lack of statistical capacity or because they find it them more relevant. Several countries find the Eurostat report useful to compare their performance with EU averages. A few countries based the selection of national indicators on a participatory approach (e.g. France, Finland). Furthermore, three countries underlined the link they make between SDGs and existing beyond GDP initiatives that follow the same idea of using a more holistic measure of progress. This is the case of Belgium, France and Italy. The challenge with these initiatives and with the SDGs in general is that while they enable and encourage interesting and holistic tools, crucial accountability actors like parliaments, courts of auditors, NGOs, media etc. do not always use them. The question of how indicators and data can be used to inform policy choices and debates or to raise awareness is a crucial one. When it comes to data visualization, the United Kingdom set up a website for public engagement with SDG statistics.

Although the 2030 agenda emphasises 'leaving no one behind', only very few countries (Denmark and Romania) have specifically mentioned efforts to take measures to implement this principle, including via better measurement and data disaggregation.

A few countries even attempt to improve the measurement of spill over effects which means impacts on third countries which is an excellent way to take into account the interdependencies between countries and the universal nature of the Agenda. So far, only Germany mentioned such efforts and Spain

announced it plans to better measure spill over effects, include them in their reporting to parliament and even use them in impact assessments.

The SDGs at the international level lack a peer review mechanism. Peer reviews and other external reviews are strong accountability mechanisms, however and a sign of a very robust monitoring and review framework. Some countries have experience with peer reviews of their sustainable development strategies in the past but did not make it a regular mechanism. Only Finland and Germany have a very advance independent peer review mechanism.

3.1.4 Good practice examples

Finland has a very advanced strategy and a robust monitoring framework. It updated its sustainable development strategy to align with the SDGs and now has a national sustainable development strategy that gives a vision to 2050: 'A prosperous Finland with global responsibility for sustainability and the carrying capacity of nature' and a government implementation plan for 2030 Agenda, adopted in 2017 and that is based on the strategy. Finland has carried out an independent gap analysis and chosen two overarching themes for national SDG implementation (1. carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland, 2. a non-discriminatory, equal and competent Finland) that cover the SDGs in an integrated way. The implementation plan is operational with clear measures and the strategy is fully linked to the national budget since 2019 (pilot in 2018). Thanks to the active leadership of the Ministry of Finance, SDGs are used in the justifications for the main expenditure titles, to bring out the connections between the appropriations and sustainable development more clearly. Furthermore, the general strategy and outlook of the budget proposal includes a chapter focusing on the priority area of a carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland. Finland also produced an overview of the appropriations relevant to that focus area. In addition, the separate, popularized Budget Review publication emphasizes sustainable development issues as one of the main topics. Finally, an assessment of taxes and harmful subsidies regarding that focus area has also been included. As an area of improvement, we can mention however, that the integration in to the budgetary process is much more advanced for Finland's environmental focus area than for the social one, as this was, so far, politically more feasible than to fully integrate both dimensions.

The monitoring framework for the strategy includes a new set of SDG aligned indicators selected in a participatory approach, regular progress reports from every ministry, as well as an independent review every four years. As mentioned above, Finland also started its revision process of the strategy with an independent gap analysis.

Germany has integrated the SDGs into its sustainable development strategy. This strategy is quite comprehensive and Germany shows a high level of commitment when it comes to clear targets and measures. The strategy is however not linked to the national budget and its impact on steering concrete sectoral policy choices towards sustainable development remains limited. A clear strength of the German strategy is its robust monitoring and review framework. The German strategy has thirty-eight goal areas with more than sixty targets and indicators and is structured around the seventeen SDGs. Most targets are quantified and time bound. As a very good example of taking the principle of universality seriously, Germany's also reports on spill-over effects, measuring its global impacts.

Progress is reported via indicator reports every two years. In addition, a report by the federal government reports on progress every four years. Germany has the most advanced peer review mechanism for its strategy. The last independent peer review was conducted in 2018 and took into account the SDGs. The peer review is organized by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE), an independent advisory body. This Council invited a panel of high level independent experts for one week to Germany to review the German strategy and to discuss progress and challenges with high level government representatives, representatives from subnational levels, as well as private sector and civil society

representatives. The result was a joined report with recommendations. The German government will have to report on its response to these recommendations.

Slovakia is an inspiring example, although some elements are still work in progress. The country had a first sustainable development plan in 2005 and its first national sustainable development strategy in 2011. In 2017, it adopted a roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda which defined the basic institutional, implementation and monitoring framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Slovakia. In 2018, six national priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were adopted by government after conducting a broad stakeholder participation process. Inspired by the OECD study ('Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets'), and based on existing analytical materials, the Institute for Forecasting of the Slovak Academy of Sciences suggested a set of key areas for the development of Slovakia by 2030, identifying major challenges and priorities for the country in the context of the SDGs. As a follow-up, the Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030 is currently being drafted, which will be based on the six national priorities.

In comparison to a sustainable development strategy that remains in the niche of the sustainable development community, this development strategy is likely to be more operational. The six national priorities cover the SDGs in a holistic way and put a strong emphasis on reducing inequalities and making the economy inclusive and sustainable. Most importantly, the national priorities will also be feed into the National Investment Plan (NIP), which should bolster financing for sustainable development. This is a very concrete example of getting sustainable development out of its niche and into concrete actions and investments. The monitoring framework, along with indicators and quantified and time bound targets, is being elaborated. National indicators will be developed based on the UN global list of indicators, as well as Eurostat Indicators. A biannual reporting and evaluation scheme is planned to be operational by mid-2020. It should be mentioned that Slovakia collaborates with the OECD on a number of these issues.

Latvia is another interesting example. Already in 2010, the country adopted a long-term sustainable development strategy 'Latvia 2030', with around 60 time bound targets (to achieve by 2030), five to seven indicators per objective, and eight strategic indicators. It also has a National Development Plan running from 2014 to 2020. The process for a new National Development has just started and Latvia 2030 is part of the deliberations. The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre conducted an assessment of progress and challenges in achieving Latvia's development goals reflected in the NDP2020 as a reference for future development planning. As a part of the assessment, a survey of opinion leaders was conducted to determine their views on the relevance of the NDP2020 goals and their progress, analysis of statistical and secondary data on the implementation of NDP2020 and Latvia 2030 and recommendations. There is thus a window of opportunity to stronger integrate national development planning and sustainable development, that Latvia is about to seize.

3.1.5 Overall reflections

Countries have different starting points. Whereas some have a very long tradition of sustainable development strategies others joined more recently. The year of first commitment to sustainable development does not necessarily correlate with how operational SDG strategies or plans are in the countries today. Sustainable development strategies can be valuable tools for giving a long term overarching strategy. However, their impact on concrete day to day policy choices tends to remain in general limited. Important indications for a more operational strategy are high level and strong political leadership, concrete measures, actions and targets, as well as a link to the national budget and an involvement of the Finance Ministry. Such a higher degree of operationalization can only be observed in the minority of the country case studies, so there is room for improvement. In countries where there is a national development plan, and where the SDGs have been integrated into this plan operationalization seems to come more naturally. However, whether these plans really integrate the SDGs in a holistic way or just vaguely map the links to the SDGs is not always clear.

We see that the SDGs as a very broad agenda require a process of national translation to get a strategic understanding of where the challenges and gaps are in a given country. A few countries have therefore conducted gap analysis often involving independent experts and/or other stakeholders. There are still a number of countries that haven't done such an assessment which raises the question to which baseline they refer to measure and report their progress, especially since only a limited number of countries have clear quantitative and time bound targets?

It would be relevant further research to analyse the national strategic goals of the different countries to see where countries place the focus, to what extent their approaches are holistic and also to see which areas get more or less attention. Such an analysis could also be inspiring for an EU wide reflection on the most pressing sustainable development challenges.

Several countries have linked the SDGs to their EU2020 implementation processes. A number of countries have underlined the need of an EU wide SDG implementation approach, especially for the areas where EU competence is concerned or where competence is shared. A few countries seem to be waiting for an EU 2030 strategy as a follow up of EU2020 and that integrates the SDGs. Such a strategy would make it easier to steer the national dynamic (see also chapter 4).

The majority of countries updated and enriched their monitoring and review frameworks with a new set of SDG inspired indicators. The measurement of spill over effects still gets too little attention in the countries, however so does the emphasis on leaving no one behind. Several countries find the Eurostat SDG report useful to compare their performance with EU averages. To this end it would also be useful if Eurostat developed the aggregation of indicators per SDGs also for all Member States in the next version of the report (instead of only for EU average).

There is room for improvement when it comes to external review. As the SDGs lack a peer review mechanism, the examples of Finland and Germany are very useful efforts to fill that lack and to improve accountability for SDG implementation.

3.2 Leadership and Horizontal Coordination

3.2.1 Introduction

The governance and implementation of the SDGs is built on the foundational principle that sustainable development is 'integrative and indivisible' of all aspects of society. It goes one step beyond the traditional 'triple-P' model of sustainable development as being about the point of intersection of people, planet and profit. The SDGs relate to all aspects of people, all aspects of planet and all aspects of profit and thus blurs the lines which previously facilitated compartmentalisation of issues and a siloed approach. In order to have a truly integrated and indivisible approach to sustainable development, policy coherence must be a cornerstone of governance of sustainable development¹³.

Two important entry points for understanding, analysing, and assessing policy coherence in EU Member States are to look at how and where leadership on this agenda takes place in government, and the mechanisms for horizontal coordination across government. This chapter therefore deals with the horizontal coordination aspect of our analytical framework (see Table 2 for the full analytical framework).

¹³ OECD, 2018

3.2.2 Assessment

The comprehensive and all-encompassing nature of the SDGs requires leadership and coordination across the government. Leadership at the centre of government has been promoted as beneficial for sustainability governance as was concluded in a recent OECD report on coordinating the SDGs: 'The centre of government has an important role to play when addressing governance challenges, in terms of clear leadership, stronger policy coherence and efficient implementation'¹⁴. In this research we investigated how leadership of the SDGs is taking place within each Member State: by whom and where, and with which internal divisions. Building on this, we also investigated what types of coordination mechanisms existed and where there are mechanisms to better link internal and external implementation and governance of the SDGs. Leadership and coordination are in themselves important aspects of sustainable development governance, but are inextricably linked. We have therefore evaluated these two aspects together.

	0	1	2	3	4
Q2. Leadership & horizontal coordination	No ministerial lead or ownership	Leadership with 1 or 2 Ministries (external and/or domestic; often continued separation of the agenda)	Leadership at the centre of government (typically Prime Minister, or Deputy PM; or Finance Minister, if cross-cutting or central lead)	Visible coordination mechanism with clear engagement across all departments & ministries (often with leadership at the centre of government)	Improved coordination between external and internal implementation since SDGs, with all others aspects

Table 5 presented below shows an overview of each Member State on their horizontal coordination and leadership in their governance for the SDGs. This was used to assess the degree of institutionalisation related to this key aspect of our analytical framework.

3.2.3 Overview of findings

In 13 Member States we found leadership for the implementation and governance of the SDGs to be with the Heads of State and Government (HoSG), typically the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister, i.e. at the centre of government¹⁵ – and the Prime Minister's Office (or similar) with a lead coordination function. States with leadership following this model include: Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia. In addition, Spain and Romania are currently undergoing a transition in their governance. At the time of this study, it is anticipated that they will enact this form of leadership for their SDG governance.

While this is an important indicator of the SDGs being a political priority, this level of leadership needs to be supported by sufficient coordination mechanisms at the working level in the Ministries. In every case of central leadership, such a coordination mechanism exists to facilitate this. This demonstrates significant steps towards policy coherence and integration in achieving the SDGs across more than half of EU Member States. In states where there is no central leadership on the SDGs, the coordination mechanisms which link ministries horizontally across government are the main mechanisms for policy coherence at the political level.

¹⁴ OECD / Government Offices of Sweden, 2016

¹⁵ Ibid.

Visible coordination mechanism with clear engagement across all ministries existed in 17 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden). In addition, every Member State except for the United Kingdom utilizes some kind of coordination mechanism, even where it does not engage with all ministries. Although not in every case, these are typically coordination groups of Ministers, underpinned by inter-departmental working groups, both of which meet regularly. In a few cases, these coordination mechanisms are institutionalized as Councils or Commissions which can include broad groups of government actors, or even a wider spectrum of stakeholders. Coordination at the ministerial level as well as through working groups shows coherence in leadership as well as at the administrative level.

In some cases, such as Ireland, Netherlands, Poland and Sweden, a new coordination mechanism has been created to specifically address horizontal coordination and policy coherence for the SDGs. Such new coordination mechanisms, as well as the previously existing mechanisms, also often are accompanied by a secretariat and consequently additional capacity for coordination is made available. In some cases, the coordination mechanism includes participation of stakeholders, for example in Latvia where the National Development Council is the policy coordination mechanism and also includes non-governmental actors. There are a number of countries with designated focal points within Ministries to support internal mainstreaming of the SDGs and collaboration, such as France, Slovenia and the Netherlands; and in Germany 'Ministry coordinators' with a similar function.

An additional aspect of coordination, which is a key part of policy coherence for the SDGs is the way in which coordination between external and internal implementation of the SDGs takes place. Few states had an explicit focus on bridging the gap between the domestic and international aspects of the 2030 Agenda. In some countries steps to ensure coherence are taken through the coordination mechanism itself, or it is tackled as specific task. Of the countries where there is centre of government leadership, Germany and Finland have dedicated coordination mechanisms to bridge the internal-external divide. For example, in Germany there is joint leadership in the international setting between the environment and development Ministries to enable close coordination. While this is an important aspect of achieving the SDGs globally, there is still some progress to be made to include this level of policy coherence in national government.

Not all Member States have leadership at the centre of government, and for some, leadership and ownership of the SDGs remains divided between environmental aspects and the development aspects, to the corresponding Ministries, even when there is a clear coordination mechanism in place. In such cases the division usually is between environmental ministries (or similar) dealing with internal aspects and the ministries of foreign affairs (or similar) dealing with external and international aspects. This is the case in 12 Member States: Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden. In the United Kingdom, no leading ministry has been identified. One way to address this, is through a coordination where all ministries participate. However, some countries, such as Croatia, Malta, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom, do not require all ministries to participate in horizontal coordination. While this can leave states vulnerable to fragmented policy related to the SDGs, it can also be complemented by other mechanisms within the governance architecture which address this issue which are different to all-ministry coordination mechanisms. Coordination mechanisms which do not require all ministries to participate may allow for some parts of government to 'opt-out' of their responsibility to the SDGs. Not only does this not contribute to a whole-of-government approach, it also undermines the concept that the SDGs are a whole-of-society challenge.

While every Member State, except the United Kingdom, features some kind of coordination mechanism, not all are designed to overcome the longstanding rift between environmental policies and economic development policies – a schism that Agenda 2030 seeks to overcome. There is a continued separation of the internal and external elements of the SDGs, or an understanding of them being only one or the other.

Table 5: Lead organisation(s) and coordination mechanisms in EU 28

	<i>HoS level</i>	<i>Domestic (or if not unspecified) Lead</i>	<i>External Lead</i>	<i>Other Involved</i>	<i>Coordinating mechanism</i>	<i>Bridging external & domestic</i>	<i>Ass. (plan)</i>
AT Austria	Federal Chancellery	Min Sustainability & tourism	<i>MFA</i>	<i>SD</i> focal points in each Min	<i>SD</i> Steering group <i>IM WG</i>		3
BE Belgium		<i>IMSCD</i> – no Ministerial lead, lead for each level gov't	<i>MFA</i> –Coormulti (and <i>DGE</i>)	All Ministers, departments; all levels.	<i>IMCSD</i> Other @ fed and reg level	<i>MFA</i> rep in <i>IMCSD</i>	4
BG Bulgaria		Minister of Finance	<i>MFA</i>	No specific <i>SDG</i> remit	Coord Committee (chaired by Min of Finance) in Council for Development (not <i>SDG</i> specific)		1
HR Croatia		<i>MFA</i> (& European)	<i>MFA</i> (& European)	'all relevant'	Inter-sectoral working group;		1
CY Cyprus		<i>MFA</i> (Directorate of Euro, Coord, Dev)	<i>MFA</i> (<i>SDGs</i>)	"All Others"	Intergovernmental Committee & Council of Min	[rather the opposite: <i>MFA</i> leads <i>SDGs</i> also domestically]	1
CZ Czechia	Deputy <i>PM</i> & Gov't Office	Min Env	<i>MFA</i>	<i>MFA</i> & all ministries	Gov't Council for <i>SD</i> , chair by <i>PM/DPM</i>	Gov't Council for <i>SD</i> main	4
DK Denmark		Min Fin	<i>MFA</i>	each Min is resp. individually	<i>WG</i> called on ad hoc basis	Internat. unit in each line Min	3
EE Estonia	<i>PMO</i> ("Gov't Office")			all Ministries	<i>IM WG</i>		3
FI Finland	<i>PMO</i>	<i>FNCSD</i> , Chair by <i>PM</i>	<i>MFA</i>	all 11 Min in Inter-min Network Secretariat (in Coordination)	2030 Agenda Coordination Secretariat (<i>PMO</i>) & <i>FNCSD</i>	<i>MFA</i> and <i>PMO</i> in 2030 Coordination Secretariat	4
FR France		Interministerial Delegate under Prime Minister and Ministry of Environment	<i>MFA</i>	All responsible, focal point	Inter-minist. Delegate for <i>SD</i> & High Commissioner General for <i>SD</i>	Inter-minist. Delegate for <i>SD</i> & Inter-minist. Committee for Dev. Coop.	3
DE Germany	<i>PMO</i>	Min Env	Min Devco	all relevant Min	St. Secr. Comm., & coordinators in all rel. Ministries meet	Co-lead of Env & Devco, e.g. in <i>EU</i> Council <i>WP</i>	4
EL Greece		General Secretariat of Gov't (also Min Env)	<i>MFA</i>	All ministries	Inter-ministerial Coordination Network for <i>SDGs</i>	Min Env & <i>MFA</i> work together on int.	4
HU Hungary	<i>PMO</i>	Tech & Innov, Agri	<i>MFA</i>		<i>PM</i> Office & <i>SD</i> Council (<i>NFFT</i>)		3
IE Ireland	<i>PMO</i> chairs <i>SOG</i>	Min Comm., Climate & Env	<i>MFA</i> & Trade		State Secr. Group (" <i>SOG</i> ") and Interdep. <i>WG</i>	Through the <i>SOG</i> and <i>IDWG</i>	3
IT Italy	Presidency of the Council of Ministers	Min Env	<i>MFA</i>	All relevant	Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning		3

LV Latvia	PMO: Cross-Sect. Coord. Centre (CSCC)	Nat Dev Council (chaired by PM)	MFA / for dev. coop.	all Min.	National Development Council	Addressed with targets in NDP	4
LT Lithuania	PM chair & PM Office	Min Env	MFA / for dev. coop.		Nat. SD Commission		3
LU Luxembourg		Env (in Sust.Dev & Infrastructure)	Min Devco	all rel. Min. and public authorities: in CIDD	Interdep. Comm. for SD ("CIDD")	Overlap btw CIDD & CID, int-dep. Comm on devco	3
MT Malta		Env (MESDC: Env, SD & Cl.Ch.)	MFA		Focal Point network (senior off., all Min.)	Both included	3
NL Netherlands		MFA (Min of Trade & DevCO)	MFA	All responsible & participate	Nat'l Coordinator chairs focal points	All central through MFA	3
PL Poland		Min Entrepreneur-ship & Techn.	MFA		Team of 5 Min. for VNR & beyond		2
PT Portugal		Min Inf & Planning (only internal lead)	MFA (overall lead)	Informal network of focal points (non min)	Intermin Commission for External Policy (internal only) Intermin Commission for Cooperation (external only)		2
RO Romania	PMO: Dep. for SD (DSD)	Inter-min. Comm.: ENV led, will be PM	MFA (for devco)	all Min. and institutions	DSD & Inter-min. Committee		2 (3)
SK Slovakia	Deputy PMO	Deputy PMO	MFA & EU	All min in Gov't Council	Government Council WG for A2030	Government Council WG has both	4
SI Slovenia		Gov't Office for Development & European Cohesion Policy	MFA	All min, through focal points	Permanent Inter-Min WG on Development	Dev't strategy is internal & external	3 (4)
ES Spain	PMO, High Commissioner & HLG	PMO & High Comm	PMO & High Comm	All Min in HLG (VC of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Ecologic Transition, Public Works, & Economy)	Focal points & HLG with all Min and all levels	Planned integration mechanisms	3 (4)
SE Sweden		Minister Public Admin. at Min Fin	Minister Devco, at MFA	a) Group of 5 b) All	a) Interdep. WG with 5 State Secr, & working level weekly, b) IM WG all Min. meet monthly at working level	National Committee A 2030 has the explicit task to include national and international perspectives in their input to Action Plan	3 (4)
UK United Kingdom			DFID	Up to Min to choose links			0

With this division it becomes essential that some kind of other mechanisms, or a way of working, bridges this gap but this is not always the case. In the case of Sweden, clear steps have been taken to bridge this divide without centre of government leadership. Here, the task of including both internal and external aspects has been specifically set for the National Committee on Agenda 2030. Several others Member States pay more attention to bridging the internal-external divide as well, for example, France and Luxembourg.

In other cases, even where there is centre of government leadership, there are additional mechanisms to focus in particular on this division, such as in Finland and Germany. For example, soon to be in place in Spain, there are one smaller groups which gathers the directly relevant ministers, as well as another working group where all ministries and multiple levels gather.

There are a few special circumstances, for example in the case of a highly federalized state, such as Belgium, where there are parallel political and administrative coordination bodies, facilitating coordination of leadership as well as coordination between those civil servants responsible for embedding and implementing what is decided at a political level. In some cases, where a specific new mechanism was created, this also included a secretariat with financial and human resources. While this approach can create visibility, clarity and capacity to better integrate the SDGs, it can also result in siloing the agenda within one new secretariat, rather than integration across the range of ministries and sectors within government. Ultimately both approaches have strengths and weaknesses and more important than sticking to one design of a mechanism for coordination is that whatever the mechanism is, it facilitates integration of the SDG's across ministries and sectors.

3.2.4 Good practice examples

An interesting example of leadership and horizontal coordination comes from **Finland**. In this case there is clear central leadership by the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's office is responsible for coordination and acts as secretariat. Coordination includes representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development (FNCSD). The coordination task is also supported by an Inter-ministerial Network Secretariat, consisting of sustainable development Focal Points from all 11 line ministries. Crucially, a whole-of-government approach is demonstrated through this mechanism, mandating that all sectors are a part of achieving the SDGs.

The Prime Minister is also the chair of the FNCSD, a key high level stakeholder and expert participation mechanisms, extending leadership on the SDGs beyond ministers and the government to the whole of society. The FNCSD is supported by a secretariat: Secretary General (at the Ministry of Environment), Deputy Secretary General (at the PM Office), and other experts. This institutional design demonstrates a commitment to an inclusive and coherent approach to the SDGs at the highest level of leadership.

There are also efforts to better link domestic and external aspects of SDG implementation in the form of co-operation between the secretariats of the FNCSD and the Finnish Development Policy Committee, as well as collaboration of the Prime Minister's Office and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the 2030 Agenda Coordination Secretariat, the Indicator working group and the EU Council Working Party Agenda 2030.

Germany presents another good example. At the highest level, the Federal Chancellery demonstrates clear commitment to the agenda and is the Chair of State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development. The State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development includes representatives from all ministries to facilitate cross-sector coordination. This coordination mechanism is supported by a permanent inter-ministerial working group for sustainable development.

Through this, all ministries are required to adhere to a 'whole-of-government' approach and need to participate in the sustainable development inter-ministerial working group. Since the revision of their

sustainable development strategy in 2017, coordinators have been appointed in each ministry with the mandate to mainstream internally (in addition to the cross-departmental coordination). These are often individuals at Director/Director-General Level. This demonstrates leadership beyond Ministerial commitment, and a whole-of-government approach being put into practice. For coordination in international bodies, there is typically a co-lead by the Ministry for Environment and the Ministry for Development Cooperation (e.g. in the new EU Council Working Party for Agenda 2030) to ensure coherence between domestic and international aspects.

The translation of the SDGs in national context is done on three tracks: 'in, with and through' Germany. The latter facilitates the government addressing the spill-over (external / transboundary) impacts, which is included in reporting, and in indicators where possible. This is manifested in a distinction between impacts in Germany and other countries in reports, for example. This shows thorough recognition of the transboundary impacts of development and the transboundary nature of the SDG framework. The approach to assess such impacts is also applied through a sustainable development impact assessment, which includes reporting on transboundary effects of policy development and implementation.

It is clear that the coordination and coherent leadership in the German context has resulted in coordination across sectors as well as between the internal – external aspects of the SDG's beyond the highest level of leadership.

Finally, the aspirations and plans of **Spain** are noteworthy. Our findings show that Spain is undergoing a significant transformation in the way that their government is approaching sustainable development, invigorated by a central role of the SDGs. Some key features of their planned new system include a High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda and a High Level Group for coordination. Linking the internal and external dimensions are fully considered in the proposed new mechanisms.

The High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, a role established in 2018, is responsible for coordinating actions for the implementation of 2030 Agenda, with a support office in the Prime Minister's office, and leadership from the Prime Minister. A High Level Group is being constituted which is chaired by Minister of the Presidency (a Minister for interinstitutional relations and coordination), and as vice chairpersons the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Minister of Ecologic Transition, the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Economy. Members will also include the Secretaries of State of eight key ministries, representatives of all the ministries, the High Commissioner for the Agenda 2030, the High Commissioner for Child Poverty and the Special Ambassador for the Agenda 2030. This High Level Group demonstrates clear horizontal coordination of the agenda.

In addition to this leadership, an SDG impact analysis will be incorporated into legislative initiatives, so that the analysis of external and global impact on the SDGs will be a required part of the compulsory impact analysis reports. The impact of Spanish foreign policy on the SDGs, on a global scale and in third countries, will be stepped up in the mechanism for preparing, designing, and monitoring Spanish Co-operation's Country Partnership Frameworks. The analysis of policy coherence (impact of national policies on third countries and on global public goods) will be incorporated into the Spanish parliament's accountability mechanism, and the annual progress report on the 2030 Agenda.

3.2.5 Overall Reflections

Central leadership can facilitate the horizontal coordination necessary to achieve the policy coherence and integrative approach necessary to fully achieve the SDGs. Centralized leadership is crucial to moving concerns of sustainable development beyond the remit of the Ministry of Environment or Development Agencies only. However, central political leadership on its own is not enough. Without the necessary coordination mechanisms, and resources and capacity that come with this, political commitment is weakened.

It is clear that concrete steps are being taken to address these dynamics: In all Member States, except the United Kingdom, there are coordination mechanisms to take steps towards an effective whole-of-society, whole-of-government approach, the majority of which include membership across all ministries. In addition to this, many Member States do have centre of government leadership. It seems that there were fewer Head of State or Government leads for sustainable development before the SDGs came into place. Similarly, the emphasis on having a clear inter-ministerial coordination mechanism has increased from prior to the SDGs. Perhaps the integrated and holistic nature of the SDGs has helped to make sustainable development more visible to ministries beyond development, foreign affairs and environment.

3.3 Stakeholder Participation

3.3.1 Introduction

This section discusses the ways that Member States are addressing stakeholders' participation in SDG governance, policies and implementation. We took stock of mechanisms for consultation and participation of societal stakeholders, and from the subnational level as additional information where provided (see vertical coordination in the Country Fiches, Annex 1). This addresses the Agenda 2030 principles of 'inclusiveness' and 'leave no one behind' as referred to in our analytical framework (cf. chapter 2). According to these, the participation of stakeholders is integral to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030. Participation and inclusion of stakeholders in SDG governance is important to create ownership and hence foster that policies and targets are pursued across multiple levels of society. In addition to the key principles of inclusiveness and leave no one behind which feature throughout this study and report, our analytical framework also highlights additional aspects of SDG governance which are relevant to stakeholder participation: multi-stakeholder partnerships, and shared responsibility.

Leaving no one behind is often discussed in relation to the international development dimension of the SDGs, but it also has important implications for domestic settings as well as the interconnections between the two¹⁶. Within a national setting, this principle can be manifested into various actions, such as: a broad public consultation on a strategy, the inclusion of experts in a decision-making or monitoring body, or forums with a broad participation of civil society organisation, private sector, and including minority groups, religious communities etc. Often, participation is used as a tactic to increase ownership of a political agenda¹⁷. However, it is also a crucial tool for *inclusiveness* – both of these approaches facilitate leaving no one behind¹⁸. Participation in the SDGs can also create a sense of ownership. This key outcome of participation is where the link can be seen with policy coordination and resulting in a sense of *shared responsibility*. Aligning stakeholders and non-state actors with governmental policies, through meaningful participation, can be a way to ensure policy and goal coherence beyond the national government and facilitate meaningful *multi-stakeholder partnerships*.

To provide an overview of this aspect of SDG governance, we specifically investigated what stakeholder participation mechanisms exist and how they facilitate participation in the national government's governance processes. In addition, we looked at how and where the sub-national context fit into this, but have not done the same systematic overview as with participation mechanisms. The sub-national context has been included in this section because some states identify sub-national actors as stakeholders within the national government setting. Therefore drawing a clear line between investigating participation and keeping sub-national governance separate was not possible. It was outside of the scope of this study to provide a thorough and detailed overview of all of the governance systems at the sub-national level, their coordination mechanisms, and their own stakeholder participation mechanisms. However, we do include

¹⁶ OECD, 2016

¹⁷ ESDN, 2018

¹⁸ Newig and Fritsch, 2009

here information about sub-national context where it is relevant to how the state conceptualises participation and stakeholder engagement.

3.3.2 Assessment

Table 6 shows an overview of each Member State on their stakeholder participation in their governance for the SDGs. As described in the methodology, aggregated data from the country profiles was used to assess the degree of institutionalisation related to key aspects of our analytical framework. In our assessment scheme the higher the degree of involvement the higher the rating. For example, countries with just a consultation get one point, with an enhanced process and/or regular participation/deliberation, some kind of coordination mechanism, forum, or dialogue get two points, and countries with an institutionalised mechanism for multiple stakeholder participation mechanisms, including those linked to or mixed with governmental coordination bodies, get three point. Countries that do some additional step, such as direct involvement of CSOs in the HLPF, were assessed the highest in this scheme.¹⁹

	0	1	2	3	4
Q4. Stakeholder participation	No coordination	Consultation on SDS (and/or VNR)	Enhanced process and/or regular participation/deliberation, some kind of coordination mechanism, forum, or dialogue	Institution or mechanism for multiple stakeholders (e.g. SD council) (a), also linked/with government (b)	All previous aspects plus additional steps (such as, stakeholder engagement w/ HLPF, speaking slots, additional bodies)

3.3.3 Overview of findings

Almost all Member States have some form of participation or coordination mechanism so that key actors outside of the central government are able to participate in the governance and implementation of the SDGs. Overall, we identified four different kinds of mechanisms for stakeholder participation: 1) through a – sometimes one-off – consultation, 2) through an enhanced process of participation, as forum or other informal body, 3) through an dedicated body, either established as (a) independent sustainable development council, or (b) as body intertwined with the government coordination structure which also includes stakeholders in an integrated manner (e.g. 'Government Council'). Some states have additional elements for participation, often in relation to a specific venue (like the VNR or HLPF) or aspect of policy. The difference between an independent council and an integrated body is not necessarily a sign of further institutionalisation, as the difference between the designs of these two different kinds of mechanisms is often the result of contextual factors. The following will elaborate on mechanisms grouped by their level of assessment in the scheme above.

¹⁹ A similar approach is taken in the "stakeholder staircase" in which different types of activities manifest into differing levels of inclusion of stakeholders (OECD, 2014).

Table 6: Stakeholder participation in EU 28

	Sub-national coordination or participation mechanism	Is the SDS done in consultation?	Independent SD Council, Forum, Platform (or other institutionalized participation mechanism)	Integrated/mixed in Gov't SD Council (or other institutionalized particip. mechanism)	Other stakeholder participation mechanism	Planned mechanisms	Ass. (plan)
AT Austria	Expert conf. of Nat. & Reg. SD coordinators	2017		Committee for a Sustainable Austria	Actor Network for Sustainable Austria (SDG Watch Austria)		3
BE Belgium	IMSCD (& many others) & key to SDS	Consultation on SDS	Federal Council for SD	SD Task Force, Planning Bureau (experts participation)	Multiple other participation processes	Planned participation in VNR process	3
BG Bulgaria		Standard formal online consultation					1
HR Croatia			SD & Env. Protection Council (activity less clear)	SD Council through working groups			3
CY Cyprus					Participation in 2017 VNR		0
CZ Czechia	Committee for Sust. Municipalities & GCSD	2015 and 2016		Government Council for Sust. Dev't (GCSD)	Multi-stakeh Council for Dev't Coop; particip. in 2017 VNR	Internet platform for contributions	4
DK Denmark			2030 Panel		Particip. in 2017 VNR	Further meetings planned to enhance process	2
EE Estonia	w/in Estonia Sust. Dev't Commission		Estonia Sust. Dev't Commission		Coalition for Sust. Dev't, Estonian Roundtable for Dev't Coop.		3
FI Finland	Finnish National Commission on Sust. Dev't (FNCSO)	through FNCSO	Society's Commitment to Sust. Dev't	Finnish National Commission on Sust. Dev't (FNCSO)	Dev't Policy Committee, Youth Agenda 2030, Expert Panel; online VNR particip.		4
FR France	National Council for Sust. Dev't	multiple occasions, including current SDG road-map & 2015 SDS	National Council for Sust. Dev't	National Council for Ecological Transition	Nat. Council for Dev't and Internat. Solidarity, Nat. Env. Roundtable; participation in 2016 VNR & Indicators		4
DE Germany	Federal-Länder meeting, regional coord. bodies & other mechanisms	2004, 2008, 2012, 2016 (and beyond)	German Council for Sust. Dev't (RNE)		New Dialogue group, science-policy committee, and more		4
EL Greece	Inter-minist. Coord. Network for SDGs, consultation through GSG/OCIIEA	through GSG / OCIIEA	Economic and Social Council of Greece				3
HU Hungary	NFFT & local gov't forum; Nat. Regional Dev't Civil Interest Reconciliation Forum; Nat. Regional Dev't Council	on SD strategy (NFSSD) 2013	Civil society roundtable	National Council for Sust. Dev't (NFFT) [NB: more Parl. than gov't; has an independent mandate]	Business Council for Sust. Dev't		4

Europe's approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

IE Ireland	SDG Stakeholder Forum	2012	Coalition 2030	National SDG Stakeholder Forum		More consultation with local authorities through SDG Stakeholder Forum	3
IT Italy	Regional Working Table & Italian Network of Env. Agencies	Context analysis for SDS	Italian Alliance for SD (ASviS)			New stakeholder forum for public particip. in SDGs	3 (4)
LV Latvia	Coordination but not SDG specific	2010 on SDS		National Dev't Council & Cross-sect. coord. centre	Some other forums and particip.; Civil Society Report at HLPF		3
LT Lithuania			NGDO (non-gov. dev't coop. organisation) - a platform	National Progress Council & soon to be through NCSD	National Dev't Coop. Commission (NDCC), multi-stakeh; particip. in 2018 VNR		4
LU Luxembourg	Roundtables with local government	Roundtables for NSDS	High Council for Sust. Dev't (CSDD)	Inter-departm. Commission for Sust. Dev't co-design subgroup	Subgroup on co-designing process NSDS revision (2017-2018); co-chairs from Min.Econ & Min.DevCo, with NGOs, CSDD & priv. sector		4
MT Malta					Guardian for Future Generations as additional coord. point with stakeh.; participation in 2018 VNR	SD Network planned, new SD strategy to be drafted in consultation	0 (4)
NL Netherlands	Informal through Association		Advisory councils, but not SDG specific		SDG charter; participation in 2017 VNR		1
PL Poland	Joint Government and Territorial Self-Government Committee		2030 Agenda National Stakeholders Forum		Partnership for implementation of SDGs (business init.); participation in 2018 VNR		2
PT Portugal	National Council for the Env. and Sust. Dev't (CNADS)	2016	National Council for the Env. and Sust. Dev't (CNADS)		Forum for Dev't Cooperation & Business Cooperation		3
RO Romania		2018			Business networks & engagement	Plan to have expert/stakeh. participation body and independent societal coalition	1 (4)
SK Slovakia	Government Council for the 2030 Agenda for SD	2018		Government Council for the 2030 Agenda for SD	Slovak Non-Governmental Dev't Organisations Platform		4
SI Slovenia		2018			Participation in 2017 VNR	Dev't council, new systematic participation & institut. forms. (multi-stakeh. and working bodies of Parl.)	1 (4)
ES Spain						New SD Council independent, and integrated particip. mechanism	0 (4)
SE Sweden	National Committee for the 2030 Agenda	in 2018 Action Plan	National Committee for the 2030 Agenda (temp.)				2
UK United K.			Informally, UKSSD				0

Table 6 shows four countries that do not have specific mechanisms for participation in SDG governance: Cyprus, Malta, Spain and the United Kingdom. However, it should be noted that both Spain and Malta have plans for multiple institutional mechanisms for participation in the future, and the United Kingdom is currently still undergoing initial planning and strategic development for how they will integrate the SDGs in their governance.

The lowest level of stakeholder involvement is a formalized or informal consultation process (above as 1). There are 18 countries where the national sustainable development strategy, before or after the SDGs, was done in consultation with society, and 12 countries who completed the VNR's with stakeholder participation or consultation. Many of these included online consultations. In some countries, such as Germany and France, consultation has been a standard procedure for multiple iterations and revisions of their strategy.

We found that a consultation process was not a precondition for other participation mechanisms. Some countries that don't have a specific consultation process for the development of their sustainable development strategies or policies, or for their VNRs, still have other forms of participation. Examples of these include Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Netherlands. However, to open strategic developments up for consultation is a cornerstone of participation and engagement of society in the SDGs, and other bodies or committees achieve different outcomes and are not a replacement for consultation. Some have other participation mechanisms in the form of a bottom-up stakeholder led initiative or a similar enhanced process (in our assessment scheme as 2), while others have institutionalised steps such as a committee or forum which exists either integrated within the national government context, as an independent council or advisor connected to the national government (assessed as 3), or other additional measures (assessed as 4).

An important example of measures to include stakeholders, without a formalised mechanisms is in the form of a business or industry forum or panel (assessed as 2). An example of this is in Romania, where a network for engagement with the private sector exists. Other examples of these bottom-up initiatives include those in the United Kingdom and Italy. In Italy, there are plans to launch an integrated commission for stakeholder participation. In the United Kingdom, the bottom-up initiative of UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) has pushed the government to take steps to integrate the SDGs in their governance and consider stakeholder involvement, where they otherwise were not yet making progress. In Ireland, Coalition 2030, which is a bottom-up forum complements an institutionalised forum to have a dual approach. Bottom-up initiatives can play an important role, as in both of these cases.

There are two ways in which more formalised participation mechanisms are designed to facilitate stakeholder participation in the policy and governance process (assessed as 3): The first is through an independent council or forum (a) (and the second is through a body which is integrated into the governance setting and includes government actors (b). These kinds of specialised institutions, indicating a deeper level of institutionalisation of participation, do not all function in the same way, and the impact of these is largely dependent on contextual settings and governance norms. It is not always the case that an integrated mechanism is more effective than an independent mechanism²⁰, however here we separate them for illustrative purposes. In our assessment of the degree of institutionalisation of stakeholder participation in the governance architecture, independent and integrated bodies were appear together as the third level of institutionalisation to reflect this.

Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Portugal, Poland, and Sweden all have independent bodies, but no institution that is integrated within the government setting. These are all councils, or more loose forums, which are independent of government, but participation is based on collaboration or advice to

²⁰ Niestroy, 2005.

government bodies, rather than integration in decision making or planning. Sometimes this can be less, in particular in the case of Poland and Denmark, where the connection to government activities is not systematic. Alternatively, Czechia, Latvia and Slovakia, have integrated councils but not independent ones.

Seven Member States have developed dual approach with on one hand a formal institutional setting for participation processes and is integrated with the national government as well as an independent body. These include: Luxembourg, Lithuania, Ireland, Hungary, France, Finland and Croatia. An example is Luxembourg where there is an independent High Council for Sustainable Development, which works as an advisory council to the government, and the Inter-departmental Commission for Sustainable Development and co-design subgroup for revision of the sustainable development strategy. Another example can be seen in Finland with a longstanding Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development (FNCSO), integrated within government, and the bottom-up Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development.

Half of the Member States have complementary mechanisms to facilitate inclusion of diverse groups or further integration of stakeholders (assessed as 4): Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia. Some of these mechanisms include participation in Development Cooperation councils (as in Czechia), or youth participation mechanisms (as in Denmark and Finland), to name a few.

3.3.4 Good practice examples

Through this research we identified some mechanisms which demonstrate good approaches for stakeholder participation in relation to the SDGs. Below we outline some examples of mechanisms, or where relevant, the landscape of mechanisms.

A landscape which shows a spectrum of different kinds of participation mechanisms covering multiple aspects of participation and coordination is the one in **Germany**. There are many modes of consultation on sustainable development strategies, and a history of doing so in every revision. This facilitates not just experts participating in this process, but an open consultation and many events and dialogues contribute to a society-wide participation process. A new sustainability forum exists since 2017, which is an addition to the long-standing German Council for Sustainable Development, which facilitates experts to participate in the governance process at a high level. A Dialogue Group has also been created to connect non-state actors directly to the State Secretary Committee. Finally, a platform for inclusion of science and research actors has been established, discussed more in chapter 3.4. These mechanisms facilitate getting one step closer to truly leaving no one behind, and demonstrate the ways in which stakeholder participation should be unique from coordination with sub-national governments. Given the federal structure of the country, it is no surprise to notice an interesting new development of Regional hubs for sustainable development strategies that came into practice during the revision of the last national strategy in 2017.

Luxemburg offers an example of a mechanism which can be seen as being somewhere between 'involve' and 'empower' and demonstrates an excellent example of how to truly integrate stakeholders in the governance process. Within their renewed Inter-departmental Commission for Sustainable Development, there is a subgroup working on a co-designing process for the revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. This working group and process is co-chaired by representatives from the Ministry of the Economy and Ministry of Development Cooperation, and includes NGO's, the Sustainable Development Council and private sector. Co-design processes, in their nature, are a step beyond the traditional stakeholder participation mechanisms (through either consultation or advise) and allow for participation in the decision-making. This is an example of integration of stakeholders at a high

level position focussed on policy coherence and strategic development in an empowering and integrative way.

In the **Czechia**, the participation mechanism is also highly integrated but in other ways. Their main coordination mechanism, Government Council for Sustainable Development is not only the high level mechanism for coordination agenda setting, implementation and reporting, but is also the body through which stakeholders participate. The council has eight thematic committees and stakeholders participate through these committees. In addition to this, there has also been further public consultation on the strategic sustainable development framework and an additional, separate committee for the coordination of local government. Participation takes place at the highest level within the government, but also in a bottom-up way through an online platform.

The governance system in **Finland** features a bottom-up, independent participation mechanism as well as a more thoroughly integrated council. The Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development is a long-standing feature on the landscape in Finland, existing for over 25 years. It is a multi-stakeholder body, chaired by Prime-minister, with approximately 90 civil society, industry, business, labour market and educational organisations, as well as representatives of the government, parliament, ministries, as well as local and regional organisations, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, the indigenous Sámi people and other public, private and third sector stakeholders. The diversity and the longevity of this institution is impressive and demonstrates the legitimacy of and commitment to participation in the Finnish Government. In relation to implementation, there is another body which provides a framework for participation in a bottom-up way. This mechanism is clearly successful in generating commitment, (with over 1,000 commitments already). Opportunities for participation are also present in other mechanisms such as those focussed on youth engagement, scientific expertise and development cooperation.

Finally, new forms of mechanisms are still emerging. Either because governance is always changing or as states still try to figure out how to best integrate the SDGs into their policies. We learned about a number of planned policies which if implemented offer innovative and integrative ways in which participation can take place. For example, in Slovenia, a number of new institutions are being discussed, which include new ways of systemic participation and some new actors who have not thus far been involved. Another example exists in Spain, where participation is being designed with two bodies, one integrated and another independent. These developments show promise that standard or baseline of minimum participation can be pulled up as integrative, interactive and meaningful participation becomes the norm.

3.3.5 Overall reflections

The decision to involve stakeholders in the sustainable development process, governance and strategic decision-making has become a somewhat mainstream norm across Member States. While this is a positive development, there are a few caveats. The first is that while many states have developed their SDS in consultation, these may have been done before the SDGs (and related VNR or strategic revisions) or a new strategy has not been developed for the SDGs. Therefore, while there might be a practice of a consultative or participatory process on their sustainable development strategy, there still may not have been a consultative or participatory process on the governance or strategies related to SDGs themselves. In some states (Spain, Romania, Malta) we learned that this is planned to take place in the future, but in some others, this may continue to be lacking.

While we can conclude that the strategies and policies related to the SDGs do tend to be governed with some amount of stakeholder participation in the majority of Member States, the fact that stakeholder consultation on strategic developments is not a baseline for all, is a key area for improvement.

This study does neither capture the breadth of work from stakeholders in Member States, nor does it capture all attempts of stakeholders to contribute to the governance process in a bottom up way. There

are, however, some important bottom-up initiatives where societal actors are working to carve out their own space in the governance process, for example in Italy, Ireland and the United Kingdom²¹. Considering the breadth of work that is happening in the civil society space on the SDGs, it is possible that institutional mechanisms (such as committees or councils – above as 3, 4), which in their design often have a limited number of representatives, might not be enough to capture and represent the bottom-up activities taking place which relate to the SDGs sufficiently. In particular with the notion of ‘no one left behind’ in mind, the stakeholder processes that we found very rarely discussed explicit inclusion of groups, communities, or representatives beyond those environmental or development organisations.

While it is not the intention of this section to thoroughly assess sub-national policy coordination, a relevant finding related to our research on stakeholder participation is the way in which the two, stakeholder participation and sub-national actors, are often related and interconnected in various mechanisms for participation. In this study, we have found that while participation of stakeholders and coordination with the sub-national government levels are two different things, in fact many governments or reports often frame them as being the same thing, and frequently the coordination mechanisms which exist, link the two. In some of these cases, such as in the Netherlands, participation or representation of local government in participation mechanisms also often takes place through one representative for all sub-national governments, in spite of vast regional differences. This process for sub-national participation in federal countries tended to be clearly separated and distinct from stakeholder participation, as can be seen in Belgium and Germany, and this can be learned from by non-federal states to ensure systematic policy coordination as well as stakeholder participation.

The participation of societal stakeholders and coordination with sub-national governments links closely to the core principle of the SDGs, to leave no one behind. Emphasis of this principle needs to also become applied to domestic conditions, as well as foreign policy and external priorities, and a crucial way in which this can be applied in relation to participation is in the governance structure itself. Structures which facilitate participation of a diversity of actors as well as coherence between governance levels, not only contribute to the success of the goals – as reaching these goals require action beyond the state – but can also contribute to achieving a core principle of inclusivity.

