



ESDN

IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA IN COUNTRIES AND REGIONS: SHARING FOR LEARNING

Eric Mulholland

Background Paper

**3rd ESDN Peer
Learning Platform
and Visit**

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AUTHOR: **ERIC MULHOLLAND, ESDN OFFICE**

CONTACT: **ESDN OFFICE**

Institute for Managing Sustainability
Vienna University of Economics and Business
Welthandelsplatz 1, A-1020 Vienna, Austria
esdn-office@sd-network.eu
+43-1-31336-4807

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Introduction

This Background Paper provides input for the **3rd ESDN Peer Learning Platform and Visit**, entitled **“Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Countries and Regions: Sharing for Learning”**, which will take place in **Rome on 12-13 June, 2018**. This ESDN event is organized in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea and the CReAMO PA Project.

The **3rd ESDN Peer Learning Platform** on 12 June will bring together policymakers from the national and regional level to share, exchange, discuss, and learn from one another about the progress being made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the national and regional level since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, almost three years ago (September 2015). The **Platform** will include a welcome and orientation session that will be opened by the Italian hosts and the Austrian Co-Chair of the ESDN. The Platform will then be divided into three main ‘Spaces for Learning’:

- **Space for Learning 1:** Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national & regional level - “Learning by listening”
- **Space for Learning 2:** “Speed Dating” - Exchanging experiences, learning from examples - “Learning by exchanging”
- **Space for Learning 3¹:** Designing your 2030 Agenda/SDG Implementation Success Story - “Learning by doing”

The **Peer Learning Visit** on 13 June will focus on sharing and learning from the sustainable development governance practices in Italy that are taking place at the national and regional level, as it is the host country. Many different topics will be addressed by the different levels. At the national level, focus will be put on the implementation of the Italian National Sustainable Development Strategy and the tools that are needed for territorial governance. Other topics from the national level will include: Italy’s position on the Circular Economy, environmentally harmful and environmentally friendly subsidies, the Natural Capital Report, and Green Financing. The regional level topics will focus on the SDGs in the Circular Economy, as well as the experiences of developing regional sustainable development strategies from the regions of Sardinia, Trentino, Lombardy, and Umbria.

The main objective of both Peer Learning events is to have a very informal exchange and experience sharing between policymakers who are responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the national and regional level. The ESDN Peer Learning Platforms and Visits operate under the Chatham House Rules, which entails that all participants are able to speak freely and honestly on the topics that will be discussed without any specific information being shared outside of the Platform and Visit.

Apart from laying out the format of the Peer Learning Platform and Visit, this Background Paper will provide participants with information about the following topics: 1) Basic information about the 2030 Agenda and the role the national and regional level has in its implementation; 2) A current overview of how European countries have been implementing

❖ ¹ Please find the 6 SDGs (SDG 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15) that will be the focus of this session in the appendix. You will find the targets and their indicators, which may be helpful during this session.

the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs since September 2015; and 3) A more in-depth look at the practical cases from the national (Italy, Germany, and Belgium) and regional levels (Piedmont (Italy), Saarland (Germany), and Wallonia (Belgium)) that have been invited to speak during the Peer Learning Platform.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** was formally adopted during the United Nation's Sustainable Development Summit which took place in New York from 25-27 September 2015. On this occasion, all 193 Member States of the United Nations agreed on adopting the 15-year plan, titled “[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development](#)”. The adopted 2030 Agenda contains **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** please see Figure 1 below, accompanied by 169 targets, which shape national development plans. Initiated by the Rio+20 Conference, the SDGs are scheduled to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Compared to their predecessors, the SDGs are more all-encompassing and make the important pledge that “no one will be left behind”. The 2030 Agenda applies to developing, emerging, and developed countries alike, and recognizes the importance of partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society in its successful implementation.

Figure 1: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Source [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Above all, the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations recognize that countries are the best at knowing their own contexts and how they can implement the SDGs within these specific contexts. The following paragraph stems directly from the 2030 Agenda and reinforces the necessity that countries should bear the task of implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs:

§45 “We acknowledge also the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments. Governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, subregional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others.”

13 European Countries' 2030 Agenda and SDG Implementation Activities

This chapter provides an overview of what 13 European countries have been doing and/or are planning to do regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The next chapter includes an additional 3 countries, and these 3 countries will be presenting at the Peer Learning Platform. The information presented here offers details on general 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation efforts. Many countries have integrated the 2030 Agenda into their National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS), or are in the process of adapting them to reflect the goals of the 2030 Agenda. All the available information has been provided to the ESDN Office by the ESDN National Focal Points. For a more extensive description of national implementation activities, visit the [ESDN website](#).

Austria

Austria has launched the implementation of the SDGs with a Decision by the Austrian Council of Ministers in January 2016. In line with the universal, integrated and interrelated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Decision of the Council of Ministers emphasizes a mainstreaming approach: The sectoral ministries will utilize their existing multi-stakeholder strategy and programming processes to take the SDGs into account in the respective national policy frameworks, whereby well-established structures of numerous national policy frameworks will be deployed for the SDG implementation.

Additionally, the SDG Focal Points of each Ministry teamed up in an inter-ministerial working group co-chaired by the Federal Chancellery and the Ministry of Foreign affairs – with particular involvement of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, and the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy. This working group accelerates information sharing on the Agenda 2030 and provides guidance on national reporting.

In March 2017, the working group published the “[Outline 2016 - Contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the Austrian Federal Ministries](#)” (German). The Outline 2016 provides information on the general approach taken, the national policy processes and on the international dimension of the SDG implementation in Austria. It provides a basis for further discussions with Parliament, civil society and other stakeholders.

Further work is planned on the development of an indicator framework compatible with the Eurostat guidance, as well as involving all levels of state and the private sector to support the SDGs.

Croatia

The new Environment Action Plan of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2016 – 2024 is under development and is in line with the environmental aspects of the SDGs. A project for

drafting the Strategy for adaptation to climate change, which includes detailed modelling of climate change in Croatia, has started in May 2016.

Czech Republic

The process of implementation of the Agenda 2030 on the national level is led by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic and supported by the Government Council on Sustainable Development. In order to reflect upon the principles, goals, and targets of the Agenda 2030, the Government decided to review the Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development of the Czech Republic (2010). Final document, “Czech Republic 2030”, came into effect in early 2017. The strategic framework outlined in the “Czech Republic 2030” is designed to serve as an umbrella mechanism for sectoral national strategies implementing sustainable development goals on the national level.

A public consultation on initial proposals to the “Czech Republic 2030” started in May 2015. The drafting phase has been thereafter carried out in close cooperation with representatives of the Parliament, ministries, local and regional authorities, local branches of UN agencies and a wide range of other stakeholders including civil society, the private sector, academia and labor unions gathered in the Government Council on Sustainable Development and its 9 Committees. The Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and serves as the main forum ensuring consultation and building new partnerships among different actors. One of the main tasks of the Council will be to follow up and review the national implementation of the new strategic framework and Agenda 2030 and encourage society's commitment to sustainable development.

