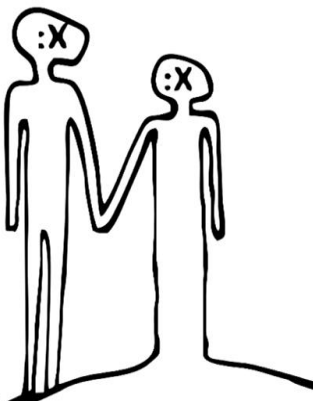# Mainstreaming SDGs in Regulatory Impact Assessments

21st ESDN Workshop, Culture and Sustainable Development & SDG Implementation in Policymaking: Approaches in SDG Budgeting, Mainstreaming and Performance Management
22 – 23 May 2023, Viena

ILEANA LUMINIȚA BĂLĂLĂU

ESDN Advisory Board Member, Prime Minister's Office – Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

Sustainable development in Romania
PARCURSUL ROMÂNIEI

June 08

The Government of Romania decides to adopt the **National Action Plan for the implementation of Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030**, drawn up under the direct coordination of the Department of Sustainable Development

Instruments:
99 Național Indicators for Sustainable Development
Sustainable Romania - SDGs open data platform
150 experts of sustainable development
Romanian Code of Sustainability

April 18

The Parliament of Romania was **the first of the 176 parliaments** of the Inter-parliamentary Union to express its support for the 2030 Agenda, through the joint declaration of the assembled chambers

November 09

The Government of Romania decides to **adopt the Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030**, drawn up under the direct coordination of the Department of Sustainable Development

May 02

The Government of Romania decides to establish the **Consultative Council for Sustainable Development**, which includes 34 experts covering all 17 SDGs

December, 02
UN Public Service Award
StrenghtRO-SDGs

2015

2016

2017

2018

1ˢᵗ VNR

2019

2020

2021

2022

2ⁿᵈ VNR

2023

September 25

omania, next to 192 Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, dopts the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: **Transforming our world**

May 25

The Government of Romania decides to establish the **Department of Sustainable Development** under the Prime Minister, as the **national coordinator** in implementing the set of 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda

May 08

The Government of Romania decides to establish the **Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development**, which includes all ministers chaired by Prime Minister

Adherence to OECD PCSD Recommendation
First OECD stocktaking Report: Linking policy planning with SDG budgeting

April 13

The Department of Sustainable Development initiated the **Coalition** *Sustainable Romania* which brought together representative organizations of civil society and the private sector