In light of this, an advanced institutionalisation of participation would entail many elements of the following. While context will need to be considered when establishing arrangements, there are meanwhile some common practices which facilitate more participation for inclusive governance:

- Consultations for strategy development and reporting of societal stakeholders.
- An integrated participation mechanism for stakeholders in the governance structure.
- As well as an independent participation mechanism, to facilitate a critical discourse and diversity of participation.
- Specific attention paid to leaving no one behind, and consulting with stakeholders who are often not included in sustainable development discussions.
- Participation of stakeholders and coordination with sub-national government should normally have their own distinct processes, which represent the unique characteristics and dynamics between the national government and these two types of actors (subnational governments and stakeholders in the sense of civil society organisations, private sector etc.). However, in certain contexts a combination might be feasible, too.

²¹ And more emerging in a number of countries where NGOs are setting up SDG alliances, see <https://makeeuropeustainableforall.org/>

Crucially, all of this participation should be done with the aim of policy coherence, inclusivity, and enhancing implementation of the SDGs, and not just for the sake of participation alone.

3.4 Knowledge input via science-policy interface, SDG budgeting and impact assessments

3.4.1 Introduction

This section will discuss knowledge input through three key tools for policy-making: 1) mechanisms to strengthen the science-policy interface, 2) SDG budgeting, and 3) impact assessments for sustainable development.

Integrating knowledge from different sources (independent experts, science, other ministries) can foster reflexivity and learning, as well as evidence-based policy making (e.g. via impact assessments).

Strengthening the science-policy interface for sustainable development is important for well-informed policy choices, especially given the complexity of sustainable development challenges.

Furthermore, we have identified two policy moments where knowledge input seems to be especially critical to improve the quality and coherence of policy choices: the national budgetary process and debates on new laws and policies. Therefore, we have asked countries whether they use SDG budgeting or impact assessments for sustainable development. Integrating these two key tools into the policy and budgetary cycle could be a major step forward in enabling the SDGs to be more than a niche issue and to actually influence policy choices.

3.4.2 Assessment

In our desk research and interviews, we asked countries about they make use of one or several of these three strategic tools for improved knowledge input: science-policy interface, impact assessments for sustainable development and SDG budgeting.

In our assessment scheme we did not value one of these areas higher than the other. Instead, we based our assessment on the accumulation of tools. The more tools for evidence-based and coherent policy-making a country has put in place, the higher it is ranked. We also accounted for more detailed aspects in the degree of institutionalization. For example, a country that involves science representatives in its sustainable development council, which is a very light version of science input and not a real science-policy interface, is graded with a point, whereas a country that has developed a dedicated science-policy interface mechanism for sustainable development gets two points.

	0	1	2	3	4
Q6. Knowledge & tools	No tool	Some light version of a tool (e.g. science involved in SD Council)	1 tool in place (SIA / SDGs integrated in IA, or budget check, or new science-policy interface mechanism)	2 tools in place	3 tools in place

As Table 7 shows, four countries are most advanced in terms of the number of tools in use or in a pilot or light phase are Denmark, Finland, France and Latvia (3 points and 4 for piloted/planned). They are followed by Germany, Greece and Italy (3 points). Six countries have at least one advanced tool in place: Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Slovakia, Sweden, United Kingdom (2 points). Most countries have a rather light version of tools in place for the moment. This concerns twelve countries: Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain (1 point). Finally, Austria and Bulgaria have not signalled any of the three strategic tools for knowledge input (0 points). Altogether twelve countries are currently developing new tools and could potentially rank higher soon. This is the case of Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, France, Ireland, Malta, Netherlands, Romania, with Slovakia and Spain planning the most comprehensive reforms.

3.4.3 Overall good practice examples

Before discussing the three areas separately, we will highlight good practices from countries using more than one tool.

Latvia, for example submits all its long-term and medium-term planning documents to policy assessments [i.e. ex post impact/effectiveness assessments]. Currently, ministries are committed to reviewing gaps between SDG targets and Latvian policy indicators when conducting their mid-term assessments of sectoral policies. Moreover, Latvia has conducted an investment analysis to see how much money was spent from the national budget, EU funds, as well as local government budgets to achieve progress towards their national development targets. In 2017, the Ministry of Finance introduced Policy and Resource Management Maps that are included in the publicly available Annual National Budget Statements.

Denmark already assessed new legislative proposals in terms of their economic, environmental and gender equality consequences before the SDGs. As part of the Action Plan, the government has announced several times that it will henceforth assess the consequences of new legislation and major initiatives for the SDGs when considered relevant in a Danish context and in case the impact is significant. Since 2016, the SDGs have been integrated into the national bill pertaining to the budget for development cooperation indicating which SDGs are addressed by each budget allocation. In line with the SDGs, Denmark remains committed to provide 0.7 per cent of GNI in Official Development Aid. Denmark also plans to launch an SDG Fund that will combine public and private funds to mobilize further private capital.

Finally, **Slovakia and Spain** stand out because they plan to develop ambitious tools in all three areas: involvement of science, impact assessments (especially Spain that plans to incorporate external and global impact on SDGs into regulatory impact assessments) and budgeting.

Table 7: Knowledge input via science-policy interface, SDG budgeting and impact assessments in EU 28

	Science-policy interface	Sustainability impact assessments	Integration of SDGs into budgetary process	Ass. (plan)
AT Austria				0
BE Belgium	SD council includes experts/academia	Sustainable impact assessment tool		2
BG Bulgaria				0
HR Croatia	Academian observer status in new national council for SD, supervisory and advisory council on SD and env. protection has reduced activity since 2012		Croatia2030 National Development plan will be linked to the budget	1 (2)
CY Cyprus		Impact assessments for every bill on various SD aspects		2
CZ Czechia	Research specific part of SD strategy	Planned: Improved ex-ante IA and ex-post evaluations		2 (3)
DK Denmark		Sustainability assessment for legislative proposals, planned: assessing impact of new laws and initiatives on SDGs	SDGs integrated in national budget bill since 2016, ODA target 0,7 achieved, launches SDG fund (public/private)	3 (4)
EE Estonia		Application of SEA [SIA not under consideration]		1
FI Finland	SD expert panel to review strategy	Assessment of impact of harmful subsidies and taxes on envi SDGs	Integration of SDGs in budget doc 2019 (pilot in 2018)	3 (4)
FR France	Working group on science & SDGs created in 2018 for roadmap process; several advisory councils	SEA impact assessments exist but not on SD in a broader sense, alignment of impact assessments with SDGs under debate	Transversal documents to show budget contributes to some SD aspects (eg. ODA, environment), law for beyond GDP indicators	3 (4)
DE Germany	SD Council includes experts and new platform for science support for SDGs; several other advisory councils	Sustainability impact assessment and evaluation of new policy, new sustainability check tool with SDGs		3
EL Greece	National Centre for Envi and SD provides scientific knowledge for policy advice (independent)	Full application of EIA and SEA, guidelines on SDGs to inform the regulatory impact assessment process		3
HU Hungary	National SD council includes academia	Sustainability assessments for all new bills (system not fully operational)		1

IE	Ireland	Academia involved in stakeholder forum; advisory body: National Economic and Social Council		Planned; for Aid budget already a process to tag the <i>SDGs</i>	1 (2)
IT	Italy	Academia key role in <i>SDG</i> context analysis		Beyond <i>GDP</i> indicators integrated in Economy & Finance Document, 4 in 2017 & 12 in 2018	3
LV	Latvia	Latvia 2030 co-developed by academia	Impact assessments, <i>SDGs</i> used in mid-term assessments of sectoral policies	Investment analysis to see how much spent from national & local budgets & <i>EU</i> funds on <i>NDP</i> and <i>SDS</i> (pre- <i>SDGs</i>)	3 (4)
LT	Lithuania	Academia part of <i>SD</i> Commission			1
LU	Luxembourg	High Council for <i>SD</i> ; experts included in <i>CIDD</i>			1
MT	Malta		<i>IA</i> already in place, no explicit link to <i>SDGs</i>	Planned but unclear	1 (2)
NL	Netherlands	Council for <i>Env.</i> and Infrastructure (advisory body); and similar councils	" <i>SDG</i> test" for policy coherence work in progress		1 (2)
PL	Poland		New guidelines for regulatory <i>IA</i> to include transboundary impacts		1
PT	Portugal	<i>SD</i> council includes experts/academia			1
RO	Romania	Planned: consultative body of academia & <i>NGOs</i>	<i>RIA</i> cover <i>SD</i> , planned: consultative body to assess future policies		1 (3)
SK	Slovakia	Academia involved in Gov council's <i>wg</i> , Academic of Science did analysis of challenges and priorities for <i>SDGs</i>	Planned: <i>EIA</i> of Vision and <i>NDS</i> planned	Planned: Investment plan for <i>SD</i>	2 (4)
SI	Slovenia	Academia included in new Development Council	<i>IA</i> for environment but no holistic method	<i>NDS</i> 2030 <i>KPIs</i> integration into budget planned for 2020	1 (2)
ES	Spain	Planned: <i>SD</i> council, participation mechanisms include academia	<i>RIAs</i> , planned: incorporate external and global impact on <i>SDGs</i> into <i>RIA</i>	Planned: alignment of ministries budget with <i>SDGs</i> , Ministry of Treasury leading the measure	1 (4)
SE	Sweden	Scientific Council for <i>SD</i> between 2015-2018		Budget bill 2017 announced an action plan on <i>SDG</i> 10.1, thinking about stronger link <i>SDGs</i> and budget	2 (3)
UK	United Kingdom		Review of business plans of departments for <i>SD</i> - does that fit here		2

3.4.4 Overview of findings tool by tool

Science-policy interface

Looking at our results, it seems that many countries recognize the important role science can play to inform policies towards sustainable development. Nine countries have specifically mentioned that they include representatives from science and academia in their Sustainable development councils, commissions and other participatory mechanisms and two others plan to do so. These councils and commissions often serve as an independent strategic advisory body giving policy recommendations or commenting on drafts of new sustainable development strategies or plans and include several stakeholders, including academia representatives. Most are longer standing, and some are rather recent initiatives influenced by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its principle of partnership.

Some countries give a more specific role to academia. This is the case of Italy where scientists had a special role in what served as a first context analysis of where Italy stands on SDG implementation and that prepared the way for the strategy. Academia and research were involved in context analysis as stakeholders and had an additional role: the draft analysis was sent to research institutes to give a feedback and this step was useful to review and update the analysis and revise the strategic objectives. Slovakia did something similar in the sense that the Academy of Science was charged to do an analysis of challenges and priorities for SDG implementation in the country.

Good practice in the area of science-policy interface

In only a few countries, we observe a more institutionalized science-policy interface mechanism for the SDGs. One example is Germany which already has an independent sustainable development council with experts from different spheres of society. It now also has launched a specific science platform to support SDG implementation. Finland added a group of scientists to its SD Commission. In the context of the French roadmap elaboration process, the French Research Ministry has launched a working group focusing on the role of science in the implementation of the SDGs.

Impact assessments for sustainable development

We have looked at whether countries use the SDGs for assessing the impacts of future laws and policies. It seems that an increasing number of countries seize SDGs as an opportunity to better assess the impacts of policies.

The idea of impact assessments as tool for sustainable development is of course not new. Nineteen countries mention that they use some kind of impact assessment as a tool for sustainable development, ranging from a broad (sustainability) impact assessment (SIA) across all dimensions of sustainable development (as in place at EU level) to a lighter sustainability checks as part of a system of regulatory impact assessment (RIA). Some countries list here the application of Strategic Environmental Assessment, which is, however, only one aspect of sustainable development and only for plans and not for policies (e.g. Estonia, France, Malta, Slovenia). Others mention (policy) sustainability impact assessments explicitly. This is the case of Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Hungary, although for the latter example the system is not fully operational.

Indeed, many countries are already submitting all their legislative proposals to impact studies on the various dimensions of sustainable development. But the challenge often is that these studies only rarely feed into public and parliamentary debate or interministerial work, and therefore have little impact on policy coherence. The SDGs provide an opportunity to relaunch this project and improve not only the quality but also the political use of this tool by the different actors.

Good practice in the area of impact assessments for sustainable development

We have observed a few countries that relaunched the impact assessment as a tool for sustainable development, and in which innovations took place since the adoption of the SDGs. Germany developed a new online sustainability check tool for new laws that is based on the 17 SDGs as part of the RIA system. Greece has developed guidelines on SDGs to inform the RIA process. Latvia uses the SDGs in mid-term assessment of sectoral policies. Others plan to or currently work on new methods to improve impact assessments and reinforce evidence-based policy making and policy coherence. The Netherlands, for example, are about to develop an SDG test for policy coherence, Romania plans to establish a consultative body to assess future policies and particularly interesting seems the idea to include transboundary impacts in regulatory impact assessments. Poland has developed new guidelines in that sense and Spain plans to incorporate external and global impacts on SDGs in RIAs.

Integration of SDGs into budgetary processes²²

As the primary political and economic expression of government policy, the budget seems a natural starting point for the integration of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). So we've looked at whether countries integrate the SDGs into their budgetary process, in one way or the other. What we call SDG budgeting here is countries creating tools to link the SDGs to the budget, for example to make budgets more readable, coherent, or more performance oriented to ensure the budget delivers for sustainable development. Ten countries say they link or plan to link the SDGs to their budgetary process, either directly or indirectly: Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

There are several ways in which countries use or plan to use the SDGs as a tool for a more coherent budgetary process. The first method by which governments integrate SDGs that we identified is that they include qualitative—and more rarely quantitative—elements on SDG implementation in the budget documents they propose to parliament. These reports can take different forms. In Finland, during the preparation of the 2018 budget, the Ministry of Finance asked each ministry to include a short paragraph under each of the main titles in the budget proposal. In these paragraphs, ministries provided information on how sustainable development would be reflected in their sectoral policies during the 2018 financial year. In its 2019 budget, the SDGs were fully integrated in several ways. They were then systematically used in the justifications for the main expenditure titles, to bring out the connections between the appropriations and sustainable development more clearly. In Sweden, ministries are encouraged to show the link between their area and the SDGs in budget documents in a descriptive way. In the document presenting the 2016 budget, the SDGs were mentioned around 100 times, and around 200 times in 2017 according to our interviews. The SDGs are handled differently by different ministries, some reference them more often than others. They are currently thinking about ways to make a stronger link between the budget and the SDGs.

Integrating the SDGs can also increase accountability and performance evaluation. To this end, forging links between budgets and SDGs, especially the indicator framework, can reveal the progress of a country towards the SDGs and help assess the government's performance in a more holistic way. While most countries use performance-based budgeting that relies on results indicators, the SDGs could add an additional, holistic layer of criteria to evaluate the sustainability of a budget. Italy integrated sustainability indicators in its budgetary process to measure the impact of policies on well-being and environmental sustainability. Slovenia has clearly linked the SDGs to national objectives and adapted them to their national context and challenges, prior to adopting 30 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to evaluate national development including budget performance. Slovenia plans to integrate these Indicators into the budget by 2020. France has started experimenting with the use of 10 'wealth indicators' that are

²²

Some of the paragraphs are taken from the following study of the same author: Hege and Brimont, 2018

complementary to GDP (such as carbon footprint or healthy life expectancy). The 2015 'Sas Act' requires the government to publish an annual report upstream of budget discussions that provides details on France's progress. Unfortunately, the Act did not deliver so far on the initial objective of these new wealth indicators which was to inform the budgetary debate. The report and these indicators have not become firmly established in the French political debate—the latest report was published several months after the budget discussions—but the SDGs could be an opportunity to give them a new lease of life. In an interministerial document²³, France announced in February 2018 that it will align its budget performance indicators with the SDGs 'where relevant and possible'²⁴. France is currently in a process of designing a roadmap for SDG implementation that should be ready by 2019. Integrating the SDGs into the national budget will be one of the topics discussed in the series of multi-stakeholder workshops that will feed into the roadmap.

Moreover, a few countries already have tools in place to tag how different budget appropriations contribute to certain SDGs or targets. Ireland does this for its aid budget and plans to widen the approach to other SDGs. France also does this for its aid budget and for environmental aspects of sustainable development. In its 2019 budget, Finland included a chapter in the general strategy and outlook of the budget proposal, focusing on its SDG related priority area of a carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland in the budget and producing an overview of the appropriations relevant to that focus area.

Finally, making the link between SDGs and the budget may also mean to better allocate resources to some aspects of sustainable development or to increase investments for sustainable development in general. Very few countries signaled that they were using the SDGs in such a concrete way. Denmark launches an SDG fund mixing public and private resources, Slovakia plans to create an investment plan for sustainable development and Sweden announced an action plan, specifically on SDG 10.1 (reducing income inequality) in its 2017 budget bill.

Good practice in the area of the integration of SDGs into budgetary processes

Finland appears to be well on its way to strengthen accountability regarding the national budgets impact on the SDGs. This has occurred because from the very beginning civil society has been allowed to participate in the deliberation process on how to link the SDGs to the national budget, through the organization of a multi-stakeholder workshop. To enhance the process, the Ministry of Finance organized a multi-stakeholder workshop in November 2017. The aim of the workshop was to discuss and gather ideas on how sustainable development could be identified and made more visible in the budget, and how the link could be developed between the budgetary process and the sustainable development agenda. The active leadership of the Ministry of Finance has allowed for a very advanced integration of the SDGs into the budgetary process. SDGs are used in the justifications for the main expenditure titles, to bring out the connections between the appropriations and sustainable development more clearly. Furthermore, the general strategy and outlook of the budget proposal includes a chapter focusing on the priority area of a carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland in the budget. It produced an overview of the appropriations relevant to that focus area. In addition, the separate, popularized Budget Review publication emphasizes sustainable development issues as one of the main topics. Finally, an assessment of taxes and harmful subsidies with regard to that focus area has also been included.

Italy is an interesting example. It linked the SDGs to an existing ambitious initiative: in May 2017, National Institute of Statistics published 100 SDGs indicators, among them 38 National Institute of Statistics Indicators for Equitable and Sustainable Welfare (BES). The project behind these indicators started in 2011. The 'Equitable and Sustainable Well-being Project' (BES indicators) aims to move beyond economic indicators and towards a more holistic vision of policy objectives, very much like the SDGs. A

²³ CICID, 2018: Relevé de conclusions.

²⁴ Ibid.

law was adopted in 2016 related to the integration of BES indicators into economic and financial reporting. In 2017 four BES indicators were included in the budget ('Economic and Finance document' - annual document that reports the quality and trends of public expenditures). In 2018, twelve BES indicators were included in the budget document by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. This is a way to measure how Italian policies impact well-being, inequality, CO2 emissions etc., and a way to list in the same document concrete actions and tools to achieve these and other national sustainable development targets. The Italian Ministry of Finance will be tasked to create strong synergies between the NSDS implementation and the formal economic policies Italy also made active use of academia in the preparation of its context analysis and strategy. Academia and research were involved in context analysis as stakeholders and had a special role: the draft analysis was sent to research institutes to give a feedback and this step was useful to review and update the analysis and revise the strategic objectives.

3.4.5 Overall reflections

First of all, we observe that the SDGs are an opportunity to relaunch the idea to make better use of knowledge inputs via strategic tools such as science-policy interface, impact assessments for sustainable development and SDG budgeting. In theory, these tools could have the potential to make policy and budgetary choices more evidence-based, coherent and in line with the latest knowledge about sustainable development challenges.

In practice, a first lesson is that whereas more and more countries seize the SDGs as an opportunity to make use of tools, these tools seem to be still in its infancy in most countries. When it comes to science-policy interface, SDGs led to the creation of new councils and commissions, including academia representatives that can play a strategic advisory role. In a few cases, the SDGs even led to the creation of specific science-policy mechanisms but this remains rare and we can say that science-policy interfaces for sustainable development are still in their infancy. Several countries use the SDGs to improve their impact assessment systems for more sustainable policies. Countries that actively link the SDGs to their budgetary processes are still in the minority but the idea is gaining momentum²⁵.

A second lesson is that these tools effectively often require a strategic understanding of what the SDGs mean in the country context. It comes easier when the SDGs have been translated nationally. If we take the tool of SDG budgeting for example: The budget is about priorities and making choices. As such, the SDG framework is too broad to be translated into a tool for SDG budgeting. The SDGs can, however, be used as an opportunity to discuss and identify the medium-term sustainable development challenges in a country. Once this has been done, these priorities should guide budget choices and could be formulated as objectives, measured by indicators, including budget performance indicators. To illustrate this point, we can have a look at the Slovenian example. Slovenia has clearly linked the SDGs to national objectives and adapted them to their national context and challenges, prior to adopting 30 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to evaluate national development including budget performance. They underlined the need to translate targets into clear national objectives and indicators also because many SDG targets are formulated as trends with only relative targets. This national translation is important to make the SDGs suitable for budget performance evaluation. The same probably applies for using the SDGs in other tools like impact assessments.

²⁵ This idea is also gaining momentum globally as an increasing number of countries are considering integrating the SDGs into their budgeting processes. Of the 64 countries that submitted a national voluntary review during the 2016 and 2017 sessions of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), 23 mentioned ongoing measures to link the SDGs to the national budget, or that they had considered such action. However, these reports are not particularly clear on how they plan to integrate the SDGs into their budgetary processes and why they plan to do this. For more information see: Hege and Brimont, 2018.

A third lesson is that tools are not enough. A country can have very advanced tools but not use them or not use them effectively. Germany for example has developed tools in the area of science-policy interface and impact assessment. To what extent these tools really allow to redirect policy choices towards sustainable development still needs to be demonstrated. Maybe if Germany also made the link with its budget policy, the combination of these different tools could become more impactful? All these different tools face similar challenges and we can draw lessons from past experiences, for example the attempts to incorporate new wealth indicators into the budgetary discussion²⁶: indicators can be used as tools for steering public action only if they are used at all stages of public policymaking, both upstream to legitimize and institutionalize a phenomenon and to monitor its evolution, and downstream to evaluate the results of a policy strategy. Therefore, for these tools to have a significant impact, the SDGs and the objectives they support must be recognized as a national priority on the political agenda. This requires parliamentarians, academia, civil society, other political parties and ministries to use the SDGs and these tools in the debates around new policies, including the budget. Only then can these tools play a role in putting the SDGs into politics by providing a forum for debate between the different actors and interest groups.

A step forward to make best use of knowledge and tools would be to foster public policy evaluation for the SDGs to assess the antagonistic or synergistic effects of different programs to improve policy coherence. Courts of Auditors and science could play key roles in such evaluations.

3.5 Long-term perspective

3.5.1 Introduction

This section presents the ways in which Member States integrated the concern of maintaining a long term perspective (see Table 8). While a long term perspective is a core principle underpinning governance for sustainable development, and the concept of sustainable development itself, this is not always explicitly designed into governance mechanisms²⁷. In this aspect of the research we looked for a diverse range of mechanisms which were understood to be the mechanism through which the Member State addresses this issue. These are either through long-term strategies or policies, or new institutions²⁸. All party activities in parliaments, including dedicated bodies, are also in general considered as beneficial for keeping the long-term view, with the assumption that there will be committed members of parliament from all parties who continue also when governments changes. However, this is rather fostering policy continuity than the long-term view. Governance arrangements for the SDGs within parliaments are dealt with in chapter 5

3.5.2 Assessment

Institutions which deal with a long term perspective can be either 'future-focussed', as in designed specifically about the future, or 'future-beneficial', related in some way to the future²⁹. To be future-focused implies that it is the explicit point of the policy, mechanism or institution. To be future-beneficial implies that the future is considered, but is not necessary the sole focus of the mechanism. In this research we integrated this conceptualization of the way that policies can deal with the future, as seen in our assessment scheme. This enabled us to not only look at how mechanisms deal with the future, and also specifically how they integrate and embed a long term perspective, so that it can be a more meaningful policy tool for sustainable development rather than just the title of a strategy.

²⁶ Demailly et al., 2015

²⁷ United Nations Secretary-General, 2013

²⁸ SDSN and Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2018

²⁹ González-Ricoy and Gosseries, 2017

	0	1	2	3	4
Q 7.1 Institutions for the long-term	No priority	Include priority, but no additional steps. (e.g. strategy for 2050), - ['Future in another frame']	A further measure about the long term but is not institutionalised (e.g. working group, strategy), - ['Future is the dominant frame, not institutionalised']	Explicit within another institution or measure (e.g. constitution/law, a special WG w/in another body), - ['Future is within another institution']	A specific institutional measure to address this: like Ombudsman for future gen., parliamentary committee, - ['The institution is for the future']

3.5.3 Overview of findings

We identified that 13 Member States use a diverse range of mechanisms to try to account for the long term perspective in their governance for sustainable development. These ranged across a wide spectrum of institutional settings and demonstrate varying amounts of institutionalisation of this concept. Of these 13 Member States, four included the question of maintaining a long term perspective in their governance, but not with any additional steps (category 1). This demonstrates a recognition of the importance of this aspect of sustainable development and governance without taking additional action to prioritise it. An example of this is in multiple countries (Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland) where strategy documents, often even before the SDGs, adopted a long term approach (for example, until 2050) and the government considers this approach as facilitating a long term perspective.

Four Member States (Belgium, Denmark, Luxemburg and Slovenia) have developed at least one additional measure to facilitate a long term perspective in sustainable development policy and governance (category 2). These often come in the form of a new and additional working group, or strategy paper that is focussed on the long term. However this level does not represent a thorough institutionalisation as these mechanisms do not hold significant power or authority to result in a change in the implementation of the SDGs.

Germany has an institution with a specific remit, focus, or explicit priority for the consideration of a long term perspective within an existing mechanism or structure in its Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Sustainable Development (PBNE). This kind of example demonstrates the way in which a long term perspective can be anchored within the governance system without designing new institutions which might be too politically sensitive or require too many additional resources (category 3). In this example, 'intergenerational equity' was one of three key areas through which policy was assessed. This structure existed up until very recently, when the Parliamentary Advisory Committee signalled that they planned to revise their assessment to align with the SDGs and exclude the assessment of the long term perspective.

Three Member States have developed institutions which hold the specific remit of facilitating a focus on the long term in governance and sustainable development, Malta, Hungary and Finland (category 4). These institutions include examples such as a 'Committee for the Future' in the Finnish parliament (see also chapter 5), a Guardian for Future Generations, as in Malta, or a Parliamentary Commission for Future Generations (formerly the Ombudsperson for Future Generations), as in Hungary. The two latter are not only focussed on bringing long term considerations inherent in sustainable development into present policy-making, but they also have functions of oversight and connections horizontal between ministries,

Table 8: Institutions for the long-term perspective in EU 28

	<i>pre SDGs</i>	<i>post SDGs</i>	Ass. (plan)
AT Austria			
BE Belgium	Legal basis <i>SD</i> and 'Long Term Vision' 2030/50 help long-term perspective (in legislation from 2010)	continued	2
BG Bulgaria			
HR Croatia			
CY Cyprus			
CZ Czechia			
DK Denmark		Danish Youth Council (umbrella org.) very active	2
EE Estonia		Long-term strategy papers	1
FI Finland	Parliamentary Cie. for the Future	Youth engagement mechanisms to 2030 for long-term perspective	4
FR France			
DE Germany	Intergen. fairness is principle of <i>SDS</i> & included in Sust. impact assessment (by <i>PBNE</i>)	continued	3
EL Greece			
HU Hungary	Ombudsman Future Generations up until 2011	1. Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations, deputy Ombudsperson within the Ombs of Fundamental Rights from 2011 on 2. Directorate Env. Sustainability in President's office resp. for long-term <i>SD</i> issues	4 3
IE Ireland			
IT Italy			
LV Latvia		Had an <i>SDS</i> with a 20 year horizon already 2010	2
LT Lithuania		2030 agenda timeframe = long term planning	1
LU Luxemburg		Youth4planet: agreement signed with gov't on educ. activities to support	2
MT Malta	Sustainable Development Act mandates Guardian for future generations (2012)	1. Guardian of future generations (2017) 2. Commissioner for Children 3. Commissioner for Environment & Planning (ombudsman functions)	4
NL Netherlands			
PL Poland		2030 agenda as take on long term	1
PT Portugal			
RO Romania			
SK Slovakia			
SI Slovenia		1. Vision Slovenia 2050, 2. Children Parliament	2
ES Spain		New: Commission on children and adolescents' rights (in the Parliament); prepare for the adoption of a long-term 2020-2030 <i>SDS</i>	(2)
SE Sweden			
UK United Kingdom			

and offer scrutiny of the government often through a formal parliamentary process. They represent not only a means through which to prioritise the issue of long term governance, but also a means through which to integrate horizontally this concept. However, none of these mechanisms were the result of the SDGs and in all cases they were developments in sustainable development governance sometimes over a decade before the SDGs came into force.

3.5.4 Good practice examples

Over the last couple of decades, there have been few connections drawn in governance processes between policy and implementation of sustainable development and the underlying principle of considering the long-term. While the long term nature of the SDGs has extended the perspective for many states, steps to overcome the short-term aspects of our systems, often created by political cycles, remain limited. In this context, two examples exist of specialised institutions which work to bring the future and long term perspective into the policy-making process in **Hungary** and **Malta**. However, in both examples, while institutions officially work as ‘Guardians for Future Generations’ in the context of sustainable development, both have struggled to maintain legitimacy, consistency and the resources necessary to continue to play a meaningful role. While the idea behind these specialised institutions is a concrete way to include a long term perspective, they remain challenged by practical limitations.

3.5.5 Overall reflections

One of the fundamental problems in governance for sustainable development is how to overcome the typical political short-termism of democratic systems to be able to sufficiently adhere to the underlying principle of sustainable development: 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'³⁰. This problem is also crucially also related to the coherence of our policies and our governance systems because we consider short term targets for some sectors (economic, labour, etc.) and long term targets for others (environment). Much of this report considers the fact that we need to have coherent policies, but in addition to just coherent policy content, we need to have integrated and coherent policy time-frames. Without this, the future targets will always get de-prioritized for the more present targets.

At present, the examples which we include as the examples of the greatest institutionalisation of the concept, still continue to face challenges themselves. Including one case where in order to focus on the SDGs, the long term perspective was taken out of the governance process. In order to truly integrate a long term perspective that true sustainable development requires, we need to consider ways in which government budgets, planning and scrutiny process, can take into account their longer term impact and their ability to contribute towards the targets, goals or aspirations that might be outlined in a long term strategy paper. We also need to see these as complementary, and inherently linked objectives and not trade-offs. Further integration of the considerations of a long term perspective into the parts of government which are traditionally particularly short term – such as budget planning, or political priorities from elected officials – is the next step towards bringing life to this principle of sustainable development.

As we reflect on the integration of the SDGs into national governments, we can also learn on how to address this specific issue. While it is widely recognized that locating sustainable development within an environmental Ministry facilitates a siloed approach which does not enable us to sufficiently focus on the societal-wide transformation that is encompassed in the concept of sustainable development, the lesson learned in the context of sustainable development is not often applied to other or new institutions or

³⁰

World Commission on the Environment and Development, 1987

mechanisms related to the future. While specific institutions, such as Guardians for Future Generations, can help to raise the priority of long term thinking and inject some amount of influence on the policy-making process, as long as institutions such as this remain siloed their impact will remain limited³¹.

4 SDG implementation at EU level

This chapter looks at the EU level activities and processes related to Agenda 2030. It provides an overview of how the key institutions - European Commission (EC), Council of the European Union, European Parliament (Parliament, EP), and their main advisory bodies (European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Committee of the Regions (CoR)) have prepared themselves for and are currently implementing the SDGs (4.1). We then use the analytical framework, as applied for the Member States, to present the main governance mechanism in place at EU level, in and between the EU institutions (4.2). The European Parliament will be discussed separately in chapter 5.

4.1 The steps so far: Chronology 2015-2018

Figure 2 shows the activities at EU level on Agenda 2030 per institution on a timeline from 2014 until 2018/2019 (planned). Both the figure and this section also include related overarching processes such as on the 'Future of Europe'.

2015

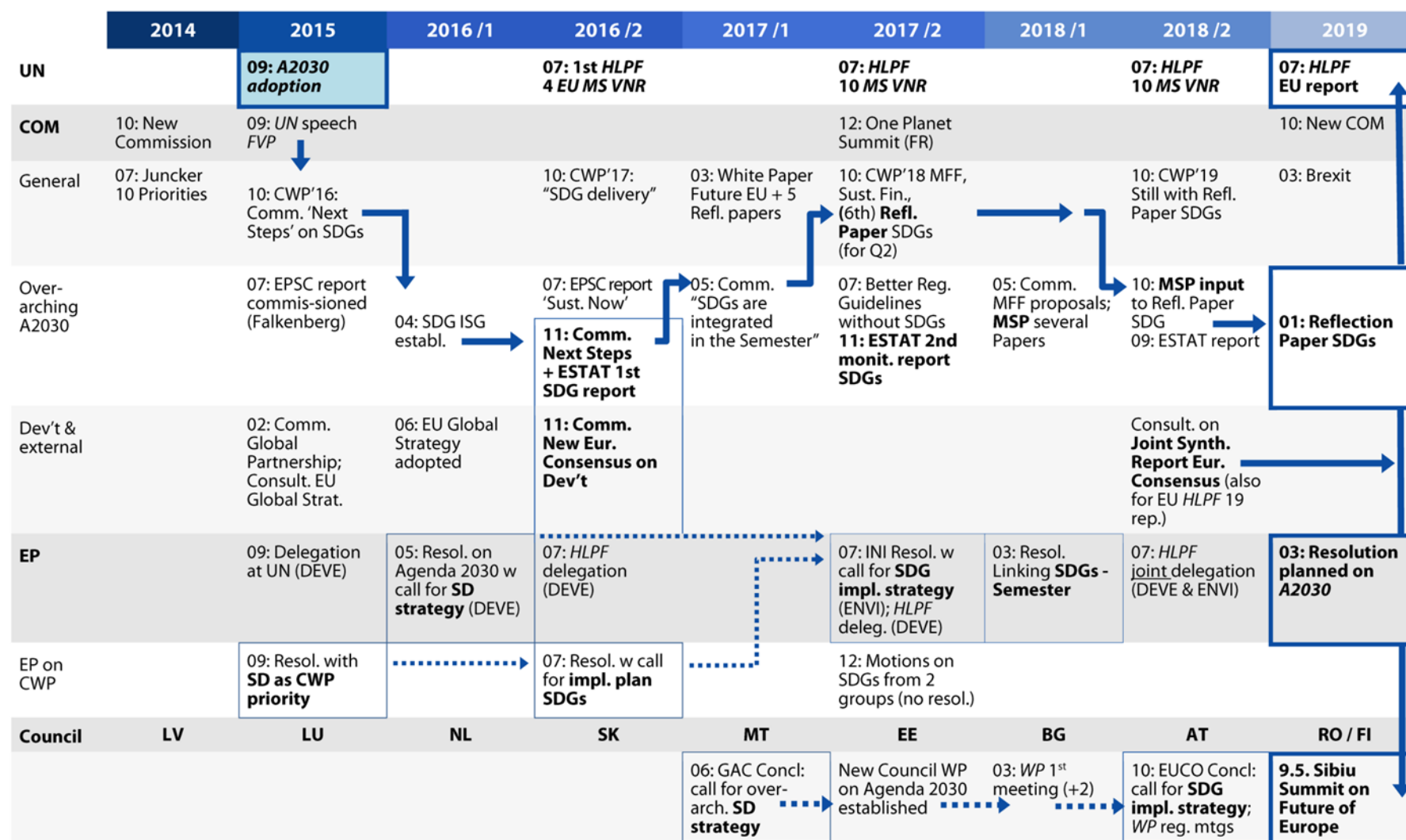
When the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Agenda 2030 with its 17 SDGs in September 2015, the European Commission strongly welcomed this. In his speech at the UNGA³², First Vice-President Timmermans created high expectations about the level of ambition with which the European Commission would support the implementation of the SDGs:

'My main message, Europe's message to all these countries is: it's also our turn now to step out of our comfort zone. It's about very concrete questions. How we have to turn around our economies to make them circular – leaving behind our “take-make-consume and dispose” growth pattern. How we must mend our societies' social fabric, and how we integrate newcomers – all the more when they come as refugees fleeing war persecution. It's about clean air, water and oceans. More resilient cities, that are healthy, inclusive and safe. About tackling food waste – a third of the food worldwide is thrown away which is frankly shocking beyond belief. And it's about our collective action to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius.'

The Vice-President's speech emphasised the systemic nature of the challenges:

'The models that worked for so many of us in the past are not ones that will work for all of us in the future. We have to redefine our societies, our relationship with nature. Of course, this feels threatening. But fear can be a powerful engine. We have to be creative. Because fundamentally this is about rethinking everything we do.'

The European Parliament participated in this summit with a delegation of the DEVE Committee.

Figure 2: Agenda 2030 as taken up in the three EU institutions 2015 – 2018/2019 (planned)

The previous year 2014, things did not look so supportive. The Juncker Commission assumed office on 1 November 2014 with at least two actions that attracted critical attention across Europe: sustainable development was not among the 10 priorities³³ formulated by President Juncker, and it soon became clear that the new Commission was planning to withdraw the 2014 Circular Economy package³⁴.

After critical reactions and pressure from Environment Ministers³⁵, civil society organisations and business representatives, as well as individual MEPs, the Commission announced in its 2015 Work Programme that the circular economy package would be replaced with a 'new, more ambitious proposal by end 2015 to promote circular economy'³⁶. Furthermore, sustainable development was added to the portfolio of First Vice President Timmermans, as 'Coordinating the work across the Commission on the coherence of proposals with the principle of sustainable development'³⁷.

In February 2015, eight months prior to the adoption of the SDGs by the UNGA, the European Commission had adopted a Communication on a 'Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development' with proposals on how the international community should organise its action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, and how the EU and its Member States could contribute to the international effort³⁸.

The October 2015 Commission Work Programme for 2016³⁹ announced 'a new approach to ensuring economic growth and social and environmental sustainability beyond the 2020 timeframe, taking into account the Europe 2020 review and the internal and external implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.'

In December 2015, the Commission adopted a new circular economy package⁴⁰, which was followed by among others a Plastics strategy in January 2018⁴¹.

Since 2015, the European Parliament⁴² has gradually stepped up its joint effort to convince the European Commission to act on the implementation of the SDGs. Already in its resolution of 16 September 2015 on the Commission Work Programme 2016⁴³, the Parliament urges the Commission 'to make sustainability the core of any sound, future-oriented and crisis-solving economic policy and to give it substance in this and future work programmes'.

³³ http://ec.europa.eu/archives/juncker-commission/priorities/index_en.htm

³⁴ In a leaked draft, available on the Internet, the Commission gave as reason for withdrawal: "No foreseeable agreement". See https://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/attachments/draft_cwp2015_-_annexes.pdf

³⁵ In a letter from 1 December 2014.

³⁶ Annex II to the Commission Work Programme 2015: Annex II: List of withdrawals or modifications of pending proposals. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp_2015_annex_ii_en.pdf

³⁷ Mission letter Juncker to Timmermans, 1.11.2014.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/cwt/files/commissioner_mission_letters/timmermans_en.pdf

³⁸ COM(2015) 44 final (5.2.2015). "Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015". https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/com-2015-44-final-5-2-2015_en.pdf.

³⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp_2016_en_0.pdf

⁴⁰ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6203_en.htm

⁴¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-281_en.htm

⁴² While the European Parliament's internal governance approach for Agenda 2030 will be discussed in chapter 5.3, the policy activities are included in this chronology.

⁴³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P8-TA-2015-0323+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

In the run up to the adoption of the SDGs, contributions tended to be confined to the external dimension:

- The Committee of the Regions (CoR) in June 2015 adopted an Opinion on the EU input in the process towards the new global agenda 2015-2030⁴⁴, replying to two previous Commission Communications on external policy related to (sustainable) development: 'A decent Life for all: from vision to collective action' (COM (2014) 335) and 'A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015' (COM (2015) 44 final).
- Similarly, a European Parliament resolution of 19 May 2015 on Financing for Development⁴⁵ '(...) urges the EU to affirm its political leadership throughout the preparatory process towards the definition of a sustainable development framework, a renewed agreement on financing for development and other means of implementation, along the commitments and values stated in its founding Treaties; considers that the provision of EU development aid should not be conditioned by other partner donors'.

2016

As first reaction to the formal adoption of the SDGs by any of the EU institutions, the Parliament adopted a resolution on the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda⁴⁶ on 12 May 2016. The resolution 'Calls on the Commission to come forward with a proposal for an overarching Sustainable Development Strategy encompassing all relevant internal and external policy areas, with a detailed timeline up to 2030, a mid-term review and a specific procedure ensuring parliament's full involvement, including a concrete implementation plan'. Besides a few such 'overarching' aspects, the resolution focussed predominantly on the external dimension and development policy, likely since it was prepared in the DEVE Committee.

In July 2016, the report 'Sustainability Now!'⁴⁷ was published, written on request from the Commission by former director-general Environment Falkenberg when he was working as advisor 'hors class' at President Juncker's think tank EPSC.

On 6 July 2016, the Parliament in its resolution on the CWP 2017⁴⁸ calls the Commission to 'integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) in the EU's external and internal policies; urges the Commission to report on its plan for implementation, monitoring, follow-up and incorporation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs'.

Also in July 2016, four EU Member States were among the first group of UN countries to present a Voluntary National Report (VNR) at the first HLPF meeting: Estonia, Finland, France and Germany⁴⁹.

In September 2016, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) called for 'an overarching and integrated strategy for a Sustainable Europe 2030 and beyond, providing the necessary long-term time horizon, policy coordination and coherence for implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda. This strategy must include specific targets for SDG implementation, review and monitoring mechanisms, as well as

⁴⁴ CoR (2018). Opinion A decent life for all: from vision to collective action.

<https://webapi.cor.europa.eu/documentsanonymous/cor-2014-05701-00-01-ac-tra-en.docx>

⁴⁵ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0196+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

⁴⁶ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0224+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

⁴⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/epsc/sites/epsc/files/strategic_note_issue_18.pdf

⁴⁸ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P8-TA-2016-0312+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

⁴⁹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

action plans with the necessary legislative and policy instruments, awareness-raising activities and a plan for mobilising financial resources.⁵⁰

In October 2016, the Commission adopted its Work Programme for 2017⁵¹ which states that 'the Commission will continue to work to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals' and mentions in this context several new initiatives on circular economy, plastics recycling and water reuse, and a strategy on sustainable finance.

In November 2016 the Commission finally presented a 'three pack' on Agenda 2030:

1. an 'overarching' Communication on 'Next steps for a sustainable European future. European action for sustainability'⁵²
2. a proposal for a new European Consensus on Development⁵³
3. a Eurostat report 'Sustainable development in the European Union — A statistical glance from the viewpoint of the UN Sustainable Development Goals'⁵⁴

The 'overarching' Communication includes two tracks: The first is to 'mainstream the SDGs into EU policies and initiatives with sustainable development as an essential guiding principle for all its policies', including regular reporting of the EU's progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as from 2017. A second track comprises 'reflection work on developing further a longer-term vision in a post 2020 perspective'. The Communication was accompanied by a staff working document mapping what the main actions are that the European Union is undertaking in terms of both domestically oriented and external actions⁵⁵, which was, however, not a gap analysis. The Communication also announced the launch of a Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs (MSP) that would support and advise the Commission on SDG implementation.

2017

At the initiative of **Commission** President Juncker, a broad debate on the 'future of Europe' was launched in 2017, which is planned to be concluded at a summit in Sibiu on 9 May 2019. As first step the Commission issued a White Paper on the future of Europe, with five scenarios⁵⁶ in March 2017. Subsequently, five reflection papers were published to open the discussion. In none of the scenarios sustainable development and Agenda 2030 was used as part (or central focus) of the vision and narrative for a future EU. More than 250 non-government organisations from across Europe therefore submitted a 'sixth scenario' to the Commission⁵⁷.

In May 2017, the Commission adopted a Communication accompanying the European Semester Recommendations, which stated that: *The wider and longer-term vision of the Europe 2020 strategy and the*

⁵⁰ <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/sustainable-development-mapping-eus-internal-and-external-policies>

⁵¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp_2017_en.pdf

⁵² COM(2016) 739 final, 22.11.2016. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication-next-steps-sustainable-europe-20161122_en.pdf

⁵³ COM(2016) 740 final, 22.11.2016 https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/proposal-new-european-consensus-development_en

⁵⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-books/-/KS-02-16-996?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Feurostat%2Fweb%2Fsd%2Fpublications>

⁵⁵ Key European action supporting the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/swd-key-european-actions-2030-agenda-sdgs-390-20161122_en.pdf
⁵⁶ COM(2017)2025 of 01.03.2017. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/white_paper_on_the_future_of_europe_en.pdf

⁵⁷ Scenario 6: Sustainable Europe for its citizens.

http://www.foeeurope.org/sites/default/files/other/2017/6th_scenario_future_of_europe.pdf

*2030 Sustainable Development Goals are important to guide action on an annual basis and are fully integrated in the European Semester*⁵⁸.

This apparently meant to follow the 'mainstreaming' track of the Commission communication from November 2016. However, such a statement without previous action seemed somewhat surprising. Similarly, surprising were the revised Better Regulation Guidelines as published in July 2017.⁵⁹ Better regulation had been explicitly mentioned in the Commission communication as tool to use for mainstreaming the SDGs in all policy areas. However, the revised guidelines do not mention the SDGs as overarching policy framework at all. Moreover, in the section on policy coherence, for example, the interconnectedness of the SDGs and the need to address these linkages in nexus approaches is not mentioned.

Also in the **Council**, the reactions to Agenda 2030 were initially focussed on the external dimension, and the revision of the European Consensus on Development moved ahead quite quickly. In November 2016, the Development Council had already discussed the Commission proposal, and a new Consensus was adopted in May 2017. The overarching track of the Council was fast too: council conclusions were prepared during the first half of 2017 in the so-called Jumbo working formation, composed of Environment and Development Cooperation representatives.⁶⁰ The limitations of this format lead to the establishment of new Council 'Working Party on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development' end of 2017 during the Estonian Presidency. This was an important institutional innovation, as it connects the domestic and external agendas, and it is still the 'top runner' in this respect (see also chapter 4.2).

The Council Conclusions were adopted by the General Affairs Council in June 2017. It also called for an overarching SDG implementation strategy, identifying gaps (both with a deadline of mid-2018), and to link the monitoring of SDG implementation to the European Semester, where relevant. The Council:

'URGES the Commission to elaborate, by mid-2018, an implementation strategy outlining timelines, objectives and concrete measures to reflect the 2030 Agenda in all relevant EU internal and external policies, considering the global impacts of the EU's domestic actions. ...;

CALLS ON the Commission to identify existing gaps by mid-2018 in all relevant policy areas in order to assess what more needs to be done until 2030 in terms of EU policy, legislation, governance structure for horizontal coherence and means of implementation. ...

*CALLS UPON the Commission to carry out detailed regular monitoring of the SDGs at EU level, including where relevant in the context of the European Semester*⁶¹.

In July 2017, a further ten EU Member States presented their Voluntary National Review on the SDGs at the HLPF⁶². The European Parliament participated again with a delegation of the DEVE Committee.