Estonia

Estonia plans to use the already functioning national coordination system for sustainable development issues (Estonian Sustainable Development Commission, Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Sustainable Development) also for coordinating the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

The Estonian Sustainable Development Commission has launched a comparative analysis of Estonian Sustainable Development Strategy “Sustainable Estonia 21”, which will give answers as to how much the Estonian strategy is in compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

The Government Office will initiate a gap-analysis of Estonian Government policies in light of the SDGs, providing an overview on how many SDGs and targets the government's policy measures cover. The Inter-ministerial Working Group of Sustainable development is going to be involved in the process.

Finland

[“The Finland we want by 2050 — Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development”](#) was finalized in 2013 and it will serve as one of the key multi-stakeholder implementation tools for the 2030 Agenda in Finland. It provides the framework for a strategic approach to sustainable development and it sets out a vision, principles, and objectives for the transition to a

sustainable society. Compared to conventional national sustainability strategies, “Society’s Commitment”: can be seen as a social innovation enabling the integration of sustainable development into everyday practices and the engagement of a broad spectrum of societal actors in joint efforts. “Society’s Commitment” also contains an implementation mechanism. By the end of 2015, over 200 organizations from companies to ministries, educational institutions, municipalities and civil society organizations, as well as individuals, had already joined “Society’s Commitment” by launching their own operational commitments. In this way they are contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in Finland through their own efforts. “Society’s Commitment” was updated in April 2016 to be in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The Prime Minister’s Office is in charge of coordinating the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Office also acts as the Coordination Secretariat, which includes representatives from the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the National Commission on Sustainable Development. The Coordination Secretariat works closely together with the Coordination Network, comprising all government ministries.

The Finnish Government has the primary responsibility for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but, in the spirit of the global agenda, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders have an integral role in this endeavor. A National Implementation Plan “Government Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sustainable Development in Finland – Long-term, Coherent and Inclusive Action for the 2030 Agenda” was published in February 2017.

The National Implementation Plan outlines, among other things, how Finland will integrate the principles, goals and targets of Agenda 2030 into various policy sectors and into international cooperation, and how the progress in the implementation will be monitored and reviewed. It also identifies Finland’s strengths, as well as major gaps and challenges, and offers solutions and tools for improving implementation. The key measures for putting Agenda 2030 into practice are the integrated policies and measures taken in various Government sectors, as part of the implementation of national and EU legislation, national sectoral or thematic strategies and action plans, as well as international agreements and commitments. One important voluntary means of implementation in Finland is Society’s Commitment to Sustainable Development, the national sustainable development strategy adopted in 2013.

The mechanisms to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships also play an important role in Finland’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. State officials are responsible for drawing up the implementation plan and facilitating the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Finland. However, there are two major multi-stakeholder committees in Finland that support and promote sustainable development policies. The Development Policy Committee is a parliamentary body whose mission is to follow the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland from the development policy perspective and to monitor the implementation of the Government Programme and the Government's development policy guidelines.

The other major multi-stakeholder committee is The National Commission on Sustainable Development, which is a Prime Minister-led partnership forum that has operated in Finland for over two decades without interruption with the aim of integrating sustainable

development into Finnish policies, measures, and everyday practices. The membership of both committees includes a broad spectrum of non-governmental stakeholders, private sector actors, interest groups, and civil society organizations. In addition, the Sustainable Development Expert Panel, comprised of eminent professors from different disciplines, challenges and enhances the work of the National Commission on Sustainable Development and adds a critical voice to the sustainability debate, when needed.

France

France has promoted sustainable development since the adoption of its first sustainable development strategy in 2003 and the appointment of an Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development under the authority of the Prime Minister and located in the Ministry of Environment, which is in charge of sustainable development. Since 2008, the Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development is also Commissioner General for Sustainable Development with a team of 500 people. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals builds on and strengthens this institutional mechanism.

The Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development coordinates the work of every ministry in order to ensure a better horizontal coordination of public policies towards achieving the SDGs in very close relation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is in charge of international solidarity.

As well as being the vice-Chair of the National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE), the Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development ensures that the implementation of the SDGs is discussed between administrations and civil society organizations.

In order to launch the SDG implementation in France, in view of the “Voluntary National Review” presented at the UN High Level Political Forum in 2016, a broad consultation workshop was organized during the European Sustainable Development Week 2016, which gathered representatives from civil society organizations from many areas: Representatives from the National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE), which are involved in environmental issues; the National Council for Development and International Solidarity (CNDISI), which are involved in Development Aid; and representatives from the other areas of society, especially the educational and social areas.

Greece

Greece, after a preparatory phase for setting up the required governance structure that will undertake the responsibility of coordinating efforts, at national level, for the implementation of the SDGs, is currently “adapting” the SDGs to national priorities and circumstances.

Given that all SDGs are equal, interlinked, and need to be addressed holistically, Greece’s general objective is to benefit from the opportunity that the SDGs provide, in order to revisit the country’s overall development perspectives from a sustainable and more balanced point of view, through an “SDGs lens”, while improving policy coherence for sustainable development and promoting new win-win-win opportunities for the country.

When it comes to the responsible ministry for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, all line / thematic Ministries of the government are responsible. However, a special burden falls on the Ministry of Environment and Energy, as is thematically involved in the majority of SDGs (e.g. more than 7 out of the overall 17 SDGs).

Regarding the governance scheme for coordinating national efforts to implement the SDGs, since December 2016, following a decision by the Greek Prime Minister, the task has been allocated by Law, adopted by the Hellenic Parliament, to the General Secretariat of the Government (GSG), with emphasis on enhancing inter-ministerial coordination, given the fact that the GSG is a permanent structure and well-positioned, as it stands close to the political leadership of the country (inter alia Governmental Council of Economic Policy, Governmental Council of Social Policy, etc.), it indicates commitment at the highest level, as well as close to the public administration and all line Ministries for law making issues, which helps to ensure the continuity of efforts. Moreover, it works closely, and on a daily basis, with the Hellenic Parliament on legislative and regulatory issues and coordinates the legislative work of the whole government. Thus, the GSG is capable of ensuring a whole-of-government approach, reducing silos across thematic policies from the design to implementation, ensuring coherence and cooperating directly with all governmental bodies and line Ministries. As an initial step, the GSG underwent a mapping and gap analysis exercise, in which all ministries participated.

The above mentioned mapping exercise has been completed by all Ministries in February 2017 in order to explore the existing and missing policy instruments for SDG implementation in Greece. The Ministries identified which goals and targets they are covering and by which policies and measures. The measures vary from national and EU legislation to sectoral or thematic strategies and action plans, as well as implementation of the international agreements and commitments. This exercise resulted in compiling all relevant policies and measures that are still missing, indicating the state-of-play and budgetary status, and analyzing areas of insufficient action or potential for cross-sectoral co-operation. Moreover, all Ministries had to rank and prioritize all SDG targets under their competences according to their existing priorities and on-going work, from 0 (little emphasis / priority) to 3 (high priority target for Greece).

