



Government of the Republic of  
North Macedonia



# **22nd ESDN Workshop**

## **Governance Transformations for More Effective SDG Implementation**

Office of the Prime minister/Cabinet of the Deputy President of the Government  
in charge of economic affairs, coordination of economic departments and  
investments

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# Relevant EU acquis and international acts

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

- **52015DC0044:** The EU position in the build-up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is set out in the following policy papers: Commission Communication, 5 February 2015 - "A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015" COM/2015/044 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52015DC0044>
- **9241/15:** Council Conclusions, 26 May 2015 - "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015" <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/05/26/fac-dev-council-conclusions-global-partnership/> full text <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9241-2015-INIT/en/pdf>
- Council Conclusions, 16 December 2014 - "On a transformative post-2015 agenda". [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/foraff/146311.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/foraff/146311.pdf)
- **11559/13:** Council Conclusions, 25 June 2013 - "The Overarching Post 2015 Agenda" <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&f=ST%2011559%202013%20INIT>  
[https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/137614.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/137614.pdf)

2023 - SDG Summit- Under UNGA 78 auspices - The Declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development was adopted 18 September during the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held under the auspices of the General Assembly - <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N23/271/52/PDF/N2327152.pdf?OpenElement>

# 1. Current state of play – sustainable development in North Macedonia



## National legal framework

- The National Strategy for sustainable development was adopted by the Government at the 132 Governmental session on 12.01.2010, according the article 186 (2) from the Law on environment (Official Gazette nr. 53/05, 81/05, 24/07, 159/08);

## Institutional framework

- With Governmental decision (Official gazette nr. 08 from 21.01.2010 and amendment nr. 186 from 08.10.2018) The Government established implementing body - the National council for sustainable development, consisted of national institutions - ministers, academia, business sector and NGO. The Structure of the National council for sustainable development was defined in the National Strategy for sustainable development;
- The overall coordination of the sustainable development is within the Cabinet of the Deputy President of the Government in charge of economic affairs, coordination of economic sectors and investments.

## 2. Assessment of compatibility/alignment

- 2016 -2017 The Cabinet of the Deputy President of the Government in charge of economic affairs, coordination of economic sectors and investments along with UN RC office led the activities for mainstreaming the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 into national strategic planning - the degree of alignment of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs into the national strategies and policy documents;
- Relevant documents:
  - MATRIX - by Goal and target - score of alignment, and ways to achieve alignment
  - GAP analysis
- During the second half of 2019 and beginning of 2020, The Cabinet, in its role as National coordinator for the UN Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, conducted a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) for the Agenda 2030 and a Voluntary National Review (VNR) for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The process was implemented with wider engagement of the national and local institutions, international partners, civil society, the private sector and the academia.
- The document was presented at the high level political forum for sustainable development in July 2020

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26388VNR\\_2020\\_Macedonia\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26388VNR_2020_Macedonia_Report.pdf)

## 2.1 Assessment of compatibility/alignment

### The National Development Strategy:

- On February 6th, the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia adopted the Law on the National Development Strategy;
- On February 21st constitutive session of the National Council for Development was held as the next step in the process of starting the implementation of the National Development Strategy;
- On Governmental session held on 28.02.2024, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia adopted the text of the National Development Strategy;
- *The National Development Strategy will be a guide and vision for the Republic of Northern Macedonia in the period 2024 – 2044;*  
<https://www.nrs.mk/>
- The strategic areas, goals and national priorities in the National Development Strategy are fully aligned and compatible with: The findings and recommendations in the Country Progress Report prepared by the European Commission (European Integrations) and United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

## 2.1 Assessment of compatibility/alignment

The National Development Strategy (NDS) is leveraging the partnership principle in a comprehensive manner during its preparation process. The involvement of diverse stakeholders in significant numbers exemplifies how the NDS is utilizing the partnership principle:

- **Government Ministries/Agencies (250+ Representatives):**  
Collaborative Decision-Making: Actively involving representatives from various ministries/agencies ensures that government policies are aligned, and the strategy benefits from a holistic governmental perspective.
- **Mayors (70+ Participants):**  
Localized Input: Mayors' participation in expert debates and visioning workshops brings in local knowledge, helping shape strategies that taking into consideration specific regional needs and challenges effectively.
- **Members of Parliament (50+ from Government and Opposition):**  
Active involvement of MPs from both government and opposition showcases political unity. This bipartisan collaboration ensures that the NDS is not influenced by partisan interests, leading to a more balanced and nationally beneficial strategy.
- **Experts (200+ Participated in 10 Debates);**
- **Chambers of Commerce and Their Members;**
- **Think Tanks (25+);**
- **Civil Society Organizations (100+);**
- **Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups (500+ Representatives);**
- **Youth and Youth Organizations (1000+ Participants);**

## 2.1 Assessment of compatibility/alignment

- The National Development Strategy (NDS) for the period 2024-2044 is a leading document that defines the main development goals, strategic areas, and priorities for the accelerated, inclusive, balanced, gender-equal, and sustainable development of North Macedonia. The NDS essentially incorporates the main goals defined in the adopted strategic documents, while also providing guidelines for future strategic documents and policies;
- The NDS is a key strategic document that defines the vision for the development of North Macedonia, which is fundamentally based on three basic national development goals:
  1. Strengthening the competitiveness of the economy through a functional and innovative ecosystem, improving the skills, knowledge, inclusion and resilience of citizens;
  2. Governance models that are open, accountable, comprehensive and resilient, capable of preventing and appropriately responding, fostering prosperity for all groups in society;
  3. Social inclusion, which entails improved social, health, and educational services aimed at providing benefits to individuals, businesses, and society.