Prior to the HLPF the Parliament had issued its second resolution on Agenda 2030, this time led by the ENVI Committee and with a more domestic and overarching view. This resolution as of 6 July 2017 was also a clear call on the Commission:

'to develop, without delay, a comprehensive short-, medium-, and long-term coherent, coordinated and overarching framework strategy on the implementation of the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets in the EU, recognising the inter-linkages and parity of the different SDGs by

⁵⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2017-european-semester-country-specific-recommendations-commission-recommendations-communication.pdf>

⁵⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/better-regulation-guidelines.pdf>

⁶⁰ "Joint CODEV/CONUN/WPIEI (global)"

⁶¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/23989/st10370-en17.pdf>

⁶² Belgium, Cyprus Czechia, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden.

taking a multi-level governance and cross-sectoral approach; underlines, furthermore, the necessity of integrating all aspects of the 2030 Agenda into the European Semester and of ensuring Parliament's complete involvement in the process; calls on the First Vice-President, who has cross-cutting responsibility for sustainable development, to take a lead on this; stresses the fact that the EU and its Member States have made a commitment to fully implementing all SDGs and targets, both in practice and in spirit'⁶³.

Agenda 2030 also featured in discussion of the Parliament on the priorities for the Commission's Work programme (CWP) 2018, namely in two motions for a resolution by the S&D group and one by EPP/ALDE/ECR. Both motions failed to receive a majority of the votes. There was in 2017 no resolution of the Parliament on the CWP but for other reasons than the SDGs.

- The motion for a resolution of the S&D Group⁶⁴ considered that 'the EU needs to have a concrete strategy for sustainable growth, sustainable finance, competitiveness, quality jobs, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals throughout the EU by 2030 and fulfilment of our commitments under the Paris climate agreement; points out that realising a European strategy for sustainable development means that regulatory standards need to be updated and relevant financial instruments need to be in place.'
- The motion for a resolution by EPP/ALDE/ECR⁶⁵ stated that 'sustainability and economic growth are compatible and can be mutually reinforcing', 'calls on the Commission to develop, in cooperation with the Member States and stakeholders, an overarching EU framework for the implementation of all 17 SDGs; insists that successfully achieving the SDGs requires a better use of existing tools, such as the Better Regulation Agenda and the Environmental Action Programme, as well as the effective implementation of the principle of policy coherence for development', and calls on the Commission to 'closely monitor the institutional and policy changes needed to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda'.

In July 2017 also the Economic and Social Committee contributed to the CWP and called on the Commission 'to adopt sustainable development as an overarching approach to its work, with reference to the three "pillars" of sustainability: i) strengthening the economic foundations of Europe; ii) fostering its social dimension; and iii) facilitating the transition towards a low-carbon and circular economy'.⁶⁶

Furthermore, the CoR adopted an opinion on 12 July 2017⁶⁷ stating that 'multilevel Governance is the ideal approach for policies that aim to build a sustainable future', and the CoR '... given the complexity and the multitude of different reference frameworks, underlines the need for policy coherence, mainstreaming and a consistent governance framework'.

In October 2017, the Commission Work Programme for 2018⁶⁸ announced again that the Commission 'will present an initiative on sustainable finance' – which it did indeed, in March 2018⁶⁹. It also stated that the Commission's proposals for the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) will be in the context of sustainable development: 'The new budget will help us to meet citizens' expectations of an EU that delivers on the things that matter most and that contribute to the long-term sustainability of the EU'.

⁶³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2017-0315+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

⁶⁴ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONGML%2bMOTION%2bB8-2017-0454%2b0%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>

⁶⁵ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONGML+MOTION+P8-RC-2017-0434+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

⁶⁶ <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/paving-way-forward-eesc-contribution-commissions-2018-work-programme>

⁶⁷ <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Pages/OpinionTimeline.aspx?opId=CDR-137-2017>

⁶⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp_2018_en.pdf

⁶⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0097>

Finally, it announced a sixth reflection paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030, on the follow-up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change'. It was first foreseen for the first half of 2018, then got postponed to the 3rd and later to the 4th quarter of the year.

In November 2017, the Commission adopted the European Pillar of Social Rights, a framework with 20 principles to support fair and accessible labour markets, social welfare and health systems, that became unanimously endorsed by all EU institutions.

Also in November, Eurostat published 'Sustainable development in the European Union – 2017 monitoring report of the progress towards the SDGs in an EU context'⁷⁰. It provides a first statistical overview of trends relating to the SDGs in the EU, now with a full set of 100 indicators.

On 12 December 2017, the Commission participated in the 'One Planet Summit', hosted by the French President Macron on the occasion of the anniversary of the Paris agreement⁷¹. The Commission presented an 'Action Plan for the Planet' with 10 'transformative initiatives for a modern economy and a fair society'⁷². While it only mentions the SDGs very briefly but underlining the EU's commitment to mainstreaming the Goals into EU policies and initiatives, the language and spectrum of initiatives and is probably one of the strongest outlet with respect to sustainability of the Juncker Commission.

2018

The Multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) as announced in the Commission communication from November 2016 was put in motion during 2017 and held its first meeting in January 2018 (see also Chapter 4.2). Even if considering that a call for nominations and the selection procedure takes time, this was not exactly a speedy process. The MSP engaged in a collaborative process to prepare a joint contribution to the Commission's Reflection paper 'Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030', which had been announced in the Commission's 2018 Work Programme. This Reflection paper is part of the Future of Europe debate, which is planned to culminate at the informal European Council in Sibiu, Romania, on 9 May 2019,⁷³ and also meant to be a basis for EU reporting at the 'review HLPF' in September 2019.

In March 2018, the Parliament adopted a resolution on the European Semester, which 'Urges the Commission to develop a comprehensive strategy to support investment that enhances environmental sustainability, and to ensure a proper link between the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Semester'⁷⁴.

In July 2018, another ten EU Member States presented their Voluntary National Review on the SDGs at the HLPF in New York.⁷⁵ Croatia and the United Kingdom have announced to submit their VNR in 2019 (and France presenting its second VNR already). This means that from 28 EU Member States, only Austria and Bulgaria have not yet presented or announced their VNR. The Parliament participated for the second time in the HLPF with a joint delegation of members from the DEVE and the ENVI Committee.

In September 2018 Eurostat published its second annual Monitoring report on sustainable development in the European Union.⁷⁶

⁷⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-statistical-books/-/KS-04-17-780>

⁷¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-5163_en.htm

⁷² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/one-planet-summit-ten-initiatives-modern-clean-economy_en.pdf

⁷³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/future-europe_en

⁷⁴ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P8-TA-2018-0077+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

⁷⁵ Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Spain.

⁷⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-books/-/KS-01-18-656>

On 11 October 2018, the contribution of the Multi-stakeholder platform to the Commission's Reflection paper on the SDGs⁷⁷ was handed over to the Commission. The Platform also proposes, inter alia, that the EU should develop an overarching 'Sustainable Europe 2030' strategy to guide all EU policies and programmes. It suggests strengthening policy coherence for development, for example by aligning the European Semester process, EU public finances and financial regulations, and the EU's long-term decarbonisation plans with the SDGs. The MSP also submits suggestions for policy areas considered vital for achieving the SDGs such as social inclusion, sustainable consumption and production, climate and energy, food, farming and land-use, and cohesion. The first vice-president Timmermans announced that the Reflection paper will be discussed in the college on 19 December, and published the latest in January.

As the call from the Council for an overarching SDG implementation strategy (June 2017) remained unanswered for more than one year, the Council reaffirms its call in 2018 at the highest level. On 18 October 2018, the 28 Heads of State concluded that

'The EU and its Member States are fully committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its implementation. The European Council welcomes the intention of the Commission to publish its Reflection Paper in 2018, which should pave the way for a comprehensive implementation strategy in 2019'⁷⁸.

The Commission Work Programme for 2019⁷⁹ confirmed the planned adoption end of 2018 of Reflection paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030', and positions this in a wider context of 'Challenges arising from an increasingly volatile global situation in which demographics, competition for resources, and climate change which require a shared push to sustainability'. It is quite unusual that the CWP includes an action that is meant to be completed in the preceding year, and it lacks a plausible explanation. At the time of writing the news broke that the discussion in the College on the Reflection paper is postponed again to now 'early 2019'.

State of play end of 2018

More than three years after the adoption of the SDGs by the UN Member States, and despite repeated calls from Council, Parliament, EESC, CoR, and civil society, the Commission has not yet developed any specific and measurable SDG implementation strategy. There have been no systematic steps taken to mainstream the SDGs in all EU policies, as announced November 2016, and there is no mechanism that ensures sustainability in the work of all Commission services. Moreover, there is no approach for monitoring progress on the SDGs in the EU Member States, which makes it difficult for the EU to be(come) a global leader in sustainability. Except for the European Commission, the other involved EU institutions and advisory bodies, as well as the Multi-stakeholder platform with civil society, business and other stakeholders agree that there should be a new EU strategy to 2030 to implement the SDGs. There is also broad consensus among these players, to integrate monitoring and assessment of progress on the SDGs into the existing mechanism of the European Semester, and to reform the Semester into an annual sustainability review. The Commission has not yet commented on these proposals, apart from the statement in 2017 that the SDGs 'are fully integrated in the European Semester'.

The Juncker Commission has so far made a different assessment than the other institutions and the societal stakeholders. This is on the one hand understandable in the EU political context where 'blame

⁷⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/sdg_multi-stakeholder_platform_input_to_reflection_paper_sustainable_europe2.pdf

⁷⁸ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/36775/18-euco-final-conclusions-en.pdf>

⁷⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0800&from=EN>. There was no resolution of the European Parliament on the CWP 2019.

games'⁸⁰ between the Council and Commission take place, which seems to have resulted in a Commission view that (a) it should not accept responsibilities on which it cannot ensure deliverance and (b) that an SDG implementation strategy would fall in this category. On the other hand, one could argue that the importance of the transformation towards sustainability – and the societal costs of non-implementation – is of a quite different magnitude than the challenge to (re)build trust between the EU institutions. It is also plausible and understandable that more time for discussion was needed in the College, as not all Commissioners have been fully supportive of the SDGs. However, it would have been worthwhile to consider a more positive approach in the sense of starting with a 'coalition of the willing' and expand this, – in particular with the significant moves on the side of the Council, and to some extent in the Parliament. From a bird's eyes view (see Figure 2) the story of this Commission and the SDGs looks like the ball being kicked down the road from year to year. The intention to mainstream the SDG in all EU policies has not been fulfilled, – most strikingly not in the revision of the Better Regulation Guidelines 2017, which had been postulated as key tool.

The Commission's first reactions when the contribution⁸¹ of the MSP to the Commission's Reflection paper was handed over in October 2018, showed an increased awareness about the importance of the SDGs⁸². First Vice-President Timmermans, who chairs the Platform, said: 'It is so encouraging to see such a broad group of stakeholders coming together and agreeing on the way forward on implementing the SDGs – from Birdlife Europe to Business Europe we have managed to get everybody on the same page. This is a minor miracle, and is good news for people and for the planet.' Vice-President Katainen concluded that 'This is Europe at its best: building consensus among various stakeholders, on the single most important topic for our future: sustainability'.

In 2019, the EU will produce a joint synthesis report on the European Consensus on Development including the impact of their actions in support of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries. This report will be a key part of the European Union reporting to the HLPF in September 2019, when meeting at Heads-of-State level. The Commission has announced that the Reflection paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030' on the follow-up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the discussion that will follow, will also form an important basis for European Union reporting.⁸³

It seems that there is room for improvement on all sides, as can be seen in the 'joint declarations' of the three institutions. This goes back to the Interinstitutional Agreement on better law making (IIA 2016⁸⁴) which introduced this new procedure and agreements between the three institutions for programming: a) at the beginning of the legislative term on the multi-annual priorities, and b) every year, based on the CWP a joint declaration on annual interinstitutional priorities⁸⁵.

⁸⁰ For example <http://www.gmfus.org/commentary/open-letter-europe-we-must-stop-eu-blame-game>; "Stop 'migration blame-game', Tusk tells EU leaders" <https://euobserver.com/tickers/142897>; "Playing the blame game on Brussels ..." <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13501763.2016.1229359?journalCode=rjpp20>.

⁸¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/sdg_multi-stakeholder_platform_input_to_reflection_paper_sustainable_europe2.pdf

⁸² http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6111_en.htm

⁸³ Source: Letter from the Commission to SDG Watch of 27.09.2018.

⁸⁴ NB: This IIA does not replace the Framework Agreement of 2010, but replaces the Interinstitutional Agreement on better law making from 2003 (which is one reason that the title was maintained, and not replaced by IIA on Better Regulation, as the Com had intended).

⁸⁵ [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/579076/EPRS_BRI\(2016\)579076_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/579076/EPRS_BRI(2016)579076_EN.pdf)

The 'first ever joint declaration' was signed in December 2016⁸⁶, and in December 2017 a declaration for 2018-19⁸⁷. Both declarations have in common that neither Agenda 2030 with the SDGs, nor sustainable development in general was mentioned.

4.2 Governance mechanisms at EU level

In this section we use the analytical framework as applied for the Member States (chapter 3 and country fiches in Annex 1) and present the main governance mechanism in place in the EU institutions. An overview is presented in Table 9. The governance element 'political commitment and strategy' is covered in chapter 4.1.

Horizontal coordination and lead responsibility

The **Commission** is often commended for its explicit horizontal coordination approach which is more elaborated than in some Member States. Horizontal coordination across policy sectors to implement the SDGs requires (a) a holistic view, (b) a lead role, (c) dedicated coordination mechanisms and (d) the willingness to work together on common challenges across institutional 'silos' (see also Chapter 3.2).

The fact that the Commission is a College with only joint decisions is favourable for a holistic approach, although this is not a guarantee for policy coherence. In addition, the Commission is less political than national governments, hence less prone to short-termism ('quick fixes') and more time is dedicated to fact-finding before decisions are made. Besides a relatively holistic approach, there is a clear lead role in the Commission with the First Vice-President assigned as horizontal coordinator for sustainable development at the *political* level. The Secretariat-General (SG) is tasked to support the First Vice-President. In addition, the SG is in the lead for the coordination of sustainable development at the *administrative* level, between the Commission services. The Commission's coordination approach is hence more centralised than in most Member States where sectoral Ministers tend to have more a decision-making and there is some balance of leadership between the center of government (typically the Prime Minister's Office) and sectoral Ministries. The strong central control of the Commission's SG has the advantage of clarity of responsibility, but typically such situations are not beneficial to creating ownership in the policy departments (DGs), and there might be less of a balancing of interests.

In addition to this, President Juncker introduced the mechanism of project teams with the aim to better tackle cross-cutting issues. The Commission's vice-presidents are leading project teams of composed of Commissioners. The First Vice-President established such a project team with interested Commissioners to discuss key sustainability issues. Not much has been published about this SD Project Team, but it appears to have started with a few Commissioners, gradually expanding to more than ten, and meeting around twice per year.

⁸⁶ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-4360_en.htm; https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/joint-declaration-eus-legislative-priorities-2017_en

⁸⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/joint-declaration-eu-legislative-priorities-2018-19_en.pdf

Table 9: Governance elements as applied in country level analysis - applied for the EU institutions

Governance elements	Governance arrangements (institutions, processes, tools ...)	COM	Council	EP	EESC	CoR
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan		June 2017: Council Conclusions (GAC): call for SDG Strategy Oct. 2018: Eur. Council Conclusion – call for a strategy in 2019	Resolution 2016 (DEVE) Resolution 2017 (ENVI) Resolution 2018 (on Semester)	Opinions 2016 & 2018 (SDO)	Opinion 2017 (ECON)
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2019, about development policy (Eur. Consensus), reporting		Resolution March 2019 planned		
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	EU 2020, ('smart, sust. and inclusive' growth) (Juncker 10 priorities/ CWP) Sectoral strategies like 7 EAP				
	How are the SDGs covered?	(Juncker 10 priorities): no SD, SDGs in CWP in prio 10 (external) and prio 1 (jobs&growth)				
2. Leadership & horizontal coordination	Lead responsibility (Commissioners, DGs, ..)	First VP / SecGen	GAC / Eur. Council	de facto: DEVE (& ENVI later)		
	Other involved departments & coordination mechanism	Project Group (Commissioners level) InterService Group	2017: Council WP Agenda 2030	Planned to introduce: joint delegation to the HLPF (DEVE & ENVI) and reporting	Sust. Dev. Observatory (SDO)	
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	(DG ENV / DG Devco – used to have a lead, but not anymore a special role)				
	Specific coordination with development cooperation					
3. Vertical coordination	EU – MS coordination (beyond community method)	'Open Method of Coordination' (2000) COM expert groups				

		Comitology committees				
	Sub-national coordination					CoR as convenor / advisor, not coordinator
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	all range	(at nat. level)			
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	- Open Consultation is part of all new initiatives and precedes all Impact Assessments - MSP since 2018		Hearings with stakeholder participation	SDO organises stakeholder involvement (as convenor / advisor, not coordinator)	
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	-Eurostat: first report 11/2016 (50 indicators); annually since 2017 (100 indicators) -Eurostat: online indicators database -European Semester ("SDGs are fully integrated")	(involved in the Report to the HLPF 2019)			
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the monitoring systems / with quantified and timebound targets?	- Eurostat 5-6 indicators per SDG - <i>Distance to SDG assessment (by JRC / announced 2017)</i> - <i>JRS on Eur. Consensus</i>	<i>JRS: Joint Synthesis Report for Eur. Consensus on Dev't (- not yet on domestic issues)</i>	(no shadow report yet)	(no shadow report yet)	(no shadow report yet)
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the specific tools?	- IA system of the COM, for all policy proposals; in principle for the 3 dimensions of SD, but econ. typically dominates; SDGs are not explicitly integrated - No sustainability budget check	--	- IA for major changes of legislation [but not really operational] - No SIA tool applied (and not for the SDGs) - No sustainability budget check		
	6.2 Science-policy interface	- JRC: in-house research service - EPSC as internal think tank - EEA and other agencies				
7. Long-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term	---	---	---	---	---
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on A 2030			See Chapter 5.		

At the working level, so-called 'interservice groups' (ISG) are set up for cross-sectoral topics, which are led by the responsible directorates-general (DG) and open to all others. The Impact Assessment system (see below under 'Monitoring and review') helps ensuring that – and structuring how – different policy objectives can be weighed, made compatible and where conflicts arise, are reconciliated. Such an interservice group was also formed for the SDGs, with the Secretariat-General in the lead, which meets infrequently. This broad interservice group succeeded the narrower approach during the preparation of the SDGs and the first phase after their adoption, when DGs DEVCO and ENV were together in the lead, coached by the Secretariat-General. There is no formal relation between the SG-led ISG group for the SDGs, and the FVP-led project team of Commissioners, unlike in several countries where meetings of the interdepartmental political lead are prepared by an interdepartmental group of civil servants (e.g. in Germany). European Commission *interservice groups* are a looser (in terms of collaborative approach) mechanism than *interservice project teams* could be: the former have usually one DG in the lead, the latter would entail joint responsibility for a result (under one leader). However, the introduction of project teams at the political level has not yet 'trickled down' to the services level. A positive development in terms of horizontal coordination is that some issues are meanwhile shared responsibility of two or more DGs. The Circular Economy packages (co-led by DGs ENV and GROW) are a good example of the willingness to work together on common challenges across institutional silos.

The **Council** established in November 2017 an institutional innovation for horizontal coordination, in particular to bring together the external and domestic dimension in the form of a dedicated 'Council Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' ('Council WP 2030'). It aims to 'ensure proper follow-up, monitoring and review of the implementation at EU level, across internal and external policy sectors, of commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'⁸⁸. Its recommendations are forwarded to the General Affairs Council (GAC). As all Working Parties it is composed of representatives from each Member State and chaired by the delegate of the country holding the rotating six-month presidency of the Council. New is that countries are encouraged to have representatives from the internal and external policy dimensions participating. Depending on the lead responsibility and the coordination mechanism in the country (see Chapter 3.2), the representatives come from the Ministry responsible for the domestic implementation (often Ministry for Environment or Economic affairs) and for the external side (Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Development Cooperation), or from the Prime Minister's office if there is a central lead and coordination in the country.

After its first meeting in March 2018 the WP has met around once per month, with increasing frequency during the Austrian Presidency. It has continued to deal with international issues, in particular the HLPF and its reform, has followed the work for the Commission's Reflection paper in all its dimensions (e.g. through discussion with the Commission and the MSP), and has laudably also started to tackle a core horizontal coordination issue, namely the mainstreaming of the SDGs at Working Party level. To this end is addressed the chairs of more than 30 other WPs (and more are to come) and found out that in many sectoral WPs Agenda 2030 is not known. Altogether, this WP has already shown remarkable new initiatives, energy and agreements, and is, most beneficially, a natural multiplier.

Since 2006, the **EESC** has an institutional arrangement for sustainable development in the form of the 'Sustainable Development Observatory' (SDO, see also section 'Stakeholder participation' below). This body is more deliberative and does not have a horizontal coordination function – although there may be scope for such a function. The chair of the SDO participates on behalf of the EESC in the Commission's Multi-stakeholder platform (MSP). In the **CoR**, opinions on sustainable development issues are generally coordinated by the Commission for Economic Policy (ECON), which participates on behalf of the CoR in the MSP.

Vertical coordination

Agenda 2030 calls for a partnership approach to implement the SDGs; not only between public administration, business and civil society, but also among public institutions. The latter implies that the traditional coordination between different levels of administration should be supplemented with collaborative mechanisms. Such improved multi-level governance for the SDGs is not only between the EU and the Member States: in reality, partnerships and exchange of practices are emerging throughout and in between all levels, from the local to the global.

The EU and its Member States are a multi-level configuration with the '*acquis communautaire*' including the Treaties regulating the governance. For areas with limited EU competences, but the desire or need to coordinate and collaborate, coordination mechanisms are typically more inspired by soft law partnership approaches. A meanwhile well-established approach is the 'Open method of Coordination' (OMC)⁸⁹ as introduced in the Lisbon Strategy of the EU (2000)⁹⁰ for economic policies. It works with the partnership principle by using guidelines and indicators, benchmarking and sharing of good practice. The key examples of SDG-relevant OMC-type two-level collaboration are the European Semester cycle of *economic* and *social* governance and the two-yearly *Environmental* Implementation Review process, together covering the three dimensions of sustainable development. This soft law approach to vertical coordination is also materialised in Commission expert groups with Member States. Sustainability themes are discussed in sectoral expert groups but there is no such group on the implementation of the SDGs.

Stakeholder engagement

The **European Commission** has a long standing tradition and experience with organising public consultation on new policy and legislative proposals, even more extensive and earlier in the process since the introduction of its Impact Assessment mechanism some 15 years ago (see also below under 'Knowledge and tools'). In general, the Commission's level of public consultation is probably higher than even in the more advanced Member States (exceptions may apply). The involvement of the public usually takes the form of online consultations, while broad dialogue meetings and alike – as have been conducted in Member States on Agenda 2030 (see Chapter 3.3) – are missing. An exception are the citizens dialogues organised in the context of the Future of Europe⁹¹ – but in this context the Commission did not put the SDGs on the agenda, and a real European angle, e.g. by bringing together citizens from various countries, is missing.⁹²

Stakeholders are also involved in Commission expert groups, as observers or as members, and in personal capacity or representing their organisations. Besides the many expert groups focusing on a specific policy area or piece of legislation, there are high-level expert groups advising on more strategic and cross-cutting themes (such as recently the High-Level Group on Sustainable Finance). Also the Commission's **Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs** is an example of the latter category. It is meant to support and advise the Commission on SDG implementation, as well as to promote exchange of best practice between different stakeholders. It has successfully produced a joint statement in its first year (2018), showing that an ambitious EU approach to sustainable development is supported across – and is able to unite the perspectives of – the various civil society, business and think tank groups.

A rather opaque type of expert participation occurs in **Comitology Committees**, chaired by the European Commission, to prepare implementation decisions on EU law. The committees are composed

⁸⁹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/open_method_coordination.html

⁹⁰ EPRS (2014) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/EPRS-AaG-542142-Open-Method-of-Coordination-FINAL.pdf>

⁹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/citizens-dialogues_en

⁹² Such multi-country, pan-EU citizens dialogues were however organised in the past by Commissioner Wallström in the European Citizens' Consultations 2009, which brought together citizens from all EU Member States in the run-up to the 2009 European elections. https://www.zsi.at/attach/ECC2009FinalReportECS_may09.pdf

of all Member States, and they may be accompanied by experts who are not part of the delegation. The work of these (mostly technical) committees needs to also consider the SDGs in their work and to support implementation, in particular in view of the interconnectedness and indivisibility.

The **EESC**, an EU institution which is established as 'the institution of organised civil society', offers a venue for broad debate and is very active in sustainable development, in particular through its aforementioned Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO). The SDO is 'a cross-cutting body that aims to tackle sustainable development policies in a horizontal way' and 'brings together people and organisations from a wide variety of interests and backgrounds that would otherwise seldom meet, in order to connect and explore new ways to address sustainable development issues'. Results in terms of internal mainstreaming of sustainable development in the EESC organisation may be moderate, but the calling power and regular hearings and debate and work on SD have brought the EESC recognition from many sides.

The **CoR** represents the interests of regions and municipalities, who are essential links in the multi-level governance chain that prepares and implements EU policies and legislation. It is interesting that Member States are usually absent in discussions between CoR and Commission. There is room for improvement with respect to a collaborative type of multilevel governance.

The members of the EESC and CoR are appointed by the Member States according to nationally determined processes. The institutional design of both advisory bodies does not ensure an effective exchange of good practices and encountered obstacles, bottom-up as well as back from Brussels to the constituencies, as regards the SDGs. Besides EESC and CoR, there are multiple networks of cities, regions, capitals, environmental and social NGOs, and business organisations advocating for their concerns and interests in the Brussels arena. EESC and CoR offer a welcome venue and platform.

The **European Parliament** has established the good practice to invite stakeholder representatives to hearings which precede the political debates on draft resolutions - and similarly many national parliaments. If this is done in a transparent way, it is a good practice for two reasons: it brings together specific expertise and ideas, and it creates an inclusive culture of dialogue on the SDGs. In countries where extensive stakeholder involvement is not yet common practice (or even discouraged) in national and subnational administration, parliaments could show the way.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs at EU level is so far done with the Eurostat's annual indicator reports, which are deliberately framed more specifically as 'Sustainable development in the European Union – monitoring report of the progress towards the SDGs in an EU context'⁹³. There is also an online database with all indicators, tools and reports⁹⁴. There are aggregations of the 5-6 indicators for each SDG for the EU averages. It would be desirable to do this also for each Member State.

Civil society groups, the EESC, the European Parliament, and also the Multi-Stakeholder Platform criticised some key methodological aspects of the Eurostat report⁹⁵. The main deficit of the report, however, is rooted outside of the remit of Eurostat, namely in the fact that for many areas there are no EU targets. Therefore, for these areas only trends can be assessed, which does not tell where the EU stands

⁹³ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-statistical-books/-/KS-04-17-780>

⁹⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/overview>.

⁹⁵ SDG Watch Europe, 2017; EESC Event on 29 Nov. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/measuring-eu-progress-meeting-sustainable-development-goals>; EP Plenary debate with Commissioner Thyssen on 13 Dec. 2017, [https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2017/3006\(RSP\);](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2017/3006(RSP);) MSP subgroup monitoring: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/adopted_minutes_of_the_msp_mc_subgroup_on_monitoring.pdf; European Union / Multi-Stakeholder Platform, 2018.

and where and how fast it would need to go to achieve the SDGs. This would come with a gap analysis and a strategy for target setting. In the EP plenary of December 2017, Commissioner Thyssen announced a 'distance to SDG' analysis to compensate this, which would become an Annex to the Reflection paper. Apparently the Joint Research Centre was commissioned, and the work shifted from a quantitative to a qualitative analysis. Besides a stakeholder workshop held by the foresight unit in July, it has remained unclear how this 'distance to SDG' analysis is done.

Monitoring is best organised in a cyclical process and embedded in a dedicated governance framework. This is the case for the European Semester, which 'enables the EU member countries to coordinate their economic policies throughout the year and address the economic challenges facing the EU'⁹⁶. While it was created for monitoring the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, which covers in principle the three dimensions of sustainable development, it has become increasingly narrow and focussed on macro-economic aspects. There have been (repeated) attempts from several sides (Council, Parliament, NGOs) to widen it again, but the success has remained limited (inter alia as it has been used as tool in the efforts to overcome the financial crisis). Since 2017, the economic focus of the Semester is broadened with a social dimension. The Annual Growth Survey – the starting point of each Semester cycle – for 2019 illustrates a broadening from macro-economic to also more micro-economic structural issues, in which the transition to the circular economy figures prominently⁹⁷. In addition, the Environment Council discusses the environmental dimension of the Semester annually in March, and a Commission Expert Group on greening the Semester has existed since 2013⁹⁸.

As it is a well-established governance mechanism for, the Semester is an obvious instrument for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. All involved actors, apart from the Commission, are recommending this and preferably would like to see it to be transformed into a Sustainability Review. The remit would then have to be widened to cover all SDGs. The Annual Growth Survey (AGS) would in this approach be changed into an Annual Sustainability Survey (ASS) and to include SDG indicator reporting, and/or the Social Scoreboard and the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR), and other assessments.

Such a widening of the scope of the Semester would also lead to other institutional re-arrangements in the sense that more Council formations and more Parliamentary Committees would deal with the Semester process⁹⁹. On the Council side it is so far the ECOFIN Council, which could be completed by EPSCO and ENV, and FAC/Dev't for the external aspects, besides the already existing role of the European Council to decide annually in June on the Country-Specific Recommendations proposed by the Commission for overarching aspects. In the Parliament, analogously, it has been ECON, which could be combined with others, such as EMPL and ENVI¹⁰⁰.

⁹⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester/framework/european-semester-why-and-how_en

⁹⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2019-european-semester-annual-growth-survey_en

⁹⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green_semester/expert_group_en.htm

⁹⁹ There are also proposals for the formation of a new Sustainable Development Council to be placed between sectoral Councils and the European Council (i.e. a bit like the GAC), and composed of Ministers who are domestically in charge of policy coherence of the national SD strategies (i.e. similar to the composition of the new Council WP 2030, though this – laudably – also includes representatives of external affairs), most notably recently by S&D/Progressive Society, 2018. For the EP, a Sustainable Development Committee is proposed (see Chapter 5.3)

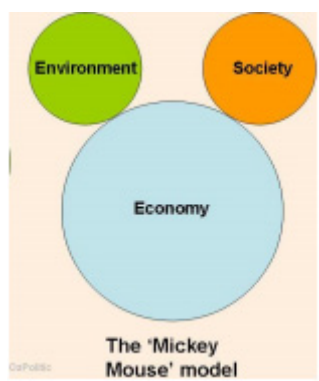
¹⁰⁰ So far it has been ECON lead and several other committees giving an opinion (i.e. Rule 53), which were in 2017: ENVI, REGI, BUDG and FEMM. For the new situation there might also be joint responsibilities considered (i.e. rule 54 or 55).

Knowledge and tools

All three aspects of knowledge and tools considered in this study are relevant at the EU level:

1. The EU's Impact Assessment (IA) system, which was introduced after the first EU Sustainable Development Strategy, is a globally appreciated merge of regulatory IA and sustainability IA. Contrary to what could be expected after the Commission's embrace of the SDGs in 2015 and of its pledge to mainstream the SDGs in its 2016 Communication, the 2017 revision of the Better Regulation Guidelines and within these, the IA Guidelines, was surprisingly not informed by the 2015 SDGs. The EU is still considered a global leader on sustainability, but its own IA guidelines and IA practice are now lagging behind: economic impacts and considerations dominate environmental and social impacts and considerations, as depicted in the following model of sustainability (Figure 3).
2. Budget checks: Integrating the SDGs in budgets is considered in this study a key mechanism and indication for a high degree of operationalisation of a commitment to implementation of Agenda 2030. There are first experiments with budget checks as tool, as presented in Chapter 3.4¹⁰¹. At the EU level, the currently ongoing negotiation on the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2020-2027 will show if actors involved, including the Parliament, will ensure that the MFF will support and not ignore the SDGs. The High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance, a temporary expert group established in 2016 to provide advice to the Commission¹⁰², recommended to apply a 'think sustainability first' principle for EU policy-making and in impact assessments¹⁰³. On the NGOs side, the 'People's Budget' campaign¹⁰⁴ also asks for such a sustainability check in the budget process. None of this has materialised until now at EU level, e.g. the Commission's reaction to the report on Sustainable Finance¹⁰⁵ does not mention the principle, and also the Parliament has not yet taken up sustainability criteria to check/assess the EU budget.

Figure 3: The de-facto model of sustainability ('Mickey Mouse model')



Source: Presentation on the GSDR 2019 by Messerli, P. and Fuerman, E., 11.10.2018 at the Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs.

¹⁰¹ in Italy, for example, legal obligation to annually check the national budget on wellbeing indicators, which are close to sustainability indicators (The BES indicators, see e.g. http://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/article_0276.html)

¹⁰² https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance_en#hleg

¹⁰³ Final report of the High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance. https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/180131-sustainable-finance-report_en.

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.peoplesbudget.eu/>

¹⁰⁵ COM(2018) 97 final. Action Plan: Financing Sustainable Growth. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0097&from=EN>

3. Science-policy interface: Efforts to improve the science-policy interface is partly covered under stakeholder participation, with the various high-level groups advising the Commission. The Commission also has its own 'in-house think tank', the European Policy Strategy Centre (EPSC), which provides the President and the College with 'strategic, evidence-based analysis and forward-looking policy advice'¹⁰⁶. Furthermore, the Commission has its in-house research service, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), which conducts applied research and tools on demand of the policy DGs and on its own initiative, with the motto: 'We are doing science for policy'¹⁰⁷.

Long-term orientation

There are no dedicated institutions or mechanisms to 'guard' the long-term at EU level, but there is a tradition to work with comprehensive 10-year strategies such as The Lisbon Strategy and the Europe 2020 Strategy. Scenario techniques are increasingly used during policy preparation, with the JRC having developed supporting tools and expertise.

Political discontinuity is a challenge for long-term orientation. Similarly as was argued for the horizontal coordination, the Commission has a benefit over most Member States in that it historically – also because of institutional arrangements – has been significantly less prone to frequent or radical shifts in policy directions. Care should be taken that the advantages are not lost¹⁰⁸, for example through the 'Spitzenkandidaten process'¹⁰⁹. The abrupt measures of discontinuity introduced by the current Commission when it entered office, do not point in the right direction¹¹⁰.

¹⁰⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/epsc/about_en

¹⁰⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en>

¹⁰⁸ For problems and advantages around evidence-based policy making see for example: Hertin, 2009

¹⁰⁹ Art. 17 (7) Lisbon Treaty, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/election-european-commission-president/#>.

¹¹⁰ See example of Circular Economy above. Similarly, it was disappointing that the 7th EAP was not included or mentioned in the 10 priorities, although it was just one year after its adoption and the 7th EAP had a stronger legal basis than the EAPs before.

5 Role of Parliaments

This chapter introduces the role of parliaments in relation to Agenda 2030 (chapter 5.1), presents findings from the country level analysis on the activities of national parliaments to integrate Agenda 2030 in their work (chapter 5.2), picks up from the EU level perspective in chapter 4 and addresses what the European Parliament has done so far (chapter 5.3), and discusses how the inter-parliamentary collaboration could be used and improved for Agenda 2030, and how the European Parliament could support national parliaments in their role in SDG implementation (chapter 5.4).

5.1 Key functions of parliaments and operationalisation in light of overarching concepts and policies like Agenda 2030

Key functions of Parliaments in light of Agenda 2030

Besides representation of constituencies, parliaments have three key roles and powers: a legislative function, budgetary power, and scrutiny and monitoring ('oversight' according to IPU 2017¹¹¹). They are all critical to the implementation of the SDGs, and they might entail the following activities:

1. Legislative function

To comprehensively implement the SDGs '(...) *parliamentarians must review legislation proposed by their government to ensure that it reflects human rights principles and contributes to achieving both the national SDG plan and the wider 2030 Agenda.*' (IPU, 2016, self-assessment, p.11.) A parliament could address questions and perform assessments like:

- Are the SDGs considered in an appropriate way in legislative proposals?
- Does a legislative proposal contribute to, or hamper the achievements of the SDGs?

Parliaments could also have a role in finding ways to address the interlinkages between proposals, and in particular the intertwined impacts and effects. This challenge is also puzzling governments, and even on the science side work on understanding these interconnections has only started.¹¹² However, pragmatic approaches to the interconnections already exist and are partly in place. It can be done in different ways. For example by a 'Standing rapporteur', that is, one MP is responsible in a committee for appropriate considerations of cross-cutting issues. This would need to be designed carefully, as previous experience also has shown disadvantages.¹¹³ For a systematic approach a tool like a (simple) sustainability impact assessment would be useful.

2. Budgetary power

To efficiently implement the SDGs (...) *parliaments must engage on how government funds are being allocated to their nationally defined SDGs, including whether sufficient funds are reaching the most vulnerable and excluded. On the revenue side, parliaments must ensure that fiscal and other economic policies set through the budget process are aligned to the national SDG plan. Parliamentary oversight of budget expenditure is also crucial. It is the moment when parliaments can analyse the effectiveness of government expenditure on SDG achievement.*' (IPU, 2016, self-assessment, p. 11)

¹¹¹ The Interparliamentary Union (IPU) has been quite active on the SDGs, including the development of the self-assessment kit as used in this section, and, for example, a side-event at the HLPF in 2016 on "Mobilizing Parliaments for the SDGs", [http://archive.ipu.org/cnl-e/199/10\(i\)-R.1.pdf](http://archive.ipu.org/cnl-e/199/10(i)-R.1.pdf) and regional meetings, e.g. for Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia in 2017 <http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/budapest17/Outcome.pdf>.

¹¹² E.g. ICSU, 2016

¹¹³ In the EP a standing rapporteur was introduced for gender issues, which is considered as not fully successful (on procedural follow-up, as outcome responsibility is not possible; and more importantly: with this approach it seems difficult to create ownership).

Within parliaments it is typically a Budget Committee and a Budget Control Committee fulfilling these functions. The parliamentary process to the approval of a budget typically triggers the participation of many other committees, hence is a potential role model for other cross-cutting policies.

For integrating sustainability considerations and Agenda 2030 in the budget it would be useful for parliaments to introduce a 'sustainability check' of the budget, - in a first step as simple supporting tool, which may be further developed (see also chapter 3.4 and chapter 4).

3. Scrutiny / oversight / monitoring function – holding governments into account

To strengthen transparency and accountability in implementing the SDGs '(...) *Parliamentary oversight mechanisms such as Question Time, written questions to government, and parliamentary committee hearings can be very effective in identifying obstacles or assessing progress. Parliamentary committees should have the power to call on government officials to provide information on the impact of government policies and programmes. Committees should also be able to call public hearings to garner citizens' views on SDG implementation. The knowledge collected can be fed back into government planning and delivery mechanisms through a national SDG working group or equivalent body in which parliamentarians participate.*' (IPU, 2016, self-assessment, p. 12)

In its 2017 report, IPU underlines that '*Parliament has a unique constitutional oversight function. It is the only actor with a political mandate from the people to monitor the management of the state by the government.*' At the same time, it states that '*Oversight is less well understood as a specific field of activity than parliament's other core tasks of lawmaking and representation. It is very important and deserves more focus from parliament, government, citizens and the international community.*' (IPU 2017, Executive Summary, p. 1).

While the first two mentioned roles of parliaments are indeed more prominent, also in Europe, and overarching strategies are traditionally government-centred, more and more parliaments have started to deal with sustainability issues since Agenda 2030 (cf. chapter 5.2). At the same time, the integration principle of the SDGs is putting even more challenges on parliaments than on other state organs. This because other work on a basis of division of labor and have a hierarchical structure. The hierarchical structures within political groups / parties in parliament and the role of 'party whip', is much less forceful in comparison – although this differs quite much in different political cultures where in some 'group discipline', is strong and in others nearly absent, and is in general less strict in the European Parliament¹¹⁴. As the following section shows, there is no coordination in that sense of the standing committees.

Overarching topics & silos in parliaments

The institutional setup and work processes of parliaments is in general not structured in favour of 'overarching' issues and strategies like the ones needed for sustainable development and characterized as 'whole of government approach'¹¹⁵, 'delivery as one' (e.g. UN Development Group) and in general comes with the call to 'breaking out of (sectoral) silos'.

Parliaments are typically structured around two axes: One along the political groups / fractions (government majority and opposition), and a second along the thematic committees, which more or less mirror the structure of the government. The latter is reflecting the need to handle complexity and to divide work - and through this gain expertise in order to respond adequately to government initiatives, or to take own initiatives.

¹¹⁴ Corbett et al. 2016, p.141.

¹¹⁵ 'WGA', e.g. OECD and World Bank, <http://www.oecd.org/ctp/oecd-and-world-bank-call-for-whole-of-government-approach-to-combating-tax-evasion-and-corruption.htm>; last: UN DESA, 2018

As demonstrated in chapter 3, dealing with overarching issues requires leadership, and horizontal and vertical coordination. National governments are increasingly responding to this with allocating responsibility to a central leadership level of government. The 'problem' in parliaments, national and European Parliament, is that they do not have a leadership level on substance. There is typically a President or Speaker of the parliament, but that role is representational and managerial. While coordination mechanisms exist, these are often rather on procedure than on substance, different from comparable groups in the government (e.g. State Secretary committees, see chapter 3.2). The European Parliament has two leadership and coordination bodies:

1. The Conference of Presidents (CoP), composed of the President of the Parliament and the chairs of the political groups, responsible 'for the broad political direction of the Parliament, both internally and externally'¹¹⁶, for example related to interinstitutional agreements and joint declarations with other EU institutions, as well as relations with national parliaments (see chapter 5.3);
2. The Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), composed of the chairs of the sectoral (standing) committees, who reviews progress of work in the committees and makes suggestions to the CoP for forthcoming plenary agendas; the CCC also discusses 'demarcation disputes' and problems that affect more than one committee¹¹⁷.

Before we look into what the European Parliament has done to improve this situation, we first take stock and assess how national parliaments have addressed Agenda 2030 in their way of working.

5.2 How have national parliaments integrated the SDGs in their work?

In this section we are presenting the results of the empirical work in all 28 EU Member States where we identified how national parliaments have integrated the SDGs in their work¹¹⁸.

5.2.1 Assessment

As in the analysis of governance mechanisms in the Member States and in the EU institutions in general, (see chapter 3. and 4.) our assessment of the parliaments follows the variables institutionalisation for the three functions of parliaments. These range from putting the SDGs on the agenda and organising a debate, often as one-off (1 point), to the situation that one or two committees are put in charge or take on responsibility themselves (2 points), to a new/cross-cutting institutional arrangement (3 points). The highest category is given parliaments that are applying tools for one or more functions (scrutiny, legislative, budget) in a rather systematic way (4 points). This systematic approach is currently only undertaken or planned in light- or pilot versions in Germany, Finland, Denmark (and previously Latvia).

	0	1	2	3	4
Q 7.2 Activities of parliaments for A 2030	No activity	Debate (typically in Plenary, often the VNR)	1 or 2 Cie's deal with SDGs	new institutional arrangement (a special Cie or working method)	Systematic scrutiny, sustainability check of the budget, or other tool use like SIA in law- making

¹¹⁶ Corbett et al., 2016, p. 164.

¹¹⁷ Corbett et al., 2016, p. 165.

¹¹⁸ For an earlier desktop survey see also ESDN, 2017

5.2.2 Overview of findings

As Table 10 shows, there have been activities around Agenda 2030 in 22 national parliaments. In three countries there are planned activities (Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia), and the three remaining national parliaments have no recognisable activities or plans (Austria, Bulgaria, Ireland). Overall it can be said that the activities of parliaments have clearly increased since the adoption of the SDGs which indicates an increased awareness to sustainable development.

In the following we are presenting these activities along the line of degree of institutionalisation.

The lowest degree of institutional response to Agenda 2030 by parliaments was found in six countries (Cyprus, Estonia, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal), and one with respective plans (Croatia). Among those least active, the relatively most active seems to be the Netherlands where the annual progress report on the SDGs, as submitted by the group of responsible Ministries, is debated during the traditional 'Accountability Day'. Interesting is also the initiative in Portugal where a seminar on SDGs was organised in the parliament.

Some countries mentioned that, for example, the VNR was discussed in the parliament, in plenary (Denmark), explicitly in two chambers (Czechia, and upcoming in Spain), or in joint committee meetings (Belgium). More steps of institutionalisation taken in about seven countries (and planned in Slovenia).

The case of one or more existing committees taking responsibility for Agenda 2030 applies to five countries (Czechia, Finland, France, Sweden, and UK), and more regular joint committee meetings or an explicit obligation to integrate the SDGs in all policy areas in two (Belgium and Greece). The borders between the first and the second category, however, are blurred.

More clearly identifiable, though with a range of variability between them, are institutional arrangements in parliaments specifically for sustainable development, be it already existing, or new ones for Agenda 2030, although also here there are quite some variations and fine differences which we tried to capture. For example, in Romania the Committee for Agenda 2030, as established in 2015, is formally a sub-committee of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, but has a distinct format, appearance and activities. In Czechia in contrast, there is a new sub-committee for sustainable development under the Environment Committee, but apparently the activities are not so obvious, and its relevance was explained as 'there are many committees and sub-committees in the parliament'.

In altogether in nine parliaments, and planned in one other, there are such specific institutional arrangements for SD in general or Agenda 2030 in particular (partly existing, partly new, and partly mixed council-like bodies):

- The 'softest' of these is the all-party parliamentary group in the **UK**, which seems is comparable to the intergroups in the European Parliament. Similar, but with a stronger appearance and commitment is the recently launched cross-party coalition in **France**. 135 MPs in the first chamber of the parliament (of 577 altogether) are collaborating there to accelerate the ecological transition (called '*accélérons*'). The coalition also published a charter plans to push forward decisive measures in the area of climate, food waste, renewable energies etc.¹¹⁹.