This overall analysis and mapping resulted in defining 8 overarching National Priorities for Greece linked to the SDGs and in line with the overall Government priorities that should be pursued through our national efforts for adapting the SDGs to national circumstances. These are:

1. Promotion of a competitive, innovative and sustainable economic growth (SDGs 8, 9);
2. Promotion of full employment and decent work for all (SDGs 8, 4);
3. Addressing poverty and social exclusion and promote universal access to quality health care services (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10);
4. Reduction of social and regional inequalities and ensuring equal opportunities for all (SDGs 10, 5, 4, 8, 1, 3, 11, 16);
5. Promotion of a high quality and inclusive education for all (SDG 4);

6. Strengthen the protection and sustainable management of the natural capital as a base for social development/prosperity and transition to a low-carbon economy (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15);
7. Building of effective, accountable and transparent institutions / institutional mechanisms (SDGs 16, 17);
8. Strengthen and promote open, participatory and democratic processes (SDGs 16, 17);

The above-mentioned National Priorities, along with the mapping/gap analysis exercise regarding the SDGs, are going to be further discussed and reviewed by the Parliament in the context of the elaboration and evaluation of the National Implementation Action Plan on SDGs scheduled for 2019.

In this abovementioned overall context, the National Development Strategy of Greece which is currently going through the final stages of elaboration, has been made “SDG aware” by including references and operational linkages to the SDGs, and vice versa as the Strategy will serve as the basis and strategic framework the implementation of the SDGs at the national level.

Moreover, there is an effort and intention to make all programs and strategies “SDG aware” through the involvement of the GSG both in law making, generally in Greece, and recently in the implementation of the SDGs. This involvement can ensure greater coherence in legislation and addressing of trade-offs from the policy design phase, right from the start, so that the legislation that is enacted / institutionalized, as well as the various national programs and strategies adopted, thereafter, can be complementary and aligned to the principles and objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

Latvia

Latvia has a well-coordinated planning system. Any changes to the existing National Development Plan (NDP), as well as new targets, actions, and measures for the next NDP will be introduced through mid-term reviews of the currently effective policy frameworks and plans. It is during the mid-term reviews that the 2030 Agenda indicators and targets can be discussed, new actions considered, and respective costs assessed. For the NDP2020 the mid-term review will take place in 2017.

The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre has developed an assessment of the 169 targets against the national policy planning documents. First, the SDGs are divided into three main groups: 1) Domestic policy; 2) development cooperation; and 3) global issues. Second, the responsible institution and, if applicable, institutions with shared responsibility are identified. The goals solely applicable to development cooperation, bilateral or multilateral, are mapped. Third, the SDG indicators for each of the targets are mapped against the Latvia2030 and NDP2020 performance indicators. Fourth, the responsible institution gives opinions regarding the need to include the non-existent or partially covered SDG indicators in NDP2020 or the next NDP. Lastly, possible discussion issues are noted.

A preliminary comparison of the 2030 Agenda sub-goals to targets and performance indicators in current Latvian policy documents reveals that Latvia already has many domestic level indicators with targets that match the 2030 Agenda goals and targets.

The development of new planning tools or processes at the regional and local level has not been envisaged for the near future, since the existing ones are comprehensive, extensive, and sufficient. Both the localized SDG targets, and the assessment thereof, will be integrated into the medium term planning system.

Latvia's policy-making process is inclusive, and cooperation is ongoing at many different levels. When ministries begin work on policy documents, they usually inform the public via their websites; they also have working groups and standing committees on issues dealing with development. All policy documents are published on the Cabinet of Minister's website before being accepted and are open to comments from interested stakeholders in an inclusive negotiation process. A monthly meeting takes place between the Prime Minister and the interested NGOs. Latvia's plans of mainstreaming the SDGs in the planning process were presented and discussed at these meetings. The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre and line ministries respond to requests from NGOs, the UNESCO Latvian National Committee and other non-state actors about future plans. NGOs will be providing information on their roles in implementing the NDP2020, which already includes many targets in line with the SDGs. Data and analysis is shared by the academic sector. The Employers' Confederation and the Confederation of Trade Unions participate regularly in policy discussions, and they are also members, together with representatives of the academia, in the National Development Council. Therefore, no formal partnerships will be signed, since this would rather exclude stakeholders than guarantee inclusivity in the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Luxembourg

In May 2016, the Government Council agreed on a renewed composition of the grand-ducal regulation regarding composition, organization, and functioning of the Commission with the objective of having appropriate organizational structures to ensure the implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

In April 2016, the Council was asked by the Minister for Environment, as minister in charge, to advise the Government on the association of Luxembourg's civil society and private sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable de Development.

Montenegro

In Montenegro, the process of the development of the new National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD), and was adopted in 2016, was initiated after Rio+20 Conference. The drafting process was coordinated and technically supervised by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, (i.e. it is supervised by the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management).

The NSSD has defined the dynamic of the implementation plan for the SDGs, related target and indicators, successive integration into national statistical and monitoring and reporting systems in a way that enables full harmonization with SDG platforms until 2020 and establishes the NSSD implementation monitoring based on the SDGs in 2021.

Poland

Realization of the Strategy for Responsible Development, which was approved by the Polish Government in February 2017, will support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Poland. The Ministry of Economic Development, coordinating development policies of the country, undertook the leading role in the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda in Poland.

The Strategy for Responsible Development lays down a new development model: strategic vision, the rules, objectives, and priorities for Poland's economic, social and spatial development in the 2020 and 2030 perspective. The main objective of the Strategy is the growth of income of the Polish population, accompanied by an increase in social, economic, environmental and territorial cohesion. It is directed on inclusive social-economic development. Considering its role and the assigned tasks, the Strategy is an instrument of flexible management of the main development processes in Poland. The Strategy sets the goals and necessary tasks, implementation instruments, and key projects that guarantee its implementation. It also provides for a system of coordination and implementation, specifying the roles of respective public bodies and the methods of cooperation with businesses, academics, and citizens.

The objectives of development policy will be implemented, in line with the partnership principle, by representatives of social and economic partners, associations and non-governmental organizations, academic circles, and private entities, including entrepreneurs. The participation of those entities in all stages of processes related to programming and implementing development measures will ensure their efficiency and effectiveness by building wide social support and trust among public entities and their partners for the purpose of achieving the SDGs.

Slovakia

The Slovak Government has adopted Baselines for the national implementation for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in March 2016. According to the document the Slovak Government agreed with divided responsibility for the implementation for the 2030 Agenda between the Government Office, which is responsible for national implementation, and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, which is responsible for the activities of Slovakia and Slovak entities abroad.

The first overall assessment of achievement of objectives should be done by the end of 2019. The Minister of Foreign and European Affairs should prepare and realize the Concept of the implementation for the 2030 Agenda in the international environment. Currently this Agenda of the Government Office is supposed to be transferred to the Office of Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Information Society.

Slovenia

Slovenia, with its National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS 2030), sets a new strategic framework for national development, which is based on the principles of sustainable development. The document will build on the vision of Slovenia in 2050 and is linked to the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda.

Preparation of the strategy is coordinated by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy. In accordance with the principles of sustainable development, the document will be based on the recognition that ecosystem capacity of the environment sets boundary conditions to development and sustainable development only provide a good life for present and future generations.

The response of the Republic of Slovenia to the 2030 Agenda and the preparation of the national development strategy until 2030 are parallel closely intertwined processes that are distinctly horizontal and require a comprehensive approach of the government and the active involvement of stakeholders. The government adopted the strategy in 2017.