May 25

The Department of Sustainable Development sets up the network of **22 hubs for sustainable development** in all ministries, with approx. 90 specialists
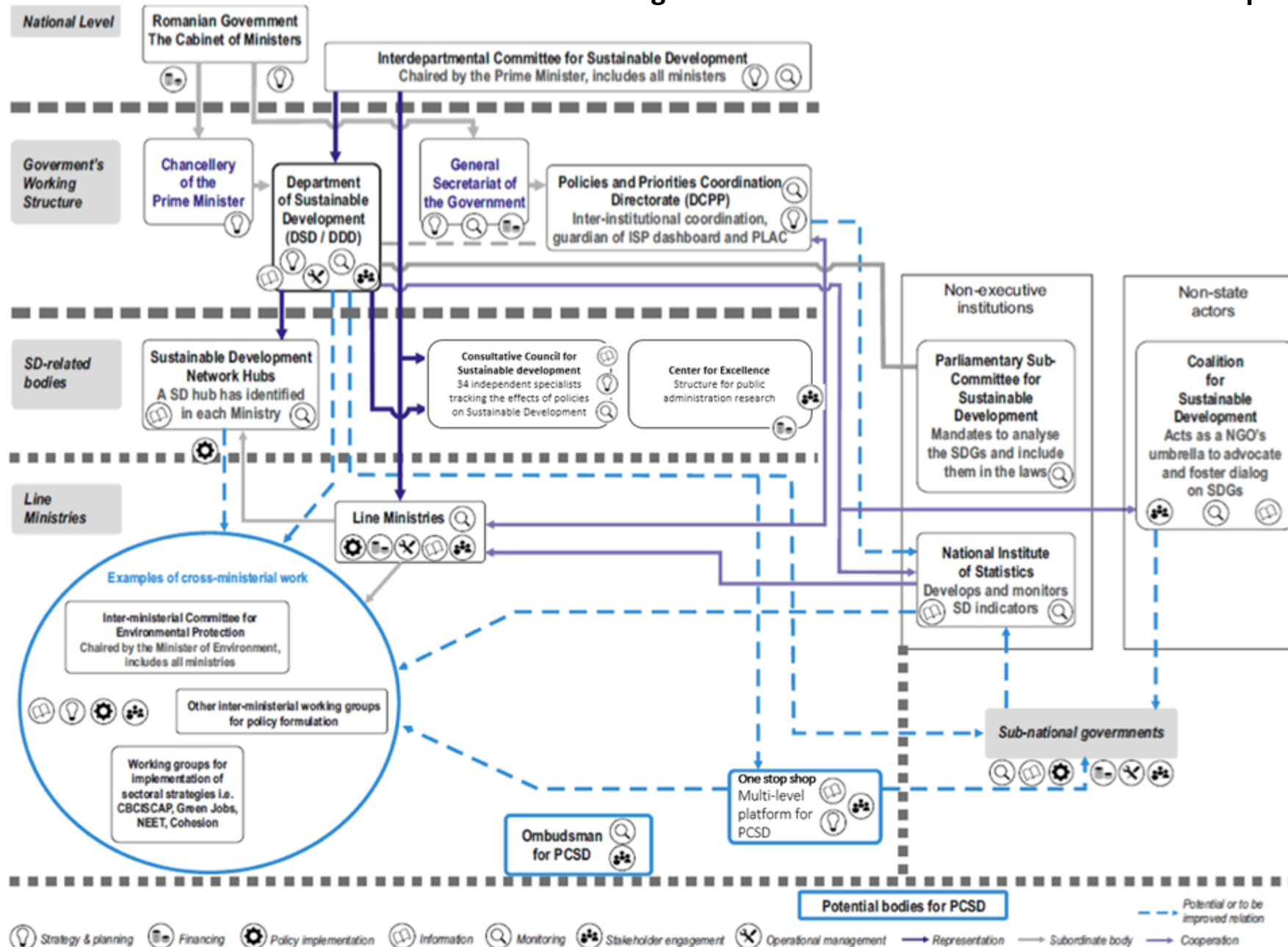
Two PCSD Projects – OECD support
-   **Second OECD Stocktaking report**
-   **2 PCSD workshops**
-   **PCSD Roadmap**
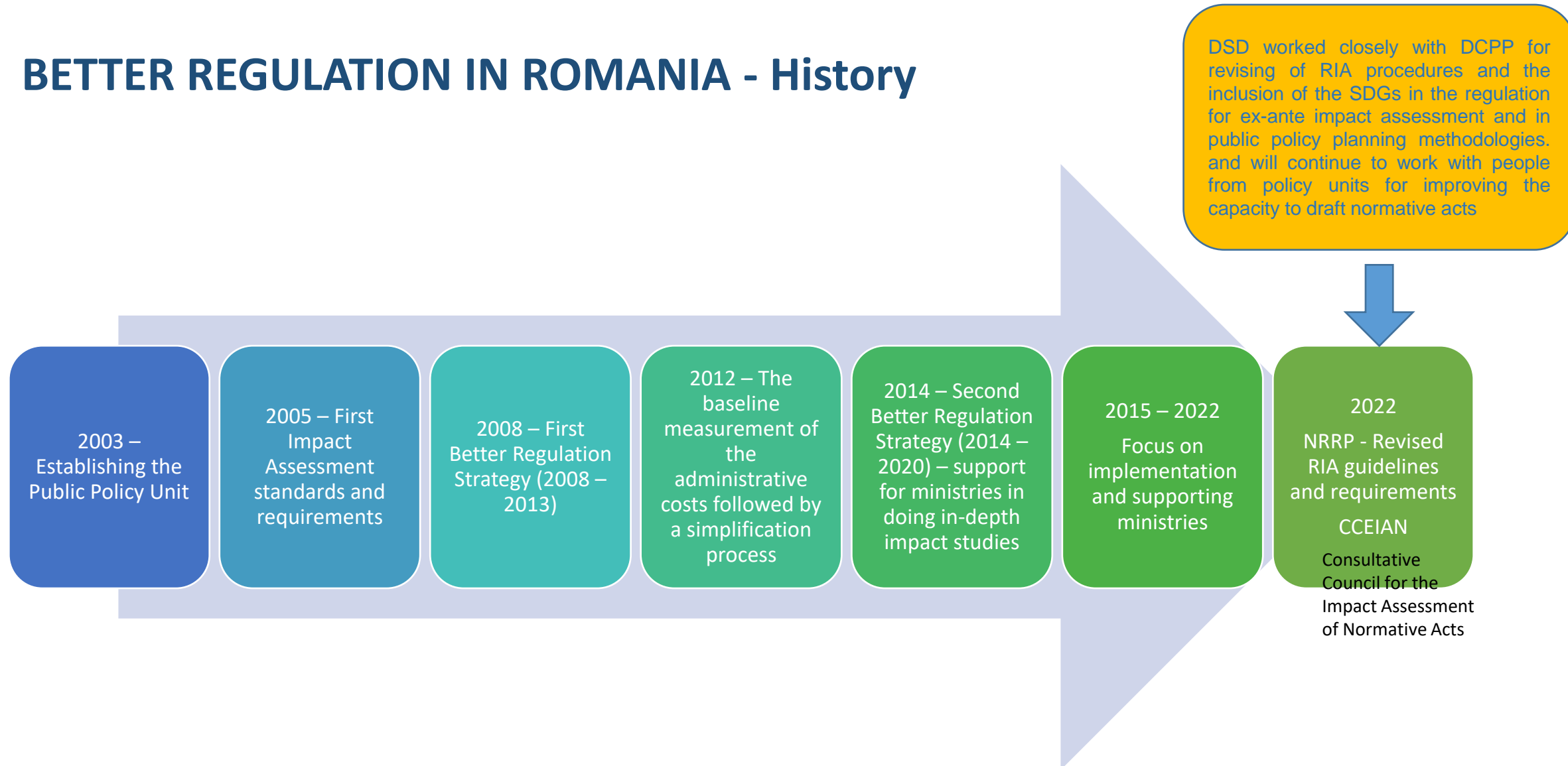-   **PCSD guidelines (RIA and territorial approach of the SDGs**