There are two mixed bodies for SD with a strong link into the respective parliament and a significant number of MPs as members, from government and opposition parties: The National SD Council (NFFT) in **Hungary**, already established in 2008¹²⁰, and the National Progress Council in **Lithuania** (currently

¹¹⁹ <https://www.actu-environnement.com/ae/news/135-deputes-initiative-accelerer-transition-32199.php4>

¹²⁰ <http://www.nfft.hu/web/ncsd/national-council-for-sustainable-development>

Table 10 **Activities of national parliaments on Agenda 2030 in EU 28**

	pre-SDG Parliament activities	Parliament debating A2030 / VNRs (rather one off, not systematic)	Existing (sectoral) Committee taking up A2030	New/cross-cutting institutional arrangements in the Parliament	Extra: Systematic tool use (SIA, budget ...)	Ass. (plan)
AT Austria						
BE Belgium	Walloon Parl. Decree (2013): an SD strat. per Parl.term BE: SIA tool in RIA (2014), but Parl. not really active in this	VNR discussed in joint Foreign, Environment and Health federal Parl. Cie. meeting	Each federal Parl. Cie. integrates SDGs in its policy areas (from 2017)			2
BG Bulgaria		<i>['Parliamentarians know about SDGs but no activities']</i>				
HR Croatia		Parliament will adopt the strategy Croatia2030				(1)
CY Cyprus		VNR presented in Cie FA and Cie ENV				1
CZ Czechia		VNR discussed in both chambers	New sub-Cie for SD under ENVI <i>[nothing foreseen how to deal with overarching issues]</i>			2
DK Denmark		Annual SDG progress report discussed in Parliament		"Network" of members from various standing committees (since 2017)	Sub-Cie under Budget Cie. for the SDGs: will develop recomm. (since 2018)	3 (4)
EE Estonia		Indicator report was discussed in Parl. (Cie ENVI co-organising)				1
FI Finland	Parliamentary Cie. for the Future.		Development Policy Cie. discusses global SD agenda	Continued: Parliamentary Cie. for the Future, mandated with SDG (2017), 17 MPs (and stakeholder consultation).	Requested and is involved in sustainability budget checks of the govt'n. Still in pilot phase.	3 (4)
FR France	Parliam. Cie. for SD and [= only Env. Cie. renamed]		Cie. Climate Change	Cross-party coalition (135 MPs) to accelerate ecol. transition		3
DE Germany	Parliamentary (advisory) Cie. for SD (PBNE)			<i>continued</i>	Performs SIA checks (with eNAP tool), but it remains weak so far	3 (4)
EL Greece			Joint Parl. Cie. Meetings: for progress reports on Nat. Impl. Plan of SDGs & VNRs	Proposal to establish Parl. Cie. (2017), not materialized		2 (3)
HU Hungary	1. National SD Council (NFFT) based in Parl. with members of all parties; Pres. chairs the Nat. Assembly 2. Parliam. Cie. For SD (2010) [= only Env. Cie. renamed]		<i>continued</i>	<i>continued</i>		3

IE	Ireland						
IT	Italy			[there was a sub-cie fo A2030 of the Cie FA, ceased 2018]			1
LV	Latvia				Parl. Cie. For SD (since 2014; election 2018: likely continuation)	Sustainability review of fiscal policy, and long-term impacts of policy	3
LT	Lithuania				Multi-stakeholder National Progress Council for the Lithuania 2030 strategy; 20% MPs.		2 (3)
LU	Luxemburg		National plan scrutinized in Parl.				1
MT	Malta		Annual Parl. discussion on SD govt. Report based on Art.14 of SD Act Youth Debate on SDGs 2018				1
NL	Netherlands		Parl. Debate on annual national SDG reports (so far 2017 & 2018)				1
PL	Poland		Parl. Cie's involved in VNR consultations				1
PT	Portugal		Seminar on SDGs organized in Parliament				1
RO	Romania				Sub-Cie. for A2030 under Cie. FA (since 2015)		3
SK	Slovakia		'Stronger involvement of the Parliament foreseen'		Intended: Cie for the future (see FI)		(3)
SI	Slovenia			Planned: SDG training for all MPs			(2)
ES	Spain		1st and 2nd chambre may propose holding an Annual Plenary for monit. progress on the SDGs		Planned: a joined parl. Cie. for A 2030 as watchdog, composed of the 2 chambers New: Parliamentary Alliance to achieve zero hunger	Comprehensive Annual report by the Cie.	1 (4)
SE	Sweden	Parl. Cie for env. objectives (ENVI & AGR), - not particularly for SD		Cie. FA and Cie. Fin. (primarily deal with A2030)			2
UK	United Kingdom	Parl. Env. Audit Cie. oversees monitoring/ reporting on SD		Parl. Env. Audit Cie. oversees monitoring/ reporting on SD	All-Party Parliam. Group for SDGs (like Intergroup; no visible activities)		2

- under revision towards a merge with the National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD)¹²¹).
- A special case exists in **Finland** with the 'Committee for the Future', which was established in 1993 already. Its mission is 'to generate dialogue with the government on major future problems and opportunities'¹²², and in 2017 it was mandated with the SDGs.
- A dedicated Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Sustainable Development (PBNE) has existed in **Germany** since 2004, and has covered the German SD strategy including Agenda 2030 implementation¹²³. In **Latvia** the Sustainable Development Committee was established in 2014 as one of the 16 standing committees of the parliament¹²⁴, and in **Romania**, the Agenda 2030 Committee was set up in 2015 as sub-committee of the Foreign Affairs Committee¹²⁵. Also in **Spain** a dedicated joined Parliamentary Committee for Agenda 2030 is planned, to be composed of the two chambers.
- Another interesting case is **Denmark**, where an all-party network for the SDGs ('2030-network') was established in 2017 and includes about 50 MPs¹²⁶.

In the Danish, Finnish, German and Latvian parliaments, there are institutional activities of the highest category in our assessment scheme, that is, the systematic use or pilot phase of tools (sustainability check/impact assessment; budget checks). Beyond these tools typically in use in parliaments, there is also an interesting new one currently being developed for the Spanish parliament¹²⁷, which is also adaptable to all national parliaments. It tries to answer the question which SDGs are affected by a legislative initiative.¹²⁸ The Romanian parliament again is quite active in international partnerships for Agenda 2030.

5.2.3 Good practice examples

While good practice exists at all levels, the most advanced examples are found in the specialised bodies, herewith presented in order of year of establishment:

Finnish parliament 'Eduskunta': 'Committee for the Future'¹²⁹ [1993]:

In the Finnish Committee for the Future, the practice of scrutiny seems most advanced. Its main task used to be to prepare the parliament's response to the government's Report on the Future (at least once during a governmental term). This is now expanded to include the Government's Agenda 2030 Report. A systematic impact assessment is not applied, however.

During the current governmental term it was the 2017 report in response to which the committee adopted 10 resolutions¹³⁰. These resolutions oblige the government and even bind subsequent governments. The government reports annually its progress, to which the committee gives statements. Among the 10 resolutions the parliament required, for example, *that the Government '... develops reliable monitoring indicators, enabling the realisation of the Agenda2030 action programme (...); in order to promote well-being, well-being economy indicators parallel to GDP, in particular, must be developed (...).'* In reaction to this, the government started a 'GDP+ working group' that developed well-being indicators. The

¹²¹ <https://www.lietuva2030.lt/en/about>

¹²² <https://www.eduskunta.fi/EN/lakiensaaminen/valiokunnat/tulevaisuusvaliokunta/Pages/default.aspx>

¹²³ <https://www.bundestag.de/en/committees/bodies/sustainability>

¹²⁴ http://titania.saeima.lv/personal/deputati/saeima13_depweb_public.nsf/-structureview?readform&type=3&lang=EN; http://www.saeima.lv/faktulapas/llgtspejigas_attistibas_komisijas_faktu_lapa_ENG_SCREEN.pdf

¹²⁵ This was also the case in Italy, where the respective sub-committee terminated in March 2018.

¹²⁶ <https://www.2030netvaerket.dk/>

¹²⁷ by the Thinktank 'Political Watch' <https://www.ciecode.es/political-watch/>

¹²⁸ <http://www.parlamento2030.es/about-en>

¹²⁹ <https://www.eduskunta.fi/EN/lakiensaaminen/valiokunnat/tulevaisuusvaliokunta/Pages/default.aspx>

¹³⁰ https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/Mietinto/Documents/TuVM_1+2017.pdf

committee has also done its own field research, and organized an open seminar, together with the Statistics Finland.

Other tasks include statements (draft submissions) to other committees in relation to other government reports or budget and foresight projects, as well as reports to on various kinds of societal issues and technological developments. With its background as committee dealing with future questions, there is a strong link to the area of technology assessment, which is a classic area in which parliaments do interface with science. This in general is an interesting link to explore for all parliaments active in the SDGs. Furthermore, the Committee for the Future has requested the government and is involved in the resulting piloting of a sustainability check of the budget

German parliament 'Bundestag': Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Sustainable Development (PBNE) [2004]:

The German PBNE was the first dedicated parliamentary body for sustainable development and has raised awareness for the issue and the need for a cross-cutting approach since its establishment in 2004. It is experienced in maintaining momentum even with changes in membership. It is well versed in the application of a (light) sustainability impact assessment, which became part of the government's regulatory impact assessment, and it established related procedural rules¹³¹. A recently developed online tool for a sustainability checks will now be tested¹³². The PBNE organises topical debates, typically with external experts, and adopts resolutions on the German SD strategy. The recent international peer review of the German SD strategy recommended strengthening of the PBNE¹³³.

Romanian parliament 'Camera Deputatilor': Sub-committee for Agenda 2030 [2015]:

Through this sub-committee the Romanian parliament was the first in the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) to declare support for Agenda 2030, with a declaration adopted in April 2016¹³⁴. The Romanian parliament continues to be active internationally on Agenda 2030 and participates in a SDG partnership called 'Parliamentarian Assembly for Implementation of SDGs'¹³⁵.

Latvian parliament 'Saeima': Sustainable Development Committee [2016]:

The Sustainable Development Committee in the Latvian parliament 'Saeima' has the task to review the sustainability of the government's fiscal policy, and medium-term and long-term impact of government policies¹³⁶. After the elections in October 2018, the committee was re-established on 21 November¹³⁷, and future activities will be determined.

Danish parliament 'Folketinget': the 2030 network [2017]:

A recent interesting institutional innovation has taken place in the Danish parliament, where an all-party 2030 network was set up to create a forum to contribute to knowledge sharing and debate, and thereby raising awareness in the parliament and in the public; to promote the focus on the SDGs as a Danish priority in international fora; and to convene a regular dialogue with the responsible minister on the Danish Action Plan for 2030 Agenda. In the setting up it was aimed as first priority (and succeeded) that the network has members from all parties represented in the parliament. It was not a criterion to have at

¹³¹ <https://www.bundestag.de/blob/560888/f22d0f4280514ae7766bad6e07068461/verfahrensordnung-data.pdf>

¹³² <https://www.enap.bund.de/intro>

¹³³ <https://www.bundestag.de/nachhaltigkeit?url=L3ByZXNzZS9oaWVLS81NzI5MDA=&mod=mod572300>

¹³⁴ <http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/Bucharest16/declaration.pdf>

¹³⁵ Partners: Romanian Parliament, Parliament of Republic of Moldova, National Parliaments, UNESCO Committee of Romanian Parliament, European Council on International Relations, European Parliamentarians Committee for Tourism and Trade, NGO's, civic organizations <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=11107>

¹³⁶ http://www.saeima.lv/faktulapas/lqtspejigas_attistibas_komisijas_faktu_lapa_ENG_SCREEN.pdf

¹³⁷ http://titania.saeima.lv/personal/deputati/saeima13_depweb_public.nsf/-structureview?readform&type=3&lang=EN

the same time MPs from all committees in the network, but the spectrum of committees represented is considered as sufficiently broad¹³⁸. The group has recently established a '2030 panel' of 22 experts and stakeholders to support the political work of the 2030 network through analysis and knowledge inputs¹³⁹. It is a rather unique science-policy interface mechanism directly at the parliament. Furthermore, a new sub-committee under the Budget Committee was established very recently in the Folketinget, which is developing recommendations on how to mainstream the SDGs in the budget process.

5.2.4 Overall reflections

- There are clearly more activities of parliaments on Agenda 2030 than was the case for sustainable development before the adoption of Agenda 2030.
- There are beams of light for difficult times: the Hungarian example confirms the hypothesis that a certain degree of institutionalisation provides for some continuity.
- There is little systematic approach to dealing with the SDGs in parliaments throughout the three functions of parliaments.
- Due to the organisation of work processes in parliaments (parties, committees), it is difficult for parliaments to coherently address overarching issues. Any joined efforts are typically complicated, as they infringe on fine-tuned systems of representation e.g. rapporteurs per political group, and consequently makes joint committee processes also more political.
- Contrasting the above, parliaments also have, if they want, room for innovation and experiments. The various examples above highlight that maybe beneficial to utilising this experimental room.

In terms of institutional set-up the network in the Danish parliament seems most suitable for the European Parliament, given that a 'light approach' was aimed at (see next chapter 5.3). However, a more systematic representation from the standing committees in order to overcome the silos will need to be considered. The relation of specific committees or arrangements for sustainable development to other standing committees remains a key institutional issue in all parliaments and an area of future analysis.

5.3 What has the European Parliament done so far to integrate Agenda 2030 in its work?

The European Parliament has not yet succeeded to respond to the reinvigorated challenges and opportunities of Agenda 2030 in a satisfactory way. The SDGs are still not yet known very well among MEPs, they are perceived very much as a development issues with some environmental fringes.

The European Parliament has so far responded to Agenda 2030 according to its existing set-up and available formats. First the DEVE Committee, and later the ENVI Committee developed resolutions that were adopted by the Plenary (May 2016 resp. July 2017). After the attendance of the DEVE Committee at the HLPF 2017, there was a joint delegation at the HLPF 2018. There was not yet a side-event hosted, e.g. like the IPU did in 2016¹⁴⁰, nor has an event been held in the Parliament to discuss the outcomes and next actions. In 2018, a press release was issued.

Similar to the government side where an external, post-MDG like perception of the SDGs first prevailed, DEVE was the first committee to take ownership with ENVI joining later. Still, the sustainable development agenda is not fully embraced yet by ENVI also because it is perceived by some as a threat that might water down the environment agenda. Cross-sectoral work with broader input has not taken place.

¹³⁸ Interview with the chair of the <https://www.2030netvaerket.dk/>

¹³⁹ <https://www.2030netvaerket.dk/2030-panelet>

¹⁴⁰ According to [http://archive.ipu.org/cnl-e/199/10\(i\)-R.1.pdf](http://archive.ipu.org/cnl-e/199/10(i)-R.1.pdf) "Thirty MPs from 16 national delegations attended" - EP is not mentioned.

Neither has the Parliament managed to criticise the deficiencies in the Commission's Work Program with respect to Agenda 2030, and still many debates and policy proposals are started that do not refer to the SDGs even if the issues are of relevance (e.g. the recent Balkan strategy), nor does it assess the implications of new politics for the SDGs in a holistic way.

There were attempts to adapt the internal working structures, and several options have been discussed among interested MEPs from different political groups and committees¹⁴¹. There was insufficient appetite to establish a new or special committee – not at least because of a fatigue about mushrooming committees. Hence a design was preferred that would be '*as light as possible, as strong as needed*', and creating a structure that enables mainstreaming SDGs both in the political groups and in the standing committees. One of the options discussed resembles quite much the network approach in Denmark, but leaning more on the committee membership. For example, it was proposed to have one MEP as SDG Focal Point per standing committee, and these focal points would also meet as group to share experience similar to standing rapporteurs, but more agile and interactive. Besides this, and likely often in personal union, it was suggested to have one or more SDG ambassadors in each political group. With anchors in these two main axes, possibly also one or more in the Bureau, the intention was to ensure that the SDGs would be dealt with in every relevant debate. Illustrated with the example of the Balkan strategy: Agenda 2030 was not mentioned at all in this Commission communication in February 2018¹⁴². The strategy was debated in the Parliament, but none of the discussants criticised the Commission for this deficit¹⁴³. A SDG Focal Point would have brought this in, possibly, through the respective committee (AFET), and an SDG ambassador to the colleague in the political group.

These ideas did not materialise, but a smaller version of the above is proposed and partly agreed, in the form of a co-leadership of DEVE and ENVI: the CoP endorsed that there should be a joint INI and a joint HLPF delegation in 2019, but postponed the decision to make this an annual working-mechanism, which had been suggested by the two committees. This corresponds to the approach used in about half of the Member States on the government side: a joint leadership seems better than responsibility in a single ministry or committee. However, further development of this set-up should be pursued, and more could be done step by step, along the lines of '*as light as possible, as strong as needed*'. For example, a light sustainability check (impact assessment) could be developed and piloted. Similarly, the scrutiny function can be improved through a systematic follow-up and monitoring of the SDG implementation at EU level by the future co-responsible committees. For institutional arrangements, scrutiny and tool use, a regular exchange of experience with national parliaments would be highly useful for cross-fertilization. This will be explored in the next section.

5.4 Interparliamentary collaboration of the European and national Parliaments

A range of contact channels between the European Parliament and national parliaments has developed since the first direct election in 1979 and the decrease of dual mandate membership, and meetings have occurred since 1981¹⁴⁴. In this section we explore the questions of how the interparliamentary dialogue and collaboration of the European and national Parliaments could be improved to achieve the SDGs, and what role the European Parliament could take to support national parliaments in this.

¹⁴¹ Inter alia, by Parliament's VP Hautala, MEPs Van Brempt and others.

¹⁴² COM (2018) 65 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-credible-enlargement-perspective-western-balkans_en.pdf

¹⁴³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/plenary/video?debate=1517930755847>

¹⁴⁴ Corbett et al. 2016, p. 419.

Conferences

Several institutional collaboration efforts have led to three interparliamentary conferences that exist nowadays, all of which have a framing relevant to the SDG:

1. Conference of the European Affairs Committees (COSAC), which discusses for example the Future of Europe or in its November 2018 session energy and climate¹⁴⁵ in which questions addressed can be mirrored to the SDGs:
 - How can national parliaments or local and regional levels contribute to achieving the EU's climate objectives?
 - How can EU energy policy ensure an affordable, competitive, sustainable and secure energy future?

The Commission's 6th Reflection paper would be an outstanding occasion for this conference to draw from for a next session.

2. Conference on the CFSP and CSDP (Common Foreign and Security Policy and Defence Policy), where it could at least be made sure that Agenda 2030 aspects are included, - similar to the EU Global Strategy.
3. Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU, under the so-called Fiscal Compact (a Treaty of the Economic and Monetary Union), which meets in step with the cycle of the European Semester, and which will become important if and when the monitoring of the SDGs will be linked to the European Semester.

The Treaty of Lisbon acknowledges for the first time the important role of national parliaments in assuring the good functioning of the Union, including their key role in transposing and implementing EU legislation. Since the Lisbon Treaty they can also, for example, scrutinise draft EU laws with regard to the principle of subsidiarity¹⁴⁶, which is also an issue for the SDGs, including in the sense of a 'positive' subsidiarity test, that EU policy has added value.

The European Parliament has since modified its Rules of Procedure to cater for the new Treaty provisions and interparliamentary relations have increased and deepened since. The most recent *Annual Report 2017 on Relations between the European Parliament and national parliaments* for example points out that '2017 laid fertile ground for new interparliamentary debates on strategic matters in the years to come: the future of the Union and its policies, the Enlargement policy, the future Multi-annual Financial Framework, the EU-UK future relations, other aspects of EU Trade Policy, the need to deliver on the migration and security agenda, and the Permanent Structured Cooperation on security and defence.'¹⁴⁷

Such strategic matters correspond with the SDGs in principle (same 'cruising altitude') and those mentioned are SDG relevant, especially the Multi-annual Financial Framework, as the analysis on budget matters at Member State level in this study has shown.

The Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU – with the relevance for the European Semester, takes place during the annual *European Parliamentary Week*, - where also social matters are discussed, next to economic and budgetary ones (Annual report 2017, p. 20-21). By adding environmental and related rather micro-economic matters (e.g. industry, technology) the scope of this conference could be widened to a sustainability agenda.

¹⁴⁵ <http://www.cosac.eu/60-austria-2018/lx-cosac-18-20-november-2018-vienna/>

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/about/interparliamentary-cooperation.html>

¹⁴⁷ European Parliament / Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, 2018

Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs)

Most relevant for enhancing more immediately and regularly the exchange on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs are the Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs), of which around 15-20 take place each year¹⁴⁸, as well as bilateral visits from national parliaments to the European Parliament. These have been increasing in number, with as many as 85 visits meetings in 2017, and this trend seems to continue¹⁴⁹. They are popular as they are highly focused, tailor-made, more flexible and more interactive.

For the ICMs the European Parliament committees are inviting the corresponding committees of the national parliaments to engage in focused debates. They also determine the topic and agenda. Among the Parliament committees there are some that tend to organise more than one meeting per year (Committee on Civil Liberties and Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)). Other more active committees are ECON (Economic and Monetary Affairs) – see above on European Semester, AFET (Foreign Affairs), CULT (Culture and Education), DROI (Human Rights), FEMM (Women's Rights and Gender Equality) and PETI (Petitions).

Hence, at least in the past it has been rather the thematically horizontal committees engaging in ICMs. However, this might change slightly. In 2018 and 2017 there were also ICMs from sectoral policy committees, namely¹⁵⁰

- TRAN Committee (Transport and Tourism) – on EU Investing in its Transport Network after 2020
- AGRI Committee (Agriculture and Rural Development) – on CAP after 2020
- REGI Committee (Regional Development) – on cohesion policy, especially the future 2020+, and
- DEVE Committee (Development) – on the European Consensus on Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (in November 2017).

There is organisational capacity in principle to organise more ICMs¹⁵¹. Besides the lack of initiative, limiting factors also tend to be the agendas of the national parliaments and MPs to participate¹⁵².

The meetings typically follow a standard format of 2 or 3 panels, a Commission representative speaking and an exchange of views. However, more interactive formats with breakout sessions etc. have been tested and resonated well (e.g. recently by the CULT committee). This seems to meet the desire of participants. For more interactive formats, language and interpretation is a structurally limiting factor, i.e. MPs who do not speak/understand one of the 3 - 5 main languages can participate to a lesser extent.

In regards to the ICMs organised by DEVE in 2017, the discussion about the SDGs was limited to the external aspects, due to the remit of the DEVE committee. There is hence room for improvement towards combining the external and the internal dimension, as it is done by the Council Working Party 2030 (see Chapter 4). DEVE and ENVI, as planned lead tandem for the SDGs (see chapter 5.3), could organise a joint meeting of respective national parliament committees, including the ones with specific institutional arrangements (see below).

¹⁴⁸ Annual report 2017, p. 23-24.

¹⁴⁹ Annual report 2017, p. 24.

¹⁵⁰ For all: see calendar files on <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/home.html>

¹⁵¹ Roughly up to four per EP committee week (oral information)

¹⁵² though there was no example mentioned that a meeting was organised and only very few national MPs participated

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusions from the national level: Where do the countries stand?

When we look at all the governance dimensions we have analysed and assessed in this study, we see a mixed picture when it comes to SDG implementation processes in the Member States, with an overall positive impression. Figure 4 shows the overview of our light assessment¹⁵³.

When it comes to **commitment and strategy**, only two countries have no overarching cross-sectoral strategy, six countries have one but without a recent update. Most of these countries plan to revise their sustainable development strategies or development plans with the SDGs. Seventeen countries already have updated national strategies. In around half of all the Member States, these strategies appear to be operational. Only a few countries go as far as to link their overarching strategy to the national budget.

Regarding **leadership and horizontal coordination**, 50% of the countries have put in place visible coordination mechanisms with clear engagements across all departments and often have moved SDG implementation leadership to the centre of government. Most countries still struggle, however, to put in place effective coordination mechanisms between the external and internal dimension of SDG implementation. We still lack a clear understanding and concrete examples of how the universality principle of the 2030 Agenda can become reality in that sense.

Stakeholder participation varies widely between Member States. At the same time, it is the governance element where the highest number of countries, namely 8, rank in the highest category of the assessment scheme, i.e. where stakeholder participation is highly institutionalized and frequent. Many efforts are done to make SDG implementation processes inclusive in most countries. However, there are still two countries that show no signs of stakeholder participation (for Agenda 2030).

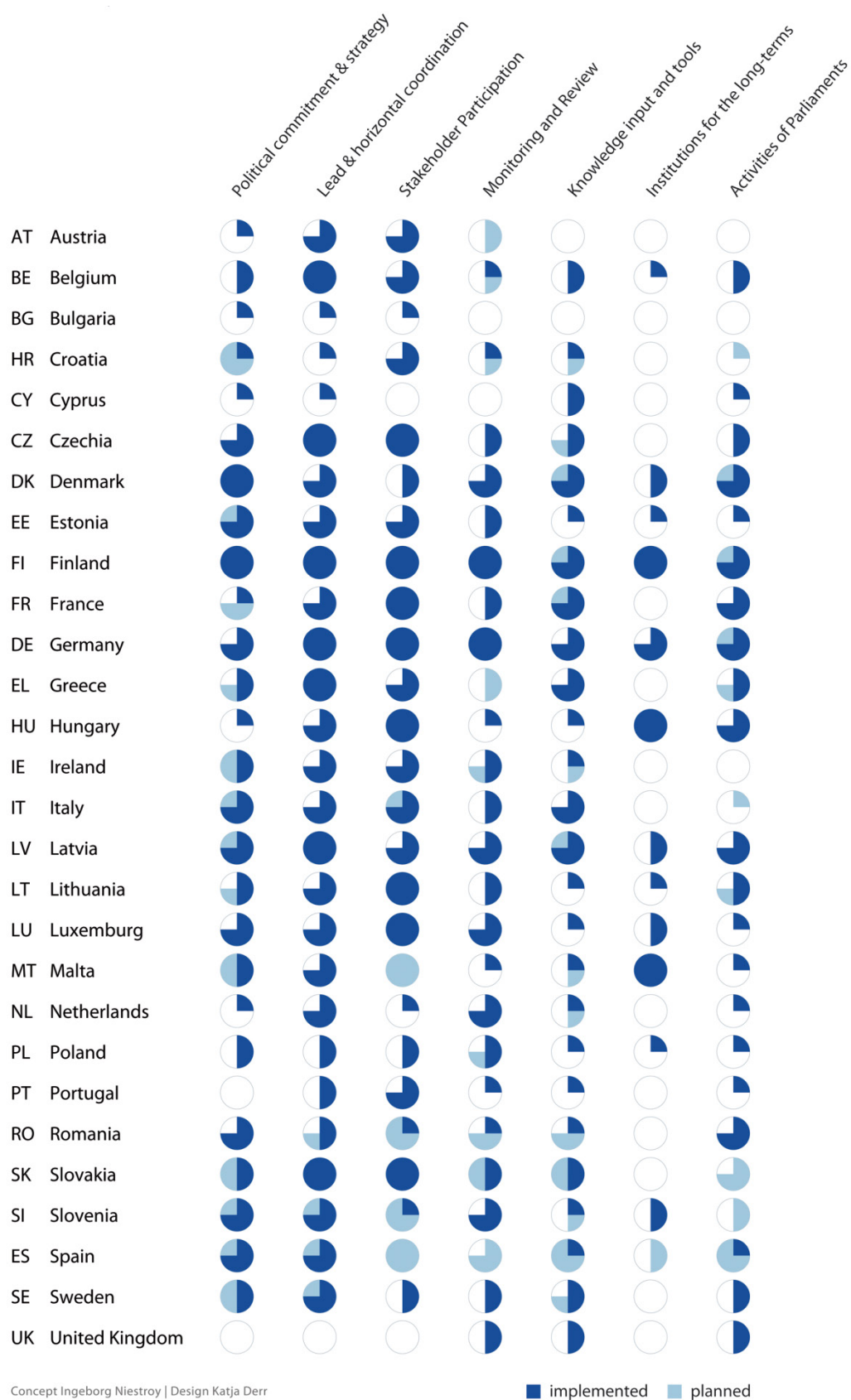
Concerning **monitoring and review**, most countries rank in category 2 which means that they have regular progress reports and that they have updated their indicator set with the SDGs. Only a few countries have defined quantified and time bound targets to achieve the SDGs nationally (category 3) and even fewer countries have put in place an independent, external review mechanism.

Knowledge & tools and Institutions for the long term seem to be the areas where countries are the least advanced. When it comes to the input of scientific knowledge through science-policy interface and tools like sustainability impact assessments or sustainability checks for national budgets, only a few countries have put more than one tool in place and most countries have only created very light versions of it. Institutions for the long term are not a priority in the vast majority of countries.

Finally, regarding **activities of parliaments for the 2030 Agenda**, we again see quite a variety. There is about an equal number of countries that have so far only organized parliamentary debates on SDGs, and those that have one or two committees dealing with the Agenda 2030 or have created new institutional arrangements. It has only started in these countries to include the SDGs in all core parliamentary functions - to scrutinise implementation of the SDGs nationally, to integrate them in legislation and in the budget.

¹⁵³ For each governance element, a score between 0 and 4 was given.

Figure 4: Governance dimensions for SDG implementation in dimensions in all EU 28 – a light assessment



Current trends as regards governance for the SDGs

- *Central leadership and improving horizontal coordination are popular.* Overall, we see more central than sectoral or joint leadership, and more attention and arrangements for horizontal coordination than before Agenda 2030, including regular working processes. Continued work is needed and in particular improvements for making the link between domestic and external policies to work better.
- *Impact assessments seem to become more SDG-ready, but budget checks are lagging behind.* There is a growing attention for the use of impact assessments as tool for the SDGs, including to integrate Agenda 2030 in existing regulatory impact assessment systems¹⁵⁴. Only a few countries are currently experimenting with sustainability budget checks.
- *'Knowledge and tools' and 'commitment and strategy' are the areas where most activities are planned in the next months.* 12 countries plan to set up new tools, such as sustainability impact assessments, science policy interfaces or budget checks in the next few months. 13 countries are planning to advance their strategy and commitment, either by updating, operationalizing a strategy or linking it strategy to the budget.
- *Altogether, there is quite some room for improvement in the areas of monitoring and review, especially in target setting and spill-over effects, in the use of knowledge and tools, as well as in institutions for the long term and parliaments' involvement.*

Towards regular stock-taking and analysis

The scope and level of granularity of this study only allowed for an overview and light assessment of the institutional response to the SDGs in the Member States, at EU level and in (EU and national) parliaments. The next, and highly desirable, steps for making this stock-taking and analysis more grounded, for widening its use and keeping this level of insights up to date would be:

- At a minimum, to have the questionnaires of the country level checked by a wider group of stakeholders.
- More fact-finding and interviews in each country to get to a more robust verification and assessment, and to an effectiveness assessment of the institutional design.
- Development policy and respective actors should become one focus, for deepening the analysis on PCD/PCSD and its connection to the overarching perspective taken here (as started with the OECD PCSD building blocks and country profiles in this study)¹⁵⁵.
- The subnational level could be taken into account in a systematic way (possibly in partnership with the Committee of the Regions, and/or other associations active on Agenda 2030 implementation at subnational level).
- For comparative analysis and for enabling mutual learning ('what works where and why?'), context knowledge needs to be taken into account. Knowledge gained in public administration reform activities is valuable here (e.g. EUPACK study¹⁵⁶).
- Surveys and assessments such as this study should be done on a regular basis in order to build a sound knowledge base and facilitate monitoring and scrutiny: The European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) is providing this in in principle, but is neither covering all countries nor frequently

¹⁵⁴ A study for the European Commission which could be a source of inspiration for the integration of sustainability in IAs: RPA and EPRD, 2015.

¹⁵⁵ See also the recent evaluation of the EU's PCD https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/external-evaluation-european-unions-policy-coherence-development-2009-2016_en

¹⁵⁶ European Commission / Thijs et al., 2018

updated. Creating a partnership of Council/Member States and European/national parliaments (and EESC) for such a country level knowledge base would be desirable (see emerging initiatives below).

6.2 How could implementation at EU level and Member States level better reinforce each other?

In times of ecological and social urgency, we need to act at all levels simultaneously and create a dynamic of action. In a similar vein Commission President Juncker already intended this by promoting to 'Working in partnership for Europe'¹⁵⁷ which however did not include Agenda 2030. The pathways to achieve the SDGs vary from one context to another. In the particular context of the EU and its Member States, SDG implementation needs to happen at both levels, for which coordination and mutual learning would be beneficial. This also extends to the subnational level¹⁵⁸.

There is no time to wait until innovations at the bottom come to the top and that top steering reaches the bottom. Bottom-up and top-down are both necessary approaches, but both are in general slow¹⁵⁹. They need to be linked faster. Dedicated governance mechanisms are needed to address urgent problems faster and tackle complex issues. The role of such mechanisms would be to link the EU and the Member State level, not to replace action at the one or the other. Working on EU and Member State levels (and beyond) simultaneously can be helpful to accelerate, develop breakthroughs and testing solutions. Of course, the added value is a valid consideration – but more important than demonstrating efficiency is demonstrating action, solutions and responses to the ecological and social crises of our time.

Looking through a two-level lens as motor for mutual dynamisation instead of mutual no's or mutual standstill also brings about new perspectives and ideas for more joint-up and mutually reinforcing work. Go for a top-runner approach, form coalitions of the willing that turn into coalitions of the winning. This can build on experiences with the mutual gains approach for complex, multi-actor and multi-sector (nexus) challenges¹⁶⁰. **It is important that such a two-level dynamic will emerge very soon.** The priorities of the next Commission will be discussed informally with the Member States during the first term 2019. The participation of all actors is needed to get the crucial SDG implementation framework right in the EU, and for the EU to have the right priorities in supporting the Member States. The campaigns for the European Parliament elections are another platform to discuss pathways for a sustainable Europe and how the SDGs help as roadmap. This study may serve as background information to frame such debates.

6.2.1 Recommendations to dynamise the multilevel governance for SDGs

1. Develop a comprehensive a post-2020 SDG implementation strategy, as requested in 2018 by the European Council, building on the Commission's reflection paper on the SDGs and on work in Member States.

In our interviews, many countries signaled again that a post-2020 EU strategy aligned with the SDGs would be useful for national SDG implementation. Several countries made the link between their EU2020 implementation process and SDG implementation. A new EU2030 strategy could be adopted and be,

¹⁵⁷ Mission letter to FVP Timmermans from 1 November 2014, p. 6,

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/sites/cwt/files/commissioner_mission_letters/timmermans_en.pdf

¹⁵⁸ We are dealing with a multi-level situation, and the regional and local levels are equally or even more important for the SDG implementation, but the focus of this study and framing of the messages here is in the first place about the EU and the national level.

¹⁵⁹ See recently 'Frustration with the "top-down grand deal approach" and lack of action at national level continues to drive new grassroots and local initiatives focusing on action on the ground' (EPSC, 2018, p. 3).

¹⁶⁰ E.g. Susskind, 2014

ideally based, on science-based targets covering the SDGs in a holistic way¹⁶¹. A strong science input is crucial and should feed in but not replace a political debate about sustainable development priorities in Europe. The SDGs are a legitimate basis to launch such a debate¹⁶². This recommendation strongly echoes the recommendations of a variety of actors, such as those represented in the Multi-stakeholder platform¹⁶³.

2. Integrate the SDGs in the EU's economic monitoring and budgeting processes

As we have seen in this study, more and more countries take action to integrate SDGs into their national budgetary processes. As we have seen countries use the SDGs as a tool in their budgetary process in many different ways and with different objectives, for example to improve budget coherence or transparency. The EU could learn from these country experiences. It could also think about ways to support these initiatives and to use the SDGs as a tool in the EU's economic monitoring process. In this context, SDGs could be seen as a tool in discussions with countries about priorities for public spending and for public spending reduction. They could be a tool to assess impacts of public spending cuts to make sure that countries do cut first what contributes the least to the SDGs and do not cut sustainable public spending. One concrete way to support the country initiatives would be via amending the Stability and Growth Pact to include social and environmental objectives.

Closely related, **the SDGs could be integrated into the European Semester economic monitoring process**, or at least an environmental pillar in addition to the social pillar recently integrated. This would be easier once a post-2020 strategy aligned with the SDGs would be adopted¹⁶⁴. In line with a better dynamic for the two-level situation are proposals to develop in the future both country specific recommendations and EU specific recommendations¹⁶⁵. For the current (2019) Semester cycle, it may also be reminded that the European Semester is still based on the EU2020 strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Several countries have signaled that they are taking measures to actively implement the EU2020 targets and that they are awaiting 2030 targets.

In addition, EU structural funds and investment funds should be mission oriented and take the SDGs as overall objectives. As regards the latter, the Commission's proposals on sustainable investments are promising¹⁶⁶. A connection is currently evolving here with the respect that according to the AGS 2018, the European Semester 2019 will be strongly related to negotiation documents with the Member States on the MFF, and especially on the structural funds. During these negotiations, the strategies and targets that Member States have set up to achieve the SDGs should be used as a basis of discussion. Investment priorities which will not be identified in the Semester 2019 country reports (February 2019) may not be reflected in the outcome of the MFF negotiations on the structural funds.

3. Scale up the use of peer learning mechanisms at all levels of governance.

The EU Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) is such a more dynamic approach (of a kind of OMC) as it offers mechanism and tools for (peer) learning between countries.¹⁶⁷ A similar peer to peer learning tool is offered for the EU's Regional policy.¹⁶⁸ **It would be worthwhile to consider launching national**

¹⁶¹ Think2030 final report: <https://ieep.eu/publications/30x30-actions-for-a-sustainable-europe-think2030-action-plan>.

¹⁶² Demailly and Hege, 2018

¹⁶³ MSP http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6111_en.htm

¹⁶⁴ The Think2030 report issues a similar recommendation (October 2018): "**Utilise Europe's semester process** to increase momentum, coherence and transparency in the transition-integrating well-being metrics into the process.", so does a European Think Tanks Group policy brief (Voituriez et al., 2018). Similar and more detailed recommendations: S&D Group/Progressive Society, <https://www.progressivesociety.eu/publication/report-independent-commission-sustainable-equality-2019-2024>, published November 2018.

¹⁶⁵ S&D Group/Progressive Society, 2018, p. 175.

¹⁶⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/180524-proposal-sustainable-finance_en

¹⁶⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/index_en.htm

¹⁶⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/taix-regio-peer-2-peer/

peer to peer projects to stimulate learning from each other within a country. Commission expert groups with Member States are another venue for this. Sustainability themes are discussed in sectoral expert groups and there should also be a cross-cutting group on the implementation of the SDGs, i.e. roughly following the design of the Council WP 2030, but for enriched by (independent) experts from Member States. Such expert groups are more technical and deliberative and are preparing Council meetings (which is prepared through Council Working Parties). The style of the new Council WP is already more enriched with collaborative and knowledge elements above average and could serve as a model.

4. Dynamise on the stakeholder side.

It is a welcome development that the EESC has just started with taking stock of stakeholder involvement in Agenda 2030 at the Member State level, and is intending to do this on a regular basis. The Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs of the Commission should continue and also be dynamised within the two-level space of Member States and the EU as to build consensus in all Member States. The call of FVP Timmermans at the last meeting of the platform on 11 October 'for the platform's active engagement with the Member States in making their work known and explaining the importance of the SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels' is much in line with this. However, a more dynamic stakeholder engagement at and between the Member State and EU level is not something that can be done overnight. As all connecting and engagement work, it requires quite some staff resources¹⁶⁹. There is an EU-funded, project-based CSO initiative that links SDG work in around half of the Member States with the EU level, which could be broadened and get the time horizon 2030¹⁷⁰.

5. Beyond the two levels that are at the heart of this study, there is a potential for dynamisation of the full multilevel governance.

Member States are usually absent in discussions between CoR and Commission. In a true collaborative type of multilevel governance, a platform could be useful that brings all levels together for thematic, e.g. nexus-theme type deliberations. This would short-cut the usual time-consuming, top-down, step-by-step multilevel processes and would reflect awareness of the urgency of some of the key sustainability challenges. In a similar vein, the CoR has recently launched a pilot project to improve knowledge transfer from regional and local authorities to the EU level.¹⁷¹ This should be combined with a country level knowledge system on governance for the SDGs (see above), as recommended as one of the next steps to follow this study.

6. An opportunity not to be missed is the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP).

The SRSP is a mechanism to support public sector reform in Member State, managed by the SRSS organisation within the Commission. It is meant to help building 'more effective institutions, stronger governance frameworks and efficient public administrations' with the aim to reinforce their capacity 'to design and implement policies to support job creation and sustainable growth.'¹⁷² **This could be used to cater for the needs of SDG implementation as analysed in this study:** building capacity in the administration for horizontal coordination, collaboration and running project teams, for organising stakeholder participation and communicating, for designing and using tools like impact assessment etc. The SRSP typically operates on the demand of Member States. A joint call from several Member States to

¹⁶⁹ As comparison: there are around 80 people working on the relation between the EP and national Parliaments.

¹⁷⁰ <https://makeeuropesustainableforall.org/>; funded by: European Commission, Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme, https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/development-education-and-awareness-raising_en

¹⁷¹ Network of Regional Hubs project. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/regions-called-to-join-pilot-project-to-improve-EU-legislation-.aspx>

¹⁷² https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/structural-reform-support-service_en#responsibilities

set up a program for SDG capacity building hence seems feasible and could be arranged in the Council WP 2030. It could also become a partner in creating the above-mentioned knowledge database.¹⁷³

7. Interconnectedness as core principle of the 2030 Agenda is something that both Member States and EU institutions still struggle with, between the SDGs and between external and internal dimension of SDG implementation.

Both Member States and EU would benefit from a multi-level good practice exchange and iterative learning process to move ahead:

- **Practice how to 'dance'¹⁷⁴ (and overcome) silos:** The new Council Working Party for Agenda 2030 is already evolving as good practice for countries, a venue to learn from each other, to develop and bring new ideas back home. Its purpose was to bring together policy makers from domestic and external Ministries, which creates dynamic for this purpose to work in a more integrated way. It just started the excellent initiative for awareness raising and mainstreaming, by getting in contact with chairs of other Council WPs. At the same time, there is room for improvement in the relation between the levels. So far the Council WP continues with the tradition to 'call upon the Commission ... (to do ...)', while it would be useful to bring own activities on SDG implementation to the table, and also point out where a joint framework at EU level would support Member States in their own implementation actions. For the former, this study is a first element in providing an overview of the governance frameworks that are in place in EU 28. The latter could take form of a '*genuine (positive / neutral) subsidiarity test*'. The Task Forces within the Working Party are already a place for more collaborative work style.
- **It is overdue that the SDGs are included in the Better Regulation Agenda, especially the Impact Assessment (IA) Guidelines.** The **Better Regulation Agenda** was addressed in the Commission's Communication from November 2016 as key means for 'mainstreaming', including its ex ante impact assessment and ex post review system¹⁷⁵, but this has not materialized yet¹⁷⁶. Further development would also support very much the Member State level, where there is more interest for and activities on developing IA systems, or amending an existing RIA system with Agenda 2030. The Commission with its long-standing experience with an IA system that is in principle covering the three dimensions of sustainable development, could continue in this area to be a frontrunner. Open is here, inter alia, to address spill-over effects, use the nexus approach, and other issues arising from a emphasised domestic external link. Equally, the European Parliament should benefit from work done in national parliaments and further develop a light IA (see chapter 6.4 below).
- **Digitalisation offers an opportunity to improve coordination and integration of policies and policy learning between authorities and in interaction with stakeholders.** Peer to peer tools could benefit from adding online modules, for example. Better governance for the SDGs at EU and national level needs to be linked with the EU's Digital Agenda and in particular the EU's e-Government Action Plan.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷³ Building, inter alia, on its EUPACK study, <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8072>)

¹⁷⁴ "Teaching silos to dance" <http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/teaching-silos-to-dance-a-condition-to-implement-the-sdgs/>

¹⁷⁵ see also recent special report of the European Court of Auditors
https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR18_16/SR_BETTER_REGULATION_EN.pdf

¹⁷⁶ The ongoing public consultation on the "Stocktaking of the Commission's better regulation policy and practice" initiative" is a venue for proposals (until Q1 of 2019 according to the roadmap) <http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/Ares-2018-2332204>

¹⁷⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-egovernment-action-plan-2016-2020>

6.3 2019 - a year of opportunities

2019 will be a crucial 'test' for sustainable development globally and at the EU level (see Figure 5). The first cycle of international reporting ends with the HLPF under the auspices of the UN ECOSOC in July and an HLPF under auspices of the UNGA, also known as the SDG Summit in September 2019. This Summit will be a crucial moment to test the political leadership of the 2030 Agenda. EU Member States have the opportunity to send a strong signal internationally by announcing concrete commitments and launching an early-achiever alliance on challenging targets¹⁷⁸. The EU has the opportunity to set a strong signal internationally on the importance of this agenda that builds on key EU values, by presenting a report across all areas and ideally as **overarching joint EU voluntary report** (complementing the joint synthesis report on development policy as committed in the European Consensus on Development). For this EU signal to be credible, the EU will have to show that it is leading by example, for example by announcing its own EU 2030 strategy in line with the SDGs. Early 2019, the Commission is expected to publish its **reflection paper on 2030 Agenda for the EU, in the context of the Future of Europe debate**. There is a risk that this reflection paper will not be very ambitious, and regardless of level of ambition, that it will not lead to action. If it is sufficiently ambitious, it would be desirable if political actors like parliamentarians, NGOs etc. use it as a basis to launch the debate on priorities for a post 2020 SDG strategy that would allow the EU to achieve the SDGs.

Figure 5: Key events and opportunities in 2019



6.3.1 Recommendations to grasp key opportunities in 2019

1. A meaningful and ambitious EU progress report to the HLPF 2019

A key coming up opportunity to use this two level lens is the forthcoming reporting of the EU at the HLPF in September 2019, under the auspices of the UN General Assembly and HoSG level ('SDG summit'). So far the Commission has communicated¹⁷⁹ that the EU and its Member States will produce a joint synthesis report on the European Consensus on Development including the impact of their actions in support of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries, as a contribution to European Union reporting to the High Level Political Forum, when meeting at Head-of-State level every four years, starting in 2019. In 2019, the Reflection paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030' on the follow-up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the discussions that will follow, will also form an important basis for European Union reporting.

Thus, so far there is only an explicit commitment to report on development policies (according to the European Consensus on Development), and this is done in the way of a Joint Synthesis Report, i.e. reporting from the EU and the Member States. Hence the Consensus already wears the appropriate lens, which should be widened to a truly overarching report on Agenda 2030 implementation in the EU and its Member States, *for the external and the domestic track*, and the links between the two. This study to the European Parliament could be a first contribution to such an '*overarching joint EU report*': on the governance aspects both at national level in all Member States, and at EU level with a glance through all institutions, and at both levels also with a zoom into parliaments.

Involved actors: Commission; the Council & European Parliament could demand an complementary Joint EU Report for the overarching part, and may provide input (as the EP is doing with this study)

2. Use the momentum of the European elections and a new Commission, feed into the Future of Europe debate and the Sibiu Summit

The European elections and the constitution of a new Commission

2019 will see the **European elections and the constitution of a new Commission**. These highly political moments could be used to launch debates on not just short term but medium term sustainable development priorities for Europe. The SDGs are often used in a technical way and their political potential risks to get lost. Cross-party debates could be organized to discuss how to best implement a set of SDGs (for example, inequalities, biodiversity, energy) to point out controversies, trade-offs as well as common objectives and solutions to overcome the trade-offs.

The **campaigns for the European Parliament elections** will start early 2019, as will the deliberations about the **priorities for the next Commission** in Member States. As for the campaigns this is now up to the candidate MEPs, the political parties and the general public to participate in. The election debates will be important telltales for national politicians regarding the course and priorities for the next Commission. The priorities of and debates with the already appointed 'Spitzenkandidaten' are additional – or even more important – signals of 'where the action is' as regards to ensuring the implementation of the SDGs.

... are preceded by the Sibiu Summit - maybe the most important EU Summit of the next decade ...

The first months of 2019 will also be characterised by the preparations of the **Informal European Summit in Sibiu on the Future of Europe**. This Summit is expected to be 'iconic'¹⁸⁰, and it will be so if it draws conclusions on how the EU will prioritise, operationalise, and support the transitions necessary to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Summit is an opportunity to establish global leadership on sustainable

¹⁷⁹ Minutes of the subgroup Monitoring on 12 June 2018, letter to SDG Watch Europe, end of Sept.

¹⁸⁰ E.g. by the media platform Euractive (05.12.2018).

development and determine the steps to be taken collectively as EU to invest in a sustainable future – in Europe and beyond. The Sibiu Summit is 'an opportunity not to be missed', because it will set the course for the next 10-year EU strategic programme.