In preparing the strategy, Slovenia worked closely with the OECD experts and used relevant OECD tools, e.g. the OECD Pilot Study on Measuring the Distances to the SDGs targets – Figure: Slovenia’s starting position on SDG targets:

In addition to the process of drafting the National Development Strategy, several sectoral or horizontal strategies, programs and instruments, committed to pursue various combinations of SDGs, are being implemented or are under preparation. Among them, a new National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP) up to 2020 and beyond, prepared by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, will be based on the vision proposed by the 7th Environment Action Programme of the EU: “In 2050, we live well, within the planet’s ecological limits.” The background document for the NEAP is a comprehensive report on the state of the environment in Slovenia prepared by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning in 2016. The findings reveal that the state of the environment doesn’t depend only on local practice but it is also affected by global pressures that are growing faster than in the past mainly due to economic growth, population growth and changing consumption and production patterns. Therefore traditional measures of “emission control” are replaced by an awareness of the limited space and natural resources, of the importance of ecosystem services for the conservation and welfare of the people and that negative impacts of our consumption and production patterns cannot be shifted onto the shoulders of other regions. Environmental efforts are moving in the direction of low-carbon society, the circular economy, resilient ecosystems, and sustainable macroeconomic development models. To achieve the 2050 vision, environmental protection policy cannot be implemented in isolation from policies in other sectors such as agriculture, transport, energy, tourism. It is inextricably linked to the broader economic and social development.

Sweden

The Swedish government recently appointed a multi-stakeholder National Committee to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda throughout Swedish society. The Committee will put forward a proposal for an action plan. Civil society organizations, municipalities, academia, private sector and trade unions are at the core of this endeavour.

All ministers are responsible for the implementation. In addition, the Minister for Public Administration and the Minister for International Development Cooperation have been tasked with specific responsibility for implementation of the Agenda.

Switzerland

Switzerland started its first implementation activities immediately after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. The Swiss Federal Council decided in December 2015 to keep this high level of engagement and contribute in a meaningful way to implementing the 2030 Agenda – both in domestic and foreign policy. In January 2016, the Federal Council adopted the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) 2016–2019 that underlines the need for sustainable development to be a coherent feature of all policy areas. Consequently, and wherever possible, Switzerland’s international engagement, in particular its future international cooperation, as well as sectoral foreign policies, will also be oriented towards the SDGs.

Within a “transition phase” from 2016 to 2017, a comprehensive program of work was being put into practice. A temporary inter-ministerial working group managed this work with the aim to:

- Clarify institutional arrangements, processes and responsibilities in the Federal Administration for the effective implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda;
- Conduct a baseline study as well as a gap analysis covering all SDGs and targets to identify and define future areas of action to implement the 2030 Agenda;
- Ensure adequate monitoring and reporting by expanding the Swiss system of sustainable development indicators as appropriate; and
- Determine the modalities for stakeholder participation in consultations and in implementation partnerships for the 2030 Agenda.

By early 2018, a report summarizing these and other efforts, as well as formulating respective recommendations for Swiss implementation of the 2030 Agenda, will be presented to the Federal Council. Based on the findings from the transition phase and decisions taken by the Federal Council, Switzerland will present a first comprehensive country review at the HLPF 2018.

2030 Agenda and SDG Implementation of the 3 Presenting Countries

Belgium

National Level

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Belgium will occur through existing mechanisms of the federal strategy for sustainable development and a dedicated implementation plan to broaden the commitments. At the federal level, horizontal coordination is undertaken through the Interdepartmental Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) and through the sustainable development units (SDU) created in the respective federal administrations. Additional institutions involved are the Task Force on Sustainable Development (TFSD) of the Federal Planning Bureau (FPB), the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (IFSD), and the Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FCSD). The ICSD, as mechanism of horizontal policy coordination, is responsible for:

1. Preparation of the preliminary draft and the draft of the Federal Plan (FPSD);
2. Coordination of the development and update of the Long-term Vision for SD;
3. Coordination of the report by its members which provides information about the implementation of the measures through which each administration has contributed to the objectives of the FPSD; and
4. Coordination of policy regarding sustainable development (e.g. through working groups on public procurements, CSR, international policy, etc.).

Currently, a mapping exercise of the federal policy is being conducted. The mapping exercise seeks to be able to anchor each SDG target within a Federal Ministry or at the level of subnational governments.

When it comes to measuring progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, annual reports from the ICSD will contribute to the follow up and review of the SDGs. Federal reports on sustainable development will also be conducted by the Federal Planning Bureau, which will help in contributing to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda through their database of sustainable development indicators and work on policy evaluation tools.

Furthermore in Belgium, the Federal Ministries will be stimulated and supported to implement the SDGs in their operations and policy by an array of tools, such as through the sustainable development objectives in their own action plans, public procurement procedures, etc.

Regarding stakeholder participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, Belgium has a Stakeholder Advisory Council, which organizes the participation of major groups in sustainable development policy-making and is one of the concerned institutions for the preparation, adoption, implementation, and improvement of sustainable development policies, which also includes progress made towards achieving the SDGs.

Additionally, Belgium also utilizes subnational competences in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The already existing Interministerial Conference on Sustainable Development (IMCSD) has been reinvigorated to enhance cooperation within the Belgian framework. One of the themes of this IMCSD will be the implementation of the SDGs in the National Strategy on Sustainable Development. Whereas the interaction with the European and multilateral level is concerned, existing coordination platforms for political and strategic orientation (e.g. Coormulti and DGE) will continue serve as mechanisms to determine the common Belgian position by taking on board the positions of the federal and federated entities.

Regional Level

Wallonia

For the purposes of this Input Paper, only the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Wallonia will be looked into, as a representative from Wallonia will be present at the Peer Learning Platform to give a presentation. The presentation will elaborate on how the different chapters of the current sustainable development strategy (vision, diagnosis, short and medium term objectives, action plan) integrate the SDGs and will highlight specific challenges for Wallonia to progress in this field.

Wallonia is one of the three Belgian Regions, with a population of 3 614 473 inhabitants. In Belgium, sustainable development is a shared competence between communities', regional and federal governments. Regions also hold key competences for sustainable development, such as economic policy and employment, trade, transport, housing and spatial planning, environment and agriculture, health and social assistance.

At the Walloon level, horizontal integration is undertaken mainly through the implementation of the sustainable development strategy. *The decree on the Walloon Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted by the Walloon Government in 2013, foresees the elaboration of such a strategy every legislature.* This strategy is the project of the whole Government and its implementation is under the responsibility of different Ministers and administrations each of them being in charge of the implementation of specific measures within the action plan.

In addition, an independent sustainable development advisory unit has also been established in 2013. This unit is consulted by policymakers as regards compliance with sustainable development principles of certain projects or legislative proposals."