## 2.1 Assessment of compatibility/alignment

- Implementation of the national directions through six key strategic areas:
  1. Sustainable, Innovative and Competitive Economy;
  2. Sustainable Local and Regional Development that Ensures Cohesion;
  3. Demographic Revitalization and Social and Cultural Development;
  4. Secure, Safe and Resilient Society;
  5. Rule of Law and Good Governance and
  6. Green Transformation.

## 2.2 The Linkages between the National Development Strategy 2024-2044 and the Sustainable Development Goals

The National Development Strategy (NDS) 2024-2044 of North Macedonia, and in particular, the strategic area on Rule of Law and Good Governance, focuses on challenges and priorities related to the:

- rule of law,
- good governance,
- corruption,
- judicial reform, and
- the functioning of public institutions,

all of which are central to achieving **SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**.

It also addresses:

- the importance of equality between women and men, a fundamental value of EU member states.
- The NDS 2024-2044 advocates for implementing proactive risk management strategies, improving disaster preparedness and response and building resilient communities;
- By integrating national security, defense strategy, and foreign policy, the strategic area on Secure, Safe and Resilient Society focuses on:
  - strengthening security institutions,
  - enhancing crisis management capabilities,
  - promoting inclusive and participatory decision-making.

## 2.2 The Linkages between the National Development Strategy 2024-2044 and the Sustainable Development Goals

- The need for measures to protect vulnerable groups, including women, children, and minorities - aligns with the principles of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls outlined in **SDG 5: Gender equality**;
- Improving healthcare coverage, reducing out-of-pocket payments, and enhancing healthcare services, the strategy contributes to achieving **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**;
- Promoting regional development and territorial cohesion, diversifying tourism, and improving infrastructure align with **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**, also aims to make regions and municipalities inclusive, safe, green, resilient, and sustainable;
- Enhancing waste management, improving air quality, and promoting sustainable urban development is also fully aligned with **SDG 11**;

## 2.2 The Linkages between the National Development Strategy 2024-2044 and the Sustainable Development Goals

- By prioritizing education and investing in reforms, the strategy aligns with **SDG 4**, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- By promoting economic empowerment, social inclusion, and labour market optimization, the strategy – and the strategic area on Sustainable and Competitive Economy, in particular - contributes to **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**;
- Addressing the high poverty rate and vulnerability among citizens in North Macedonia aligns with **SDG 1: No Poverty**;
- By implementing policies that promote economic empowerment, social inclusion and gender equality, the strategy contributes to **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**.

## 2.2 The Linkages between the National Development Strategy 2024-2044 and the Sustainable Development Goals

- The strategic area on Green Transformation focuses on improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy sources, and addressing energy poverty, which are at the core of **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**;
- NDS highlights the need for increasing recycling rates, establishing standardized landfills, and reducing environmental footprints align with **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to a low-carbon economy, and promoting environmental sustainability align with **SDG 13: Climate Action**.

### 3. Conclusions and recommendation from State Audit Office



The Government was under the State revision for the Status of implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, finished in February 2024

Audit of performance on the topic "The readiness of the Republic of North Macedonia for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030"

Purpose of the audit: To assess the readiness of the institutions and bodies of the Republic of North Macedonia to implement the goals of sustainable development from the 2030 Agenda

# 3.1 Conclusions and recommendation from State Audit Office



In addressing the principal audit inquiry, the auditors identified the following specific questions:

- To what extent has the Government aligned Agenda 2030 within its national framework?
- Has the Government identified and secured the requisite resources and capabilities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
- Has an effective mechanism been established for monitoring and reporting progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

## 3.2 Conclusion from State Audit Office

1. The institutions and bodies of the Republic of North Macedonia are partially prepared for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030;
2. The basic prerequisites for the implementation of the obligations of the 2030 Agenda have been met;
3. The established strategic framework for integrating and harmonizing the SDGs in national and development policies and strategies ensures 83% compliance with the SDGs, that is, 95% if one considers the 55 ratified international conventions;
4. The established institutional structure for managing the implementation of the sustainable development goals represents the integrated approach, but its functionality is partially hindered by the absence of:
  - procedures with clearly defined competencies and responsibilities,
  - weak administrative capacities,
  - limited financial resources,
  - ineffective communication and information channels,which do not raise awareness regarding the SDGs and active involvement of stakeholders in decision-making and adaptation of the 2030 Agenda.



## 3.2 Conclusion from State Audit Office

1. Full compliance (coverage of all sub-goals of a specific SDG) is determined by SDG 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (infrastructure and industrialization) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions/ inclusive governance).
2. The lowest level of compliance, 50% was achieved for SDG 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries).

## 3.3 Recommendations from State Audit Office

1. Ensuring inclusiveness, consistency and continuity in the work of the NDS and Technical working group;
2. Reviewing the organizational and the implementation framework for achieving sustainable development and its clear definition in the National Development Strategy which is being prepared;
3. Increasing the awareness of the SDGs benefits of all stakeholders and their active involvement in the creation of policies and measures as well as the realization of activities in the function of realizing the SDGs;
4. In cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, providing an opportunity for the separate budget programs that are realized through the state budget to relate to the separate goals, sub-goals and indicators from the SDGs with which they correspond;
5. Providing adequate human and material technical resources in the public sector for the realization of the SDGs;
6. Providing a digital platform for the collection and monitoring of data from multiple institutions/stakeholders for all activities and statistical data related to the 2030 Agenda.

## 4. Further plans for harmonization /On going and Planned activities



- Implementation of the recommendations from the State Audit Office;
- Upgrade of the system for E-Government which will include the monitoring of the SDGs implementation;
- A new process for development of the National Voluntary review is being planned, which will be based on the National Development Strategy (in which the SDGs are integrated) – it will follow the new UN Framework, in coordination with the UNRC office.

Thank you for your attention