... where priorities for 2030 and for the 2019-2024 Commission will be set ...

When it comes to the priorities of the next Commission, leaders in Member States should be reminded that they confirmed in the European Council to be 'fully committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its implementation' and expect that the Commission's Reflection paper 'should pave the way for a comprehensive implementation strategy in 2019'. This is actually a clear programme for the outgoing and incoming Commission.

The hearings of the new Commissioners in the European Parliament are a key moment to address the expectations about Agenda 2030 in the priorities of the individual portfolios, the Commission as a whole and for the future President of the Commission. The new MEPs can build on then three resolutions of the European Parliament (2016, 2017 and 2019) and on the activities around the 2019 HLPF.

... while the new MEPs will need to get ready to take the helm ...

In order to make the SDGs known among the newly elected MEPs, initiatives from Member States could be replicated such as the '**adopt an SDG initiative**' in which members of parliaments are asked to become the ambassador for an SDG. This would make even more sense in a cluster approach to respect the transversal nature of the SDGs. **SDG trainings** could also be organized, as well as other meetings and briefing of new MEPs about Agenda 2030, prior to the hearings in the EP of the new Commissioners.

It would be recommendable that the European Parliament strives for a clear **mandate to annually monitor progress on the SDGs**.

... and anchor a sustainable course in the Joint Declaration of the three Institutions.

A **political debate** between the Parliament and the new Commission around a new post-2020 strategy which is based on the Agenda 2030 could be organized. It would be recommendable to hold such a debate prior to the hearings of the Commissioners in the Parliament, and possibly with candidates participating.

Involved actors: Council / Member States; campaigning MEPs; new MEPs – hearings of the Commissioners

3. Work towards a Joint Sustainability Declaration of the 3 institutions

The joint declaration of the 3 institutions at the beginning of the next legislative term is an outstanding opportunity to anchor the SDGs in the multi-annual priorities, which also lays the basis for the subsequent years and the annual joint declaration on interinstitutional priorities. As this was only introduced in 2016 with the Interinstitutional agreement on Better Regulation¹⁸¹, the first annual declarations on the basis of the CWP were agreed in December 2016 and 2017. The new term of the Parliament and Commission will hence be the moment for the '**first ever joint declaration on sustainable multi-annual priorities**' to be agreed in December 2019.

The task to anchor Agenda 2030 well in the multi-annual priorities of the 3 institutions can already start now. In the Council the basis is already laid with the conclusions of the European Council from 18 October 2018 (and the earlier GAC conclusions from June 2017). In the European Parliament the upstream work still needs to be organised. The planned internal work arrangements and the planned

¹⁸¹ NB: This IIA does not replace the Framework Agreement of 2010, but replaces the Interinstitutional Agreement on better law making from 2003 (which is one reason that the title was maintained, and not replaced by IIA on Better Regulation, as the Com had intended).

resolution in March 2018 will be a good starting point. It is recommendable in this respect to organise joint meetings with key actors within in the Commission service. In addition or alternatively it could be aimed for to hold a 'full' multi-stakeholder platform meeting, with the current Multi-stakeholder platform plus representatives from the Parliament and the Council.

Involved actors: European Parliament, Commission, Council

4. Anchoring the SDGs in the Trio Presidency programs

A mechanism is required to firmly **anchor Agenda 2030 over the next 12 years** in the programs of Trio Presidencies, which are meant to provide for a certain continuity and long-term planning. One suggestion could be to assign one country in each Trio Presidency as 'focal point', which makes sure that Agenda 2030 is anchored and covered well in the program of the Trio Presidency as well as in the individual Presidency programs (where applicable / via the Council WP 2030) and in the Joint Declaration of the 3 Presidents (see below). The Council WP 2030 has set up a Task Force for the mid-term planning of the WP with similar intentions of continuity, including to feeding into other policies at the right time.

For the upcoming new Trio Presidency this proposal is likely too late, but could still be added during the term, and the latest be introduced in the next Trio - as a measure to strengthen the long-term perspective.

Involved actors: Council / coming Presidencies (next Trio ('T9': RO, FI, HR) to agree with the subsequent Trios (T10: DE, PT, SI; T11: FR, CZ, SE, and beyond¹⁸²).

6.4 How to get the European Parliament more ready

With 2019 as an important year for the European Parliament, first with the elections and subsequently with the hearings of the new Commission, it would be good if the outgoing Parliament put in place basic working arrangement for dealing with Agenda 2030.

1. 'Dancing' and overcoming the silos of the Committees

As this study shows, there is a need in parliaments to set up internal working mechanisms to better tackle overarching issues in general, and Agenda 2030 in particular, throughout the three main functions of parliaments: scrutiny, legislation and budget control.

Furthermore, there is a growing need on the side of other institutions, and for the Multi-stakeholder platform, to have an interlocutor in the Parliament: in the Council there is the new Working Party for Agenda 2030, in the Commission there is the horizontal coordination role of the First Vice President, which hopefully will remain at least at this level¹⁸³. Examples in national parliaments might be inspiring and useful - such as Committee for the Future in the Finnish parliament which is the counterpart to the Prime Minister.

Such an interlocutor architecture within the Parliament could built on the arrangements that are being established already, and involve some form of co-leadership by DEVE and ENVI and may over time transition to a more cross-cutting structure as discussed earlier. The nearest to the ideas so far discussed in the European Parliament is the 2030 network in the Danish parliament. In the European Parliament the structure would lean more on the committees than on the all-party criterion – though best both would be fulfilled. Ideally, there would be one MEP as 'SDG focal point' per standing committee. These focal points would also meet as group to share experience, i.e. a more agile and interactive setting than regular standing rapporteurs. Besides this, there could be 'SDG ambassadors' in each political group, which will

¹⁸² There is in each Trio one or more countries who are committed to Agenda 2030 according to our study: T12: ES, BE, HU, T13: PL, DK, CY; T14: IE, LT, EL; T15 IT, LV, LU; T16: NL, SK, MT.

¹⁸³ More clarity in the relation to the Secretary General will be needed.

be in several cases in personal union with the former. Furthermore, the vice-president(s) in the Bureau could be in charge for anchoring the SDGs in their respective tasks: organising external representation (e.g. a side-event at the HLPF), internal house-keeping and procurement ('walk the talk'), and – most importantly – the relation with national parliaments.

In any case, for better performing scrutiny and mainstreaming the SDGs in all legislation proposals, a light sustainability assessment should be developed in the European Parliament. Here the German Parliamentary Committee for SD has the longest standing experience and could be a source of inspiration.

2. Strengthen interparliamentary cooperation

The dynamising of multi-level governance should also be used by parliaments, and in their relation to the European Parliament. It has been intended by Commission President Juncker, and is a responsibility of FVP Timmermans, to promote '(...) a new partnership with national parliaments' and to coordinate and strengthen the interaction of all Commissioners with national parliaments.¹⁸⁴ For the new Commission this might be reinvigorated.

Independent of this interinstitutional aspect, the **interparliamentary dialogue and collaboration** of the European Parliament and national parliaments could be improved to advance SDG implementation by:

- Holding more meetings, in particular by sectoral policy committees, specifically and explicitly addressing the SDGs
- Holding more meetings organised by more than one committee, in order to better address interlinkages. The planned interparliamentary Conference on the cohesion and agriculture policies (March 2019) could offer an occasion for this (for example by addressing nexus themes like food systems or global value chains).

The European Parliament could support the role of national parliaments in SDG implementation by

- Developing tools such as a light impact assessment to scrutinise and evaluate policy proposals in light of their impact on the SDGs, that could subsequently be adapted by or inspire similar efforts in national parliaments
- Organise an ICM for the aspects where parliaments could move ahead regarding integration of the SDGs in their work, including bringing together and showcasing national parliaments with a new, or re-shaped, cross-cutting institutional arrangements or committees for Agenda 2030 (or other arrangements that are considered well-functioning)¹⁸⁵, exchange experiences on tools such as sustainability impact assessment and budget checks, and consider options for regular monitoring (e.g. on the occasion of the HLPF).

According to the currently planned structure of a co-leadership by DEVE and ENVI, this tandem would be well-positioned to invite to such a meeting. These ICMs would best be organised in a regular fashion prior to the annual HLPF.

Strengthening the interparliamentary cooperation in this way follows the main recommendation of this study, that the two-level links should be re-energised and dynamised in order to drive the agenda, learning from good practice and top runners, and also taking different contexts into account.

¹⁸⁴ See responsibilities of FVP Timmermans (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019/timmermans_en), and Mission letter from 1 Nov 2014 (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/sites/cwt/files/commissioner_mission_letters/timmermans_en.pdf)

¹⁸⁵ There is normally a limit of four participants per Member State / national parliaments (exceptions may apply).

Annexes

Annex 1 Country fiches

ANNEX 1

Country Fiches

Sources

ESDN country profile: Overview of selected SD strategy features (similar to the structure of the Country fiches presented here) of 33 countries (including all EU Member states). Established around 2005 and updated rather regularly (not yet adapted to the SDGs).
<https://www.sd-network.eu/?k=country%20profiles>

ESDN QR, 2018 = ESDN Quarterly Report 2018: ESDN – European Sustainable Development Network (2018) | Mulholland, E. (2018): The Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Europe: Overview and Updates. ESDN Quarterly Report, July 2018.
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Leuven, 2018 = Bachus K., Pollet I., Steenberghen T. and Huyse H. (2018): The SDGs as a lever for change in policy practices, research report commissioned by FRDO-CFDD, Leuven.
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<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264301061-en>; <http://www.oecd.org/publications/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-2018-9789264301061-en.htm>
Chapter 3. Country profiles: Also available at <http://www.oecd.org/development/pcd/pcsd-country-profiles.htm>

VNR = Voluntary National Review (at the HLPf, in the year as indicated in the Country Fiche):
United Nations (n.d.): Voluntary National Review Database.
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs>

Interviews (oral and written): held between September and November 2018

Country Data Sheet: Austria

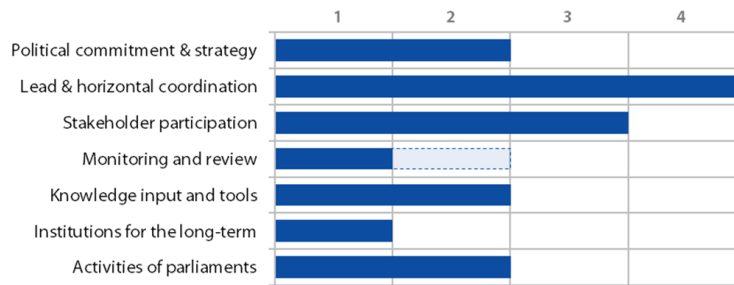
	1	2	3	4
Political commitment & strategy				
Lead & horizontal coordination				
Stakeholder participation				
Monitoring and review				
Knowledge input and tools				
Institutions for the long-term				
Activities of parliaments				

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	NSTRAT sustainable development strategy from 2002 (federal) OeSTRAT for national and regional levels in 2006 January 2016 SDG implementation launched by a decision of the Council of Ministers March 2017 first publication outline of general approach [1]	ESDN country profile, 2018
	Year of the VNR (&next)	[not done so far due to elections in 2017 and the EU Presidency of AT 2 nd term 2018]	
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	NSTRAT and OeSTRAT both overarching; the latter also across levels / no update yet	ESDN country profile, 2018
	How are the SDGs covered?	Portal for SDG related activities in Austria [2]	
2. Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	NSTRAT led by Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, and Federal Chancellery SDG's led by Federal Chancellery and Minister of Foreign Affairs, launched by Council of Ministers [2] Other leads: Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism and Federal Ministry of Science. <u>Was:</u> Committee for a Sustainable Austria, responsible for NSTRAT oversight and federal aspects of OeSTRAT, committee consists of representatives of the federal ministries, responsible for horizontal coordination	ESDN country profile, 2018
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	- All ministries involved - Coordination by interministerial working group with SDG focal points from each ministry, also to coordinate between Ministries; meets regularly; chaired by Federal - Chancellery and Minister of Foreign Affairs [3]	ESDN & OECD country profile, 2018

		Line ministries asked by Council of Ministries in 2016 (as above, "launched") to create individual action plans; Policy coherence specific aim	
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	New inter-ministerial working group with SDG focal points from each ministry, also tasked with specific internal-external trade-offs	ESDN & OECD country profile, 2018
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Board for Development Policy tasked with policy level coordination 3 Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy – covers specific link between development policy and national implementation of SDGs; new programme 2019 – 2021 Legal obligation through Federal Act on Development cooperation – both internal and external 	OECD country profile, 2018; Interview
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination	Very committed in the EU: managed to set up and support the ESDN secretariat for odd 15 years	
	Sub-national coordination	OeSTRAT as first SD strategy which links federal and regional levels, coordinated by Expert Conference of National and Regional SD coordinators. OeSTRAT coordinators Actors Network Sustainable Austria, round table events for national and regional actors, and OeSTRAT specific work programme Expert Conference of National and Regional SD Coordinators to coordinate national and regional SD strategies, chair participates in <u>Committee for a Sustainable Austria</u> (federal oversight mechanism) Regional liaison office participated in 3 Year Programme for development policy	ESDN country profile, 2018
			OECD country profile, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Actor Network for Sustainable Austria, facilitated by/as part of OeSTRAT process Sustainability Action days https://www.nachhaltigesoesterreich.at/ Academia, NGO's, private sector, interest groups, etc. participated in 3 Year Programme for development policy	ESDN country profile, 2018 OECD country profile, 2018
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	Actor Network for Sustainable Austria = main mechanism, large network for OeSTRAT work programme Committee for a Sustainable Austria has some societal actors Stakeholder participation strategy group; Criteria set for local level SD work for consistencies across regions	ESDN country profile, 2018
		Civil society platform for SDG implementation found in 2017 (SDG Watch Austria [4]) Academia, NGO's, private sector, interest groups, etc. took part in drafting 3 year program on development policy	OECD country profile, 2018
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		

5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistics Austria developed indicators - NSTRAT Bi-annual progress reports on work programme, and external review & audit No update on SDGs; OeSTRAT 2 years, and monitoring impacts 	ESDN country profile, 2018
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interministerial working group prepares "periodic" reports on SDG progress - A stock-taking across all Ministries was conducted in 2017 [5] - First progress report by the Ministry for Sust. Devt. and Tourism (was Min Env) on activities on all SDGs (with reference to own tasks) [6] - Austrian Development Agency is responsible for international aspect 	OECD country profile, 2018; Interview
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets?	Indicator system from NSTRAT reporting, not SDG's.	ESDN country profile, 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<i>No Sustainability Impact Assessment</i> <i>No Sustainability check of the budget</i>	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	<i>No arrangement / no info</i>	
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	Obligation of Ministers to integrate SDGs into policies is not effected by election cycles (statement in report); intergenerational timeframes	OECD country profile, 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<i>No info / no activity</i>	

Country Data Sheet: Belgium



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements (instit., processes, tools ...)	Results	Source
I. Political leadership / commitment	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment to SD also in constitution - Initial legislative commitment 1997, revised in 2010; Vision for SD adopted in 2013 - Updated National SD Strategy to reflect the SDGs approved in 2017 (process began 2015). National = federal + community and regions - First VNR process 2017 highlighted and raised SDGs as priority. 	OECD country profile, 2018
	Year of the VNR (&next)	2017, next still TBC (likely post 2019 due to elections)	ESDN QR, 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National: NSDS as strategic framework for national level and other levels to have coherent vision. - After SDG's - clear choice not to create a new strategy, but to make use of the existing instruments and orient instruments towards the SDGs. - NSDS translates the SDGs in the Belgian context with a shared vision between all governments. It also identifies 6 themes to enhance cooperation between each entities (communication, public procurements etc.). See the NSDS as a bookcase with each federal entity adding its respective strategies, in other words their own book. - IMSCD coordinates update of NSDS to reflect SDGs. - Strategy at each level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Federal: Long-term Vision for Sustainable Development Vision = Federal Plan for SD, for federal implementation of NSDS). This supports coordination (coordination here means: fostering cooperation be- 	VNR (also OECD country profile, 2018) Interview

		<p>tween different departments is one of the main objectives of the plan: for example Ministries are gathered into the Interdep. Commission for SD)</p> <p>2) Regional: own strategies/plans at the regional level (3 regions Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels)</p> <p>3) National: NSDS (as above)</p>	
	How are the SDGs covered?	<p>Coverage of all SDGs at political/leadership level.</p> <p>Currently, gap analysis to understand where needs are the highest (administrative), may also be different regionally, this is still being undertaken. It serves as preparation for a new federal plan for SD for the next government.</p>	Interview
2. Horizontal coordination	Lead responsibility (Ministers, organisations)	<p>Overarching Coordination bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IMCSD (Inter-ministerial Conference for SD) – gathers Ministers from all governments (federal, regional, communities) to coordinate SD policy/implementation. It was revitalized because of SDG's. - IMCSD has a political level (all Ministers from all levels), a steering group (civil servants), and working groups. 	Interview (also in ESDN QR, 2018; VNR, 2017; OECD country profile, 2018)
	Other involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	<p>Multiple other ministries involved at all levels of government.</p> <p>FISD and Minister of SD proposed that every ministry integrate SDGs in their annual policy statements.</p>	Interview Leuven, 2018
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National level: coordination mechanism such as Coormulti & DGE (Coormulti = coordination mechanism in MFA for International Affairs; DGE = position finding body within MFA for EU affairs ex. Discussing WP2030) - Both group the political and administrative level and regarding SD issues stakeholders (Federal Council for SD) are also invited at the meetings. - IMCSD – has representative of Dev Coop in it, but no international remit as mandate is limited to implementation of 2030ASD within Belgium. - For external, MFA of national government has positioning group (Coormulti – political & administrative) who leads on international (development, and UN/HLPF, etc.) 	ESDN QR, 2018 Interview
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	<p>Profound overhaul of Belgian dev't coop. aligned with SDG. Focus on needs of LDCs – use SDG's to frame & guiding instrument for dev't coop</p>	ESDN QR, 2018; VNR, 2017
	Supranational coordination	Existing coordination mechanisms are used (Coormulti & DGE) as above	ESDN QR, 2018
3. Vertical coordination	Sub-national coordination	<p>Constitution devolves power from regional governments on SD</p> <p>IMCSD gather ministers of different federal entities, regional and community reps, rotating presidency = formal coordination mechanism</p> <p>Constitution devolved SD also to regional governments. Besides the national coordination body (IMCSD), each level of government has thus established its own mechanisms for horizontal coordination:</p>	ESDN QR, 2018; VNR, 2017; Interview Interview

		<p><i>Federal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICSD, includes every federal ministry and subnational authorities (as observer), supported by Federal Institute for Sustainable Development: planning & monitoring the process (LTV, IA, plans and reports) - FISCSD supports the Federal Government with preparing and carrying out the federal SD policy and coordinates the federal SD policy - ex. chairing the ICSD (where ministries gather to discuss SD-issues). - The Task Force on SD (TFSD) of the Federal Planning Bureau: Reports on current situation, evaluating policy, forecasting + indicators, autonomous w/ expert & scientific advice - The Federal Council for SD (FCSD) = stakeholder advisory council <p><i>Flanders:</i> Flemish Government, Department of Chancellery and Governance, SD Unit; Department of SD, Public Service of Wallonia - Secretariat General</p> <p><i>Wallonia:</i> Department of SD, Public Service of Wallonia - Secretariat General</p> <p><i>Brussels:</i> Bruxelles Environment + Perspective Brussels</p>	
		Explicit focus of new NSDS to enhance coordination (both vertical and horizontal)	OECD country profile, 2018
		Cities & regions integrated into VNR process	
		Federal system means often not one central coordinator for policy, but up to 7, and this slows process of strategy and policy making.	Leuven, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Civil society, private sector, parliaments	VNR 2017
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	National Council for SD (1992), turned into Federal Council for SD (FRDO-CFDD) (1997) = main participation mechanism for stakeholders	ESDN QR, 2018
		FRDO-CFDD (SD Council): very active, no formal mandate for national level, but seems to take this on; coordination for input from 9 advisory councils into strategy, even though not formally required or mandated to do so.	Leuven, 2018
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	IMCSD mandated to coordinate reporting on SDGs – twice per legislature	ESDN QR, 2018
		Reports on SD: 1999, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015 and 2017 (entirely on SDGs, and used for indicator selection)	Leuven, 2018
		- <i>Federal:</i> Annual Reports from ICSD on Federal Plan on SD, contributes to SDG review and follow up. Task force on SD in Federal Planning Bureau publishes reports every two years on the Long-term Vision for SD and on policy coherence. Annual Reports from ICSD on Federal Plan on SD, contributes to SDG review and follow up. Taskforce on SD within Federal Planning Bureau reports on SD policy coherence at federal level. The indicators are currently being updated. The NSDS also plan to report to the general public twice per legislature	Interview; OECD country profile, 2018

		- <i>Regional government</i> also have their own reporting mechanisms and indicators through their respective SDG strategies.	
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	- Inter-federal Statistical Institute developed and monitors indicators - Indicators specifically "beyond GDP"	ESDN QR, 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Sustainable Impact Assessment = tool integrated into regulatory impact assessment since 2014; tool for policy-coherence & integration <u>Budget:</u> No link with budget, or SD Check	ESDN QR, 2018 / Interview
	6.2 Science-policy interface	- FRDO-CFDD (SD Council) as has scientific representatives - SD Taskforce in Planning Bureau also integrates experts	Interview
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1. Institutions for long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)	A 2010 Revision of the 1997 Law on SD defines a federal Long Term Vision (LTV) on SD. It contains 55 long terms (2050) objectives and proposes a set of indicators to report on the progress towards reaching these objectives. The LTV is the reference framework for the federal Strategy on SD and the activities of the institutions defined in this Act. The three regions also have their own SD strategies. LT SD Vision (55 goals towards 2050) was adopted in 2013 after a huge inclusive process, under the form of a royal decree.	OECD country profile, 2018; Interview
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament for Agenda 2030	Belgian VNR report was discussed in the federal parliament during a joint session of its Committees on Foreign Relations, Environment and Health.	VNR 2017
		It is proposed and in discussion that each federal parliamentary committee integrates in its work the SDGs relevant for its policy area.	Leuven, 2018 / Interview

Abbreviations:

- ICSD: Interdepartmental Commission on Sustainable Development. Also called ICDO (Interdepartementale Commissie voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling) – CIDD (Commission Interdépartementale pour le Développement Durable).
- IMCSD: Inter-Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development. Also called IMCDO (Interministeriële Conferentie Duurzame Ontwikkeling) – CIMDD (Conférence interministérielle pour le Développement durable)
- FCSD: Federal Council for Sustainable Development. Also called FRDO-CFDD.
- Coormulti: Directorate-General for Multilateral Affairs and Globalization
- DGE: Director-General Coordination and European Affairs

Overall Impression:

- There is an intricate architecture to govern and implement the SDGs within their balanced, multi-level, and complex governance system. The political context and sensitivities mean that vertical coherence and integration is well-established and institutionalized.
- However, the sheer volume of government bodies and coordination mechanisms (and the political sensitivities) may take away from clear leadership aspects of this agenda.

Country Data Sheet: Bulgaria

	1	2	3	4
Political commitment & strategy				
Lead & horizontal coordination				
Stakeholder participation				
Monitoring and review				
Knowledge input and tools				
Institutions for the long-term				
Activities of parliaments				

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	No overarching strategy for SD development but <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Programme for Development: Bulgaria 2020: the key strategic document providing common guidelines for the development-related action of ministries – no direct link to SDGs but linked to EU2020 sectoral strategies (eg. Environment) 	Interview
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	First VNR envisaged for presentation at 2020 HLPF	Interview
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	1 National Programme for Development: Bulgaria 2020: the key strategic document providing common guidelines for the development-related action of ministries – no direct link to SDGs but linked to EU2020 2 Sectoral strategies, eg. Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy for the Development of the Forest Sector in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2013-2020 (SDG 15) Third national climate action plan 2013-2020 (SDG 2, 13) National Action Programme for Sustainable Land Management and Fight against Desertification 2014-2020 (SDG 2, 15) National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Promotion of Social Inclusion 2020 (SDG 8, 10) 	Interview
	Coverage of which SDGs	All SDGs are important for Bulgaria and seen as already covered in government strategies The	Interview

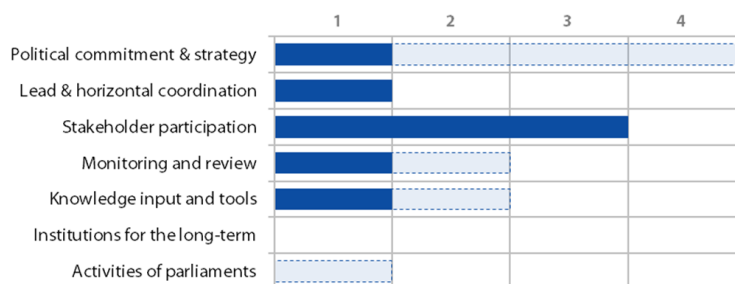
		main priorities of the Bulgarian government are outlined in the Governance Programme of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2017-2021 and the National Programme for Development: Bulgaria 2020.	
2. Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Ministry of Finance chairs the Coordination Committee for observation, implementation, monitoring and assessment of the National Programme for Development Bulgaria 2020. The Chair (Minister of Finance) ensures the preparation and execution of the three-year action plan for the implementation of the National Programme for Development: Bulgaria 2020. The Coordination Committee presents information about the implementation of sectoral strategic documents and monitors the progress in achieving priorities and horizontal policies of the National Programme for Development Bulgaria 2020. The Committee is accountable to the Council for Development within the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister is the Chair of the Council for Development. While the functions of the Council for Development do not contain an explicit reference to the SDGs, the Council is reported as in charge of coordination, monitoring, control, development and implementation of priorities for the sustainable development of Bulgaria, and proposes those priorities for approval to the Council of Ministers	Interview
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	All Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers are members of the Council for Development. The Coordination Committee consists of Deputy Ministers from all Ministries, Heads of the Political cabinets of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for economic and demographic policy, the Secretary from the Ministry of Finance, and the Chair of the National Statistical Institute	Interview
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	There is no official SDG focal point in charge of coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of forwarding SDG-related information from the United Nations, from the EU and from abroad to Bulgarian Ministries, departments and institutions Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent out circular letters to go through SDGs and pinpoint their realities, show how they link to SDGs Ministry of Foreign Affairs deals mainly with implementation of the SDGs at the global level (for example through granting development aid and humanitarian aid and following new developments related to SDG) 	Interview
	Specific coordination with development cooperation		Interview
3. Vertical coordination	National and supranational coordination	Bulgaria regularly participates in the working groups of the Council of the EU related to SDG: CONUN, COHAFA, Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Bulgaria takes part in UN fora associated with SDG: the High-Level Political Forum, ECOSOC meetings, etc.	Interview
	Sub-national coordination		Interview
4. Stakeholder	Multiple actors involved		

Participation	Coordination and participation mechanisms	Consultation guidelines and practices for sectoral policies: National strategies, plans and programmes are published on the Portal for public consultations before their adoption. Each strategic document in preparation has a certain policy area, target group, date of opening of consultations and deadline for consultations. The target group of most strategic documents is "all interested parties"	
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	Sectoral processes, National Statistics Institute uses data from the UN Statistical Commission, as well as various DGs of the European Commission, the OECD, etc	Interview
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	List of statistical indicators of SDG 2030 approved by the European Commission has been incorporated by the National Statistics Institute as the national statistical system of SDG 2030 implementation indicators – not following UN approach.	Interview
	Quantified and timebound targets?	–	
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	–	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	–	
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long term (intergenerational justice)	–	
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	Parliamentarians know about SDGs but no activities	Interview

Portrait / Overall impression:

- There is no overarching SD development document in Bulgaria. Ministries consider that nothing new needs to be done for the SDGs. Apparently, the fact that the SDGs come from the UN is an obstacle for them to be taken seriously by the ministries. moment we mention that they come from UN and that they are aspirational – the ministers don't take it seriously.
- In general, EU seems to be the right entry point for them be it as orientation for their Development Strategy (linked to EU2020) or for their indicator set (based on Eurostat's SDG indicators)
- Internal and external SDG implementation seen as two very different things that should be kept different.
- No necessity to have a competing SDGs strategy to the official government activities – they are linked in manys ways. SDGs said to be too vague and linked to everything, anyway.
- Bulgaria was the country for which we found the least documentation. The ESDN country profile was last updated in 2012

Country Data Sheet: Croatia



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First NSDS 2009 Ministry of Environment and Energy now engaged on SDG 13, policy mapping for their policies for SDGs Currently working on a national development Croatia 2030 strategy 	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Year of the VNR (&next)	2019	
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Currently working on a national development Croatia 2030 strategy (not directly linked to SDGs but Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked to analyse the links between this strategy and the NSDS) Also, rely on Environmental Protection Act (Programme and Plan), and other Action Plans, fit into NSDS for implementation or enforcement	Interview ESDN country profile, 2017
	Coverage of which SDGs	Objectives: population growth, environment, sustainable production & consumption, social justice, energy independence, health, interconnectedness, Adriatic Sea and coast	ESDN country profile, 2017
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs acts as SDGs coordinator, as secretariat for the new council for SD <u>Was:</u> Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection for previous NSDS	Interview ESDN country profile, 2017
	Other Involved Ministries& coordination mechanisms	New national council for SD since 2018 – steered by prime minister and enclosed members of the cabinet, representatives from all relevant ministries (theoretically the Government of Croatia meaning all ministries are responsible), representatives of the office of president of Republic of Croatia, heads of government offices, Croatian Bureau of Statistics – in the capacity of observers: also other stakeholders: academia, private sector, civil society, local and regional actors	Interview, ESDN country profile, 2017

		<p>This council meets once a year and can set up working groups</p> <p>Action plans as coordination between ministries and SDGs</p> <p>Ministry of Foreign and European established an inter-sectoral working group for SDGs</p> <p>Was: Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Council – supervisory and advisory function, stakeholder/expert inclusive, reduced activity in 2012</p>	
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Not specifically only via council for SD	Interview
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	No new development cooperation policy since SDGs	Interview
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination	EU SDS Mediterranean Strategy for SD	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Sub-national coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No mechanism in place yet on SDGs - Environmental Protection Act outlines responsibilities of national, sub-national and other relevant stakeholders. - Regional government required (by law) to submit Environmental Status Report on how that are achieving the legislation. Legal obligation, clear links in responsibilities. 	Interview ESDN country profile, 2017
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Academia, private sector, civil society, local and regional actors	Interview
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — New national council for SD since 2018 mostly government (see above) but other stakeholders can participate with the status of observers, eg. academia, private sector, civil society, local and regional actors — Civil society consultation around Croatia2030 drafting process — Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Council – supervisory and advisory function, stakeholder/expert inclusive, reduced activity in 2012 – unclear who and how participation happens — Internet consultation on NSDS strategy – council above key for participation 	Interview ESDN country profile, 2017
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	Environmental Status Report, every 4 years, reports on Env't legislation and NSDS	ESDN country profile, 2017
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets?	There will be indicators in Croatia2030 and their will be a link with SDG indicators, Statistical Office working on portal for SDG indicators – these are two parallel processes but a match of the two is planned	Interview
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	National strategy should be linked to the budget	Interview
	6.2 Science-policy interface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New national council for SD since 2018 –academia representatives have a status of observers - Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Council – supervisory and advisory function, stakeholder/expert inclusive, reduced activity in 2012. Mechanisms for 	Interview, ESDN country profile, 2017

		policy link to science.	
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long term (intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	Parliament will adopt the strategy Croatia2030	Interview

Abbreviations:

- **NSDS** National Sustainable Development Strategy

Portrait / Overall impression:

- The main long-term policy document in Croatia is the Strategy Croatia2030 that is currently being developed. It is not exactly a sustainable development strategy but more a development strategy more generally. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been asked to analyse the links between the SDGs and this upcoming strategy to show its compatibility with the SDGs.
- Since the adoption of the SDGs, responsibility for Sustainable Development has been moved from the Environment Minister to the "Government of Croatia as a whole" and more specifically to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs acting as a secretariat and coordinator. A new Council for Sustainable Development has been created that meets once a year and hasn't discussed the Strategy Croatia2030 so far (met only once so far).
- Since Croatia2030 is a development plan it will be more operational than classical NSDS and should be linked to the budget.

Country Data Sheet: Cyprus

	1	2	3	4
Political commitment & strategy				
Lead & horizontal coordination				
Stakeholder participation				
Monitoring and review				
Knowledge input and tools				
Institutions for the long-term				
Activities of parliaments				

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	Cyprus Sustainable Development Strategy first in 2007 by Council of Ministers, reviewed 2010	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2017	VNR 2017
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	NSDS	ESDN country profile, 2017
	How are the SDGs covered?	mainly SDGs 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, as well as SDGs 4 and 14	VNR 2017
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs was responsible for the coordination of the process and the drafting of VNR 2017. Since September 2017, the Council of Ministers has assigned the responsibility of the coordination of the process to the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (DG EPCD), also at the MFA, which is also responsible for the EU2020 for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.	Interview
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	All Ministries An inter-ministerial committee was established, comprised of contact points mostly from the strategic planning units of each line Ministry.	Interview VNR 2017
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	The Council of Ministers through its decision of September 2017 has assigned the responsibility of the coordination of Agenda 2030 to DG EPCD in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for the external aspect	Interview

	Specific coordination with development cooperation	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is responsible for the external aspect of Agenda 2030, is also responsible for the development cooperation.	Interview
3. Vertical coordination	National and supranational coordination	Participation in Mediterranean Committee for SD Reporting through EU SDS, last mentioned 2007 Link to National Reform Programme prepared in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy mentioned in VNR	ESDN country profile, 2017 VNR 2017
	Sub-national coordination	Only coordination in implementation in National Action Plan on Green Public Procurement, otherwise, local levels have their own plans	ESDN country profile, 2017
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	CSOs, "all relevant stakeholders"	VNR 2017
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	In the consultation process for first VNR, each Ministry which was assigned responsibility for a specific SDG, also assumed responsibility for all relevant stakeholders For first VNR, an online survey on SDGs progress and priorities at national level was drafted and distributed in collaboration with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).	ESDN country profile, 2017 Interview
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		
	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	No monitoring & review mechanisms in NSDS specifically as of 2017, but reports within the EU process (many inconsistencies in ESDN report about what/how monitoring & reporting takes place) Inter-governmental committee conducted and internal review (approved in 2010) Indicators through Mediterranean council but how they are monitored is unclear Monitoring of progress / review will be taking place in the context of the above mentioned intergovernmental committee.	ESDN country profile, 2017 Interview
5. Monitoring and Review	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	Statistical Annex for VNR done by Statistical Service of Cyprus (in charge of gathering indicators for SDGs) – this first annex largely draws on the EU SDG indicator set. It therefore looks primarily at EU policies contributing to the fulfilment of the SDGs, rather than directly at the goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda	VNR 2017
	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<u>Impact Assessment</u> : is taking place for every Bill submitted to the Parliament in relation to various aspects related to sustainability, such as gender/nationality/religion equality, effectiveness of educational system, access to public health, environmental impact, climate change, recycling and waste management. <u>Budget check</u> : --	Interview
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.2 Science-policy interface		

7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	The VNR was presented to the Parliament's Foreign and European Affairs Committee and also to the Committee for the Environment.	

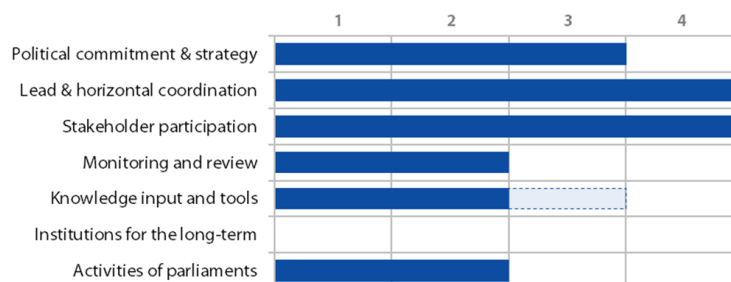
Abbreviations

- NSDS: National Sustainable Development Strategy

Portrait / Overall impression:

- The responsibility has shifted from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that was responsible for the coordination of the process and the drafting of VNR 2017 to the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (DG EPCD), which is also responsible for the EU2020 for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- As it is the case for several countries, the link between EU2020 and SDGs is emphasized
- Monitoring and follow-up seems to be weakly developed although it is planned that this will take place in the inter-governmental committee. The Statistical Annex for the VNR largely drew on the EU SDG indicator set. This again emphasizes that the EU level is considered the best entry point for SDG implementation in Cyprus. It might, however also indicate some lack in capacity for national monitoring and follow-up on the SDGs.

Country Data Sheet: Czechia



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment ELECTIONS Oct. 2017	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	NSDS 2004, Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development 2010; revision after 2015 to "Czech Republic 2030", adopted April 2017, and "Implementing the Agenda 2030 in Czech Republic", adopted Oct. 2018	ESDN 2017, ESDN QR, 2018
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2017 (next 2020 or 2021)	ESDN QR, 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Initial Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development, revised with the SDGs in 2015, and updated to "Czech Republic 2030" = overarching vision and strategy for the SD In addition, a document "Implementing the Agenda 2030 in Czech Republic" with concrete measures: it assesses the SDGs relevance in internal and external dimension, sets responsibilities to the relevant targets, define interlinkages between Agenda 2030 and Czech Republic 2030 and sets the key (and general) measures for the fulfilling SDGs in the Czech Republic that goes beyond the CR 2030 scope	ESDN country profile, 2017 ESDN QR, 2018, Interviews
	Coverage of which SDGs	Czech Republic 2030 ("CR 2030"): 27 strategic goals, 97 targets Six thematic clusters: People and Society; Economy; Resilient Ecosystems; Regions and Municipalities; Global Development and Good Governance	Interviews OECD country profile, 2018; Interviews
2. Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD): advisory & coordinating body of gov't (for agenda-setting, implementation, reporting) 	ESDN country profile, 2017;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister was chair of the council (2014-2018), now delegated to Deputy PM, (Minister for Environment), who had chaired already 2006-2014. The secretariat of the council is located in the Ministry of Environment. 	ESDN QR, 2018; VNR 2017; Interviews
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all other ministries Government Council is the inter-departmental coordination mechanism (within government), and for participation of stakeholders; they are the committees of the council. GCSD meets at least 2x/year in plenary 39 members, 14 Ministries, 8 thematic Committees (see graph at bottom). 	ESDN country profile, 2017; Leuven, 2018
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Government Council for Sustainable Development as main body Some CSO are very active in this area – two measures are included in the Implementing Agenda 2030 (cooperation in tax, and enhancing the coordination between the GCSD and the Council for Development Cooperation)	ESDN QR, 2018, Interviews
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Cooperation Strategy 2018-2030 Multi-Stakeholder Council for Dev't Cooperation, chaired by Minister FA 	OECD country profile, 2018
3. Vertical coordination	National and supranational coordination	Development of new SDG strategic involved EU & UN through GCSD	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Sub-national coordination	Development of new SDG strategic involved local & regional government through the GCSD: e.g. the LA 21 Working Group still in place (since 2004), and established indicator-based approach to SD at local level in 10 thematic areas. Now formally subsumed under a new Committee for Sustainable Municipalities (since 2014). National SDS is framework for subnational context as well Some municipality associations are a part of GCSD, and also thematic sub-committee	ESDN country profile, 2017; Leuven, 2018; Interviews ESDN QR, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	local and regional authorities, parliamentary representatives and a wide range of other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and the labour unions	VNR 2017
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	Public consultation on revised SD strategic framework ("Czech Republic 2030") in 2015 and 2016. GCSD is the main forum for partnership and participation (with 8 thematic committees of stakeholders)	ESDN country profile, 2017; Leuven, 2018; Interviews
		Web platform for noting voluntary commitments to the SDGs by the public (Finnish model), combining with network meetings twice a year and encouraging the contestants of a national SDG award	ESDN QR, 2018; Interviews
		National database of Strategies: a tool for tracking linking various strategies, goals, targets and indicators, run by the Ministry of Regional development	Leuven, 2018; Interviews

	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses	Embassies report on dev coop aspects through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	OECD country profile, 2018
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.) ie What is the process?	Progress reports on Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development pre SDG's 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2016 Reports on SDG and indicators currently being prepared; planned: 1) report on quality of life and sustainability; 2) report on progress in Agenda 2030 - both should cover three years period: 1) National level (CR 2030): Ministry of the Environment with the Stat Office and other ministries developed indicators. 2) Global level (Agenda 2030): the Stat Office coordinate the assessing of SDGs indications relevance to the Czech Republic GCSD consults the outcomes of monitoring and reporting	ESDN country profile, 2017 ESDN QR, 2018; OECD country profile, 2018; Interviews
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	- Results in VNR based on the OECD Study "Measuring Distance to SDGs Targets" (2017) - Indicators based around 97 targets of Czech republic 2030: 192 indicators, 20 of them are new or has experimental character - not quantified or timebound	VNR 2017; ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Quality of public policies will be improved through evidence-based or evidence-informed decisions, better ex-ante impact assessments and enhanced ex-post evaluations: Regulatory impact assessment part of legislative process <i>No Sustainability check of the budget</i>	VNR 2017; Leuven, 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Research specifically mentioned as part of SD strategy	ESDN country profile, 2017
7. Long- term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	- Ad hoc discussion of SD Strategic framework in both chambers of parliament - A new sub-Cie for SD is set up under the ENVI Cie; it is not so clear though how it deals with the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs (and there is a large number of Cie's and sub-Cie's in the Parliament)	VNR 2017, Interviews

Abbreviations:

- GCSD Government Council for Sustainable Development

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Czech Republic was an early mover among the CEE accession countries with an SD strategy already adopted during the main wave in Europe around Rio+10, namely in 2004. The subsequent phase of this, the Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development from 2010 laid a very good fundament to get to the revision for Agenda 2030. Also a smart set up succeeded with a strategic framework and a document for implementing.
- On governance:
 - Leadership has meandered between the Minister for Environment to the PM and currently back at the Min Env.; challenge is to maintain the commitment across the government, - non-governmental stakeholders involvement needs to be ensured and continue ;
 - Coordination mechanism and participation is working well through the multi-stakeholder body Government Council for Sustainable Development
- 1. Message to the EU: The EU needs a policy gap analysis based implementation strategy in order to mainstream the 2030 Agenda into European policies. Special attention should be paid to SDG integration into post-2020 policies. The EU should strengthen PCSD using existing mechanisms. The EU should keep leading role at the global level and strive for more effective HLPF.

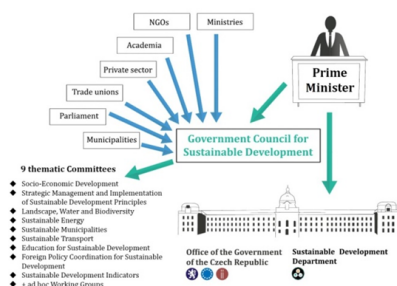
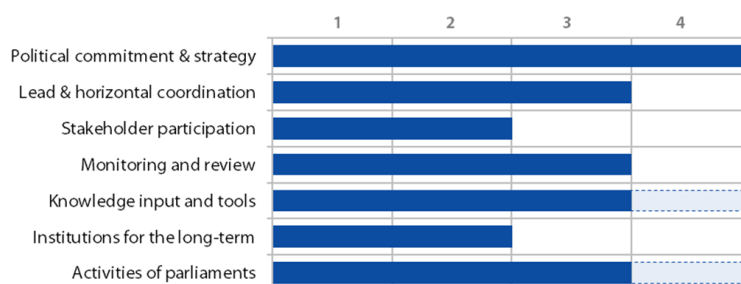


Figure 1. Institutional structure for sustainable development in the Czech Republic (Czech Republic, 2017: 7)

(Leuven, 2018) [due to changes in government and responsibility, this needs to be updated; lead is now by the Deputy PM (Minister for Environment)]

Country Data Sheet: Denmark



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2009 initial SDS, new strategy announced to be developed (2011) New 2017 SDG Action Plan	ESDN 2017
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2017; two further VNRs before 2030 planned	VNR 2017
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	2017 Denmark National Action Plan for Agenda 2030 [which was translated for the VNR]	VNR 2017
	How are the SDGs covered?	Action Plan centered around the 5Ps, contains 37 concrete, (mostly) national targets that are to a great extent measurable and quantifiable [see below (5.): not timebound]	VNR 2017 Interview
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Action Plan adopted by the government — Ministry of Finance responsible for the coordination of the national implementation of the SDGs — Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for the SDGs in the context of the United Nations and other international fora as well as in Danish foreign and security policy, trade policy and development policy (new development strategy "The world in 2030") 	VNR 2017 (also confirmed in Leuven, 2018)
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	Was: Ministry of Environment responsible for coordination	ESDN 2017
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Line ministries are responsible for integrating the SDGs in policy (each SDG is allocated to a Ministry). ▪ A Working Group is called on an ad hoc basis, e.g. on the first progress report 2018 	VNR 2017 Interview

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Otherwise: regular coordination between Ministries on individual proposal, and the government (the actual ministers) then decide on the basis of a note prepared by ministries. 	
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Every line ministry has an international/EU department which links domestic and international. It is desired that the new Council WP at EU level works more on domestic issues.	Interview
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs handles development coordination and includes other ministries when relevant. For example Denmark has a 'sector cooperation' with some developing countries where experts from eg. Ministry of Climate advises the countries on climate friendly regulation etc.	Interview
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination	Cooperation in Nordic Council, where an SD Strategy was planned	ESDN 2017
	Sub-national coordination	Sub-national policies separate	ESDN 2017
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Civil society, business, municipalities, youth, academia, primary and secondary schools	VNR 2017
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	Involved in VNR consultations and stakeholder conference ahead of action plan; Ministry of Finance will conduct formal meetings with relevant stakeholders - One of the meetings will be held after the presentation of the annual progress report	VNR 2017 / Interviews
	Specific coord. with development organisations or businesses?	The network of MPs also established a "2030 panel" with 22 members from all parts of society, as dialogue forum, to become a voice in the national debate, to identify what is lacking in the government's Action Plan and to develop a true Vision 2030	Interviews
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	Was: Coordinated by the EPA, with no exact timetable or format.	ESDN 2017
		Indicators were selected by government, that were found relevant in DK context Statistics Denmark in charge of UN indicators Annual SDG progress report to Parliament (and stakeholders): first in 2018.	VNR 2017 Interviews
		Projected implementation through progress monitoring – use reporting mechanism to project for future.	Leuven, 2018
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action plan targets, each of the 37 targets has 1 or 2 indicators - Integration of 'Leave no one behind': done implicitly, for example target 16 on increasing employment, including for people with disabilities - No, the Action plan targets are objectives with indicators, not quantified and timebound targets 	VNR 2017
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Sustainability assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Already assesses new legislative proposals in terms of their economic, environmental and gender equality consequences. - As part of the Action Plan, the government will assess the consequences of new legislation and major initiatives for the SDGs when considered relevant in a Danish context and in case the impact is significant. Has been announced several times, now for 2019. 	VNR 2017
		Budget:	Interviews

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since 2016, the SDGs have been integrated into the national bill pertaining to the budget for development cooperation indicating which SDGs are addressed by each budget allocation; will continue to provide 0.7 per cent of GNI in ODA. - Preparing to launch an SDG Fund that will combine public and private funds to mobilise further private capital. 	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Collective input from academic institutions was made to the VNR (Annex of five pages with policy recommendations), but not identified who and how. (Apparently) no mechanisms foreseen.	VNR 2017
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	Danish Youth Council (DUF, umbrella organisation): very active in the SDGs; own Annex in the VNR	VNR 2017
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament in 2017 decided to organise itself in a network including members from across the standing committees, reflecting the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs and the need to work across party lines. The network held a public debate to identify priorities for its work, including the task of raising public awareness of the SDGs. It will now discuss the government's progress report. In addition to this, the Budget Committee in 2018 established a Working Group on the SDGs. It will develop recommendations for how to consider the SDGs in budget planning. The Action Plan was not presented / discussed in Parliament. Annual SDG progress reports are delivered to Parliament (and stakeholder), but no debate. It is foreseen to hold a debate every four years, but the MP network on SDGs intends to change this, 	VNR 2017 / Interviews

Abbreviations:

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Denmark underlines that the country is already doing rather well on the SDGs, as e.g. reflected in the position in the "SDG index" of SDSN, and the OECD study "Measuring distance" (see below / see dashboard)
- On governance:
 - There are no new approaches for working better in interlinkages: domestic and external track operate quite separately; regular coordination is well in place.
 - Quite some rigour is set up for the reporting on SDG indicators, which is planned annually and has started in 2018. In the same vein it is underway to adjust the existing tool of sustainability impact assessments to the SDGs; -> an area for exchange with other MSs and the EU
- At the annual "The People's Political Festival" (Folkemødet, <https://folkemoedet.dk/en/>) the SDGs were very present
- Most interesting "2030 network" in the Parliament (<https://www.2030netvaerket.dk/>)
- Message to the EU: It is desired that the new Council WP at EU level works more on domestic issues. No initiative yet taken.