The 2nd Walloon Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted on 7 July 2016, aims to implement SDGs at the regional level along with other global or sectoral policies and plans. This Strategy fully integrates the SDGs adopted at UN level 10 months before the adoption of the strategy. The long-term vision of the strategy "reflects a region in which all 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the UN Summit will be achieved". SDGs are also presented as the short and medium term objectives for Wallonia in terms of sustainable development, and the axes of the action plan are related to SDGs. Specific actions of the Strategy are dedicated to monitor SDGs and to raise awareness about the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, the Walloon Region has published its first SDGs' implementation report, adopted by the Walloon Government in April 2017. It includes an inventory of the Walloon strategies, programs and plans that contribute to achieving the SDGs, an analysis of 70 indicators selected to monitor SDGs in Wallonia and a set of good practices implemented by Walloon public institutions, civil society and the private sector. Subsequently, the indicators presented in this report will be updated periodically in the form of a barometer to assess the progress of the Region in its transition to sustainable development.

Germany

National Level

The sustainable development strategy is the key framework for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, the institutions of the sustainable development strategy are at the same time important institutions for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The German Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) was updated to reflect the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in January 2017.

The review of the NSDS started in October 2015 shortly after the 2030 Agenda was adopted. A series of 5 stakeholder conferences (Berlin, Dresden, Stuttgart, Bonn and Hamburg) opened the discussion on a new NSDS 2016. Periodical newsletters informed about the activities and sustainability discussions taking place. A draft of the new/reviewed NSDS 2016 has been published by the end of May 2016 and opened for a second consultation phase via internet. In addition, dialogue meetings with the federal states as well as associations and organisations took place during summer 2016.

The new NSDS aims at strengthening stakeholder involvement. Plans for this include a regular dialogue format ("Sustainability Forum") and the greater involvement of social stakeholders in the preparation of meetings of the State Secretaries' Committee ("Dialogue Group"). The first Sustainability Forum took place in July 2017. The government presented progress on implementing the 2030 Agenda. Social organisations reported on their activities and discussed implementation measures of the government. Preparations for setting up the Dialogue Group are underway. In science, various initiatives have been launched to support the implementation of the SDGs. The Federal Government has embraced these initiatives and offers a platform on which scientific support for the implementation of the SDGs will be pooled ("Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit/Science Platform Sustainability 2030").

The German Council for Sustainable Development was established by the German Government in April 2001. Its members are appointed by the Chancellor. Currently it is composed of 15 members from various social groups, the business sector as well as from the science and research community. Its mission is to advise the German government on all matters relating to SD and to contribute to the further development of the NSDS. In addition, the Council is an important stakeholder in the public dialogue on SD. A statement of the Council was published as a guest chapter in the Progress Reports 2008 and 2012 and was again part of the new NSDS 2016.

The Council organizes Annual Conferences for Sustainable Development with more than 1000 participants and key notes by the Chancellor. The Conference offers national and international guests the opportunity to hear and discuss about the latest SD news and issues.

A strengthened collaboration between the Council for SD, the Parliamentary Advisory Council on SD and the State Secretaries' Committee for SD is ongoing. Each of the three institutions invites representatives of the other two to its regular meetings.

Germany has a fairly longer history of adhering to sustainable development and has built up mechanisms to help in its implementation. Since 2000, the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development exists as a high-ranking steering, coordinating and monitoring body for sustainable development. It decides about the strategy and its further development (subject to later formal approval of the cabinet), and keeps a close eye on its implementation. The Committee is composed of state secretaries (representatives of the minister, top level of civil servants) from all ministries. It is chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery, who is the main leader in the national sustainable development process.

In Germany, the responsibility for national sustainable development policies does not lie with one of the ministries, but with the Federal Chancellery itself. This is considered a key success factor for sustainable development in Germany. The Chancellery does not only have a coordination role, but is also steering the process and providing important inputs to the relevant ministries. It shows the special importance that the federal government attaches to sustainable development policies and is based on the fact that sustainable development is a cross-cutting subject. Political leadership for the NSDS falls under the "guidance competence" of the Chancellery, and its administrative implementation takes place through a link between the Chancellery and the respective ministries responsible for the specific issue at hand. A permanent inter-ministerial working-group for sustainable development (chaired also by the Chancellery) prepares for the meetings of the State Secretaries' Committee.

The Committee meets about four times a year. Beginning in December 2008, the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development worked on the basis of a working programme comprising important topics for sustainable development. Subjects of the meetings since spring 2012 included education for sustainable development, CSR, the 2013 Peer Review on the national SDS, the Post-2015 Agenda, sustainable urban development, sustainable consumption and sustainable finance policy. To the Committees' meetings, the Chair regularly invites respective experts, e.g. from science, NGOs and/or businesses.

The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development of the German Parliament regularly provides the State Secretaries' Committee with its opinions and recommendations on the selected topic.

Since January 2009, departmental reports on the implementation of sustainable development are being presented to the States Secretaries' Committee and published in the internet (available only in German).

A major reform in order to strengthen the implementation of the strategy in daily policy was the introduction of sustainable development as a criterion for the impact assessment for new

laws or regulations. In May 2009, SD was included permanently in the standing orders of the federal government ("Gemeinsame Geschäftsordnung der Bundesministerien", GGO). A guideline published by the Department for Internal Affairs in June 2009 advises to use the indicators and management rules of the strategy for this sustainable development impact assessment. The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development of the German Parliament evaluates and comments the procedural quality of the impact assessment as it is documented in the drafts of new laws or regulations delivered to the German Parliament. Recently an online tool has been introduced to link the sustainable impact assessment more systematically to the SDGs.

As part of the new NSDS, it was decided to further strengthen policy coherence: Coordinators for Sustainable Development have been appointed in each ministry, in most cases at Director-General level. They are central contact persons for all issues relating to Sustainable Development and will be involved in the preparation of the Sustainable Development Impact assessments.

However, as Germany is a federal country, the NSDS is the strategy of the national government only, meaning the NSDS is not binding for the federal states. Nevertheless, the cooperation between the national level and the federal states for NSDS implementation has been significantly increased. The federal states are involved in the definition process of concrete measures based on the NSDS. They participated in the consultation process to the Progress Reports 2008, 2012, and 2016. In 2008, 2012 and again in 2016, the federal states have contributed their own statements to the national government's Progress Reports, which were adopted by the Prime Ministers of the federal states.

In their progress report-statements, the federal states advocate a stronger cooperation between them and the federal government on the NSDS and the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Since 2008, the cooperation, especially in the fields of sustainable public procurement, reduction of land use, and sustainability-indicators, has been addressed in the regular meetings between the Head of the Federal Chancellery and the Heads of the Prime Ministers' offices of the federal states.

The federal states welcome the lively exchange on public procurement between the federal government, the federal states themselves and the local authorities. The "Alliance for Sustainable Procurement" provides a platform for the federal government to bundle know-how for public procurement at the federal level. The federal states take this as an opportunity to make experiences accessible and useful, whilst maintaining their autonomy. They intend to continue this exchange of knowledge, methods, and instruments.

In the field of reduction of land use/consumption of new land, the national, federal states and local levels work together to find sustainable solutions that meet the demand for land and, at the same time, protect the natural environment and the land required for farming.

The federal states stress the significance of common sustainability indicators at the national and federal states levels. The orientation to universal, national indicators based on the indicators of the NSDS has proven valid and seems to offer the greatest possible compliance and comparability at the federal states level based on the existing data. This includes a mapping of federal states-specific targets with their own indicators.