New regulations for embedding the SDGs into national policy planning methodologies

Romania's governance framework for sustainable development and PCSD

National Level

Romanian Government
The Cabinet of Ministers

Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development
Chaired by the Prime Minister, includes all ministers

Government's Working Structure

Chancellery of the Prime Minister

Department of Sustainable Development (DSD / DDD)

General Secretariat of the Government

Policies and Priorities Coordination Directorate (DCPP)
Inter-institutional coordination, guardian of ISP dashboard and PLAC

SD-related bodies

Sustainable Development Network Hubs
A SD hub has identified in each Ministry

Consultative Council for Sustainable development
34 independent specialists tracking the effects of policies on Sustainable Development

Center for Excellence
Structure for public administration research

Non-executive institutions

Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development
Mandates to analyse the SDGs and include them in the laws

Non-state actors

Coalition for Sustainable Development
Acts as a NGO's umbrella to advocate and foster dialog on SDGs

Line Ministries

Line Ministries

Examples of cross-ministerial work

Inter-ministerial Committee for Environmental Protection
Chaired by the Minister of Environment, includes all ministries

Other inter-ministerial working groups for policy formulation

Working groups for implementation of sectoral strategies i.e. CBCISCAP, Green Jobs, NEET, Cohesion

National Institute of Statistics
Develops and monitors SD indicators

Sub-national governments

One stop shop
Multi-level platform for PCSD

Ombudsman for PCSD

Potential bodies for PCSD

Strategy & planning · Financing · Policy implementation · Information · Monitoring · Stakeholder engagement · Operational management → Representation — Subordinate body — Cooperation

Potential or to be improved relation

Romania's National Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 defines Romania's national framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda

3

BETTER REGULATION IN ROMANIA - History

DSD worked closely with DCPP for revising of RIA procedures and the inclusion of the SDGs in the regulation for ex-ante impact assessment and in public policy planning methodologies. and will continue to work with people from policy units for improving the capacity to draft normative acts

2003 – Establishing the Public Policy Unit

2005 – First Impact Assessment standards and requirements

2008 – First Better Regulation Strategy (2008 – 2013)

2012 – The baseline measurement of the administrative costs followed by a simplification process

2014 – Second Better Regulation Strategy (2014 – 2020) – support for ministries in doing in-depth impact studies

2015 – 2022 Focus on implementation and supporting ministries

2022 NRRP - Revised RIA guidelines and requirements

CCEIAN

Consultative Council for the Impact Assessment of Normative Acts

Legislative changes that enable the integration of the SDGs into policy planning

- adoption of GD 379/2022 which establishes the methodology to improve the system of elaboration, coordination and planning of public policies at the level of the central public administration. The new methodology mandates the DCPP to work together with the DSD towards policy coherence for sustainable development (Art. 5). It also notes that the process to develop government strategies should "present the expected effects of the strategies and related results in a quantifiable manner, describing the economic, social, environmental and cultural changes, including the contribution to sustainable development objectives, as a result of the impact of the strategy implementation" and "present the indicators on the basis of which the evolution of the implementation of the strategy will be measured, with reference to the targeted national indicators of sustainable development" (Art 7)

- GD 427/2022 approves an updated Methodology for the preparation and implementation of budgetary programmes, with a view to ensure an adequate link between priority policies and the budget. This is an opportunity for the implementation of NAP Specific Objective 2 - National budget planning framework for the implementation of budgeting based on sustainable development objectives.

- GD 443/2022 updates the ex ante evaluation methodology for draft regulations. The DSD has proposed that each ex-ante evaluation must identify the relevant SDGs for that initiative and report on this in a section dedicated to sustainable development. The assessment questions would correspond or be similar to those applied in the EU Better Regulation toolbox.

Ongoing projects in support of enhancing PCSD and capacity building

- The project "Enhancing policy coherence, transparency and coordination at the Centre of Government in Romania", funded by the European Commission through the Technical Support Instrument (TSI), aims at **building capacity of the GSG to consolidate its role in policy development and coordination, in line with the ambitions outlined by Romania in the public administration reform that is part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP),** and the strengthening of the role of the policy units in line ministries.

- The project "Capacity building in the field of public governance – a coordinated approach of the Centre of the Government of Romania", funded by EEA-Norway grants, includes a component that focuses specifically on the implementation of the SDGs. The main outputs of the project:

  - stocktaking report on the progress in enhancing PCSD in Romania: Opportunities and challenges in NAP implementation
  - an implementation roadmap for the NAP.
  - workshop 29 November 2022, Mechanisms and tools for addressing NAP bottlenecks: Towards internal guidance for implementing the NAP's 12 Specific Objectives in accordance with the NSDS targets; **Case study: Italy's PCSD National Action Plan**
  - workshop 28 February 2023, Capacity building in the field of public governance: A coordinated approach of the Centre of the Government of Romania; A peer learning workshop with the Czech Republic

Purpose of the workshop

- On short term, to initiate discussions on how to ensure a better coordination between the main institutions involved in the RIA process.
- In the medium-term:
  - To establish an informal/formal procedure within ministries on how to involve the experts on sustainable development in the RIA process preceding the drafting of a policy document or a normative act. What type of input and support should the experts provide? How close are they to the decision-making process/structures in their institution?
  - to ensure better coordination between the DSD and DCPP, especially regarding the scrutiny of the new legislative proposals. For example, should DSD provide inputs to the new Consultative Council for Impact Assessment of Normative Acts?

In parallel, efforts should be made to build capacity, including by:
  - Training ministries on how to identify and describe the correlation between the new legislative proposals and the SDGs according to OECD and EU guidelines and standards.
  - Organizing workshops and training sessions with concrete examples both from international and local practices.
  - Developing specific instructions on how to fill in the section on sustainable development from Annex 1 to GD 443/2022 – the main regulation on RIA.