SDSN Dashboard & OECD distance to SDG targets [1]

According to the OECD study 'Measuring distance to the SDGs targets', July 2016, Denmark has a good and well-balanced overall starting position on the SDGs compared with other OECD countries. In the study, based on 127 available indicators allowing coverage of 94 of the 169 SDG targets, Denmark has currently achieved 26 of the 2030 targets¹. The remaining distances to achieving the targets are small in most areas, but some challenges remain.

Challenges are addressed as:

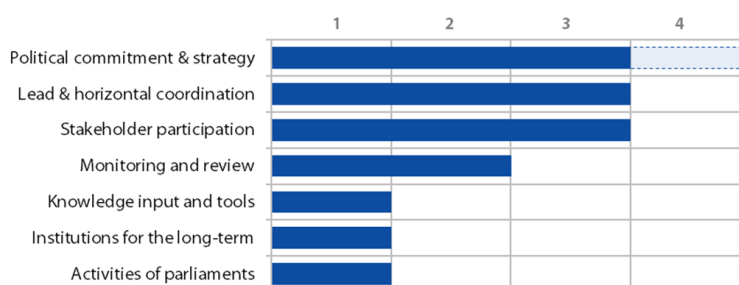
According to the SDSN study, the countries topping the SDG Index still have work to do in order to comply with the SDG goals. For example, these countries need to shift their energy systems from highcarbon to low-carbon primary energy in order to fulfil SDGs 7 and 13.

The SDG Dashboard for Denmark is similar to other OECD countries for which an average of more than one third of the goals are red, meaning that at least one of the underlying indicators for those SDGs is red.

These SDGs are: 12, 13, 14, 15

[1] The OECD measuring distance to SDG is only done for 11 EU MS (and only Denmark uses it when presenting itself)

Country Data Sheet: Estonia



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSDS 2005: "Sustainable Estonia 21" (with a time horizon until 2030) 2016: Review of 'Sustainable Estonia 21' to make compatible with SDGs, leading to work on "Estonia 2035", as new overall longterm planning document for Estonia with SDGs integrated; expected by the end of 2019	ESDN country profile, 2017 OECD country profile, 2018 / Interview
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2016 (next undecided)	ESDN QR, 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	SDS Sustainable Estonia 21 is an overarching strategy that will remain valid and represent the Estonian goals for SD. It will not be further reviewed. The SDGs will be integrated in "Estonia 2035". Framework for overall policy coherence and integration into strategies and action plans due by 2020	ESDN QR, 2018; Interview OECD country profiles, 2018
	How are the SDGs covered?	'Sustainable Estonia 21': Three pillar of SD plus cultural aspects of society. The VNR included a mapping of policies and a gap analysis for SDGs, all of which enters the current Estonia 2035 process	ESDN, 2017 / ESDN QR, 2018 / Interview
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Government Office (= PM office); (lead was: Ministry for the Environment, until 2006); its 'Government Office Strategy Unit' coordinates the SDG's, Sustainable Estonia 21 and Estonia 2035 (together with the Min Fin), as well as other policies, such as the Competitiveness strategy Estonia 2020, Governments work program.	ESDN country profile, 2017 / OECD country profile, 2018

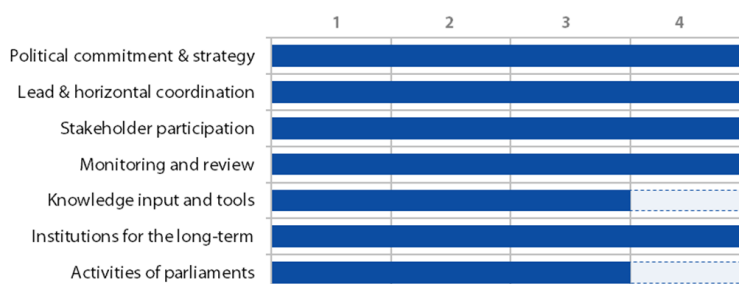
		Leading coordination: Inter-Ministerial Working Group and Estonian Sustainable Development Commission (ESDC); Government office is secretariat to the ESDC	ESDN QR, 2018
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	All ministries are responsible for their field of SDGs Inter-Ministerial working group: representatives of ministries, stat office, etc.	ESDN country profile, 2017 / ESDN QR, 2018
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making		
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation	Interview
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination Sub-national coordination	Estonian SD Commission (ESDC) includes representative body for cities & municipalities Joint Commission of Ministerial Bodies forum for multi-level cooperation	ESDN QR, 2018; ESDN country profile, 2017
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Business, research, NGOs; business seems to be quite active	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development (ECSD) since 1996, <u>Original:</u> mixed representation, government, parliament, business, research, NGOs and PM lead, <u>Was:</u> Reformed in 2006 and is now only non-government. It functions as the main public participation mechanism. Link to the government is through the Government Office, which serves as secretariat to the NCSD. (aim to increase ownership) New Estonian "Coalition for sustainable development": stakeholder founded and led; aims to fill in the gaps of the ESDC - to raise more awareness among stakeholders, be more flexible, get more and younger people involved, the more dynamic NGO community. The Estonian Commission for SD is an advisory body to the Government. The Coalition is aimed for more practical issues – concrete cooperation projects, joint actions	ESDN country profile, 2017 / Interview Presentation at ESDN conf.
		Conferences, informal exchange, launching review of compliance with SDGs, negotiating and agreeing the Estonian SD Indicators.	ESDN QR, 2018
		Code of Good Engagement obliges government to consult stakeholders during the process of any strategy process or draft legislation that affect them	OECD country profile, 2018 /
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses	— SD Commission as forum for stakeholder exchange — Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation	ESDN country profile, 2017 / ESDN conf.
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	▪ Indicators developed by: ECSD, Inter-ministerial working group and Stat office, - involves input from around 5 Ministries (from the inter-ministerial working group);	ESDN QR, 2018 / OECD country

		<p>ECSD body, gave final approval in 2017, for the indicators and monitoring system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stat Office publishes indicator reports every 2nd year. Next report will be published in December 2018 and will be the first SDG related report. Process for selecting and deciding on the Estonian SD Indicator set: extensive stakeholder process coordinated by the Government office VNR 2016 also had the function of a progress report. 	<p>profile, 2018</p> <p>ESDN QR, 2018</p>
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	<p>New indicators are developed in line with SDGs; the next report (December 2018) will be the first SDG related report</p> <p>Some of the SD indicators already have national targets, which are set in Governments sectoral action plans/strategies.</p>	ESDN country profile, 2017
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<p><u>Impact assessment</u> conducted on new planning documents – discusses Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, and implies SDG's but not explicit. Government Office and Ministry of Justice have responsibility for this impact assessment</p> <p><u>Budget: No Sustainability check</u></p>	OECD country profile, 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	In the NCSD (not beyond)	
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)	Long term strategy papers	OECD country profile, 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament regarding A 2030	<p>Parliament was involved during the SDS 2005 (now not very active in SD issues)</p> <p>Since the SDGs there have been talks between government and the speaker of all Cie's, and a committed speaker of Parliament</p> <p>SD conference for presenting the indicator report in Parliament was co-organised with Government Office, Min Env, and Cie ENV in Parliament.</p>	Interview / Discussion at ESDN conf.

Abbreviations

- ECSD Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development

Country Data Sheet: Finland



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy ELECTIONS April 2019	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSDS 2006, most recent 2015, updated in 2016 to align with SDGs “The Finland we want by 2050 – Society’s Commitment to Sustainable Development” from 2013, updated 2016; Government’s Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030 adopted in February 2017	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2016 (next 2020)	ESDN QR, 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National SD strategy: Vision to 2050: “A prosperous Finland with global responsibility for sustainability and the carrying capacity of nature” Government’s Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030 based on National SD Strategy 	ESDN country profile, 2017
	How are the SDGs covered?	National SD Strategy and Government’s Implementation Plan include all 17 SDGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overarching principles: cooperation, knowledge, carrying capacity of nature, cross-generational, global responsibility, good governance. Objectives: wellbeing, participation, sustainable work, sustainable communities, carbon-neutral, resource-wise, sustainable decision-making All SDGs; Focus areas of implementation plan: 1. carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland, 2. a non-discriminatory, equal and competent Finland. These cover almost all 17 SDGs in an integrated way.	ESDN country profile, 2017 OECD country profile, 2018

2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Prime Minister’s Office (PM Office) Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development (FNCSO), chaired by the Prime Minister. It is supported by a secretariat: Secretary General (at the Ministry of Environment), Deputy Secretary General (at the PM Office), and other experts.	ESDN country profile, 2017; ESDN QR 2018
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	PM Office: in charge of coordinating the national implementation. It also acts as 2030 Agenda Coordination Secretariat, which includes representatives from the Prime Minister’s Office, the Min. Foreign Affairs and the FNCSO. The coordination task is supported by an Inter-ministerial Network Secretariat, consisting of sustainable development Focal Points from all 11 line ministries.	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews;
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	PM Office and Min. Foreign Affairs in the 2030 Agenda Coordination Secretariat and in the Indicator working group. Co-operation between the secretariats of the FNCSO and the Finnish Development Policy Committee.	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Report on Development Policy 2016 as important part of Finland’s national response to the new agenda Development Policy Committee: multi-stakeholder parliament-led advocacy body for global sustainable development agenda. Secretariat in Min. for Foreign Affairs 	ESDN country profile, 2017
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU and international compliance to be included in implementation plan EU presidency 2019, the 2030 Agenda on the agenda 	ESDN 2017; ESDN QR, 2018
	Sub-national coordination	FNCSO: key mechanism for vertical coordination as local and regional bodies involved.	ESDN country profile, 2017
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Multi-stakeholder bodies and broad participation in all government policies	
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development (FNCSO): high level participation mechanism, chaired by Prime-minister. Multi-stakeholder body having operated for 25 years. Approximately 90 civil society, industry, business, labour market and educational organisations, as well as representatives of the government, Parliament, ministries, local and regional organisations, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, the indigenous Sámi people and other public, private and third sector stakeholders. https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/commission Society’s Commitment to Sustainable Development: provides a long-term sustainable development policy framework for the public administration, civil society and other stakeholders up until 2050. It is an implementation tool for anyone in Finland who wants to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with concrete action. By now, there are over a one thousand commitments from all spheres of the society. Private companies and schools have been the most active partners. https://www.sitoumus2050.fi/en/web/sitoumus2050/home#/	ESDN country profile, 2017; Leuven, 2018; Interviews

	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses	<u>Development Policy Committee</u> : multi-stakeholder & parliamentary body for the global sustainable development agenda	ESDN country profile, 2017
5. Monitoring and Review https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/information-on-monitoring	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Indicators</u>: developed in a multi-stakeholder indicator working group led by the Prime Minister's Office (representatives from all Ministries, Statistics Finland, key research institutes, a few NGO's, industry organizations, labour unions and a youth representative). Responsibility and process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National SD indicators: PM Office; online platform where experts feed in, with annual event - Global SDG Indicators: Statistics Finland, compiles data. ▪ <u>Comprehensive evaluation / review</u>: will be conducted every 4 years, first by 2019 (also to guide elections in April 2019, and to contribute to 2020 VNR). Process started August 2018, results will be published February 2019. Previous comprehensive evaluation was conducted 2009 ("National assessment of sustainable development"), and 2011-2012 (evaluation on national SD architecture and participation) 	ESDN QR, 2018; OECD country profile, 2018; Interviews
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — External gap analysis as baseline for 2030 implementation, as part of the VNR in 2016, assisted allocating resources and indicator production. — National process: open on-line platform (www.kestavakehitys.fi/seuranta) with 10 thematic indicator baskets entailing approx. 50 indicators, updated on a yearly basis. — <i>No quantified and timebound targets</i> 	ESDN QR, 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<u>Impact Assessment</u> : -- <u>Budget</u> : 2018: quick pilot and Ministry of Finance launching a multi-stakeholder and inter-ministerial process towards a full integration of SDGs into the 2019 budget 2019: SDGs are used in the justifications for the main expenditure titles, to bring out the connections between the appropriations and SD more clearly. Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a separate chapter in the general strategy and outlook of the budget proposal, focusing on the priority area of a carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland in the budget. Produced an overview of the appropriations relevant to that focus area. - an assessment of taxes and harmful subsidies with regard to that focus area. A popularized Budget Review publication emphasises SD issues as one main topic	ESDN QR, 2018; IDDRI, 2018 (and Workshop IDDRI); Interviews
	6.2 Science-policy interface	<u>Sustainable Development Expert Panel</u> : multi-disciplinary scientific body to analyse and review the SD policies, strategies etc. and raise societal discussion on the topical, emerging and conflicting sustainable development issues.	ESDN 2017; Interviews
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	<u>Youth Agenda 2030 Group (March 2017)</u> : 20 young SD agents, as engagement mechanisms for the long term perspective, challenging and supporting the FNCSD	OECD country profile, 2018

	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nearly all Parliamentary Committees discussed the Implementation Plan during spring 2017. The committees heard multiple stakeholders (ministries, NGOs, scientific stakeholders, business). Process is considered as comprehensive and horizontal. ▪ All relevant committees also discussed on State budget 2019 and the 2030 Agenda connections and heard multiple stakeholders ▪ Committee for the Future: a standing Committee that serves as thinktank for futures, science and technology policy. It was established in 1993 already and has 17 members, range of different political parties. It was mandated to take the overall responsibility of following the Government's measures on the 2030 Agenda. Issued resolutions on the Agenda 2030 Implementation Plan, which the government is obliged to follow (and which is followed-up in annual reports). 	Interviews
		Development Policy Committee: multi-stakeholder & parliamentary body for global sustainable development agenda https://www.kehityspoliittinentoimikunta.fi/en/	ESDN country profile, 2017

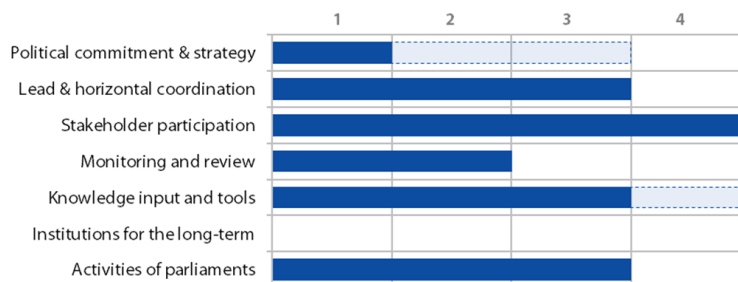
Abbreviations:

- FNCSD: Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development
- <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en> (= means "sustainable development")



Source: Finnish government

Country Data Sheet: France



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2003 first NSDS 2003, updates: 2006, 2010 Current NSDS running from 2015-2020	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2016 (next planned for 2019)	ESDN country profile, 2017, Interview
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	NSDS (<i>SNTEDD</i>) adopted in 2015 and valid until 2020 <u>Under work</u> : multi-stakeholder roadmap for SDGs currently being prepared, will be ready in 2019 and replace ongoing SDS in 2020	ESDN country profile, 2017 Interview
	How are the SDGs covered?	Future roadmap will cover all Current NSDS: 9 strategic orientations and priorities with 3-4 indicators per orientation	Interview
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Inter-ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development under the authority of the Prime Minister and located within the Ministry of Environment as Commissioner General for Sustainable Development, in coordination with Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Interview
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	Coordination by the Inter-ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development All ministries responsible for SDGs – specific civil servants in each department selected to be responsible for contribution of all government to SD and each ministry is focal point for a number of SDGs related to its core competence	ESDN country profile, 2017, Interview

	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-ministerial Delegate responsible for coordination with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for external implementation 	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint responsibility for SDG implementation Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs There is also an interministerial committee for development cooperation (CICID) which in its last conclusions (February 2018) also announced measures for internal SDG implementation. This committee set priorities for external action: international stability, climate, education, gender equality and health. 	ESDN country profile, 2017 Interview
3. Vertical coordination	National and supranational coordination	Engaged in Council Working Party on Agenda 2030 like every EU member states informal exchanges with the European Sustainable Development Network	Interview
	Sub-national coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSDS involved subnational and broad stakeholder workshops in its elaboration phase, and established framework for local government to feed into framework. Current SDG Roadmap elaboration process also involves regional and local authorities 	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Local, NGOs, academic, business, a few parliamentarians, private sector	Interview
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG roadmap elaboration process is very participatory, stakeholders are co-piloting working groups and co-writing the roadmap which will not be a governmental strategy but a multi-stakeholder strategy Stakeholders participated in selection of indicators selected to follow up SDG implementation in France Broad consultation workshop before VNR with representatives from all areas. Plan to continue this activity regularly to coordinate work and integrated work on SDG's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Council for Sustainable Development – set up in 2003 to enable participation, broad base societal actors and regional government, restructured in 2009 National Council for Ecological Transition – responsible for coordination of SDGs agenda with civil society & administration National Council for Development and International Solidarity National Environment Roundtable, began 2007, brought together stakeholder on environmental issues for: action planning, public meetings, decisions & guidelines, operations planning, legislative developments. Follow-up broad internet consultation in SD. 	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Specific coordination with dev't, organisations or businesses	National Council for Development and International Solidarity – mechanism for coordination/participation with non-government representatives from development sector (international and domestic)	
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.) ie What is the process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders participated in selection of indicators of 98 indicators to follow up SDG implementation in France, process piloted by Indicators from National Institute of Statistics (INSEE) and indicators now available online NSDS reports 2006, 2013 and a report to parliament in 2016 	

	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Peer review reports of SD plans (2005) — 98 indicators covering all SDGs to follow up on national strategies. And reporting to UN SDG database on all available indicators. — Annual report on 10 New wealth indicators covering environmental and social indicators (eg. Ecological footprint, inequality) (law SAS of 2015) – These 10 indicators are all part of the more recent list of the 98 national SDG indicators — Current NSDS: 9 strategic orientations and priorities with 3-4 indicators per orientation, <i>no timebound targets</i> 	Interview, ESDN country profile, 2017
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<p><u>Impact assessments</u> for new laws exist for different aspects of SD (eg. Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) but not on SDGs in a broader sense (alignment of impact assessments with SDGs under debate)</p> <p><u>Budget</u>: transversal policy documents exist to show how budgets of different ministries contribute to environment, development aid etc. but no integration of SDGs</p> <p>- A law for new wealth indicators in 2015 states that a progress report on 10 new wealth indicators alternative to GDP should be published at the same moment as the budget law – the report is published annually but does not respect the timing stated in the law</p>	Interview Interview
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Working group on science and SDGs created as part of the roadmap elaboration process, piloted by the Ministry for Education and Research	Interview
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Second chamber has a sub-committee on climate that now added SDGs to their agenda — NSDS report to parliament in 2016 — In October 2018, a cross-party coalition was launched in the first chamber to support the acceleration of the ecological transition: 135 deputies have joined that coalition called <i>accélérons</i>. They have also published a charter with the same name. Together they plan to push forward decisive measures in the area of climate, food waste, renewable energies, artificialisation etc. 	Interview https://www.actu-environnement.com/ae/news/135-deputes-initiative-accelerer-transition-32199.php4

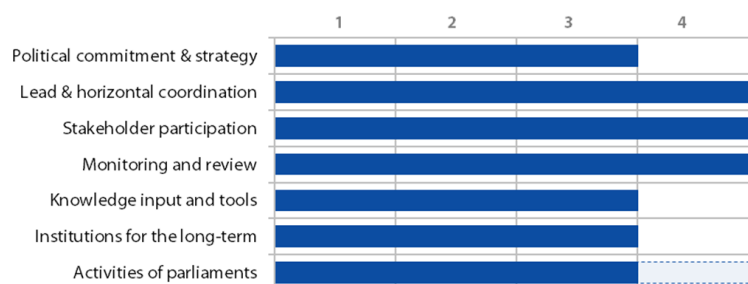
Abbreviations:

- CICID : Comité interministériel de la coopération internationale et du développement
- SNTEDD : Stratégie nationale de transition écologique vers un développement durable

Portrait / Overall impression:

- The current NSDS is not operational.
- New roadmap will focus on policy coherence and transversal measures of implementation and follow-up. It also will include one section per SDG prepared by the pilot ministries in charge. Whether in addition to that there will be priorities and timebound targets is not clear yet.
- As far as the external dimension is concerned, priorities have been set by the interministerial committee *CICID* which has a political mandate and is steered by the prime minister. Such a committee does not exist for the internal dimension for sustainable development.
- Roadmap elaboration very inclusive of all stakeholders and ministries. The level of implication varies from one Ministry to the other, however.
- The political ownership of the future roadmap which will not by a government strategy is unclear.

Country Data Sheet: Germany



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	NSDS from 2002, with repeated revisions; became also main mechanism for the SDGs New NSDS with SDG integration adopted in 2017	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2016, next 2021	ESDN QR, 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	NSDS updated in 2017 is restructured along the 17 SDGs	ESDN country profile, 2017
	How are the SDGs covered?	All: SDGs are translated into national goals and targets	
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Federal Chancellery, as Chair of State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All ministries involved, adopted by all Ministries State Secretaries Committee on Sust. Development, from all ministries, for cross-sector coordination at high level. Chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery. Supported by a permanent inter-ministerial working group for SD 	ESDN country profile, 2017
		All ministries are required to 'whole government approach' and need to participate in SD working group [see graph below, updated version in German]. Since SDS revision: SD Coordinators in each ministry with the mandate to mainstream internally (in addition to the cross-departmental coordination), often at Dir./DG level	OECD country profile, 2018 ESDN QR, 2018

	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	State Secretaries Committee and inter-ministerial working group; for coordination in internat. bodies there is typically a co-lead of Ministry for Environment and Ministry for Development Cooperation (e.g. in the new EU Council Working Party for Agenda 2030)	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation of the SDGs in national context in done per SDG on three tracks: "in, with and through" Germany. The latter addresses spill-over (external / transboundary) impacts, which is included in reporting, and in indicators where possible. I.e. the SDS and reports make a distinction between impacts in Germany and other countries; main themes for this: energy, human rights, and supply chains SD Impact assessment includes reporting on transboundary effects of policy development and implementation 	OECD country profile, 2018 / Leuven, 2018 / Interviews
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	Some regions/states also involved in development co-operation specifically through their own SD work For coordination in internat. bodies there is typically a co-lead of Ministry for Environment and Ministry for Development Cooperation	OECD country profile, 2018 / Interviews
3. Vertical coordination	National and supranational coordination	Reporting within EU strategy – structure reports to fit this context and maintain vertical integration. Advocates for a new EU SD strategy to reflect Agenda 2030	ESDN country profile, 2017 / Interviews
	Sub-national coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSDS is not binding for federal states; they are involved in the process, but it is a strategy of the federal government [*] Federal states contribute to the national (federal) progress reports (as an informal coordination mechanism); tension between state and national level about aspects of strategy (land use, procurement, etc.) Federal-Länder meeting ('exchange of experience for sustainable sevelopment') meets twice a year; on demand it is on the agenda of meetings at political level. 	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews
		13 of 16 states have an SD strategy as reference with SDGs integrated	ESDN QR, 2018
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For new 2016 strategy, 4 public conferences, and 4 regional dialogue conferences were organized, Laender government contribution New RENNs (=regional hubs for SD strategies) introduced by the revised SDS 	Leuven, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Multi-stakeholder settings with all relevant civil society organisations, business, academia	
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of stakeholder participation around the development of the new SDS (with SDGs), and internet consultation and dialogues on draft; large scale and thorough, many events Sustainability forum (new since 2017) for increased stakeholder involvement German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) since 2002: members (around 	ESDN country profile, 2017; ESDN QR, 2018; OECD country profile, 2018

		<p>15) have stakeholder and expert background and are appointed in personal capacity by the Chancellor, to advise government, to raise awareness, build partnership and engage society in all ways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue group ('Dialoggruppe'): New format of the State Secretary Committee for better engagement with non-state actors 	
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	<p>- Indicator reports of the Federal Statistics Office every 2 years; Federal Statistics Office developed indicators.</p> <p>- Progress report of the federal government every 4 years (2004, 2008, 2012, & VNR 2016)</p> <p>- Report to UN on SDG indicators updated annually</p> <p>- Goals and indicators set to be reviewed by 2020</p> <p>- Regular peer reviews by a panel of independent experts, last version 2018</p>	ESDN country profile, 2017 ESDN QR, 2018
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems	Content and scope of review process expanded with SDG's, includes input from societal stakeholders. VNR reporting gave additional "impetus"	Interview
	Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	SDS has 38 goal areas with 66 targets and indicators; further work is going on for a few additional indicators.	ESDN country profile, 2017; ESDN QR, 2018
		Integrated external spill-over effects reported on each SDG shows that a holistic approach to monitoring impacts has been adopted.	Leuven, 2018
		Most targets are quantified and timebound; they were set in a political process.	
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<p><u>Sustainability Impact Assessment</u> of new policies (as part of the Regulatory Impact Assessment) is checked by the Parliamentary Advisory Committee for SD.</p> <p>A new online tool is introduced to support this https://www.enap.bund.de/intro</p> <p><u>Budget</u>: so far no sustainability check of the budget. However, from the budget 2019 the Ministries are asked to inform about their funding programs for climate change, energy transition and the national CO2 reduction targets.</p>	ESDN 2017 & QR, 2018; Interviews
	6.2 Science-policy interface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New platform for Science policy interface and scientific support of SDGs: "Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit" German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE), as expert forum to advise government (see above) 	ESDN country profile, 2017
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions long-term .. (intergenerational justice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of SD strategy include intergenerational fairness SD impact assessment (as above) also includes intergenerational fairness/concerns by parliament; pre SDGs used to have specific remit for assessing sustainability 	OECD country profile, 2018 / Interviews (Dirth)

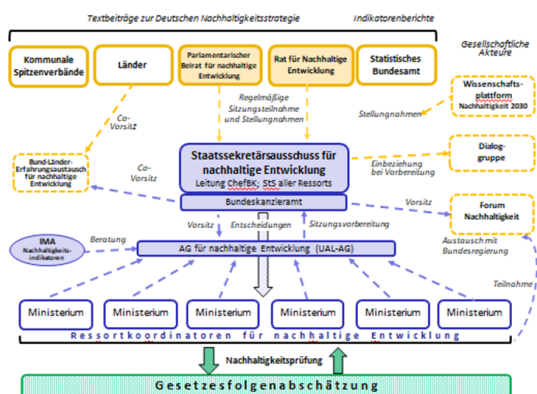
		efforts of government, and intergenerational justice was one of the indicators used for this assessment. Indicators for this assessment by parliament were updated to reflect SDGs and the prominence of Intergenerational aspects was decreased.	/ PBNE)
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament regarding Agenda 2030	<p>Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Sustainable Development (PBNE):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 members of parliament from all parties; Contribute to progress reports; agenda setting, cross-party communication about SD (and now also the SDGs), performs a sustainability assessment of new laws (see above) Monitors progress on SD policy and implementation at all levels (internat. to local) 	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews OECD country profile, 2018

Abbreviations:

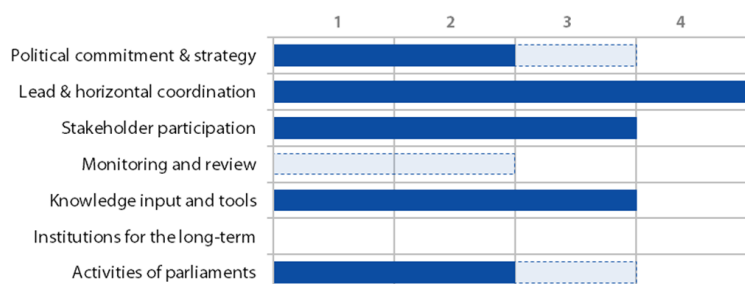
- PBNE: Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Sustainable Development
- RNE: German Council for Sustainable Development

Notes:

[*] "Federal" is however called "national" in German, which in BE and AT refers to a combined strategy of federal and regional / sub-national level)



Country Data Sheet: Greece



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results – Activities	Source
I. Political leadership / commitment	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2002: first National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) of Greece, with a strong environmental focus. 2010: “Program of Development Interventions for the Real Economy” aligned with the EU “Europe 2020” Strategy, with a focus on resource efficiency and the shift to a low carbon economy, that served, until 2013, as the country’s strategic reference for sustainable development, but not as an NSSD Planned: National Implementation plan for SDGs in 2019 building on VNR policy mapping and aligned with National Growth Strategy	VNR 2018, ESDN QR, 2018, OECD country profile, 2018
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2018 Year of next VNR has not yet been defined	
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	National Growth Strategy (https://government.gov.gr/olistiki-anaptixiaki-stratigiki/) This Strategy seen to be in line with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	
	Coverage of which SDGs	The 2018 VNR report of Greece covers all 17 Goals through eight National Priorities for adapting the SDGs to national needs and circumstances, also in line with the recently adopted National Growth Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering a competitive, innovative and sustainable economic growth (linked to SDG 9) Promoting full employment and decent work for all (linked to SDG 8) Addressing poverty and social exclusion, and providing universal access to quality health care services (linked to SDGs 1, 2, 3) Reducing social and regional inequalities and ensuring equal opportunities for all (linked to 	

		SDGs 5, 10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing high-quality and inclusive education (linked to SDG 4) Strengthening the protection and sustainable management of natural capital as a base for social prosperity and transition to a low-carbon economy (linked to SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) Building effective, accountable and transparent institutions (linked to SDGs 16, 17) Enhancing open, participatory, democratic process and promoting partnerships (linked to SDGs 16, 17) Priorities have been defined, in an open dialogue within all government units and with a wide array of stakeholders, through an in-depth mapping exercise carried out in 2017.	
2. Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	General Secretariat of the Government / Office of Coordination, Institutional, International & European Affairs (GSG / OCIEA), a centre-of government entity, is the entity responsible for monitoring and coordinating national efforts for implementation of the SDGs, since December 2016 <u>Background:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National coordinator for SD issues and national focal point for UNCSD = Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (until 2012) National coordinator for MDGs/SDGs = Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2013 – 2016) 	VNR 2018, ESDN QR, 2018, OECD country profile, 2018
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	All national Ministries are actively involved: under the coordination of the GSG / OCIEA, an “Inter-ministerial Coordination Network for SDGs” with representatives from all line Ministries, has been officially re-established in December 2016 In this overall scheme, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy is “thematically/technically” responsible for the implementation of 7 out of the overall 17 SDGs	
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	The Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the key responsible entity for the external dimension of national efforts to implement the SDGs. Together with the Ministry of Environment and Energy, they participate in all Working Parties, Groups and Meetings related to the SDGs implementation at global and regional levels, i.e. UN (including UNECE level), EU, OECD, UNEP/MAP-MCSD etc. Policy coherence for sustainable development with regard to the SDGs implementation is being pursued between the “external” activities of Greece and the “domestic” ones. At the bilateral level, a reference to the SDGs is being included in almost every new bilateral MoU or Agreement with partners countries	VNR 2018 and additionally OECD country profile, 2018
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	The allocation of Greek bilateral and multilateral aid is driven mainly by Greece’s international commitments, on the one hand, and by the need to respond to the basic needs (temporary sustenance) of refugees in Greece and to promote the SDGs, on the other	
3. Vertical coordination	National and supranational coordination	Foreign Affairs together with the Ministry of Environment and Energy comments on position and policy papers etc) requested by the EU, international organizations (e.g. UN, OECD)	VNR 2018, ESDN QR, 2018, OECD country profile,

	Sub-national coordination	<p>facilitated by the Inter-ministerial Coordination Network for the SDGs established in December 2016</p> <p>an official mechanism has not been established but there is constant close “vertical” cooperation between all government levels (national, regional, local) for the integrated and coherent implementation of the 2030 agenda</p> <p>the GSG / OCIIEA encourages and facilitates consultation with multiple stakeholders actively engaged in the SDGs implementation process, including regional and local authorities and sharing of experiences</p>	2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	<p>“whole-of-society” approach:</p> <p>(i) employers-entrepreneurs; (ii) public and private sector employees; and (iii) other categories of interests groups such as farmers, self-employed people, professionals, consumers, environmental agencies, disabled people's confederation, gender equality and multi-child associations, and regional and local government</p>	
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	Ongoing dialogue with some of the major national stakeholders, through the platform provided by the Economic and Social Council of Greece (ESC), the constitutionally recognized institution for conducting social dialogue in Greece. The ESC is working, following the model of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), on the basis of a tripartite structure (see above)	
	Specific coord. with development organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.) ie What is the process?	<p>The <u>Hellenic Statistical Authority</u> (ELSTAT) as coordinator of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) is responsible for the production of official statistics in Greece.</p> <p>No national set of indicators particularly for the implementation of the SDGs yet but planned for 2019: to be developed in conjunction with the elaboration of a national Implementation Plan for the SDGs</p> <p>On thematic SDGs, the competent Ministry reports directly to the international Custodian Agency responsible, and in parallel, through ELSTAT towards Eurostat. On some general SDG indicators, ELSTAT, as the central coordinator of the Hellenic Statistical System, reports directly to Eurostat and to International Agencies.</p> <p>Planned: Regarding review of the progress of implementation at a political level, the <u>Hellenic Parliament</u> is expected to play an instrumental role in the follow-up and review process (see below)</p>	VNR 2018, ESDN QR, 2018, OECD country profile, 2018

	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	Statistical Annex of the VNR Report of Greece, is based on the 100 indicators (from the overall 232 indicators of the global SDG indicators' framework) measured by Eurostat (<i>Sustainable Development in the European Union: Monitoring Report on Progress towards the SDGs in an EU context</i> , Eurostat, November 2017) presenting the most relevant ones for Greece.	
	Quantified and timebound targets?	<p>Growth Strategy contains concrete and timebound political targets and actions</p> <p>Planned: SDG Implementation plan should contain concrete and timebound targets</p>	
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Impact assessments: Full application of EIA and SEA	VNR 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (NCESD): it is an independent entity under the supervision of Environment Ministry provides scientific information, data etc for policy advice. NGOs collaborate with the research and academic community via NCESD to further enhance the science-policy interface.	VNR 2018
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long term (intergenerational justice)	<u>Greek Ombudsman</u> : independent authority to protect citizen rights which's portfolio is organized in six thematic areas of investigation: Human Rights, Health and Social Welfare, Environment and Quality of Life, State-Citizen Relations, Children's rights and Equal treatment	VNR 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<u>Hellenic Parliament</u> : Plan for the SDGs are expected to be submitted, at regular intervals, to the Hellenic Parliament for discussion and review in the context of joint meetings of parliamentary committees where all political parties are represented.	VNR 2018

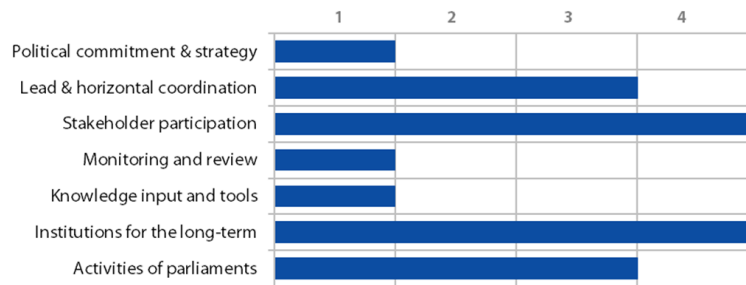
Abbreviations Used (please spell out any abbreviations used in each country analysis as you go):

- General Secretariat of the Government / Office of Coordination, Institutional, International & European Affairs (GSG / OCIIEA)
- Voluntary National Review (VNR)

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Greece used to have a NSDS with a very environmental focus.
- The Financial crisis shifted focus to Green Growth national growth program inclusive of social and environmental aspects.
- An SDG Action plan is under preparation and still to come, it is supposed not to duplicate the Growth strategy and be in line with it, not clear yet what value added, what format, what timeline etc.
- Greece is a good example for putting emphasis on long-term thinking and policy coherence

Country Data Sheet: Hungary



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy ELECTIONS April 2018	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSDS 2007, then National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development (NFSSD), adopted 2013, for the period 2012-24	ESDN country profile, 2016/ VNR 2018
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2018	ESDN QR, 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development (NFSSD)	ESDN / VNR 2018
	How are the SDGs covered?	four priorities of the NFSSD: the human, social, environmental, and economic resources, "in compliance with the 17 SDGs".	VNR 2018
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	PM office, Min Technology and Innovation, also Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade was leading the VNR process	ESDN QR, 2018 / VNR 2018 / Interview
	Others Involved	— New Directorate for Environmental Sustainability opened in 2015 under President (led by Csaba Kőrösi, former UN Ambassador) — National SD council (NFFT, since 2008, linked to Parliament), National Economic and Social Council of Hungary (NGTT)	ESDN QR, 2018 / Interview
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	PM Office is coordinating on governmental level.	ESDN QR, 2018
		All ministries fed into Strategy (both 2007 and 2013)	ESDN country profile, 2016

		Min of Foreign Affairs is responsible for coordination of VNR process (with no time for parliamentary review of input)	ESDN QR, 2018
		The constitutional court plays a role in some cases of trade offs, e.g. between a healthy environment, right of future generations, and interests of use of natural resources	Interview
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making		
	Specific coordination with development cooperation		
3. Vertical coordination	National and supranational coordination	HU reported 2007 about implementing the EU SDS, NFSSD linked to EU SDS	ESDN country profile, 2016
	Sub-national coordination	Consulted in NFSSD process through Nationwide Regional Development Civil Interest Reconciliation Forum, and Nationwide Regional Development Council.	ESDN country profile, 2016
		National Council for SD (NFFT) includes local/subnational government representatives Local government climate policy alliance and civil society SD round table	ESDN QR, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	National Council for SD (NFFT) has about 30 members representing including political parties, representatives of the academia, the private sector, CSOs, and church organizations.	VNR 2018
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	— NFSSD prepared in consultation with stakeholders, digital participation, panel discussions/events, draft discussed with regional development bodies. — National Council for SD (NFFT, since 2008) includes stakeholder groups as members, Chair is speaker of parliament (see also under 7.) — Conference in May 2018 for stakeholder participation in the VNR process — SDG – civil society round table — Business Council for Sustainable development (BCSD) Hungary is active: e.g. with an "Action 2020" (for SDGs)	ESDN country profile, 2016 ESDN QR, 2018 ESDN QR, 2018
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		
	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	— NFFT produces a biennial report on NFSSD (which is a considered as a full and critical review): Most recent 2015, December 2017. — Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) produces an SD Indicator Report every two years, latest 2017. It also reports to UN.	ESDN QR, 2018; VNR 2018; Interview
5. Monitoring and Review	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	— Ministry for Environment and Water and Stat office produced initial indicators (2004). Since 2006, the State office publishes data on the indicators every 2 years, on new indicator set based on Eurostat, National Sustainable Basic Indicator System. Latest indicators published 2015. — The indicators are in-line with national SD framework strategy and EU SD indicator structure. There are no quantified / timebound targets	ESDN country profile, 2016; Interview

6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Sustainability impact assessments for all new bills (system not fully operational) Budget check: --	VNR 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	National SD council (NFFT) includes representatives from academia	VNR 2018
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term / intergenerational justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Ombudsman for Future Generations existed from 2008-2011 — 2011 became (due to lack of political support) Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations and the deputy Ombudsperson in the Office of Fundamental Rights (this change made the office within/under the overarching Ombudsperson office) — Involved in VNR process — The office has a mandate from parliament, but has an independent office and scrutinizes the government — VNR includes a section of the HU youth representatives to the UN — The Directorate for Environmental Sustainability in the President's office is responsible for long-term sustainability issues, which arch over governing cycles. 	ESDN QR, 2018 / VNR 2018 Dirth working paper, 2018 (direct source Comm. reports) VNR 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament regarding SD and Agenda 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National SD council (NFFT) is based in the Parliament, includes members from all parties, and its President is the chair of the National Assembly ▪ Permanent Committee in the Parliament (National Assembly) dedicated to SD (it is a rename of the Environment Committee) 	ESDN QR, 2018 / NFFT Website

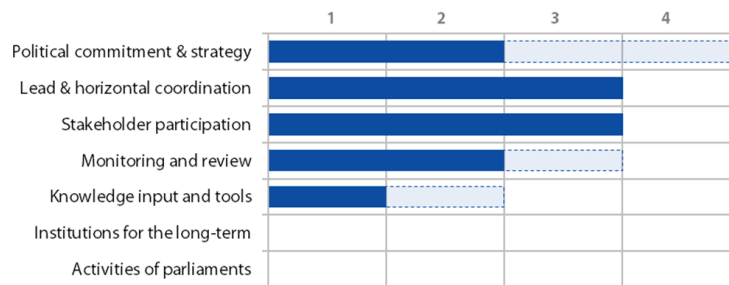
Abbreviations Used (please spell out any abbreviations used in each country analysis as you go):

- NFFT: National Council for Sustainable Development
- NFSSD: National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Hungary adopted a NSDS in already in 2007, and an also overarching National Framework Strategy on SD (NFSSD) in 2013, which had a far reaching time-horizon until 2024. It was hence in principle 'ready to go' for Agenda 2030 implementation. However, the VNR so far was a stocktaking only and the NFSSD found in line with the SDGs.
- On governance:
 - Leadership is still developing: The PM office provides some coordination role; but after the election in April 218 it is expected that the Ministry of Technology and Innovation will take up a stronger role.
 - The President's capacity for SD is strengthened with a special Directorate for Environmental Sustainability. This body, together with the existing Ombudsman and the National SD Council NFFT at times arrive at successful decisions.
 - The anchorage of the National SD Council NFFT in the Parliament has turned out to be beneficial (but it also depends on individuals to move issues).
- The country is a case for the insight that some institutionalisation for SD provides for a continuation even in more difficult times.

Country Data Sheet: Ireland



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
I. Political leadership / commitment	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSDS in 1997; Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland, 2012. SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020, first in a series of implementation plans	ESDN country profile, 2013 VNR 2018
	Year of the VNR (&next)	2018	VNR 2018 / Interviews
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG National Implementation Plan sets out Ireland's overall framework for implementing the SDGs, characterised by a 'whole-of-Government' approach, - an overview of what government will do to respond to their 2030 Agenda commitments Ireland's current national Sustainable Development Strategy, Our Sustainable Future is the main policy vehicle for action on the SDGs, along with its Foreign Policy. A new international development policy is being developed. The SDS will be revised in 2019 and Ireland plans to adopt a new SDS by the end of 2020, which will directly incorporate the SDGs. Project Ireland 2040 is an overarching policy initiative of the government, which includes the National Planning Framework to 2040 [NPF] and the strategy for public capital investment in the National Development Plan 2018-2027 [NDP]. Project Ireland 2040 includes SDG policy measures in some areas such as clean energy and climate action; industry, innovation, sustainable cities, communities and infrastructure and some social measures like child care, education and health). But the focus on SDGs is neither explicit nor comprehensive. 	

	Coverage of which SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation plan covers all SDGs in principle. The priority themes of the SDS 'Our Sustainable Future', which will be revised soon, are: Economy, Satisfaction of human needs by the efficient use of resources; Equity between generations; Gender equity; Respect for ecological integrity and biodiversity, Social equity; Respect for cultural heritage /diversity; Equity Between countries and regions. 	VNR 2018
2. Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	<p><u>Was:</u> Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (for Our Sustainable Future)</p> <p><u>New:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has overall responsibility for promoting the SDGs, and for overseeing their coherent implementation across Government. The Minister established the <i>National Sustainable Development Unit</i> within his Department in 2017. Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for taking forward commitments, along with other relevant Departments, regarding foreign policy and international development as they relate to the SDGs 	ESDN country profile, 2013 VNR 2018
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	A Senior Officials' Group (SOG) on the SDGs, made up of Assistant Secretaries from all Government Departments, and a SDG Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG). The SOG has been established to provide strategic coordination and to report, as required, to Cabinet. It adopted, for example, the SDG Implementation Plan. It is chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach [Prime Minister]. Both are supported by the <i>National Sustainable Development Unit</i> .	VNR 2018, Interviews
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Through the SOG and IDWG	Interviews
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	A new policy for international development is planned to be produced in 2018, striving to fulfil the ambition set out in the SDGs 2030 Agenda. It is envisioned that this new policy will focus on "the protection of human rights, and of the people and of the natural world that we live in and depend on."	VNR 2018
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination		
	Sub-national coordination	Further engagement of local authorities planned between 2018 -2020, as part of the National SDG Stakeholder Forum	VNR 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	The SDG Stakeholder Forum comprises representatives from, among others, the NGO community and other civil society groups, the private sector, the trade union movement, the agricultural sector, youth, academia, the education sector, Government Departments, and the Local Government sector.	VNR 2018
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	National SDG Stakeholder Forum since 2018, convened and chaired by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The inaugural meeting in June 2018 was attended by 150 people. Next meetings are in October 2018 and January 2019. There is also a bottom up alliance of NGOs, called "Coalition 2030"	VNR 2018, Interviews
		Public consultation in developing the SDS "Our Sustainable Future"	ESDN country profile, 2013

	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	In charge: Central Statistics Office (CSO) in consultation with the SDG Interdepartmental Working Group.	VNR 2018
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CSO and Ireland's National Mapping Agency (Ordnance Survey Ireland, OSi), in November 2017 launched a website for exploring, downloading and combining publicly available national SDG data using geographic information systems to make it easily accessible to the general public. An SDG Policy Map was part of the VNR (Appendix II), mapping existing policies with the SDGs. Next steps will be indicator selection, a distance to target assessment and, iteratively, the adoption of quantitative and timebound targets 	VNR 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sustainability Impact Assessment</i> <i>Sustainability check of the budget not yet in place but part of the revision:</i> <p><u>Budget:</u> The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has initiated a process to 'tag' the SDGs within the Irish Aid budget, starting with the budget for 2018.</p>	Interviews
	6.2 Science-policy interface	<p>Academia are involved in the SDG Stakeholder Forum</p> <p>Advisory body: National Economic and Social Council</p>	VNR 2018; Interviews
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	<i>no activities</i>	
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<i>no activities, special Parliamentary Committee or alike yet</i>	

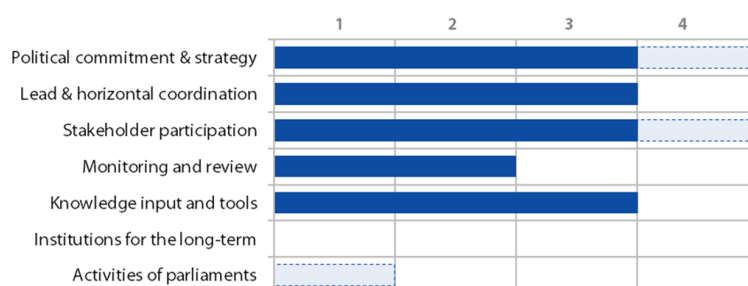
Abbreviations:

- CSO: Central Statistics Office
- IDWG: Interdepartmental Working Group
- NPF National Planning Framework
- NDP National Development Plan
- SOG: Senior Officials' Group

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Ireland was once an early mover and was among the first countries in Europe to adopt a SDS in 1997. In the current phase post SDGs, it is somewhat the opposite: it jumped on the wagon late" to prevent to be among the very last". The commitment was shown early on by the Dept Foreign Affairs in the development of the 2030 Agenda, but regarding national ownership there has been a slow pace so far. Now the key governance measures for the domestic side are put in place or in motion.
- On governance:
 - The institutional arrangements on the government side are now set up in a solid way. The link between the internal and external dimension seem not yet s, which would be useful to address during the SDS revision (incl. the link between the internat. strategy and the overarching SDS)
 - Quite some eagerness around setting of quantitative and timebound targets, which seems to be an effective approach and tool in Ireland.
- It seems that Ireland is committed to catching up the delay in addressing the SDGs, especially a thorough revision of the existing SDS in a 1-2 year process and having provided the institutional set-up for doing so. The gaps on the side of tool use and Parliament's involvement will hence hopefully considered as well.