The participation of the federal states is also institutionalised in various working groups involving public administrators of the national government and the federal states as part of the Conference of Environmental Ministers (a forum in which the Environmental Ministers of the federal states and representatives of the Federal Ministry for the Environment meet), which mostly serve as a forum for exchange of experiences. Sustainable development is currently addressed in the working group “climate, energy, mobility sustainability (BLAG KliNa)”, that has been operating since January 2008. In addition, there are further working groups in place providing a platform for an exchange of the federal level with federal states and municipalities (sustainable urban development; smart cities and SD, international urbanization, research and innovation: innovation platform „future city“).

In terms of their responsibility on education policy, the federal states have consistently expanded their activities in the field of education for sustainable development with specific measures and programmes.

13 of 15 federal states have their own SD strategies in place as a reference framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Government of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany for example adopted its first Sustainable Development Strategy in June 2016. It was the first German region that committed itself to implement the global SDGs that were adopted at the UN Summit in New York in September 2016. The centrepiece of the Sustainable Development Strategy is a goal and indicator system for 19 main fields of action with which the regional government determines ambitious goals to be reached by 2030. The monitoring system comprises about 70 indicators. Every two years, an indicator report will be prepared, and every four years, the Sustainable Development Strategy will be updated.

Regional Level

Saarland

The Saarland is one of 16 Federal German States. It is about 2,500 km² and has a population of about 1 million. The Saarland is characterized by strong influence from the industrial sector.

The Saarland sustainability strategy emerged in a two-year, not always easy process: Based on a decision of the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) at the beginning of 2015, the strategy was developed in a dialogue-oriented and participatory way from the outset. Important actors that were present were an inter-ministerial working group, in which each ministry and the State Chancellery were represented, and a Council for Sustainability, which was comprised of important civil society stakeholders.

First, six fields of action were identified: education and knowledge, finance, demography and sustainable settlement development, climate and resource protection, preservation and strengthening of businesses, and mobility. Each of these fields of action relates to one or more of the SDGs. Saarland was the first federal state to make the SDGs the structural basis of its sustainability strategy. The German Sustainability Strategy was also considered. There is also an intensive, institutionalized exchange of information with the other German Federal States.

In the summer of 2016, a sustainability conference was conducted, as well as an online survey, the results of which were reflected in the strategy. The sustainability strategy was then enacted on 17 January 2017 by the Saarland state government.

One focus of the strategy is Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). As a lighthouse project, the state government has carried out a mobile phone campaign in an effort to sensitize children and young people regarding the consumer good "smartphones" and its effects on resource problems. This campaign also received a lot of attention beyond the Saarland.

The definition of indicators for the individual SDGs is still open and will be a focus for activities in the Saarland for 2018. The implementation of the strategy in all policy areas is also a permanent task.

Italy

National Level

The NSDS was approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE) in December 2017, in accordance with the provisions of Law 221/2015. It represents an update of the former Environmental action strategy for sustainable development (2002-2010), widened to define broad guidelines for economic, social and environmental policies, which are aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030 in Italy.

The multilevel consultation approach, at the core of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, included the consultation of all the Italian Ministries and of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. It was developed in several phases until the approval of the NSDS (see Figure 2).

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers coordinates the implementation of the NSDS (see Figure 2), with the support of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, respectively, for the domestic and external dimension.

In Italy, the overall coordination of policies at the national and subnational levels is ensured through a system of public representative bodies of local and regional authorities (LRAs):

- The State-Regions Conference;
- The Conference of the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces (CRPA); and
- The State-Cities and Local Autonomies Conference.

The State-Regions Conference fosters cooperation between the State, the Regions, and the Autonomous Provinces by conveying the views of the Conference of the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces to the State. The Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) ensures coordination between the Provinces and the State. The State-Cities and Local Autonomies Conference is in charge of the coordination between the State and LRAs and the monitoring of policies which may have an impact on the LRAs' competences. It holds joint meetings with the Conference of the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces on matters of common interest. A Joint

Conference puts together the State-Region Conference and the State-Cities and Local Autonomies Conference. Its overall mission is to foster cooperation between the State and all the LRAs.

With regards to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the sub-national level, a wide multilevel consultation approach was at the core of the NSDS, in line with the guiding principles of the 2030 Agenda, which included the consultation of the Italian Regions and of the State-Regions Conference, all along the elaboration process of the NSDS (see Figure 2). The consultation process was functional to the implementation of a document deeply shared with the different actors according to their competences.



Figure 2: The NSDS consultation process addressed to national and regional institutions

Furthermore, the Government, through the State and Regions Conference, and in accordance with Art.34, of the Legislative Decree n.152/2006 (as amended), enhances local and regional authorities to be active and to take part in the implementation process. In this regard, the above-mentioned Art.34 foresees that Regions adopt the regional strategies for sustainable development within twelve months from the approval of the NSDS by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE), defining the contribution to the achievement of the national strategic objectives.

In this context, the Ministry for the Environment has developed and launched a set of actions, to foster a more effective integration and governance of the principle of sustainability in public policies, both in the context of the programming period 2014-2020 of the European Structural and Investment Fund (hereinafter ESI Funds) and through national financial resources. Among these actions, a significant role is assigned to the CREIAMO PA Project - Competences and Networks for the Environmental Integration and for the Improvement of the Public Administration Organizations (hereinafter Project or CREIAMO PA), the project initiative managed by the Ministry for the Environment (beneficiary), and which is financed under the National Operational Program Governance and Institutional Capacity 2014-2020. The project is described in more detail in the next sub-section.

Regarding the involvement of other ministries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, each Italian Ministry will be involved in the implementation process and will provide its own specific contribution according to its individual expertise. In particular, the Ministry of Economy and Finance will be responsible for linking the implementation of the Strategy with the official economic policy documents and for coordinating the modeling required to define the related objectives. The implementation of the NSDS will be linked, in fact, with the National Reform Programme (NPF) and the Economic and Financial Document (DEF). In addition, the Ministry for the Environment will ensure the involvement of civil society, coordinating the Forum on Sustainable Development.

Moreover, it is foreseen an annual monitoring of the NSDS implementation status also based on the indicators provided by the National Institute of Statistics and by institutions belonging to the National Statistical System (SISTAN).

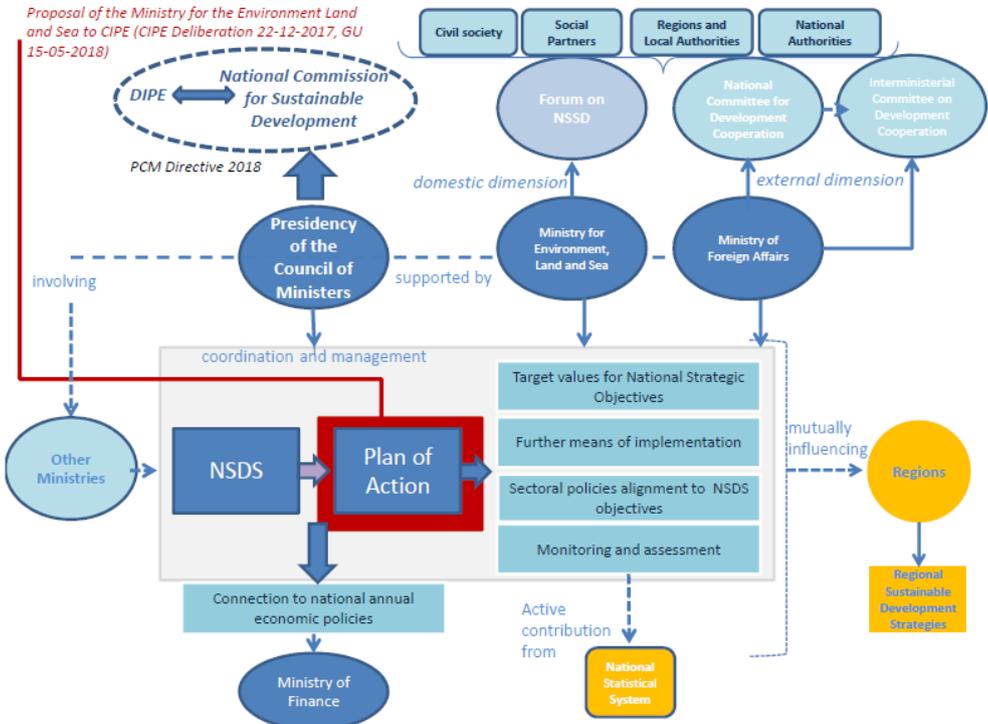


Figure 3: Governance of the NSDS

Following the principles of the 2030 Agenda, civil society has been involved since the very initial phase of the NSDS definition process. In this way it was supported a bottom-up approach, aimed at collecting requests and contributions concerning both the challenges and priorities to be faced and the long-term vision to be built.

More than 200 NGOs have been involved providing a valuable contribution to the context analysis and useful inputs to reflect the vision of the 2030 Agenda into the NSDS (see Figure 4). Universities and research agencies were also hugely involved to verify and consolidate the technical-scientific basis and contents of the context analysis (see Figure 5).

Stakeholders involved in the NSDS definition process are directly engaged in carrying out initiatives linked to SDGs and NSDS implementation. Among the others, the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), established in February 2016, gathers over 180 civil society

organizations, several Italian universities and different stakeholders engaged in contributing to the 2030 Agenda. In May 2017, ASviS launched the first edition of the annual Sustainable Development Festival, a large-scale awareness raising campaign to foster cultural-political reflections on the issue across the country.



Figure 4: The NDS consultation process addressed to civil society

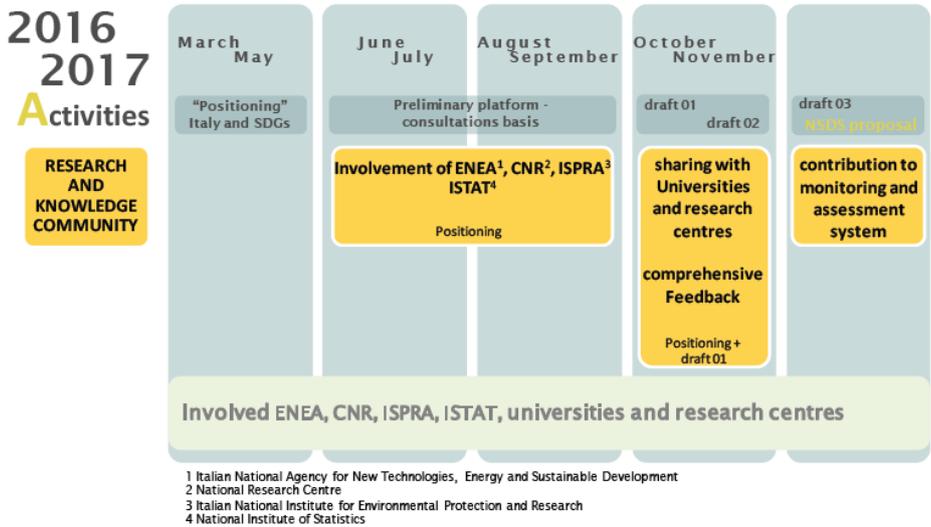


Figure 5: The NDS consultation process addressed to research and knowledge community

With regard to the involvement of stakeholders in the NSDS implementation process, the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea will ensure forms of public consultation by creating a Forum on sustainable development open to civil society and relevant stakeholders building on the positive experience of the NSDS consultation process.

The main steps towards the implementation of the NSDS, already mentioned in the previous paragraphs, are the following:

- Further governance mechanisms are expected to be put in place in the next months, clarifying roles and competences of all the involved institutions;
- The Regional working table will be fully operational and will provide a methodological support for the development of the regional sustainable development strategies;

- An implementation document will be developed and will include objectives at 2030, linked to quantitative targets, as well as monitoring and review mechanisms and analytical models capable of measuring the impacts of policies on the NSDS objectives;
- The NSDS foresees an annual monitoring of its implementation status also based on the indicators provided by the National Institute of Statistics and by institutions belonging to SISTAN; and
- The Forum on sustainable development will be launched in the second half of 2018 providing a wide role of the civil society in implementing the NSDS and the 2030 Agenda in Italy.

CReIAMO PA Project

The CReIAMO PA Project, in particular, supports regional authorities in the integration of environmental sustainability in plans, programs and policies, aiming at launching a transformative process towards the implementation of sustainable development at territorial level.

The Project is structured into nine Intervention Lines. Seven "thematic" Lines are linked to the priorities identified by the Seventh Environmental Action Plan (as per Decision 1386/2013/EU), and two "transversal" Lines are instrumental in implementing the first ones.

With reference to the issues most directly related to 2030 Agenda, the CReIAMO PA Project includes a special integrated "package" of actions to support the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at the territorial level. More specifically, its actions are articulated within the Intervention Line 2 "Support for the integration of environmental sustainability objectives into administrative actions for the implementation of national strategies", Work Package 1 "Implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda (hereinafter L2WP1).

In detail, the L2WP1 includes the following activities:

- Conferences addressed to institutions and civil society, according to the working method adopted for the elaboration of the NSDS and in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda;
- Involvement of the regional institutions through:
 - Regional working table (Regions and Ministry of the Environment): to provide operational support to the paths towards the definition of the regional strategies for sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
 - 7 training on the job modules addressed to Regions;
- Review and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Regional Level

Piedmont

The Piedmont Region still has to formalize its Sustainable Development Strategy, but it is in the process of identifying the main elements to be addressed in order to include the goals of the 2030 Agenda in its regional policies.

The process started with the setting-up of the Regional Strategy for Climate Change as a first tool to guide regional policies. This document will lead both to the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions within the various planning tools, and to the sharing of what has been done so far in relation to a variety of relevant issues, without directly addressing sustainability.