Country Data Sheet: Italy



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2002 first NSDS in 2002 on environment only 2017 Law followed by adoption of new NSDS 2017-2030 with a broader vision of SD 2018 Action plan expected	ESDN country profile, 2017, VNR 2017 Interview
	Year of the VNR (&next)	2017	ESDN 2017; VNR 2017
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	NSDS and planned: action plan	
	How are the SDGs covered?	NSDS redeveloped to be inclusive of SDGs National strategic goals cover all SDGs and are structured around: People, planet, prosperity, peace, partnership An additional Action plan should have been developed in 2018 but was delayed, it should include numerical and quantitative targets at 2030	
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead responsibility (Ministers, organisations)	New: Presidency of the Council of Ministers manages/coordinates the implementation of the NSDS, support from Ministry of Environment for internal implementation, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international Cooperation for external Was: Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea was responsible for previous NSDS and launched the process of the new NSDS, managed consultation process with other ministries, at the end of the process presidency of Council of Ministers took over	ESDN QR, 2018 Interview
	Other involved ministries & coordination mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration in Economic and Financial Document (DEF), National Reform Programme A national commission for SD was established with the new NSDS that includes the government level ministries and regions – the implementation phase of the NSDS has not been launched yet and this commission is not yet operational 	ESDN QR, 2018 Interview

3. Vertical coordination		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning responsible for horizontal coordination between ministries and integration of sustainability into planning All other Ministries are expected to be involved in their area Additional agencies created to support Ministry for Environment. Horizontal aim as explicit aim of SDS – forestry, ocean, research & innovation, economy & labour, etc. 	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Council of Ministers is responsible for coordination between internal and external implementation	ESDN QR, 2018
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new NSDS includes both national and external aspects of SDG implementation, in particular via the idea of partnership Part on external implementation elaborated by Ministry of Foreign Affairs 	Interview
	Supranational coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For EU SDS a coordination mechanism for regions was set up with Council of Ministers and Ministry for Environment. Integration in Economic and Financial Document - National Reform Programme (European Semester) 	ESDN country profile, 2017 ESDN QR, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Sub-national coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law foresees that 12 months after adoption of new NSDS regions have to develop their SD strategies, the strategies should demonstrate their contribution the national strategy Ministry of Environment has launched a public notice to offer financial support and guidance for the elaboration of regional strategies – received many positive responses to the public notice 	Interview
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitutional reform: some environmental aspects have been transferred from national to local: strategies, programmes, administration and protection agencies Public representative's bodies of local and regional authorities: State-regions conference – conveys view of regions and provinces to the state – specifically consulted in developing the NSDS Working towards regional integration of sustainability across government: new project - "regional working table" for methodological support of regional strategies Other institutional/regional governmental actors involved in SDGs mapping exercise Italian Network of Environmental Agencies – brings together all regional environmental agencies; Implementation mostly through local projects 	ESDN QR, 2018 ESDN country profile, 2017
	Multiple actors involved	Inclusive of research, NGOs, other government institutions, civil society, regional actors	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Environment responsible for civil society involvement and coordination of Forum on SD Italy realized a context analysis on where they stand with regards to the SDGs. Contributed to "context analysis" -It served as the starting point for the strategy process (collecting requests, challenges, priorities of stakeholders for long term vision). More than 200 NGOs involved in context analysis and special role for research that consolidated the analysis Ministry of Environment charged to create a stakeholder forum for public participation with the SDGs, not yet clear yet how it will be organized, will probably meet 1-2 x a year Italian Alliance for SD (ASviS), since 2016- absolutely independent, were involved in 	ESDN QR, 2018, Interview

		context analysis and strategy elaboration process etc and will be in the forum	
		- Stakeholder participation in the 2007 EU SDS reporting, and the mapping and planning of the SDGs. - Civil society specific events for facilitating specific engagement	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process	NSDS foresee annual monitoring & reporting First report hasn't happened yet	ESDN QR, 2018
		- In May 2017, National Institute of Statistics published 100 SDGs indicators, among them 38 National Institute of Statistics Indicators for Equitable and Sustainable Welfare (BES) - Indicators developed by Italian National Institute of Statistics; also working with the UN Inter-agency expert group - National Institute of Statistics also working on indicators for SD Action plan that is still to be developed, Institute for environmental protection and research involved	VNR 2017, Interview ESDN QR, 2018, Interview
	5.2 Content of the monitoring systems / with quantified and timebound targets(per indicator)?	In 2011 the 'Equitable and Sustainable Well-being Project' (BES indicators) started and aims to move beyond economic indicators, reported as part of SDG indicators and also integrated into Economic/Financial reporting A law was adopted in 2016 related to the integration of BES indicators into Economic and Financial reporting. In 2017 four BES indicators were included in the budget document – "Economic and Finance document" (annual document that reports the quality and trends of public expenditures In 2018, twelve BES indicators were included in the budget document (by Ministry of Economy and Finance) Environmental Data Yearbook – key source, streamline data	ESDN QR, 2018, Interview
			ESDN country profile, 2017
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — BES indicators measure how Italian policies impact well-being, e.g. inequality, CO2 emissions — In 2017, four and in 2018, twelve BES indicators have been introduced within the Economy and Financial Document — Ministry of Finance will be tasked to create strong synergies between the NSDS implementation and the formal economic policies and to coordinate models required to define such objectives — In order to give full implementation to the Strategy, also in terms of financial resources and operative tools, every year, the Economic and Finance Document (DEF) will reflect the national targets, taking into account any new European initiatives and strategies, and will outline actions and tools to achieve them. 	Interview, VNR 2017

	6.2 Science-policy interface	Academia and research were involved in context analysis as stakeholders and had a special role: the draft analysis was sent to research institutes to give a feedback and this step was useful to review and update the analysis and revise the strategic objectives	ESDN QR, 2018
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	Sub-Cie of the Foreign Affairs Cie on Agenda 2030 (ceased March 2018, no successor in sight)	SDSN 2018; Interview

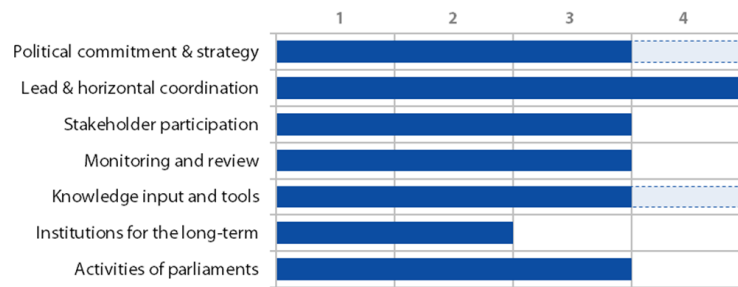
Abbreviations:

- NSDS: National Development Strategy
- SD: Sustainable Development

Portrait / Overall impression:

- After SDGs and Paris agreement Ministry of Environment took the opportunity to revise the NSDS and widen it to social and economic aspects. It was the Ministry of Environment launched the process, consultation process and other ministries but in the end it was took over by the presidency of council of ministers. So there were several changes in institutional arrangements since the SDGs. Most of these institutional arrangements are not yet operational and the official implementation phase was not launched. Whether the action plan that is expected to be added to the NSDS that, unlike the NSDS, is supposed to contain targets, indicators and monitoring and review mechanism will be elaborated soon, is not clear.
- They established a national commission for SD but the operationalization of this commission (including government and region) still has to be clarified.
- The new NSDS is adopted but with the elections and change of government, ministries are still waiting for the official launch of the implementation phase.
- In the meantime, the Ministry of Environment is moving ahead by supporting regions financially and technically in the elaboration of regional SD strategies as they have a mandate by the law to play this supporting role.

Country Data Sheet: Latvia



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
I. Political commitment & strategy ELECTIONS 6 Oct. 2018	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2010: NSDS – Sustainable Development Strategy called "Latvia 2030" (in force from 2010)	ESDN 2017
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2018; another report for the HLPF will be prepared before 2030.	VNR 2018 / Interview
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030 National Development Plan (NDP) 2014-2020 (= shorter term plan until 2020); the process for a new NDP 2021-2017 just started; SDGs and 'Latvia 2030' are part of the deliberations SDGs integrated into NDP, medium-term policy frameworks and three year plans	ESDN 2017 / VNR 2018 / Interview
	How are the SDGs covered?	Priorities of the NSDS "Latvia 2030" - mapped with the SDGs: - Development of cultural space (sdg 4) - Long-term investments in human capital (sdg 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 16, 17) - A paradigm change in education (sdg 3, 4, 8) - An innovative and eco-efficient economy (sdg 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17) - Nature as future capital (sdg 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17) - The spatial development perspective (sdg 9, 11) - Innovative government and public participation (sdg 16, 17)	VNR 2018

		Take into account all 169 targets of SDGs mapped and assessed against Strategy, NDP and other medium-term policy framework and plan indicators and targets	ESDN 2017 / Interview
2. Leadership & horizontal coordination	Lead responsibility (Ministers, organisations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre (CSCC, established 2012) - for national development planning and policy coordination, responsible to the PM. Ministry of Foreign Affairs - responsible for the development cooperation aspects National Development Council – responsible for long term development, oversight and assessment, chaired by PM. Includes Minister of Finance, Education & Science, Economics, Environmental Protection and Regional Development, as well as key non-gov't stakeholders. The PM calls for meetings. The body has not met for a while, but is now resuming meetings for the new NDP (2021 – 2017). 	ESDN 2017 / VNR 2018 / Interview
	Other involved ministries & coordination mechanism	All ministries responsible for integration of their sectoral interests during the inter-ministerial consultation process. The CSCC plays a key role in policy coordination: - Policies are aligned when elaborating and monitoring the NSDS and the NDP, which are to be taken into account when developing sectoral policies. - Policy coordination is done by reviewing all draft sectoral policies and policy implementation plans within inter-ministerial consultation process, which is a collaborative discussion and decision making process that allows also other ministries to provide opinions on sectoral policies of other ministries.	ESDN 2017 / Interview
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Mapped targets based on internal, development and global issues, ministries specifically responsible for each identified – ministry responsible for targets was responsible for assessing level of integration/coverage of target in their aspect of the plan.	ESDN 2017
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	Goals specifically related to development cooperation were mapped, and responsibility sits with Min Foreign Affairs	ESDN 2017
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination		
	Sub-national coordination	Sub-national coordination through the Development Planning System Law (but no link to SDGs) All local governments in Latvia have adopted SD strategies aligned with national objectives (required by law since 2008, and carried out)	ESDN 2017 VNR 2018 / Interview
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Research, NGO's, business, trade unions Wide public involvement in the preparation of the NSDS and the NDP (2010, 2012). Many regional forums and a national forum (1000 people), where SD priorities were discussed	ESDN 2017
	Participation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly meeting between Head of State Chancellery on behalf of the Prime Minister and interested NGOs on relevant policy developments ("NGO and Government Co-operation Memorandum Council"); it discussed the VNR 2018, for example. National Development Council includes stakeholders Cross-sectoral coordination centre – ensures policy is planned according to regulations that stipulate stakeholder participation, coordinated SDG baseline with representatives of 	ESDN 2017 / VNR 2018 / Interview

		different stakeholders: Consultation for NSDS/NDP preparation, input, including best practice, consultation on the draft. — Civil Society Report presented at the 2018 HLPF.	
	Specific engagement with dev't organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) participates in the UN Statistical Commission — Mapping of domestic and international indicators for each of the 169 targets, including official UN, Eurostat, Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN) and OECD pilot project indicators — In 2017, the CSCC conducted an assessment of progress and challenges in achieving Latvia's development goals reflected in the NDP2020 as a reference for future development planning. As a part of the assessment, a survey of opinion leaders was conducted to determine their views on the relevance of the NDP2020 goals and their progress, analysis of statistical and secondary data on the implementation of NDP2020 and Latvia 2030 and recommendations 	VNR 2018
	5.2 Content of the monitoring systems / with quantified and timebound targets(per indicator)?	<p>NSDS and NDP2020 report on progress every 2 years (2012, 2015, 2017)</p> <p>Indicators for monitoring against the SDG's from NSDS, NDP and other CSP data. Civil Society Report presented at the 2018 HLPF.</p> <p>The indicators of Latvia 2030 are still in place, with around 60 timebound targets (2030), 5-7 indicators per objective, and 8 strategic indicators.</p>	ESDN 2017
			ESDN 2017 / Interview
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 Which tools are in use (impact assessment, budget check, others)?	<p>Impact Assessments: All long-term and medium-term planning documents in Latvia are subject to policy assessments [i.e. ex post impact/effectiveness assessments]; ministries committed to reviewing gaps between SDG targets and Latvian policy indicators when conducting their mid-term assessments of sectoral policies.</p> <p>Budget: [Mechanisms become relevant when NDP gets aligned with the NSDS/the SDGs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investment analysis was done to see how much money was spent from the national budget, EU funds, as well as local government budgets to achieve progress to NDP2020 - In 2017 the Ministry of Finance introduced Policy and Resource Management Maps that are included in the publicly available Annual National Budget Statements. The CSCC supports the Ministry of Finance and the government by ranking ministry annual budget requests (policy initiatives) according to their impact on NDP targets and policy outcomes. 	VNR 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Latvia 2030 was co-developed by academics. — Line ministries and CSCC commission research on subjects which are of substantial interest for policy making. CSCC maintains a public database on research projects and respective publications. Research projects are usually done by consultancies, and with engagement of researchers from academia 	

7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	Had a SDS with a 20 year horizon already 2010	ESDN 2017
	7.2 Activities & arrangements of the Parliament for Agenda 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parliament Commission on Sustainable Development (since 2014) leads discussions on SD; it is a think-tank type of committee (not a standing committee) ▪ Prime Minister reports to the Parliament every second year on implementation of the NDP and NSDS (including assessments of how investments contribute to achieving progress in policy outcomes) – last 2015 and 2017 	VNR 2018

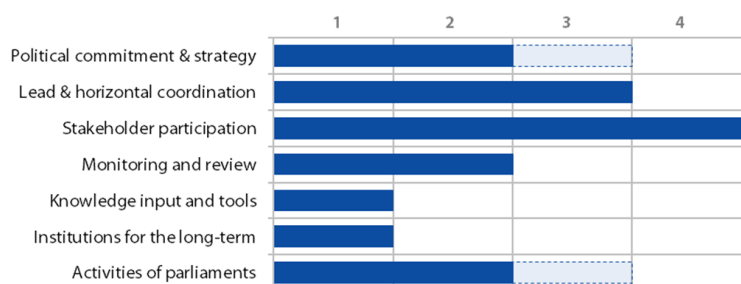
Abbreviations:

- **NDP:** National Development Plan

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Latvia adopted a NSDS in already in 2010, and which had a far reaching time-horizon until 2030. It was hence 'ready to go' for Agenda 2030 implementation. The running NDP (til 2020) was, however, not adapted, inter alia as this would have required agreement with the European Commission on the action program. It will be now a challenge for the new NDP (2021 – 2017) to link macro level targets to the action level, and to frame the priorities with the SDGs (i.e. bring in more than just macro-economic considerations)
- On governance:
 - Leadership and a functional horizontal coordination unit is set up at the PM office.
 - Latvia 2030 and the NDP were widely consulted. Deliberation with stakeholders takes place in different fora and constellations on a regular basis ("National NGO Memorandum Council"). Most intensive in a tripartite corporatist setting (Trade Union and Employer Organisations with the government), - but here the SD strategy is not discussed.
- Message to the EU: It would be much easier to adapt the NDPs to the SDGs if the EU Structural Funds were geared in the same way (as well as the National Reform Programs of the European Semester). The MFF is key. The NDP is almost only about investments from EU Structural funds, state budget and municipal budgets, and there is lack of policy measures (incl. legislation) that do not require funding, while in some policies such measures could result in substantial change and better achievements in the respective policy sector.

Country Data Sheet: Lithuania



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSSD 2003, updated in 2009 and 2011, with a time horizon until 2020 (and Goals that are to be implemented until 2020)	ESDN country profile, 2014
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2016–2017 analysis of the compatibility of the 2030 Agenda with the national strategic planning documents, including the NSSD: most of the SDGs and targets are reflected in Lithuania's strategic planning documents and the Government's four-year action programme. - Until the end of the term of the NSSD in 2020, the 2030 Agenda will be implemented through the enforcement of the existing strategic planning documents and monitoring of indicators provided for by them. - It is planned to update Lithuania's Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030' for the period 2020-2030 with the SDGs. This 'Lithuania 2030' strategy was adopted in 2012 and focuses on economic development and promotion of open society. 	VNR 2018
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2018	
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	NSDS / Lithuania's Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030' (given the time horizon of Agenda 2030, and the shorter one of the NSSD, it is planned to update 'Lithuania 2030'. It will lay down development goals for Lithuania until 2030 and a vision until 2050)	ESDN country profile, 2014, VNR 2018

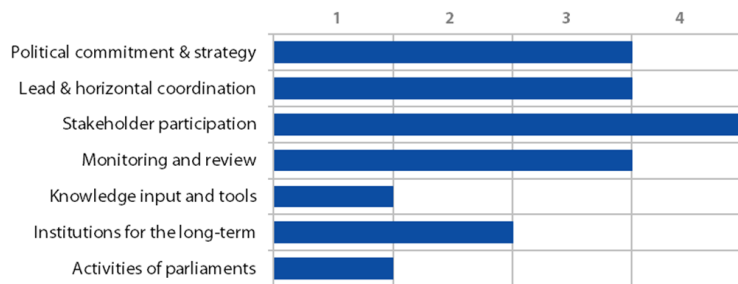
	How are the SDGs covered?	VNR was useful to highlight national priorities: reduction of poverty, social exclusion and income inequality, promotion of employment, enhancement of public health, improvement of the quality and availability of health care services, development of an innovative economy and smart energy, quality education and development cooperation.	VNR 2018
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	PM chairs the National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD) established in 2000; Ministry of Environment provides the secretariat for NCSD PM also chairs the National Progress Council, and the office of Prime Minister provides the secretariat	ESDN country profile, 2014
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	NCSD includes other ministries, and NGOs	ESDN country profile, 2014
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Min of Environment has established inter-governmental working group which provides inputs for SDG implementation (at the working level under the NCSD – expert level, but is not subordinated to NCSD). - National Progress Council was established for the Lithuania 2030 strategy. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and has around 30 representatives from government (30%), parliamentary parties (20%) and civil society (50%). It is currently being reformed to merge with NCSD, as measure for creating more coherent governance structures. The main purpose for the new body will be to review the strategy 'Lithuania 2030'. - NCSD is headed by the Prime Minister and includes ministers and representatives of NGOs, business associations and research institutions. The main functions of the NCSD are to analyse and assess biennial reviews on the implementation of the NSSD and make proposals to the Government concerning the updating of the NSSD and sustainable development priorities with account of national environmental, social, economic and cultural indicators. 	OECD country profile, 2018
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making		
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	Inter-government development cooperation action plan for 2017-2019 defines guidelines and implementation measures Also NDCC (below) meets twice per year to submit proposals to Min Foreign Affairs	OECD country profile, 2018
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination	Integrated with EU SDS	ESDN country profile, 2014

	Sub-national coordination	No National support, participate in city networks (Union of Baltic Cities)	ESDN country profile, 2014
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Multi-stakeholder: business, civil society, research	
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	NCSD includes business and civil society reps. In place until the merge with National Progress Council.	ESDN country profile, 2014 / Interview
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the VNR stakeholders were invited to participate in Inter-institutional working group meetings hosted by PM Office and Min of Environment. National Development Cooperation Commission (NDCC) = multi-stakeholder forum, Min Foreign Affairs led & submits proposals to the MFA on development co-operation policies 	OECD country profile, 2018
	Specific coordination with development bodies, organisations or businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGDO (non-government development cooperation organisation) = platform of 21 development and education NGOs for raising awareness. Lithuania is currently working on closer and more formal involvement of the private sector, in particular in their international development co-operation activities. 	OECD country profile, 2018
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	For Rio+20 there was a National Report on SD	ESDN country profile, 2014
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intergovernmental working group organized by the Min of Environment lead the reporting on progress of SDGs in 2018. Stat office responsible for information on indicators Reports every two years to the government and public 	OECD country profile, 2018
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set of SD indicators is provided in the annex of NSDS. Indicators include the social, environ, econ. dimension. Lithuania 2030 contains the vision and goal to reach a top ten position in Europe on development and happiness indices 	OECD country profile, 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<i>no Sustainability Impact Assessment</i> <i>no Sustainability check of the budget?</i>	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Academics from universities and other scientist a members of the NCSD	
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	2030 agenda timeframe = long term planning. Parliament approves long term strategic documents	OECD country profile, 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	20% of the National Progress Council are Members of Parliament, both from the governing parties and the opposition (currently being reformed to merge with NCSD)	OECD country profile, 2018

Abbreviations:

- NCSD National Commission for Sustainable Development
- NDCC National Development Cooperation Commission
- NGDO Non-Government Development Cooperation Organisation's Platform

Country Data Sheet: Luxembourg



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
I. Political commitment & strategy ELECTIONS 14 Oct. 2018	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	1999 first NSDS (called National Plan for Sustainable Development: "PNDD- Plan National pour un Développement Durable", or "the Plan") 2005 law on Sustainable Development 2010 second NSDS/PNDD 2015 May: Report on implementation of the NSDS/PNDD 2017 May: Report on implementation of Agenda 2030 adopted by the Government as basis for the VNR report 2018: New and third NSDS/PNDD, draft adopted by government in July, final adoption 1st semester 2019 after advice by the Parliament and the Council for SD	ESDN, 2017
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2017	VNR 2017
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Overarching NSDS	ESDN country profile, 2017
	How are the SDGs covered?	NSDS/PNDD has 18 targets covering all three dimensions of sustainable development A new NSDS /PNDD with Agenda 2030 systematically integrated has been elaborated between September 2017 and July 2018.	VNR 2017 / Interview

2. Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Min Sustainable Development and Infrastructures (Department for Environment, and Minister for Environment), and Minister for Development Cooperation (co-signing the VNR)	ESDN country profile, 2017 VNR 2017
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	All relevant Ministries and public authorities are member of the Inter-departmental Commission for Sustainable Development ("CIDD")	ESDN country profile, 2017 / Interview
		Inter-departmental Commission for Sustainable Development ("CIDD") renewed in 2016 to reflect changes for SDGs: government coordination body, reps from each ministry, and experts on a case by case basis, e.g.: Subgroup on co-designing a working process for the revision of the NSDS (2017-2018): co-chaired by reps from Min Econ and Min Dev.Coop., with NGOs, CSDD (=SD council) and private sector	VNR 2017 Interview
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	There is also an Inter-departmental Commission for development cooperation ("CID") in charge of policy coherence issues – close link to Inter-departmental SD Commission (CIDD). Some government reps participate in both CIDD & CID.	VNR 2017
		CID responsible for looking at long term external effects of SD policies.	OECD country profile, 2018
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	CID meets 6 times a year to discuss the development corporation aspects of SD policies and to discuss trade-offs and synergies & give non-binding recommendations to the government regarding PCD.	OECD country profile, 2018
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination		
	Sub-national coordination	Roundtable discussions and consultation; cooperation in sectoral-specific policies (water, nature, etc.); reports each year on LA21 activities, and receives national government subsidy for projects	ESDN country profile, 2017
		Many MPs are also mayors, which provides a direct connection between local and national governance and policies	OECD country profile, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Business, trade unions, academia, NGOs, schools	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Council for Sustainable Development ("CSDD", established 2005): - advisory body to the government (consulting, advice, critique/etc.) - 15 members selected for expertise from all sectors - Asked in 2016 to advise the government on the participation of civil society and private sector in the SDG implementation. Additional roundtables in development of the NSDS: Subgroup on co-designing a working 	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview

		process for the revision of the NSDS (2017-2018): Min Econ and Min Dev.Coop., with NGOs, CSDD (=SD council) and private sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad campaign for sustainable action, e.g. "Yes we care" since 2014 (funded by lottery) 	
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u> in place	2005 report from Inter-departmental commission on SD implementation, 2015 May: Report on implementation of the NSDS/PNDD 2017 Report on implementation of Agenda 2030: mapping of all targets with the NSDS from 2010, as basis for VNR Selection process of indicators launched; Subgroup of the Inter-departmental commission on SD implementation	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview VNR 2018 Interview
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	Indicators from Eurostat, revised indicators in 2015 2018: Revised indicators September 2018 (Statistical Office of Luxembourg) For many indicators there are quantified and timebound targets	ESDN country profile, 2017 Interview; PNDD 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<i>No (Sustainability) Impact Assessment</i> <i>No Sustainability check of the budget?</i>	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	- High Council for Sustainable Development (CSDD): expert committee to advise on SD - Inter-departmental Commission of Sustainable Development (CIDD): Ministry reps consult with and experts (incl. co-design process)	ESDN country profile, 2017 Interview
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	Youth4planet: agreement signed with government on educational activities to support	Interview
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	According to the law on sustainable development, the NSDS (PNDD) and implementation reports on SD are presented to and scrutinized in Parliament. For the new PNDD this was in March 2018.	ESDN country profile, 2017 Interview

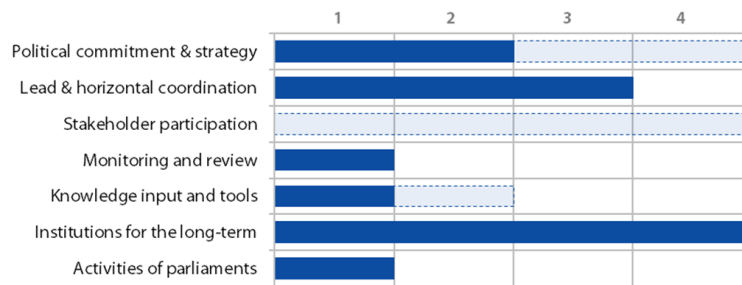
Abbreviations:

- CIDD** Inter-departmental Commission for Sustainable Development
- CID** Inter-departmental Commission for Development
- CSDD** High Council for Sustainable Development Conseil supérieur pur un développement durable (CSDD)
- PNDD** National Plan for Sustainable Development (= Strategy)
- NSDS** National Strategy for Sustainable Development (= a generic term and abbreviation, which is different in different countries)

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Luxemburg was among early movers with a NSDS already in 1999, a law on sustainable development in 2005 (that also sets the governance framework), and a new strategy in 2010. However, things have slowed down, but got reinvigorated as from 2015, and particularly 2017 with the report on Agenda 2030 implementation.
- On governance:
 - The institutions set up with the law 2005 have continued, though on a lower level during the times when there was no political interest (or hostility), and are now full back in action.
 - These are also set in motion to better link the external and domestic sphere.
 - The preparation of the new PNDD was done in a collaborative 'co-design' approach that has met the existing readiness in civil society across the entire spectrum.
- It seems that the SDGs have sparked a lot of new energy and enthusiasm, with a lot of activities and new and deeper partnerships being set up.

Country Data Sheet: Malta



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	NSDS 2007; Sustainable Development Act 2012 A new SD Strategy for 2020 - 2050 is being planned to be drafted in 2019. A Vision document has just been concluded and currently is undergoing a public consultation	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview
	Year of the VNR (&next)	2018	VNR 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Overarching NSDS: "Sustainable Development Vision 2050" is drafted and in consultation, which sets out the path for long-term sustainable development that will be followed by a new national strategy and action plan (planned by 2019)	VNR 2018; Interview
	How are the SDGs covered?	The new Strategy will be aligned with all the SDG's to reach the outlined specific goals and targets.	VNR 2018; Interview
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	- Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MESDC), Sustainable Development Directorate - Responsible for capacity building in other departments/ministries	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sustainable Development Act (2012) establishes a whole-of-government approach and a coordinating mechanism for SD policy in Malta. The Act provides for the establishment of three structures to drive the SD agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Competent Authority which is responsible for a number of functions as defined by the Act (currently the MESDC); - the Guardian of Future Generations entrusted with promoting SD principles and safeguarding the interests of future generations; - the Sustainable Development Network (is about to be set up) 	VNR 2018; ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews

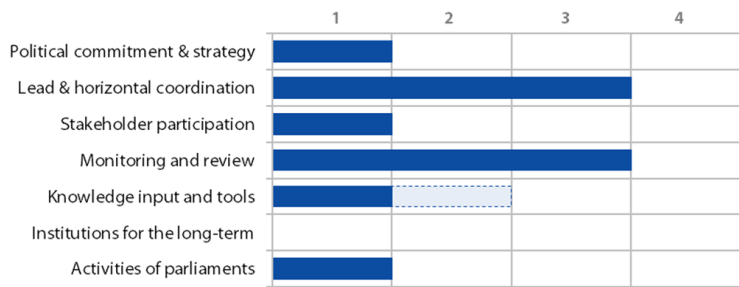
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Focal Point Network, organised by the MESDC, involves the participation of a senior representative, Director level, from each Government Ministry. It meets every three months and discusses several issues related to sustainable development. Its main functions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promoting sustainable development in Malta. - encouraging sustainable development knowledge and practices widely. - acting as catalyst to integrate SD concepts with governance aspects in the civil service. Horizontal co-ordination is also strengthened by the Guardian of Future Generations (see under 7.1) 	
		Ministry for Foreign Affairs	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making		
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	ODA plan updated and setting up of Malta Development Bank (following SDGs, AAAA, European Consensus)	VNR 2018
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination	Participation, or presidency or steering committee of the Mediterranean Commission for SD. Participation in the EU and UN fora.	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Sub-national coordination	Sustainable Development Network – also for local coordination	ESDN country profile, 2017
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Consultations for VNR included the private sector, and civil society, youth	VNR 2018; Interview
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	<p>The SD network's (see under 2.) other main roles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to empower NGOs, government and the private sector to work together toward more sustainable economic, environmental and social solutions - encouraging networks and partnerships so that when promoting sustainable solutions all the relevant stakeholders will be involved. - provide education and training programmes (including assistance with creating accredited training programmes from NCHFE) for NGOs, government and the private sector; engage with NGO's to assist and provide useful research for the promotion of SD. <p>The Network can also establish an information exchange platform for sustainable development in order to reach out to all levels of society in general.</p>	Interview
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility of leading Min, annual report about activities on SD National Statistics Office issues indicator reports: A set of National indicators has been developed alongside the EU indicators set. These indicators have been developed ten years ago and have been worked out to monitor the progress achieved towards sustainable development in Malta. 	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the monitoring systems / with quantified and timebound targets(per indicator)?		
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<u>Impact Assessment framework</u> : is automatically triggered when a policy is being drafted. Purpose: to include all the relevant actors and have a contributory role in ensuring the draft	Interview

		<p>policy of legislation is being done holistically; No S.D link</p> <p>Budget:</p> <p>- An SD check has not been done yet for the annual budget, but it is planned to introduce sustainability checks within the workings of government</p>	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Not yet	Interview
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	<p>▪ Guardian of Future Generations defined in SD Act from 2012</p> <p>First appointed in 2013 with a mandate of 3 years, and reappointed 2016</p> <p>https://msdec.gov.mt/en/sustainabledevelopment/Pages/Guardian-for-Future-Generations-.aspx</p> <p>Roles (SD law Art 8 (3)), inter alia</p> <p>- to advocate sustainable development across policy and government entities and safeguarding future generations through the promotion of SD principles and to establish a wide internal and external network with professionals, civil society and citizens and develop audits within different sectors; NGOs, business.</p> <p>- applies a multidisciplinary approach.</p> <p>- provide independent analysis and recommendations to the Members of the Parliament on the Government's efforts to promote SD and to protect the environment.</p> <p>- conducts performance audits of the Government's management of environmental and SD issues</p> <p>▪ Commissioner for Environment and Planning: handling cases on environmental matters</p> <p>https://www.ombudsman.org.mt/about-us/commissioner-for-the-environment-and-sustainable-development/</p> <p>▪ Commissioner for children rights https://tfal.org.mt/en/Pages/default.aspx</p>	Interview
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<p>— Article 14 of the SD Act of Malta requires the responsible Minister responsible to report to Parliament, on an annual basis, about the SD activities undertaken. This includes the indicator report (see under 5.1). The Parliament hence has the possibility for annual scrutiny on the workings of government in respect of SD.</p> <p>— Consultations for VNR included the Parliament,</p> <p>— Successful youth debate in Parliament in the course of the ESDW 2018</p>	VNR 2018; Interview

Abbreviations:

- ESDW European Sustainable Development Week
- MESDC Ministry for Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change

Country Data Sheet: Netherlands



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
I. Political leadership / commitment	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2003, first SD Action Programme 2008 KADO (SD policy revision)	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2017	VNR 2017
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	KADO (2008) Green Growth Policy paper (2013)	ESDN country profile, 2017
		No overarching strategy except (more general development strategy): Confidence in the Future 2017-2021	OECD country profile, 2018
		Government did not adopt a new strategy, instead chose to integrate into existing governance structure	Interview
	How are the SDGs covered?	There are no political priority areas of the SDGs for the government – from leadership. However, national priorities for SDG-implementation focus on reducing climate impact, improving sustainable consumption and production patterns, increasing share of renewable energy in total energy mix & improving gender equality, based on findings of annual SDG-monitor published by our national statistics office. Departments can also choose to link specific goals/targets with the SDGs	Interview

2. Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Netherlands ministry of Foreign Affairs has two ministers: one for political affairs and for foreign trade and development cooperation. Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation is coordinating cabinet member for SDGs.	Interview
		4 internal teams for support w/in MFA: national level implementation, EU focussed on internal/external aspects, UN focussed on HLPF and international, and FT & Dev policy	Interview
		SDG network of focal points with representatives from each ministry and a representative of the regional municipalities.	VNR 2017/Interview
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	All line ministries responsible for implementation of SDGs in their respective policy areas. National coordinator chairs regular meetings of focal points (working level representatives, one for each ministry plus municipality representative) to prepare SDG-strategies and formulate an annual report sent to Parliament, in time for our annual 'accountability day'. Director-Generals from relevant departments in all ministries meet prior to approve sending the report to Parliament.	Interview
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	The SDG's and VNR has allowed national priorities to be linked to international setting. Establishing coordination point also led to international & national linkages.	Interview
		Dutch PCD Action Plan on Policy Coherence for Development includes outline of transboundary effects of policy linked to eight priority themes (not SDG themes) National Action plan on policy coherence for development (revised 2018)	OECD country profile, 2018
3. Vertical coordination	Specific coordination with development cooperation	Bureau for International Cooperation at the Directorate General for International Cooperation leads a group of experts to coordinate/guide international policy work	ESDN country profile, 2017
		SDGs form overarching framework for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation policies and programs, including publicly accessible results frameworks based on SDGs.	Interview
	Supranational coordination	EU coordination responsibility of Min Foreign Affairs, attends Working Group, etc	Interview
	Sub-national coordination	Association of Netherlands Municipalities plays active role in stimulating local governments to work with SDGs, including through budgeting at local level and awareness campaigns.	VNR 2017 / Interview
		Representative of the Association participates in inter-ministerial working group of focal points. Decentralised bodies (municipalities, provinces, water boards) have written their own chapter in first SDG report and have their own reporting mechanism, and much policy is decentralized to them.	OECD country profile, 2018 / Interview
		SDG Charter = mechanism for stakeholder participation. Charter is comprised of declaration of intent to contribute to SDGs and has over 150 signatories (NGOs, local governments, universities, businesses, etc). Supported by small secretariat to set up activities. Decentralized governance system, led to decentralized approach in implementing SDGs. Participate in VNR to write chapter on their work, but concerns about funding not matching responsibility. Subsidiary principle as dominant in SD governance	Leuven, 2018

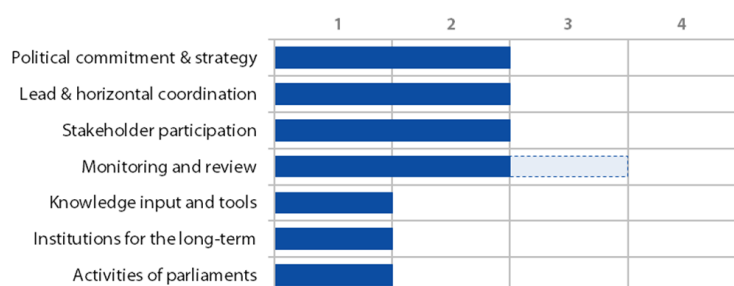
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	local government, private companies (including the financial sector), civil society organisations, knowledge institutions and young people	VNR 207
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	SDG Charter = over 130 non state actors participate Launched SDG Gateway = online platform which facilitates non-state actors to partner for SDGs	OECD country profile, 2018
		Integration of planning and policy processes across sub-national level already takes place, but no specific mechanism for this.	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u>	Participation in International Peer review of NSDS in 2006	ESDN country profile, 2017
		Two annual reports to parliament: one on SDG implementation, the other on policy coherence In 2017 (and again 2018) the government issued its first annual national SDG report (overview of existing policies and activities by national and local governments, private companies including the financial sector, civil society organisations, knowledge institutions and youth organisations) -	OECD country profile, 2018; VNR 2017
		Stats office collaboration for data for all SDGs – stat office publish monitoring of SDGs, and separate publication of monitoring well-being (integrating SDGs into this report). Annual report to parliament - 1 st year baseline of all policies, including stakeholder groups chapters; 2 nd year about transitions in largest challenges (climate, consump & production, gender equality)	Interview
	5.2 Content of the monitoring systems / with quantified and timebound targets(per indicator)?	<u>The Sustainable Development Goals: The Situation for the Netherlands</u> by Statistics Netherlands: An Initial Picture for the Netherlands = report outlining the indicators, data sources, etc.for SDGs (published March 2018) Seem to be largely using UN indicators, report published in 2018 includes 50%	OECD country profile, 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Working on making existing policy assessment framework SDG-proof, including test to assess impact of Dutch legislation and policies on gender equality and developing countries, in addition to existing elements e.g. on social and environmental impact. Currently under review, and expected before end of year.	Interview
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Council for Environment and Infrastructure – strategic advisory body – as example, but doesn't say who is on it or how it relates to NSDS (formal role). As well as Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) Many other informal.	ESDN country profile, 2017
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Long-term perspective (intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament	Increasingly involved – at the beginning slow – MPs to adopt specific SDGs, 25 adopt 1 or more SDGs (all covered), 6 months increase focus on this topic inside and outside of parliament (NGO-led)	Interview

		Members of parliament debated the reports 2017 and 2018 (of the government and other contributors, see above) on the "Accountability Day"	VNR 2017
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Overall Impression:

- For a country without an overarching strategy, they do seem to have integrated the SDGs into their governance systems and institutionalized the agenda thoroughly.
- There is also significant decentralisation and integration at the local level which hasn't been captured here, even though policy coordination with this level doesn't seem to be an explicit priority.
- The SDGs seems a political priority internationally, but the translation of that into all policy-areas and the integration of international and national policy areas is not as clear.
- Some positive developments for further integration in policy-making processes are in the pipe-line.
- Overall there is good capacity, motivation and clear leadership of this agenda.

Country Data Sheet: Poland



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2000 first NSDS, ended in 2007 2017: SRD - Strategy for Responsible Development (coherent with the SDGs)	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2018, next TBC	ESDN QR, 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	<u>Was</u> : 2012 -Mid-term development strategy 2020 (replaced by SDR) Not explicitly an NSDS. Also other sector specific development strategies existed, coordinated by their respective ministries. <u>New</u> : SRD - Strategy for Responsible Development until 2020 (with perspective 2030) (coherent with SDGs, with 2030 timeframe) the sector specific development strategies are currently are under revision	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview
	How are the SDGs covered?	First priority: growth of income for population in Poland; Integrating three pillars of SD as second I. Sustainable economic growth increasingly driven by knowledge, data and organisational excellence; II. Socially sensitive and territorially sustainable development; III. Effective state and economic institutions contributing to growth as well as social and economic inclusion. → Macroeconomic stability is the main overarching objective	ESDN country profile, 2017 VNR 2018
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	<u>Was</u> (pre-SDGs): Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Regional Development, Chancellery for the long term issues <u>Post</u> SDGs: Ministry of Economic Development, with a Task Force the 2018 VNR report	ESDN country profile, 2017; ESDN QR, 2018;

		preparation; then a new Ministry was created – Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology <u>New</u> : Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology lead for SDG coordination	VNR 2018; OECD country profile, 2018 Interview
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology lead for SDG coordination, in partnership with other ministries responsible for SDGs within their competencies Task Force who was established for the 2018 VNR preparation (until the end of 2018): key Ministries (Entrepreneurship and Technology, Economic Development, Environment, Culture, Social Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, Finance), Statistical Office and UN organisations; NGOs, academia, young, trade unions, business sector were invited to participate). There is also a Coordination Committee for Development Policy (CC DP).	ESDN country profile, 2017; ESDN QR, 2018; Interview
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	– <u>Coordination Committee for Development Policy (CC DP)</u> for Policy coherence: an opinion making and advisory body of the Prime Minister, with representatives from all ministries; depending on the needs, representatives of the local government, academic and socio-economic environment may also be invited to participate in the deliberations. – New guidelines for regulatory impact assessments to include transboundary impacts of national social & econ regulation	OECD country profile, 2018; Interviews
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	– Documents resulting from the works of the Task Force are presented at a meeting of the Coordination Committee for Development Policy (CC DP). – Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme (now in second 2016-2020) includes principle of policy coherence. Led by Ministry FA / Dev Coop Programme Board who is responsible for annual plans. – Two priorities under this include: financial (tax evasion, illicit activities), and CSR	VNR 2018 OECD country profile, 2018
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination		
	Sub-national coordination	Public consultation for VNR, but not other mechanism/detail Joint Government and Territorial Self-Government Committee = existing forum for coordination between national and local policy and developing joint positions CCDP (as above, taskforce for cohesion) includes local representatives SDGs “embedded locally” and cooperation with local administrations (mentioned)	ESDN QR, 2018 OECD country profile, 2018 VNR 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Social organisations, economic partners, NGOs, public statistics, civil society, academia and youth	ESDN QR, 2018
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	– <u>2030 Agenda National Stakeholders Forum</u> : – The Forum was inaugurated in June 2018; it is a platform for conducting debate, exchange of experiences and establishing cooperation between representatives of various groups and stakeholders for the implementation of SDGs in Poland. – The Forum formulates recommendations for the administration and other participants of the process to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation of the SDGs and recommendations on the proposals of tools that will contribute to the development of the system for measuring the progress in implementation.	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview ESDN QR, 2018

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new Partnership for implementation of SDGs was initiated, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to integrate representatives of various circles in cooperation for effective achievement of sustainable development objectives, to increase the awareness for the SDGs, their importance for individual social groups and the need to cooperate in their effective implementation among growing number of stakeholders. – Apart from signing the declaration, the signatories of the Partnership make an individual commitment, in which they confirm the implementation of specific actions aimed at achieving selected SDGs – Most of the signatories are representatives of the business community – Catalogue of commitments and good practices of stakeholders of “Partnerships for implementation of SDGs” in preparation. – Annual extension of the <i>Partnerships for implementation of SDGs</i> – new stakeholders and signatories and new commitments, sharing good practices and ideas. Serving both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cycle of workshops and conferences in a cooperation with strategic/thematic partners aimed at education about SDGs among Stakeholders and other participants. ▪ Providing patronage from the ministries (ie. Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Investment and Development, Ministry of Finance) to events addressing and promoting knowledge about the 2030 Agenda and specific SDGs. 	VNR 2018; Interviews
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses	Development cooperation in the framework of 2030 Agenda National Stakeholder Forum	ESDN QR, 2018
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.) ie What is the process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statistics Poland publicly reports data on indicators https://sdg.stat.gov.pl/index.jsf?parametr_o1=&parametr_r1=&parametr_inf=&jezyk=en – VNR is the first evaluation; it is planned to “periodically” monitor SDGs 	ESDN QR, 2018
		In 2016 an expert report was prepared entitled “Poland’s position in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted with the UN 2030 Agenda” The analysis was based on the results obtained by Poland in international summaries of indicators - indices (eg. SDSN Index, HDI...)	VNR 2018
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems / quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Uses UNCSD, Eurostat, and OECD indicators – Statistics Poland with Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology, developed from ‘Strategy for Responsible Development and UN indicators – <i>no quantified and timebound targets</i> 	ESDN country profile, 2017 ESDN QR, 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New guidelines for regulatory impact assessments to include transboundary impacts - <i>Budget: no Sustainability check of the budget so far</i> 	OECD country profile, 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	<i>no special mechanism</i>	
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	2030 agenda framed as their take on long term perspective in policy making	OECD country profile, 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	Parliamentary committees included in VNR consultations	VNR 2018

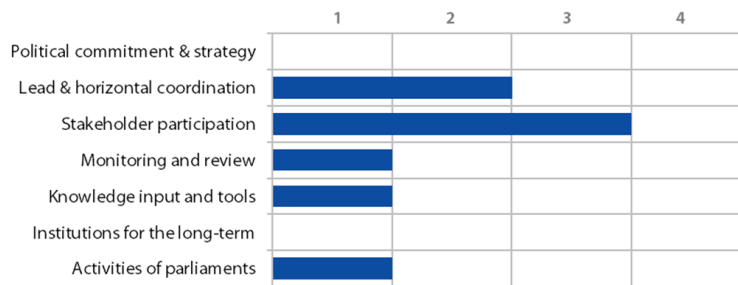
Abbreviations:

- SRD: Strategy for Responsible Development

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Poland had an NSDS very early on (2000 already), which expired in 2007. Agenda 2030 triggered that sustainability was picked up again, and the VNR 2018 raised awareness among stakeholders and underlined the importance of policy coherence and horizontal, multi-sectoral coordination.
- On governance:
 - Leadership of one Ministry was introduced and a cross-departmental Task Force was established for the VNR (though the future of this is not clear).
 - The VNR also triggered the establishment of a 2030 Agenda National Stakeholders Forum, as platform with regular events, as well as a new Partnership for implementation of SDGs where signatories also make an individual commitment for specific actions aimed at achieving selected SDGs.