The Piedmont Region has, therefore, started a process based on stakeholder involvement, institutional discussions, and sharing of knowledge and experience. Outcomes from discussions held so far with both public and private stakeholders are reflected in the Protocol “The Piedmont Region for Green Education”, which is a tool supporting growth and transition towards a new development model targeting green and circular economy. In Piedmont, there is a series of well-established organizations that, each in its relevant field, contribute to sustainability goals: besides governmental institutions and research organizations, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO, a UN organization based in Turin), Hydroaid (Water for Development Management Institute, supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), CinemAmbiente (Environmental Film Festival Association, which has been involved in raising awareness on environmental and sustainability issues for over 20 years through the promotion of environmental films), the Environmental Museum (an association focusing on raising the awareness of school children in sustainability issues), and the Green Network (network of regional secondary schools), constitute relevant examples.

The institutional debate needs a governance model which is both horizontal and vertical; for the Piedmont Region, this model has already been implemented through the use of effective tools, such as the Board for Interdisciplinary and Interdepartmental Works, originally set up to deal with climate change issues, but now considering also transport and air quality. With regards to vertical governance, the Piedmont Region is strengthening actions which were already established within the framework of the Control Rooms, which are in charge of managing integrated participative processes, such as the River Contracts, and other strategic territorial programs, such as Corona Verde, the green infrastructure of the metropolitan area of Turin.

To introduce sustainability into specific territorial dynamics, knowledge building and dissemination are essential, and are reflected in the annual Report on the State of the Environment (developed by the Piedmont Region and the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Piedmont), and in the Socio-economic Annual Report (developed by the Piedmontese Institute for socio-economic research), which investigate environmental, social, and economic issues related to the Piedmontese system. The Piedmont Region also aims to assess the sustainability of its own territory by providing guidelines for the development of the Regional Statistics Yearbook. In 2017, this document, which is in line with the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, was prepared using a set of indicators provided by the Italian National Institute of Statistics, and allows the wellbeing of the Piedmontese community to be measured through the use of the BES index on sustainable and just wellbeing.

To overcome the obvious limits of economic policies targeting exclusively GDP, the Piedmont Region, in line with what has been carried out at the National level, introduced in its Economic and Financial Document, the main regional tool for economic planning, a specific chapter

concerning sustainability, intended as a “reference point for a substantial change of its economic, social, and environmental policies”.

Conclusion

From a brief analysis of the 18 European countries' implementation activities, and according to the information provided by the NFPs, it is possible to highlight the following developments the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Europe:

(1) Leading ministry/institution: With respect to leading ministry and institutions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, different approaches emerged. However, the leading role is generally assigned to a high political level.

(2) Integration of SDGs into national frameworks: The 18 countries are putting efforts in this direction mainly by:

- **Revising and updating their NSDS:** most of the countries are revising or updating existing NSDS, or are in the process of identifying the appropriate governmental structure for implementation;
- **Stakeholder involvement in Commission on SD, Council on SD, and multi-stakeholder committee:** The use of at least one of these bodies is a common approach in the 2030 Agenda implementation process. Several countries adopted a specific Commission on SD, Council on SD, or multi-stakeholder committee dedicated to 2030 Agenda implementation. The need for active stakeholder engagement is generally recognized among all countries.
- **Conducting mapping exercises and gap analysis:** Several countries explicitly mentioned the use of this practice for identifying national readiness for the 2030 Agenda implementation. Gap analyses and mapping exercises are used to assess the national situation in relation to each SDG and identify the key implementation challenges, or to map SDG indicators against the NSDS performance indicators.

(3) Inclusion of subnational level: Several countries are trying to take the subnational level into account when progressing in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This tends to be very common in countries that see regions with a higher level of autonomy, such as in Germany or Italy, in creating their own sustainable development strategies that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</p>	<p>6.1.1 <i>Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</i></p>
<p>6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations</p>	<p>6.2.1 <i>Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water</i></p>
<p>6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally</p>	<p>6.3.1 <i>Proportion of wastewater safely treated</i></p>
	<p>6.3.2 <i>Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality</i></p>
<p>6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity</p>	<p>6.4.1 <i>Change in water-use efficiency over time</i></p>
	<p>6.4.2 <i>Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources</i></p>

6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	6.5.1	<i>Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)</i>
		6.5.2	<i>Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation</i>
6.6	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	6.6.1	<i>Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time</i>
6.A	By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies	6.A.1	<i>Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan</i>
6.B	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management	6.B.1	<i>Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



TARGETS

INDICATORS

7.1

7.1.1

Proportion of wastewater safely treated

	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.1.2	<i>Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology</i>
7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	7.2.1	<i>Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption</i>
7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	7.3.1	<i>Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP</i>
7.A	By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology	7.A.1	<i>Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment</i>
7.B	By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support	7.B.1	<i>Investments in energy efficiency as a percentage of GDP and the amount of foreign direct investment in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to sustainable development services</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



TARGETS		INDICATORS
11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	11.1.1 <i>Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing</i>
11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	11.2.1 <i>Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</i>
11.3	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	11.3.1 <i>Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate</i>
		11.3.2 <i>Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically</i>
11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	11.4.1 <i>Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre</i>

			<i>designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)</i>
11.5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	11.5.1	<i>Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people</i>
		11.5.2	<i>Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services</i>
11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	11.6.1	<i>Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time</i>
		11.6.2	<i>Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)</i>
11.7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	11.7.1	<i>Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</i>
		11.7.2	<i>Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and</i>

		<i>place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months</i>
11.A	Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning	11.A.1 <i>Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city</i>
11.B	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels	11.B.1 <i>Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030a</i>
		11.B.2 <i>Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies</i>
11.C	Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials	11.C.1 <i>Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries</p>	<p>12.1.1 <i>Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies</i></p>
<p>12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p>	<p>12.2.1 <i>Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP</i></p> <p>12.2.2 <i>Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP</i></p>
<p>12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses</p>	<p>12.3.1 <i>Global food loss index</i></p>
<p>12.4</p>	<p>12.4.1 <i>Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on</i></p>

<p>By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment</p>	<p><i>hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement</i></p>
<p>12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p>	<p>12.4.2 <i>Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment</i></p> <p>12.5.1 <i>National recycling rate, tons of material recycled</i></p>
<p>12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle</p>	<p>12.6.1 <i>Number of companies publishing sustainability reports</i></p>
<p>12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities</p>	<p>12.7.1 <i>Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans</i></p>
<p>12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature</p>	<p>12.8.1 <i>Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula;</i></p>

(c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

12.A Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

12.A.1 Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies

12.B Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

12.B.1 Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools

12.C Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

12.C.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements</p>	<p>15.1.1 <i>Forest area as a proportion of total land area</i></p> <hr/> <p>15.1.2 <i>Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type</i></p>
<p>15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</p>	<p>15.2.1 <i>Progress towards sustainable forest management</i></p>
<p>15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</p>	<p>15.3.1 <i>Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area</i></p>
<p>15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development</p>	<p>15.4.1 <i>Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity</i></p> <hr/> <p>15.4.2 <i>Mountain Green Cover Index</i></p>

15.5	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	15.5.1 <i>Red List Index</i>
15.6	Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed	15.6.1 <i>Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits</i>
15.7	Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	15.7.1 <i>Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked</i>
15.8	By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	15.8.1 <i>Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species</i>
15.9	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	15.9.1 <i>Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</i>
15.A	Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems	15.A.1 <i>Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems</i>

15.B Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

15.B.1 *Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems*

15.C Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

15.C.1 *Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked*