Country Data Sheet: Portugal



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSDS 2007 – expired in 2015	ESDN country profile, 2017, Interview
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2017 served as baseline policy analysis tool	VNR 2017
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Was NSDS until 2015 but now outdated	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Coverage of which SDGs	SDG 4, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 14, organized around the 5Ps. Local dimension has identified different SDG's, depending on development context.	VNR 2017
2. Leadership & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	SDG lead lies within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with the Ministry for Infrastructures and Planning.	VNR 2017
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	All the Ministries of the Portuguese government are involved in the implementation, with some ministries taking the lead on specific SDG's.	VNR 2017
		- MFA coordinates the implementation of all external commitments of Portugal, including the SDG's. No coordination mechanism for domestic policy. - In operational terms, a network of focal points from different government departments has been established	Interview, VNR 2017
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Council of Ministers Resolution led to Strategic Concept for Portuguese Cooperation (2014-2020) which reinforces the commitment with policy coherence for development (in the sense of trying to minimize the potential negative impact of national policies on developing	OECD country profile, 2018, Interview

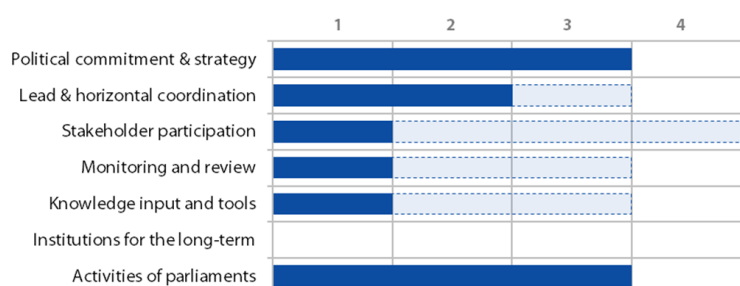
		countries). Internal guidelines developed to align internal and external with SDGs in mind	
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	MFA has two interministerial commissions for this task: - The Interministerial Commission for Cooperation which coordinates development cooperation activities across policy sectors (external dimension) - The Interministerial Commission for External Policy coordinates activities in the internal dimension	
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination	Internal Guidelines (see above): PCD is discussed in the framework of the Inter-ministerial Commission for Cooperation which provides for a systematic political and technical forum, from which recommendations are issued to all sector operators, including on how to address PCD	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Sub-national coordination	Was: Adopted EU SDS, report 2007, 2009 but outdated - No formal coordination mechanism, except SD council (see below) - Local dimension has identified different SDG's, depending on development context	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	academia, business, trade unions, NGO, local community	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNADS): advisory body to the government; est. 1997, government, and academia, business, trade unions, NGO, local community representatives. Linked to Min Environment, President appointed by PM	ESDN country profile, 2017
		- Public consultations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in 2016, in collaboration with United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, including an online survey and a seminar at the parliament (in 2017). - MFA also hosted a multi-stakeholder workshop in march 2017 with more than 60 national representatives of academia, business, trade unions, NGO's and NGDO's, mainly to coordinate and exchange views on the contents of the VNR. Also, it constituted an opportunity for the MFA to get insight on the priorities and activities of implementation of the different stakeholders.	VNR 2017
	Specific coordination with development bodies, organisations or businesses	- Global Compact Portugal, Business Council for Sustainable Development Portugal, regular dialogue with Plataforma das ONGD's. - The Forum for Development Cooperation - a dialogue structure coordinated by the PT Development Agency, which gathers representatives from local authorities, CSOs, Academia and the private sector	Interview
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	- Was: Monitoring through EU SDS, 2007, 2009 - The National Statistics Office (INE) works with all the ministries involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interview
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring &	- Statistical Portugal and the Agency for Development and Cohesion crucial role in data	VNR 2017

	assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets?	collection for SDGs and policy mapping	Interview
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<i>No tool use mentioned</i>	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	- National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNADS): independent advisory body to the government, with academia - Science-policy interface is done by the ministries coordinating a specific SDG (vertical coordination).	
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	--	
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	One seminar on SDGs organized in parliament to present civil society's recommendations for SDG implementation in Portugal	VNR 2017, Interview

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Portugal used to have a NSDS and it was the Ministry of Environment that was in charge of that. This NSDS expired in the same year that the 2030 Agenda was adopted. The SDG process began mainly as a follow up of the MDG's and with the production of a baseline policy analysis tool (the VNR). It is now the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that is in charge of that and that coordinates. This coordination is not very substantive, whatsoever, it is more about giving advice on process, for example how other Ministries can better work with civil society.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working on an implementation strategy, apparently but there is nothing official, yet and the process is said to be at the beginning. Depending on political will and guidance that might come from Brussels, they expect to be more advanced by mid-2019.
- There seem to be high expectations around the Commissions reflection paper and the EU VNR, that could give guidance and impulse for implementation of SDGs in Portugal.

Country Data Sheet: Romania



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
I. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSDS in 1999, renewed NSDS 2008 2018 revision of the NSDS (process since Sept. 2017; adoption expected Nov. 2018)	ESDN country profile 2013; VNR 2018; Interviews
EU Presidency 01/2019	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2018	VNR 2018
ELECTIONS 2020	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Was: National Sustainable Development Strategy – Romania 2013-2020-2030, and a National Environmental Action Plan (prior the SD strategy) Revised overarching NSDS (to be adopted 2018); an action plan will be drafted thereafter (within the government global plan)	ESDN country profile 2013; Interviews
	Coverage of which SDGs	VNR report covers, under LNOB, Health, education & culture (and largely the 2018 SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17) The draft revised NSDS is structured along Agenda 2030 and covers all SDGs.	VNR 2018 / Interviews
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	New: -Department for Sustainable Development (DSD), led by a State Counsellor Laszlo Borbely under the Prime-Minister Office (decision 2017) coordinates all activities around Agenda 2030 implementation http://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/web/about/ Was: Ministry of Environment	VNR 2018 / Interviews
			ESDN 2013

	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	"All Ministries and institutions" MFA is responsible for ODA (planning and implementing) Coordination: Department for Sustainable Development (DSD), and: Interministerial Committee for the Coordination of the Integration of Environmental Protection into Sectoral Policies and Strategies at the National Level, led by the Minister of Environment (decision 2011): Planned (in new NSDS): establish an Interministerial Committee lead by the PM, focal points/hubs in all Ministries and public institutions, and provide raining	VNR 2018 / Interviews
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making		
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	The revised NSDS deals with development cooperation under SDG 17.	Interviews
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination		
	Sub-national coordination	During the broad consultation for the new NSDS, there were 8 meetings with the representatives of the 8 Regional Development Agencies and local authorities. Localizing SDGs planned in upcoming review of NSDS.	VNR 2018 / Interviews
		Many local communities/regions had their own local SD strategies (during NSDS 2008); new movements are expected now and will be encouraged	ESDN country profile 2013; Interview
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	— Multi-actor: local and development NGOs, civil society organisations, academia, private sector, research institutes, trade unions, UN youth — There are government programs for greening measures in households (e.g. solar energy) that are popular and hence create awareness	VNR 2018 / Interview
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Federation of Romanian Nongovernmental Organizations for Development (FOND) Broad public consultation and awareness raising events organized by the Department for SD in partnership with the above mentioned stakeholders Planned (after the adoption of the NSDS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish a consultative body of specialists from academia and NGOs (around 30 members) to, inter alia, analyse impacts of policies, and report to government and parliament - create a civil society coalition for the SDGs (similar to ASviS in Italy) - focal points in relevant ministries, central public institutions Local SD strategies often had a specific focus on under-represented groups (women, youth people) 	VNR 2018 / Interviews
	Specific coordination with development bodies, organisations	— Business sector is engaged in Global Compact; "Embassy for Sustainable Development" = a coalition of the private sectors ("coalition for development")	ESDN country profile 2013;

	or businesses	— Signed partnership agreement between DSD and UN Youth	Interviews
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	Department for SD, is closely collaborating with the National Institute of Statistics by bridging both the United Nations', and the European Union's indicator sets to choose the right indicators to address Romania's specificities: <i>Currently in the process of updating its Sustainable Development indicator set</i>	VNR 2018
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	Reporting on <i>Leave no one behind</i> in VNR in addition to the SDGs under review at the HLPF 2018 <i>Timebound targets: Part of the updating of the SD indicators set</i>	VNR 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<u>Sustainability Impact Assessment:</u> — The planned consultative body is meant to assess impacts of planned policies on the implementation of Agenda 2030. The body can be called by government and parliament. — There is a RIA system (Regulatory Impact Assessment) under which all legal acts are subject to such a RIA that covers economic, social and environmental issues. <u>Budget:</u> As the budget is adopted by law, it is subject to RIA.	Interviews
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Planned: a consultative body of academia and NGOs (around 30 members)	Interviews
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term / intergenerational justice		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament regarding Agenda 2030	In 2015, the Parliament decided to create a Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development (under Cie Foreign Affairs) which in April 2016 adopted a Declaration of the Parliament of Romania on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was the first in the IPU (Interparliamentary Union) to declare support for A 2030. This also led to the creation of the Department for Sustainable Development in 2017. Work is kicking off with all Committees in the Parliament applying the self-assessment tool (IPU 2016)	VNR 2018; Interviews

Abbreviations Used (please spell out any abbreviations used in each country analysis as you go):

- IPU: Interparliamentary Union

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Romania was among early movers with a NSDS already in 1999, and a renewed strategy in 2008. Things have got reinvigorated with Agenda 2015, and within Romania triggered by a decision of the Parliament to create a Sub-Committee for sustainable development, a declaration on Agenda 2030 (as first Parliament in the IPU), which also led to institutionalisation on the side of the government.
- On governance:

- A new Department for Sustainable Development at the PM Office is a focal point of all activities.
- Inter-ministerial coordination is in place.
- The preparation of the new strategy was done in a one year process with broad consultation, and the level of awareness is quite good in civil society, as well as engagement of the private sector. Creating broader coalitions is under way, as well as establishing a consultative body, inter alia for conducting impact assessments
- It is among the few countries with institutionalisation in the Parliament.
- It seems that the SDGs have sparked new energy and enthusiasm, and the lead as EU Presidency will likely further invigorate.

Country Data Sheet: Slovakia

	1	2	3	4
Political commitment & strategy				
Lead & horizontal coordination				
Stakeholder participation				
Monitoring and review				
Knowledge input and tools				
Institutions for the long-term				
Activities of parliaments				

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
I. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2011 First NSDS, 2005 SD Plan - 2017 Roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (adopted July 2017) - 2018 National priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (adopted June 2018) - by April 2019: Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030	ESDN country profile, 2017, VNR 2018
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2018	VNR 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	— 2017 Roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: defined the basic institutional, implementation and monitoring framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Slovakia — 2018 National priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: six national priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were adopted by government after conducting a broad stakeholder participation process. As a follow-up, the Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030 is currently being drafted, which will be based on the six national priorities — due to be prepared by April 2019: Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030, – major development strategy aiming to define development priorities, goals and necessary action until 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda	VNR 2018 / Interviews
	How are the SDGs covered?	The six national priorities cover all 17 SDGs and adapt them to the national context: - Education for a life in dignity (SDG 4, 8, 10) - Transformation towards a knowledge-based and environmentally sustainable economy in the face of changing demography and global context (SDG 7, 8, 9, 10, 12) - Poverty reduction and social inclusion (SDG 1, 2, 10)	VNR 2018; Interviews

		- Sustainable settlements, regions and countryside in the face of climate change (SDG 6, 7, 13, 11, 15) - Rule of law, democracy and security (SDG 5, 16) - Good health (SDG 3, 10)	
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	— Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. — Deputy PM chairs the <u>Government Council of the Slovak Republic for the 2030 Agenda for SD</u> (= all ministries plus stakeholders) — Responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda divided between the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (implementation domestically) and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (implementation in an international environment); who is Deputy chair of the Government Council.	ESDN country profile, 2017; VNR 2018
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	The working body of the Government Council is the <u>Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the preparation of the National Investment Plan of the Slovak Republic for the years 2018- 2030</u> . The Working Group has two chambers (both chaired by the Director General of the Investment Division): 1. Government Chamber - analytical units of line ministries, 2. Chamber of Stakeholders; sometimes both hold meetings together. [*]	VNR 2018
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Cooperation between the Deputy PM Office and the Min FA to improve policy coherence for sustainable development	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	The ODA strategy of the Min FA for 2019-2023 will be linked to the six national priorities for implementing the 2030 Agenda.	Interviews
3. Vertical coordination	National and supranational coordination	— Coordination at the EU level through membership in the Council WP for 2030 Agenda — Deputy PM Office also coordinates the EU Danube Regional Strategy, which includes SD — Informal coordination at the V4 level (Visegrad countries), incl. a planned conference on 2030 Agenda	ESDN country profile, 2017 / Interview
	Sub-national coordination	— Association of Cities and Municipalities, and the Union of Cities of Slovakia are represented in the Government Council and took part in defining the six national priorities for implementing the 2030 Agenda. — The Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030 will not only define development priorities and interventions at the national level, but also on the regional and local level. It is based on a territorial approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda, which emphasises vertical coordination and respects the specificities of various regions and territories. The Vision and Development Strategy is being drafted together with stakeholders, incl. representatives of self-governing regions and municipalities. Grant mechanisms to fund and incentivize local action	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews Leuven, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Civil society organisations, institutions and associations, think tanks, universities, academia, municipalities, regions, business associations and trade unions	VNR 2018

	Coordination and participation mechanisms	Government Council for the 2030 Agenda and the Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with representation of a broad range of stakeholders	VNR 2018
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses	The Slovak Non-Governmental Development Organisations Platform is also member of the Government Council for the 2030 Agenda.	
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A biannual monitoring scheme was proposed (in the Roadmap), and is currently further elaborated in the Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030. It is meant to ensure continual reporting and evaluation of Slovakia's progress in its six national priorities for the 2030 Agenda. — First report will be issued in mid-2020, while the preparation of Slovakia's first VNR in 2018 served as an initial step in monitoring achievements — Slovak Statistics Office (along with the Deputy PM Office) is responsible for developing the set of national indicators for monitoring progress on the 2030 Agenda 	VNR 2018; Interviews
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The monitoring framework, <u>along with indicators and quantified and timebound targets</u>, is being elaborated. National indicators will be developed based on the UN global list of indicators, as well as Eurostat Indicators. — It will be published at the Slovak Statistics Office's webpage dedicated to the 2030 Agenda: https://agenda2030.statistics.sk/Agenda2030/en/home/ 	ESDN country profile, 2017; Interviews
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<p>Sustainability Impact Assessment</p> <p>There will be an EIA of the Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030. [1]</p> <p>Budget:</p> <p>The national priorities will be integrated into a Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030, as well as into sectoral strategies and the National Investment Plan (NIP), which should bolster financing for sustainable development. [2]</p> <p>Intensive collaboration with OECD: on strategic governance, investment planning, programme budgeting and indicators, conduction of a gap analysis (see below)</p>	VNR 2018; Interviews
	6.2 Science-policy interface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Inspired by the OECD study ("Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets"), and based on existing analytical materials, the Institute for Forecasting of the Slovak Academy of Sciences suggested a set of key areas for the development of Slovakia by 2030, identifying major challenges and priorities for the country in the context of the SDGs. These proposed priority areas were further refined in a broad stakeholder participation process. — The Slovak Academy of Sciences and Slovak Rectors' Conference is involved in the Government Council, and several scientists are also members of the Working Group. 	VNR 2018; Interviews
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	Frames 2030 Agenda as their consideration of the long term	OECD country profile, 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — "A stronger involvement of parliament is foreseen"; a Committee for the Future (similar to FI) is envisioned, and might come into place after 2019. — The Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030 will be consulted with all political parties represented in Parliament and presented again after its adoption. 	VNR 2018 / Interview

Abbreviations

- V4 Visegrad countries

Notes:

[1] All strategic documents with implications on the national level must undergo the EIA process in Slovakia (see also box below)

[2] The National Investment Plan is based on the model of the British National Infrastructure Delivery Plan. It is a project-level document, which outlines strategic investments in order to strengthen stability and continuity across electoral cycles. A pilot version of the National Investment Plan was adopted in September 2018 but it will be updated after the adoption of the Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030. It is likely that the government will also use this approach in the future for the EU Structural Funds.

[*] This design had been proposed by the stakeholders. A previous "Government Council for SD" as joint meeting of government and NGOs existed also under the first NSDS.

<https://www.vicemier.gov.sk/index.php/oznamenie-o-strategickom-dokumente-vizia-a-strategia-rozvoja-slovenska-do-roku-2030/index.html>

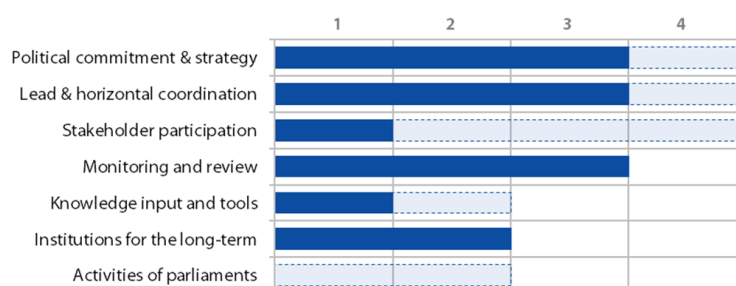
Communication on the strategic document "Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030"

The Office of the Vice-President of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Investment and Informatization announces that the communication on the strategic document with the national impact "Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia up to 2030" 24/2006 Coll. on Environmental Impact Assessment and on Amendments to Some Laws, as amended, is available at www.vicemier.gov.sk and www.enviroportal.sk.

You can send opinions on the above notification to: Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Department for Environmental Impact Assessment, Nám. Ľudovíta Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

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Country Data Sheet: Slovenia



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	Slovenia's Development Strategy 2030, which represents the umbrella development plan of the country, and abroad through international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance on the basis of a new resolution regarding it, and the revised International Development Cooperation Act	VNR 2017
	Year of the VNR (& next)	2017, next 2023, 2029	ESDN QR, 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Slovenian Development Strategy 2017, initiated because of SDGs	ESDN QR, 2018
	How are the SDGs covered?	Strategy: 12 development goals covering all SDGs (page 25): Healthy and active life; knowledge and skills for a high quality of life for all; decent life for all; culture and language as main factors of national identity; economic stability, competitive and socially responsible entrepreneurial and research sector, inclusive labour market and high-quality jobs, low-carbon circular economy, sustainable natural resource management, trustworthy legal system, safe and globally responsible slovenia, effective governance and high quality public service Slovenia's strategic orientations (Slovenia mapped links to the SDGs): productive economy creating value for all; resilient, inclusive, safe and responsible society; well-preserved environment; efficient and competent governance driven by cooperation; learning for and through life	ESDN QR, 2018 VNR 2017
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, focal point and coordination point for SDGs	ESDN QR, 2018
	Other Involved Ministries &	— VNR was used as an integration tool and VNR lead to whole-government approach	ESDN QR, 2018,

	coordination mechanism	— Permanent Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Development Planning is the coordination mechanism for policy coherence, coordinated by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy and composed of two representatives from each ministry (focal points)	VNR 2017
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	— Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of external SDG implementation and revised International Development Cooperation Act — Development strategy includes external and internal to minimize duplication and in order to have integration: Link internal-external expressed in the strategic goal: make Slovenia a safe and global country	ESDN QR, 2018 Interview
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	Policy gap analysis included an overview of trans-boundary and interconnected effects of policies A new law on international development was adopted in 2018 and includes SDGs as well – with a s selection of specific goals: Thematic priorities (external): –promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, with a particular emphasis on good governance, equal opportunities, including gender equality, and quality education; –fight against climate change, focused on the sustainable management of natural and energy resources. Geographical priorities (external): The Western Balkans, the European neighborhood and Sub-Saharan Africa, notably the least-developed countries in this region. The internal implementation strategy treats SDGs more holistically.	VNR 2017
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination	— The Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy that manages implementation of EU docs/guidance also coordinates SDG implementation — Participate in Working party on Agenda 2030, find Eurostat SDG reports very useful for benchmarking their performance	OECD country profile, 2018 Interview
	Sub-national coordination	Planned: Development Council with local government and other stakeholders Representative of regional and local levels part of the council Planned: Conference with local authorities planned	ESDN QR, 2018 Interview
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Youth, civil society, private sector + local communities, professional organizations, and academia	ESDN QR, 2018 VNR 2017
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	VNR process as inclusive of non-gov't stakeholders, who were also included in drafting the NDS Planned: regular horizontal dialogue with Economic and Social Council, Expert Council for International Development Cooperation (Slovenian Network for Global Compact, Government Council for Youth, working bodies of National Assembly, National Council, Government Council for cooperation with NGOs, and other community/stakeholder platforms And, new systematic ways of participation, and new institutional forms.	ESDN QR, 2018
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	— Statistical office and Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis responsible for monitoring — Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis monitors indicators and reports in annual development report, SDG report in 2018	ESDN QR, 2018 Interview

		— Globally reported through VNR	
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems	— All ministries participated in creating indicators for NDS, led by Government Office for Development and European Cohesion, Ministry of Finance, and Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis. Supported by Statistical Office — Key performance indicators (KPIs) — Under work: about to develop a dashboard for citizens to report on progress and raise awareness	ESDN QR, 2018 Interview
		Use of SDSN SDG Index and OECD study to compare their performance to other countries in VNR	VNR 2017
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<u>Impact assessments</u> for new laws exist with an environmental or gender but no holistic method <u>Budget integration</u> : New public finance law brings the national development budgeting into a new stage, Indirectly SDGs will be integrated in the budget via National Development Strategy's KPIs, currently pilot project, full integration planned for 2020	IDDRI, 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Academia included in new Development Council	
7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	Vision of Slovenia 2050: inclusive visioning process to extend aims beyond current government	OECD country profile, 2018
		National children's parliament, a children's discussion forum which takes place in the hall of the National Assembly of Slovenia but also at local and regional levels	VNR 2017
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	Planned: SDG trainings for new MPs after elections, there is no holistic SD committee yet	Interview

Abbreviations:

Portrait / Overall impression:

- With its Slovenia2030 Strategy, Slovenia and its Vision of Slovenia2050, the country has made recent progress in long term planning.
- It is important to note that the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy that manages implementation of EU docs/guidance also coordinates SDG implementation. There seems to be a convergence between EU guided reforms, SDGs and a recent Public Finance law that come together in the Slovenia2030 Strategy. Difficult to say what inspired what, but taken all together Slovenia seems to be making important steps to be fit for the future. A revised development cooperation Act has also recently been adopted, including the SDGs.
- The Strategy is designed to be operational, although some steps are only planned and still have to be realized. Via the Slovenia2030 Strategy, sustainable development aspects are planned to be clearly integrated by 2020.

Country Data Sheet: Spain

	1	2	3	4
Political commitment & strategy				
Lead & horizontal coordination				
Stakeholder participation				
Monitoring and review				
Knowledge input and tools				
Institutions for the long-term				
Activities of parliaments				

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan / VNR	First SDS in 2007	ESDN country profile, 2014
		<u>New</u> commitments in 2018: Due to the recent change in government, most of the measures are work in progress	VNR 2018; Interviews
	Year of the VNR (&next)	2018 (2020/21, 2025, 2030)	VNR 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Action plan under preparation (2018-2020), a transitional, more action-oriented document that will prepare for the adoption of a long-term 2020-2030 SDS (planned to be approved in 2019 – by the institutions High Level Group (1), SD Council (2) and Joint Parliamentary Committee for the 2030 Agenda (3) as described below)	VNR 2018, Interviews
	How are the SDGs covered?	All SDGs, with - some priority areas for action (in the Action plan 2018-2020): Poverty and social exclusion, equal opportunities, circular economy, urban agenda, climate change and energy transition, scientific and technical research for SDGs, social economy, open government, international cooperation at the service of the SDGs, and - 10 transformative measures	VNR 2018
2. Lead & Horizontal coordination	Lead organisation(s)	<u>Was:</u> Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, & Inter-ministerial Group for NSDS, within economic dept of PM office <u>Was post Agenda 2015:</u> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, with Special Ambassador for the Agenda 2030 and Vocal Advisor for the Agenda 2030 & Inter ministerial Group for the Agenda 2030	ESDN country profile 2014; Interviews
		<u>New:</u> Under the aegis of the Prime Minister (and PM Office, – "Presidencia"): — High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda since 2018; with a support office in the PM	VNR 2018

		office, responsible for coordinating actions for the implementation of 2030 Agenda — High-Level Group (HLG, see below)	
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	— Focal point Ministries (i.e. responsible) ministries for all SDGs — High Level Group (HLG) (1), will be constituted in the coming weeks: - Chaired by Minister of the Presidency (a Minister for interinstitutional relations and coordination), and as vice chairpersons: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Minister of Ecologic Transition, Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Economy. Members will also include: - The Secretaries of State of: 1. International and Ibero-American and Caribbean Cooperation; 2. Universities, Research, Development and Innovation; 3. Economy and Business Support; 4. Education and Vocational Training; 5. Treasury; 6. Territorial Policy; 7. Public Service; 8. Employment and Environment, - members of all the ministries, - the High Commissioner for the Agenda 2030, the High Commissioner for Child Poverty and the Special Ambassador for the Agenda 2030.	VNR 2018; Interviews
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Measures for PCSD (planned): 1) An SDG impact analysis will be incorporated into legislative initiatives, so that the analysis of their external and global impact on the SDGs will be a required part of the compulsory impact analysis reports. 2) The impact of Spanish foreign policy on the SDGs, on a global scale and in third countries, will be stepped up in the mechanism for preparing, designing, and monitoring Spanish Cooperation's Country Partnership Frameworks. 3) The analysis of policy coherence (impact of national policies on third countries and on global public goods) will be incorporated into the Spanish Parliament's accountability mechanism, and the annual progress report on the 2030 Agenda.	VNR 2018
	Specific coordination with development cooperation		
3. Vertical coordination	Supranational coordination	New Working Party Agenda 2030 in the EU Council of Ministers	
	Sub-national coordination	<u>Was:</u> Regional governments have their own SDS; No formal coordination, informal discussions for relevant policies <u>New:</u> Autonomous regions included in HLG	ESDN country profile, 2014 VNR 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	Civil society; the private sector; social, environmental, economic and trade union stakeholders; universities; other experts (e.g. as members of SD council)	VNR 2018
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	<u>Was:</u> multi-stakeholder councils (Environment Advisory Council, Climate National Council, and similar bodies for natural heritage, parks, gmo, waste, biosafety, damage) Local government participated in developing national strategy <u>New:</u> SD Council will be created (2)	ESDN country profile, 2014 VNR 2018
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	— Annual progress report planned — Scorecard of official indicators for monitoring will use the framework proposed by the UN and the EU as a benchmark and country specific indicators. This work is underway and will	VNR 2018; Interviews

		be completed in 2019. Leadership : National Statistics Institute, with input from a wide range of actors	
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems / Quantified and timebound targets?	So far there is a set of 134 indicators; work on the rest is ongoing / <i>Not foreseen in the Strategy 2020 – 2030</i>	Interviews
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG impact assessments <u>planned</u>: An SDG impact analysis will be incorporated into legislative initiatives, so that the analysis of their external and global impact on the SDGs will be a required part of the compulsory impact analysis reports ("Regulatory Impact Analysis on the Agenda 2030") Budget: Alignment of ministries' budget with the SDGs is <u>planned</u>, one of 10 transformative measures, Ministry of Treasury leading this measure 	VNR 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	- Participation mechanisms (see 4.) usually include science / research / academia / experts, - both the existing ones and the planned SD Council No specific / separate mechanism foreseen for research	ESDN 2014; VNR, 2018, Interviews
	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)	Creation of a Commission on children and adolescents' rights (in the Parliament)	VNR 2018
7. Long- term perspective	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<p>a) <u>Joint Parliamentary Committee for the 2030 Agenda (3)</u> for the Watchdog function, composed of the two chambers of the Parliament (Congress of Deputies (1st chamber) and Senate (2nd chamber¹)), and mechanism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual comprehensive report planned Report will contain progress made on the 2030 Agenda and on the implementation of the new Action Plan, with a special section on policy coherence with the SDGs from the perspective of their impact on third countries and global public goods The 1st and 2nd chamber may propose the holding of an annual plenary session to monitor progress made on the 2030 Agenda Parliamentary control requirements will be complied with for the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda's sector-specific aspects that are the responsibility of each of the parliamentary committees <p>b) Parliamentary Alliance to achieve zero hunger, composed by the two chambers of the Parliament with the objective of guaranteeing the development of this right and the elimination of hunger in the world through legislative activity. Hosting the Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition (Oct.2018).</p>	VNR 2018; Interviews

Abbreviations / Country specific institutions and their translations:

- HLG: High Level Group
- PM: Prime Minister = President / Presidency ("Presidencia" in spanish)
- Congress of Deputies (Congreso ... deputati) = 1st chamber (the legislative)
- Senate = 2nd chamber (with the autonomous regions)

¹ In Spain the 1st chamber is called Congress of Deputies, and the 2nd chamber is called Senat

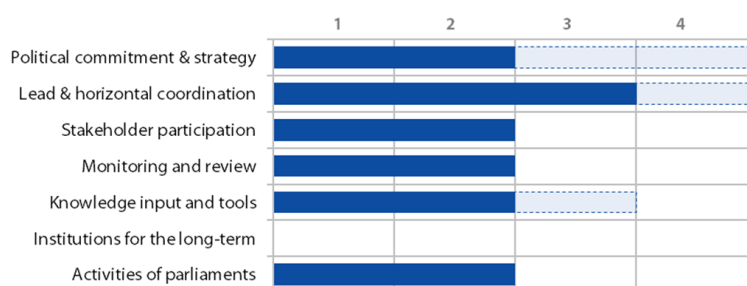
Portrait / Overall impression:

- Spain had a rather late SDS, which has not really flourished. Now a new government is fully committed to sustainable development and Agenda 2030, did a fast VNR 2018, and is now putting a whole range of measures into place
- On governance & strategy:
 - Leadership, a High level Commissioner and a horizontal coordination mechanism (HLG) is set up in the PM office ("Presidencia")
 - Action Plan til 2020 is underway; a long-term strategy 2020 – 2030 will be elaborated by three key institutions: High Level Group (about to come into being), SD Council and Joint Parliamentary Committee for the 2030 Agenda (both planned)
- Active an committed in the EU Council WP Agenda 2030

VNR 2018: 10 Transformative Measures

TRANSFORMATIVE MEASURE	LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
I. PUTTING THE 2030 AGENDA AT THE HEART OF SPAIN'S IDENTITY IN THE WORLD, IN EUROPEAN AND MULTILATERAL POLICY	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation
II. PROMOTING SDG PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ALL STAKEHOLDERS	High Commission for the 2030 Agenda Presidency of the Government
III. PROMOTING EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A CRUCIAL BUILDING BLOCK: REACHING TARGET 4.7 BY 2025	Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities
IV. INFORMING FOR KNOWLEDGE, AWARENESS-RAISING FOR ACTION, COMMUNICATING FOR TRANSFORMATION: A 2030 AGENDA COMMUNICATION PACT	High Commission for the 2030 Agenda Presidency of the Government
V. PROMOTING CULTURE AS A KEY ELEMENT FOR TRANSFORMATION	Ministry of Culture and Sport
VI. PROMOTING A CIVIL SERVICE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO IMPLEMENT THE SDGs	Ministry of Territorial Policy and of the Civil Service
VII. BUDGETING FOR THE SDGs: ALIGNING EACH MINISTRY'S BUDGET	Ministry of the Treasury
VIII. ALIGNING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT WITH THE SDGs	Ministry of the Treasury Ministry of Economy and Business
IX. ESTABLISHING COMPULSORY SDG IMPACT REPORTS IN LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY	Ministry of the Presidency of the Government, Relations with Parliament, and Equality
X. ALIGNING THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE NATIONAL REFORMS PLAN	High Commission for the 2030 Agenda Presidency of the Government

Country Data Sheet: Sweden



Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
I. Political commitment & strategy ELECTIONS 9 Sept. 2018	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSDS 1994; updates 2004, 2006 2003: Policy for Global Development (PGD) – pursued ever since 2017: Design of an overarching and national action plan announced in VNR 2017 2018: National Action Plan 2018-2020, adopted in June 2018	ESDN country profile, 2017 VNR 2017
	Year of the VNR (& schedule of next)	2017	VNR 2017
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	National Action Plan 2018-2020, adopted in June 2018 (overarching strategy / NSDS) Sweden's policy for global development (PGD) in the implementation of Agenda 2030: two communications to the parliament 2016 and 2018	Interview OECD country profile, 2018
	How are the SDGs covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of all SDGs and identifying six cross-sectional themes and four key factors: Priority areas (six cross-sectional themes): reduced inequalities and improved gender equality; sustainable societies; circular and green economy; strong industrial life and sustainable business; sustainable and healthy grocery chain; improved knowledge and innovation. Key factors: governance and follow-up; implementation at local and regional level; partnership and dialogue; international leadership 	Interview
		Priority areas in the PGD report from 2018: feminist foreign policy; sustainable business; sustainable consumption and production; climate and sea; and capital flight and tax evasion	OECD country profile, 2018
2. Lead & Horizontal	Lead organisation(s)	— Minister for Public Administration at the Ministry of Finance and Minister for International Development Cooperation at the MFA lead coordination https://www.government.se/government-of-sweden/	ESDN country profile, 2017

coordination		— In 2016, a 'National Committee for the 2030 Agenda' was appointed: a temporary advisory body charged to produce input to the action plan taken in 2018 for SDG implementation internally and externally (see also below). A final report with with recommendations how the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should continue is planned for March 2019 https://agenda2030delegationen.se/english/	/ OECD country profile, 2018 / VNR 2017
	Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanism	All ministries are responsible for implementation. Coordination mechanisms exist at different levels: — Directly under the ministers, there is a smaller Inter departmental consultation group for the 2030 Agenda with state secretaries from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs; meet around 4x/year, and at working level 1x/week. — All ministries meet at working level in an inter-ministerial working group 1x / month.	ESDN country profile, 2017 VNR 2017 / Interview
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	The National Committee had the explicit task to include national and international perspectives and commitments in their input to the action plan New National Action Plan will apply the Policy for Global Development for coherent government approach to SDGs (PGD) Royal family participates in the international SDG Advocacy Group	Interview / Website OECD country profile, 2018 ESDN country profile, 2017
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	MFA (with a Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate) is responsible for implementation of the development cooperation; the operational work is done by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) In 2016, the Government presented a new policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian aid, based on the 2030 Agenda In 2018, the Government presented five new global strategies, which integrate Agenda 2030, and which are also referred to in the overarching Action Plan : 1. Strategy for Sweden's global development cooperation in the areas of environmental sustainability, sustainable climate and oceans, and sustainable use of natural resources 2018–2022 2. Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law 2018–2022 3. Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation in the areas of sustainable economic development 2018–2022 4. Strategy for global gender equality and women's and girls' rights 2018–2022 5. Strategy for capacity building and partnership for the 2030 Agenda	OECD country profile, 2018 Interview VNR 2017 Interview
	3. Vertical coordination		
	Supranational coordination	In 2018, Sweden will chair the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and coordinate the informal Nordic and Nordic-Baltic foreign and security policy co-operation.	Interview
	Sub-national coordination	— Strong city networks and participation (ESDN info outdated), many national and international.	ESDN country profile, 2017

		<p>— The municipalities and county councils are responsible for several vital societal functions at the local and regional levels, bearing on important parts of the 2030 Agenda. Some are mandatory, others voluntary. The municipalities also play a significant role in and for collaboration with the local business community and civil society organisations.</p> <p>https://www.norden.org/en/publication/global-goals-local-priorities</p>	VNR 2017
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	multi-stakeholder: civil society, municipality, academic, private sector, trade unions	ESDN country profile, 2017
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	National Committee for the 2030 Agenda – multi-stakeholder: civil society, municipality, academic, private sector, trade unions	ESDN country profile, 2017
		Broad dialogue between National Committee for the 2030 Agenda with authorities, county councils and municipalities, the social partners, the private sector, civil society and the research community	VNR 2017
	Specific coordination with dev't organisations or businesses	Swedish leadership initiative directed at business director/executive engagement with SDGs coordinated by Sida (both at national and international level)	Leuven, 2018
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	The Action plan gives a mission to the Swedish Agency for Public Management to follow up the authorities work with the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Reports to parliament every two years on PGD / policy coherence for transparency on conflicts of interest, last in 2018	Interview
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	<p>— Statistics Sweden (SCB) produced assessment on where Sweden stands - more than 120 indicators, of which around 100 correspond with global indicators. It assessed that 49 indicators, that is 20 per cent of the total number of global indicators, have already been met by Sweden.</p> <p>— SCB developed a national set of indicators, which is not yet formally adopted. It coordinates the work underway.</p> <p>— New reporting model links PGD to the SDGs</p>	OECD country profile, 2018
	Quantified and timebound targets (per indicator)?	No	Interview
			VNR 2017
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<p><i>no Sustainability Impact Assessment / ex-ante Impact Assessment (SIA / RIA) ?</i></p> <p>Budget: In its 2017 budget bill, the Government stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDG target 10.1: an action plan will be produced so as to gradually, before 2030, achieve and maintain a higher income growth than the national average for the 40 per cent of the population with the lowest income; - SDG 12 action plan on Sustainable consumption (no real integration yet, but partly). <p>The National Commission is thinking about recommendations, ministers encouraged to make the link to SDGs in their contribution to the budget document.</p>	VNR 2017 (and interview IDDRI 2018)
	6.2 Science-policy interface	A Scientific Council for Sustainable Development was established as platform for dialogue between scientists and politicians during 2015-2018. The council and the commission had a shared responsibility to cooperate around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	VNR 2017

7. Long- term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	<p>- Agenda 2030 is primarily handled by the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Finance. The former deals with the PGD reports.</p> <p>- Parliamentary Committee for environmental objectives (Cie's ENVI and AGRI) (no particular Agenda 2030 role)</p>	VNR 2017, Interview; ESDN 2017

Abbreviations

- **PGD** Policy for Global Development
- **Sida** Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Portrait / Overall impression:

- Sweden was among early movers with a NSDS already in 1994, which was updated 2004 and 2006. At the same time it has been a frontrunner in 'policy coherence for development' with the adoption of the "Policy for Global Development (PGD)" in 2003. The sustainable development track slowed down a bit, but PGD has continued and was reinvigorated after the adoption of Agenda 2030. Inter alia with this background, the activities on Agenda 2030 are leaning a bit to the external side.
- On governance:
 - The institutional set up has mechanisms of cooperation between Ministries at all levels, as traditional and is characteristic for Sweden. Linking the external and domestic sphere seems to improve
 - Similarly, it also followed the tradition to establish a multi-stakeholder Task Force, including the sub-national level, to elaborate an action plan and to report to the government (National Committee for Agenda 2030); this Committee held broad dialogues with all stakeholders.
- The Parliament has no institutional measures (yet).

Country Data Sheet: United Kingdom

	1	2	3	4
Political commitment & strategy				
Lead & horizontal coordination				
Stakeholder participation				
Monitoring and review				
Knowledge input and tools				
Institutions for the long-term				
Activities of parliaments				

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSDS 1994, then 1999, 2005 (with devolved administration framework) 2011 SD vision "Action Plan" in 2017 = description of the way specific departments plan to address individual goals or specific targets.	ESDN country profile, 2012 SDSN 2018
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	First VNR planned for 2019	Interview
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Was: 2005, Securing our Future; then SD Vision – Mainstreaming SD (2011)	ESDN country profile, 2012
		The UK does not have an overarching strategy, or plan for the SDGs. The most recent policy document is the above. Departments have been asked to integrate SDG targets into their departmental plans, but there is no overarching strategy.	Interview
	How are the SDGs covered?	SD priorities strongly linked to green growth, climate change	ESDN country profile, 2012
		Not planned to have national SDG priorities according to SDSN	SDSN, 2018
2. Lead & Horizontal	Lead organisation(s)	Was: Agenda was led within Department for Environment, Food, Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Plus devolved government	ESDN country profile, 2012

coordination		Cabinet Office and DFID leads for UK as a whole, but no state secretary or ministerial ownership or responsibility for this.	Interview
	Other involved ministries & coordination mechanism	— Other departments are asked to integrate SDGs into their single departmental plans, but there is not an overarching strategy. This is inconsistently taken up across Ministries and Departments. — No mechanism for policy coherence.	Interview
	Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	After closure of the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), agree on mainstreaming approach. Environment Minister sits on key committees and cabinets to mainstream. DEFRA reviews business plans of departments for sustainable development	ESDN country profile, 2012
	Specific coordination with development cooperation	DFID as lead of VNR and developing a plan. However, DFID does not have domestic policy remit so there challenges advancing internal aspect of this agenda.	Interview
3. Vertical coordination	National and supranational coordination	Adopted EU SDS, report in 2007, no other coordination mechanism found	ESDN country profile, 2012
	Sub-national coordination	Devolved administrations have their own plans for sustainable development, developed separately from national government – work in parallel, but each government has their own approach based on their priorities	ESDN country profile, 2012
		Devolved administrations in Wales and Scotland have significantly taken up SDGs and integrated within policy, and with their own strategies, before UK national government	Interview
4. Stakeholder Participation	Multiple actors involved	There is not stakeholder participation in governance mechanisms (planning or VNR process) UKSSD developed a baseline and stakeholder participation process which the government could use, and currently this is not being used.	Interview
	Coordination and participation mechanisms	Was: Sustainable Development Commission (2000-2011) – no longer exists. Strong coordination and participation mechanism	ESDN country profile, 2012
		No stakeholder coordination or participation exists yet, except a survey to identify case studies to include in the VNR – this is a reporting exercise.	Interview
	Specific coordination with dev't bodies, organisations or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review		Was: DEFRA reviews integration of SD in other department policies, enforced by Cabinet Office (does not publish report on SD) – DEFRA no longer leads on SD	ESDN country profile, 2012
		From 2012, each department has to report annually, as part of their annual reporting,	

		scrutinized by parliament about embedding SD, but not systematic approach to reviewing SD progress.	
		New indicators in 2011 developed by DEFRA, linked to Stat office and UN indicators Increased transparency, Environmental Audit committee. House of Commons Environment Audit Committee responsible monitoring and reporting	ESDN country profile, 2012
		Stat office has been proactive about tracking the SDGs. Robust monitoring and reporting framework led, run, developed by stat office. Interactive website for public engagement with SDG stats also.	Interview
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<i>No Info</i>	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	<i>No Info</i>	
7. Long-term perspective	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament regarding A 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House of Commons Environment Audit Committee (EAC) oversees monitoring and reporting - Committee offers parliamentary scrutiny of progress on integrating/embedding SD into departments - Environment Audit Committee, the International Development Committee, and Women and Equality Committee have produced reports/scrutinise SD policy/strategy. Both have held inquiries into SDGs. - EAC in particular pushed for UK to take up SDG planning and VNR, scrutiny over strategy. Parliament has been consistently active on SDGs within scope of government, as their processes and mechanisms have continued while other aspects of governance for SD has changed - All Party Parliamentary Group and parliamentary debate on the SDGs. Mainly use of existing mechanisms to scrutinize and review SD policy before SDGs, no specific new mechanisms have been created. - No formal monitoring/review process by parliament of SDGs. 	ESDN country profile, 2012
			Interview; SDSN, 2018

Abbreviations

- DEFRA Department for Environment, Food, Rural Affairs
- DFID Department for International Development
- EAC Environment Audit Committee
- SDC Sustainable Development Commission

Portrait / Overall impression:

- At the time of Rio+20, UK was a leader in SD governance, policy integration and political leadership. It has since slowly dismantled almost all of the institutional mechanisms that contributed to this and has not since replaced them, even with the SDGs
- Progress is slow, political leadership is lacking, and many basic aspects of governance for SD are missing. (for example, an overarching strategy)
- Devolved governments seem to have a more systematic approach and greater ambition than the UK government
- The activities of the parliament, are one of the only governance aspects that remain relatively unchanged.

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Annex 3 List of contacts

PM Office	Prime Minister's Office (also called Government Office, or Chancellery)
Min. Env.	Ministry for Environment (in various portfolio combinations and names; at EU level the Ministry that is represented in the Environment Council)
Min. FA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry		Ministry	
<u>AT</u>	Min. Env. (Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism)	<u>IT</u>	Min. Env. (Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea)
	Min. FA (Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs)		
	Federal Chancellery		
<u>BE</u>	Min. FA	<u>LV</u>	Cross-sectoral Coordination Centre
	Federal Institute for SD		Member of Parliament, Sustainable Development Committee
<u>BG</u>	Min. FA	<u>LT</u>	Min. Env., Division Economics and International Relations
<u>HR</u>	Min. FA	<u>LU</u>	Min. Env. (Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Department for Environment)
			Min. FA / Dep. Dev't
			Perm. Rep.
<u>CY</u>	Min. FA, Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (DG EPCD)	<u>MT</u>	Min. Env. (Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change)
<u>CZ</u>	Min. Env.	<u>NL</u>	Min. FA
	Min. FA		
<u>DK</u>	Min. Finance	<u>PL</u>	Ministry of Economic Development & Investment
	Member of Parliament, Agenda 2030 network		Ministry of Enterprise and Technology
<u>EE</u>	Government Office	<u>PT</u>	Min. FA

<u>FI</u>	Secretary-General of the National Commission on Sustainable Development (FNCSD); Min. Env.	<u>RO</u>	PM Office
	Min. FA / PM Office		
	PM Office		
	Secretary of the Parliament, Committee of the Future		
<u>FR</u>	Commissioner-General for Sustainable Development	<u>SK</u>	Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatization (UPPVII)
	Min. Env.		Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatization (UPPVII)
<u>DE</u>	Federal Chancellery	<u>SI</u>	Government Office for Dev't and European Cohesion Policy
	Member of Parliament, Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Sustainable Development		
<u>EL</u>	General Secretariat, Office of Coordination, Institutional, International & European Affairs	<u>ES</u>	PM Office
	Min. Env & Energy		
<u>HU</u>	NFFT (Sustainable Development Council, at the Parliament)	<u>SE</u>	Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation
	Member of Parliament		Min. FA
<u>IE</u>	Min. Env. (Ministry for Communications, Climate Action and Environment)	<u>UK</u>	UKSSD (UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development)
	NESC (National Economic and Social Council)		

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